

TROPICAL BIRDING



Far East Odyssey: Japan, Taiwan and SE China in Winter

Custom Tour: 9 February – 7 March 2015
Leader: Keith Barnes. All Photos taken on this tour



Red-crowned Cranes doing their nuptial display in Hokkaido. There is little in the birding world to beat this amazing experience of a rare and stunning-looking bird in amazing wilderness, doing its thing!

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Summary

Perhaps one of the best parts of this job is designing super-cool custom itineraries that do extraordinary things. As far as I am aware no birding trip like this has been attempted before. It was essentially a mop-up trip of all the marquee bucket-list birds anyone could want to search for in the Far East during the winter. It ended up being a veritable smorgasbord of stonking great megas! The 270 odd species we saw may not sound like much, but considering that 60% of the time we were surrounded by snow and ice, it isn't bad. Of course, if we had spent a lot of time list loading by looking for clients' non-lifer alcids in Hokkaido, or non-target shorebirds elsewhere, we could have easily cracked 300. But this was not about list-loading, it was simply about getting clients exactly what they wanted out of their custom trip! I think this report is a great example of why Tropical Birding does this better than anyone else in the industry. We listen to our clients, and then execute what they want to get the perfect experience. Besides, this trip was about enjoying amazing experiences with quality birds rather than simply glimpsing rare species. Despite this some very rare birds were seen well including 14 globally threatened species (1 Critically Endangered, 4 Endangered and 9 Vulnerable).



The Vulnerable and spectacular Cabot's Tragopan was one of nine species of amazing pheasant seen on this Far Eastern Odyssey. Not sure anyone else has ever managed thirteen species of gamebird on a trip in East Asia before!

It started in Tokyo with an amazing ferry trip that netted all three North Pacific Albatrosses in a single day. We had multiple sightings of each species, but the biggest cheer was reserved for the Short-tailed Albatross.



Laysan, Black-footed and finally, Short-tailed Albatross were all celebrated on the first day of the trip, the last species, particularly vociferously.

We then shifted to Hokkaido, with the amazing spectacle of Red-crowned Cranes dancing their nuptial display in the snow. This was one of five crane species seen on the trip that also included 40-50 individual Siberian Cranes. Another highlight was the eagle-fest up at Rausu with hundreds of gargantuan Steller's Sea Eagles competing with White-tailed Eagles for fish scraps. We also budgeted in time for non-birding things on the trip and enjoyed some time with Snow Monkeys in Honshu, before we caught up with a delectable selection of specialties the clients still needed including Copper Pheasant, Japanese Accentor and Japanese Green Woodpecker and a delightful duo of Baikal Teal and Mandarin Duck in the same pond.



The spectacular and Vulnerable Stellers's Sea-Eagle, pictures say 1000 words.

Winging our way to my back yard in Taiwan we managed to collect a slew of endemic species in a brief four days of winter birding at Dashueshan and Alishan. Although this is not the best time for birding in Taiwan, knowing the area well (as I live there) we managed to nail all of the coolest target birds in a very short period of time, including walk away views of Taiwan Partridge and both endemic pheasants; the remarkable Swinhoe's and Mikado. We also dropped in at Cigu for brief interactions with Black-faced Spoonbill. In fact we were even able to schedule a day at the amazing Palace Museum and seeing the sights of Taipei due to us having little to look for on our last day on the island.



Taiwan's marquee endemics, and other specialties, all played ball on this trip. None more so than the delightful high-altitude Mikado Pheasant.

We then made for the amazing wetland complex of Poyang Hu in SE China. Here we encountered another four species of cranes, including White-naped, Hooded and the remarkable Siberian Crane, as well as other amazing birds in the form of Swan Goose and Oriental Stork. Astonishingly, between Japan and SE China we had managed to rack up 29 species of waterfowl, including an array of rare and special birds, not least of which was a handful of the Scaly-sided Merganser, an increasingly scarce riverine species, en route to our next stop at Emeifong.



The globally threatened Swan Goose was one of 29 species of waterfowl seen on this amazing trip. From Harlequin Duck to the amazing Mandarin, we were treated to a bumper series of East Asian waterfowl.

Emeifong is an amazing location for gamebirds, and by the time we were done here we had encountered an amazing 11 species of gamebirds including eight species of pheasants. There is virtually nowhere outside of central China where one can achieve such an amazing array of spectacular gamebirds. Apart from the skittish Copper and amazing Taiwan pheasants we also racked up incredible jaw-dropping views of all the key SE Chinese pheasants including the cream-and-gold polka-dotted Cabot's Tragopan, the elegant Elliot's Pheasant, the cocky Koklass Pheasant and the abundant Silver Pheasant (we estimated over 40 individual birds).



The Elliot's Pheasant is not often photographed, so even this 'in the mist' shot of a lovely male was something I was happy to come away with. At the very least, it shows you that we all came away with great views of a seldom-seen bird.

The last leg of the journey was a short recce to Shanxi, where the main objective was to connect with the rare Brown Eared Pheasant. Another bird that did not used to even be seen very frequently just a decade ago posed like a ramp model for photographs. A few other delectable goodies like Siberian Accentor and Chinese Hill Warbler made the diversion well worthwhile.

Itinerary

9 Feb	Arrival in Tokyo and head to Takeshiba, Japan.
10 Feb	Tokyo Bay Pelagic to Hachijojima, Japan.
11 Feb	Fly to Hokkaido, Akan area, Japan.
12 Feb	Akan Area, Hokkaido, Japan.
13 Feb	Akan to Rausu, Hokkaido, Japan.
14 Feb	Rausu to Furen, Hokkaido, Japan.
15 Feb	Furen to Nagano, Honshu, Japan.
16 Feb	Nagano to Kuriyazawa, Honshu, Japan.
17 Feb	Kuriyazawa to Tokyo, Honshu, Japan.
18 Feb	Tokyo to Taipei to Dashueshan, Taiwan.

19 Feb	Dashueshan, Taiwan.
20 Feb	Dashueshan, Taiwan.
21 Feb	Dashueshan to Alishan, Taiwan.
22 Feb	Alishan to Puli, Taiwan.
23 Feb	Taroko Gorge and Hualien, Taiwan.
24 Feb	Hualien to Taipei, Taiwan.
25 Feb	Botanical Gardens and Palace Museum (cultural day), Taiwan.
26 Feb	Taipei to Nanchang to Poyang, SE China.
27 Feb	Poyang Hu, SE China.
28 Feb	Poyang Hu, SE China.
1 Mar	Poyang to Emeifong, SE China.
2 Mar	Emeifong, SE China.
3 Mar	Emeifong to Nanchang, SE China.
4 Mar	Nanchang to Shanghai, SE China.
5 Mar	Shanghai to Taiyuan, Shanxi, NE China.
6 Mar	Shanxi hills, NE China.
7 Mar	Departure, NE China.



The Brown Eared-Pheasant was the last of the nine pheasant species seen on this remarkable trip.

9 Feb. Arrival in Tokyo and head to Takeshiba, Japan. After arrival in uber-tech-savvy Tokyo it was just the JR (Japanese Rail) and a few purchases between us and the ferry trip that doubles as the northern hemisphere's most reliable albatross pelagic. We stopped in at 7-11 for some food, and before we knew it were waiting at Takeshiba to board the 10:30 pm ship. We sailed out of Tokyo on quiet seas with the lights of the big city giving way to the lapping of the ocean. A few Kirin special lagers later and it was lights out!

10 Feb: Tokyo Bay Pelagic to Hachijojima, Japan. The weather started off mild but as the day progressed it got worse and worse, or if you are looking for albatrosses then better and better. As we passed through the magical Oshima triangle we started picking up 'trosses'. At first it was mostly Black-footed, but then some Laysans got in on the action, and finally a handful of Short-tailed including adult and juvenile types put in a showing. Streaked Shearwater and Black-legged Kittiwakes were the other main birds, but the 'tross' trio took the gold, silver and bronze medals for birds of the day! We returned to Tokyo, grabbed a great meal at a stand-up sushi bar and then hit the sack for the early flight to Hokkaido the following morning.



Although Short-tailed took the main prize, the Black-footed Albatross was another welcome star of the day.

11 - 12 Feb: Akan area, Hokkaido, Japan. We arrived in Hokkaido and within 30 minutes of picking up the car were watching Red-crowned Cranes. As I mentioned before, this was not a 'regular' tour, and the experience with cranes was not meant to be a tick-and-run one. In fact, I was authorized to spend the better part of two days with cranes, and so we did. We did morning viewing at the Setsurigawa River, mid-morning viewing at the Akan Centre and afternoon viewing back at the Akan Centre. It was meant to be the full kahootie with these birds, and they did not disappoint. I'll post a selection of images to prove my point.







Late in the second afternoon, after we had had our fill of the magical Red-crowned Cranes, we headed to Akkeshi and picked up a slew of amazing gulls, seaducks and other coastal wintering birds including a few loons and the magical Red-breasted Merganser and delicate Smew, which no matter where you see it, is always welcome.



The Smew, one of world's best looking ducks for sure!

13 Feb: Akan to Rausu. After breakfast we packed our bags and started heading north towards Rausu. Because the clients had been birding in Japan before, there was no a lot to look for on this day. It was a kind of all or nothing day as the only real possible lifer for the clients was the tricky and unpredictable Asian Rosy-Finch. As we got to Kiritappu it began to snow, it didn't stop until we left Hokkaido! However, despite the weather we did manage to find the amazing Rosy-Finch, along with a few Rough-legged Buzzard that were hanging in the area, and it meant that we could head into Rausu earlier than intended. Most people stay at a small minshuku to Rausu to look for the monstrous Blakiston's Fish Owl. But because the clients had already seen this amazing bird before on a summer trip to Japan we instead stayed in a wonderful place renowned for its authentic Hokkaido fish/sashimi/sushi and crab dinners. And so we didn't hesitate to tuck into what was undoubtedly one of the most amazing meals I have ever eaten. Despite being a zoologist that has spent many a student practical dissecting invertebrates, I could only identify the body parts of about 46% of what we ate. But then, I love that kind of thing!



Asian Rosy Finch (above). Grub is up. What you eating? I have no idea! (below)

14 Feb: Rausu and Furen. And so the day dawned and it was tipping down with snow. The car was stuck in a few feet of the stuff so I brushed it off and hesitantly we went to the dock in

Rausu. Half expecting them to cancel the boat trip, they called us 30 minutes early to ask where we were and then when we got there told us It was delayed. But soon enough it became apparent the trip would run as soon as the giant busload of Chinese tourists arrived. They did, and we jumped on board. Fortunately the inclement weather kept the fair-weather tourists at bay and we were able to find all the regular gulls and the amazing spectacle of both White-tailed and Steller's Eagles battling for fish scraps on a relatively uncrowded outside deck! Because there was not yet any pack-ice, we had to be satisfied with the birds picking fish up off the surface of the water. I think looking at the gallery below, you can say 'All were satisfied'.









After the boat trip we headed down to Furen. It was snowing and hard, but we managed a few other great birds like Whooper Swans, and other waterfowl, but the snow just got heavier and heavier as the evening arrived.



Whooper Swans – ever elegant!

15 Feb: Furen to Nagano. Today was always going to be a long travel day. But the continuous snow made it even longer. It took us 4 hours of driving on icy roads to reach the airport at Kushiro, where we enjoyed simply the most amazing Camembert and bread breakfast. Hokkaido surely makes some of the planet's best soft cheese! Soon we were on our way to Honshu and on arrival in Tokyo we met up with my old school mate and Honshu guide Mark Lorenz. Before long we were on our way out of the city and heading into the hills. We arrived at our accommodation after dark, and guess what, it was snowing again! The next morning was to be spent with Snow Monkeys.

16 Feb: Jigokuidani – Kuriazawa. We awoke to find crisp and bright blue skies, and tons of snow on the ground. After a strange breakfast we were on our way to the place where the Snow Monkeys are fed in a series of misty, hot water spring baths. After a brisk walk on the slippery iceladen paths we were there, and we enjoyed the next hour or so watching the amazing primates doing their thing in the hot water baths. They certainly were a treat!



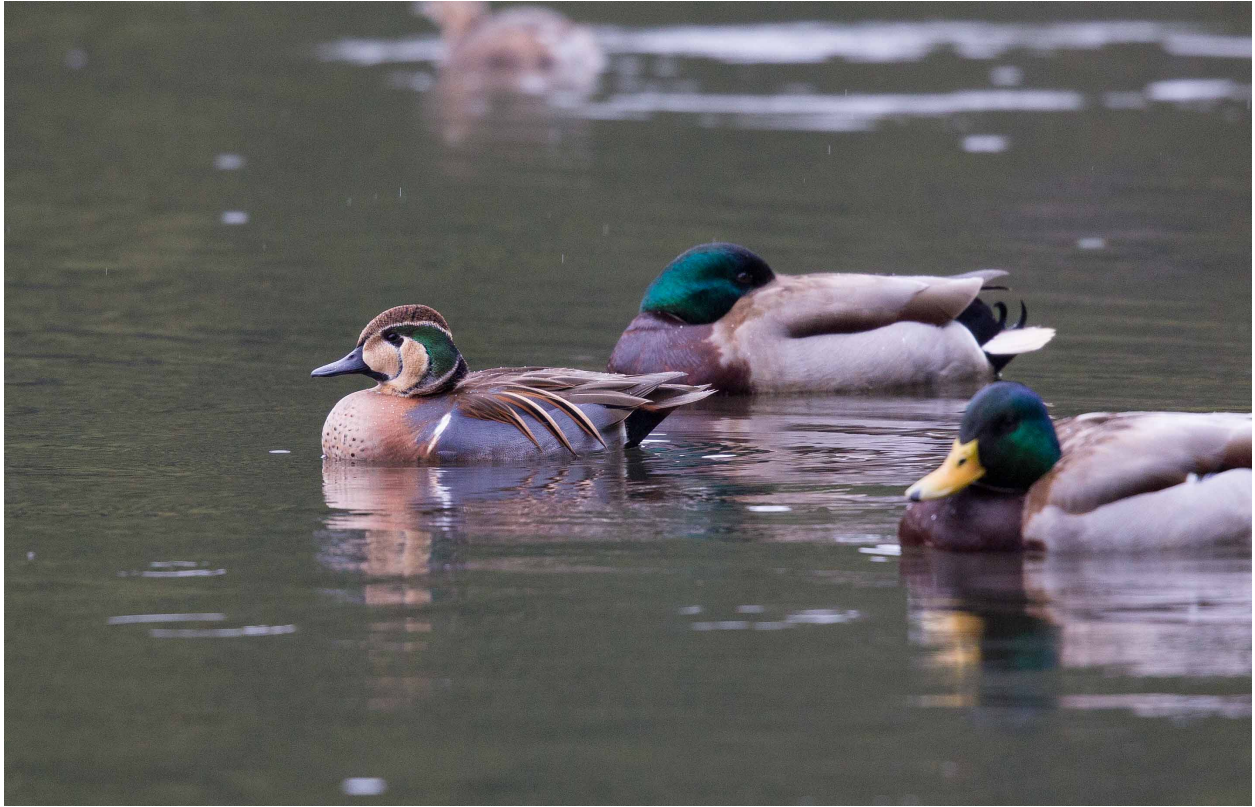
Monkey business – the cute Snow Monkey youngsters at the hot spring baths always get all the attention.

Soon we had to move on, but not before we sat down for a hearty and warming Soba noodles and beef stew. Next we made our way to Kuriyazawa where we enjoyed some time at the feeders getting looks of some key species like Pygmy Woodpecker, Japanese Green Woodpecker, and Varied Tit. We were also delighted when the ephemeral and not always reliable Japanese Accentor made an appearance at the feeders, making the late afternoon a considerable success.



Japanese Accentors are scarce and always a welcome addition on any birding tour of Japan.

17 Feb: Kuriazawa to Tokyo. We were up early and into Yacho-no-mori on a special quest. The Copper Pheasant is probably the most easily missed of the Japanese endemics, and although we only had one shot at this magical bird, felt we had to give it a good go. Amazingly only after 25 minutes we saw a male bird foraging on the leaf litter. The second he saw us he bolted, but we all celebrated views of a bird that is seldom seen well. With this, the only forest based target under our belts we returned to the feeders, and 10 minutes before we were due to leave ‘Shazaam!’ Japanese Grosbeak, our last montane target! This left us with a little time for some Tokyo duck hunting. The capital had been hiding a few cool specialty ducks of late and we decided to head in and see what we could locate in the capital. There was a park that had been home to a stray Baikal Teal drake as well as a wintering collection of about 25 Mandarin Ducks. So we headed directly there and within 20 minutes we were getting point blank view look sat the former, and what an elegant duck it is. With a little exploration of the backwaters we were also able to locate 15 Mandarin Ducks including several impressive drakes. With our work pretty much done, we bade Mark farewell and made our way towards Narita, where we spent the night, but not before a celebratory Sashimi and Sake dinner set that left us all well satisfied.



Duck day afternoon. The same Tokyo hotspot held both Baikal Teal and a group of the incredible Mandarin Duck, quite a way to finish off our time in Japan.

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18 Feb: Tokyo to Taipei to Dashueshan. Today was a long travel day with little of interest. We flew from Tokyo to Taipei, where we met Ben, who was joining us for the last two legs of our journey, and then picked up our vehicle and drove into the mountains at Dashueshan, Taiwan's premier birding area.

19 + 20 Feb: Full days at Dashueshan. We left the hotel early, and at dawn we were at the famous locality for watching the rather amazing Swinhoe's Pheasant. It didn't take long before a few females showed, and then eventually a spectacular male made an appearance. In the end we were able to watch him do his wing-drum display, unfortunately I was too slow with the camera.



The Taiwanese endemic male Swinhoe's Pheasant in all its glory.

As the light improved I started looking at the trees, and lo-and-behold, it seemed that the Idesia trees were in fruit. When this happens, it means one thing, the fruit-eating bird of Taiwan are going to be happy, as are the birders and bird photographers. Soon enough we were at a famous Idesia tree and the Taiwan Barbets, Taiwan Sibias, Taiwan Yuhina and other endemics were flying in fast a quick. I chatted to the local photographers in Mandarin and my suspicions were confirmed; the rarest of the Taiwanese endemic Taxa the Taiwan (Island) Thrush was visiting this tree. We waited, and before long a stunning white-headed thrush with a chocolate belly flew in. One of the best of the Taiwan endemics nailed and without much effort at all.



The Taiwan endemic race of the Vivid Niltava is almost certainly an endemic species that will be split in future (above) and the amazingly cute Taiwan Yuhina (below).



Then, suddenly, one of the photographers motioned to me frantically; just below him on an open slope a group of the often skittish Taiwan Partridges (*below*) were feeding brazenly in the open. This was going to be too easy! As we moved up the hill we picked up more and more endemics including Steere's Liocichla, Taiwan Cupwing, and in the afternoon the amazing Taiwan Rosefinch and endemic White-whiskered Laughingthrush (*below*).



We tried for the Mikado Pheasant that afternoon, but it failed to come. A surprise given how reliable it had been. But we did manage to pick it up the next day, along with all the remaining expected endemic species of Taiwan. The details can be seen in the species list attached to this trip report, and I won't bore you with long lists of birds, instead I'll just show you the best photos I managed to give you some idea of the great views we had of most things. Collared Bush-Robin and Taiwan Rosefinch (below).





Taiwan's Flamecrest, surely the smartest Regulus in the world, showed amazingly well at the upper parking lot of Dashueshan.

21 Feb: Dashueshan to Alishan. We spent another morning mopping up at Dashueshan before it was time to move on. Although we had reserved time at Alishan in case any game birds had misbehaved at Dashueshan that was not necessary as we now had all the requisite species under the belt. Instead we made a trip down to Cigu to look for Black-faced Spoonbill. Upon arriving it was windy and the staff said none had been seen since 10 am. Feeling somewhat despondent I began to scan, but the wind was so strong I really could not tell if the distant birds were spoonbills or egrets – yes the wind was that bad! But just as we were about to give up a flock of Blackfaced Spoonbills alighted behind us and we were treated to some great looks before we headed out to Alishan. Our plans for owling were put paid to be heavy heavy rain!

22 Feb: Alishan to Puli. We spent the morning at Alishan seeing a Yellow-throated Marten run across a track, and then also catch up with Taiwan Fulvetta and enjoy a very cooperative endemic owstoni race Eurasian Nutcracker (*below*). Later in the morning we also connected with the Taiwan endemic race of White-browed Shortwing. We made our way to Puli and on to a

nearby locality that is excellent for Taiwan Blue Magpie (*below*), and the big blue-beasts did not disappoint us! Later that evening a Savannah Nightjar serenaded us overhead as we made our way to a traditional dumpling and hot-and-sour soup restaurant!



Eurasian (Owston's) Nutcracker is a lovely bird that frequents the highest altitude forests in Taiwan.

23 Feb: Puli to Hualien via Taroko Gorge. With all the birds that we were likely to see seen, today was really about checking out some of Taiwan's amazing natural scenery. The pass at Hohuanshan and the amazing Taroko Gorge are both worthy diversions in Taiwan, even for the most hardcore birder. We thoroughly enjoyed the staggering marble cliffs of this place, one of Asia's six natural wonders. A spectacular journey even for those who have seen it all.



We managed great looks at Taiwan Barwing as we were passing through the Chingjing area headed over Hohuanshan.

24 Feb: Hualien to Taipei. We still had a couple of items of unfinished birding business this morning, but seeing as this is the town I live in, I was pretty confident with the local gen. First order of business was in our hotel gardens, and we quickly notched up the local but common Styan's Bulbul, a species considered Vulnerable by BirdLife due to its hybridization with the Light-vented Bulbul. Also, Ben needed Oriental Skylark, so we went down to my local beach where a pair I know gave it up quite easily, and we also notched up a Dusky Thrush on the lawn, which was a new Hualien bird for me! Without further ado...we started the journey north, and we were going to attempt to see the long-staying vagrant Siberian Crane that had taken up residence in the Jinshan area north of Taipei. Not long after we arrived we located the huge white crane in the rice paddies and spent some quality time up close with the beast!



The Hohuanshan area is the spectacular backbone of this mountainous island (above), great views of the juvenile Siberian Crane were enjoyed by all before the day was out (below).



25 Feb: Taipei. Today was scheduled to be a day to view the amazing artefacts at the National Palace Museum that has some 700,000 pieces covering 10,000 years of Chinese history it is the single most amazing collection in all of Asia. Because some of the clients had had a history in art trading this was designated to be a full day's activity. But there is not much one can do at the museum before it opens so we snuck off to do some birding at the Botanical Gardens, more specifically to look for the famous local resident Malayan Night-Heron. It didn't take us long to find them, and then we could enjoy the distractions of the museum and else enjoy the remainder of Old Taipei in the afternoon. We chilled out in the evening and prepared ourselves for the next leg of our adventure as we were flying to mainland China the following morning.

26 Feb: Taipei to Nanchang, and to Poyang. We had a mid morning departure, so no major rush this morning and then spent the remainder of the middle of the day getting to Nanchang. After passing through customs and immigration we were ready to head off to the Poyang area. We arrived in the rain, and unfortunately it would remain wet for the remainder of our time in China. Fortunately the wet is probably better than the mist that this area is renowned for at this time of year, and luckily we were able to find and see all our key targets well over the next couple of days.

27 + 28 Feb: Poyang Hu. This area of waterways is massive and there are a multitude of channels and bunds. We explored just about everywhere and came away with a great selection of specialties including thousands of Swan Goose amongst the Taiga and Tundra Bean Geese. We also located all four regularly occurring crane species here including over 200 Siberian Cranes

(although none of the looks were as good as the lost bird in Taiwan!), Hooded, White-naped and Common Cranes. Most of the regular ducks and associated waterbirds including the Endangered Oriental Stork (*below*) were well seen and the collection of passerines we picked up can be seen in the bird list below. The mammalian highlight came in the form of the isolated population of the Finless Porpoise (*below*) that was seen well.



1 March: Poyang to Emeifong. A bit of a travel day today we needed to move from the wetlands up towards the mountains for the amazing montane birds and endemic highland pheasants of SE China. En route we stopped at a well-known river area where we quickly snaffled up distant but satisfying look sat Scaly-sided Merganser. We were to arrive at Emeifong in the dark, and we prepped ourselves for the next day.

2 March: Full day Emeifong. We saw lots of cool new birds today, most of which are detailed in the birdlist below. But the main reason to visit was for the amazing pheasants that this place offers. And it did not disappoint. Early on we saw several groups of the remarkable Silver Pheasant, turns out that by the time the day was done we estimated a total of 45 sightings of around 25-30 different birds. A remarkable density for any pheasant, let alone one this beautiful! A little later and we found out first covey of the remarkable Elliot's Pheasant. Until just a few years ago people were happy if they flushed these meags, but now we get to see them quite well and even photograph them, like I did this stunning male in the late afternoon! (below), but Cabot's Tragopan was not being very cooperative. We located a handful of Koklass Pheasants too. We retreated that night knowing that if we were to get a complete haul, we needed to get lucky with a Cabot's Tragopan the following morning.

3 March: Emeifong to Nanchang. We started bright and early, and before long we bumped into a female tragopan. The celebrations were muted. Sure it's a tragopan, but that was not why we were coming. A little later we heard the tell-tale signs of the bird. Laolin our local guide could not contain his animation. He leapt out and beckoned us, and imitating its call we all got great views of the stunning polka-dotted male Tragopan below us. But the game was not yet over, Laolin continued calling and the male tragopan started its wing-drumming breeding display. I was hoping the bird would extend its throat pouch, but that didn't happen. But the bird did come up to the road and crossed perfectly for great pictures. Quite something! With that and few additional passerines in the belt we made our way back to Nanchang and the hotel to overnight. Although we insisted on going for an epic Beijing Kao Ya (Roast Duck) final meal. What a way to celebrate this pheasant and crane epic!

4 March: Nanchang to Shanghai to Taiyuan. We flew to Shanghai early and because we had a little time on our hands we were able to sneak out and head to a nearby wetland that held the gargantuan Reed Parrotbill. This was the final bird of the trip for most participants who headed back to Pudong and onto their home countries. Keith though had other plans and made off to Taiyuan to try for one last pheasant! Here he was met by good friend Phillip and they sailed out of the city and into the hills in the surrounding rural countryside of Shanxi.

5 March: Xuanzhong Temple. Up early we made our way to the temple, which is impressive in its own right. But even more so because it is here that a bird that used to be incredibly difficult to see, is now incredibly difficult to dip! The Brown Eared Pheasants are fed by local monks and are not hunted at all in the vicinity. It was icy on arrival, but we could already hear the honking

calls of the targets on the hills above the temple. Then they all flew off the hill and come in like four out of control boings landing on the same runway. We spent nearly an hour with the birds as they fed and walked nearby mostly unconcerned by our presence.



In the late morning we explored the surrounding hills which offered a few new species including the odd Chinese Hill Warbler, Songar-race of the Willow Tit, wintering Siberian Accentor, and loud Plain Laughingthrush. But the gem of these hills was numerous encounters with the stunning Long-tailed Rosefinch. I have attached a few of the photos taken in the late morning here and also another small gallery of photos for the rest of the tour.

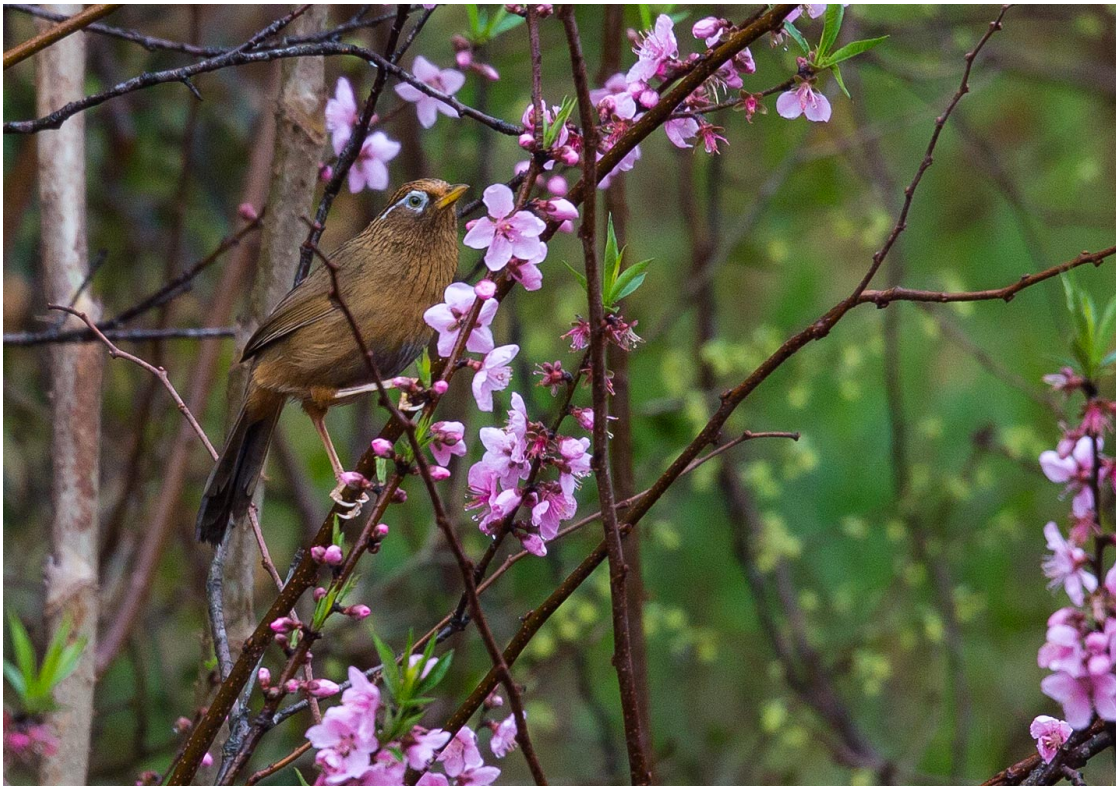


Long-tailed Rosefinch (above) and Willow (Songar) Tit (below) in the hills of Shanxi.

GALLERY OF OTHER IMAGES FROM THIS TRIP:



Red-billed Blue-Magpie from Shanxi (above) and Chinese Hwamei in the hills of Emeifong (below).





Silver-throated Bushtit (above) and Coal Tit (below); Godelewski's Bunting (right) all from Shanxi.





Black-throated Bushtit was seen well and many times in Taiwan.



Daurian Redstart (above), and Eurasian Wigeon (below); both from downtown Tokyo.



BIRD LIST

Avian taxonomy follows Clements 6.9 (Updated Aug 2014)

Note: Only endemic races and potential splits are given to subspecies level.

SWANS, GEESE and DUCKS: Anatidae

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*. We saw amazing numbers of this, one of the scarcest of all world geese, here at its main wintering stronghold, Poyang Hu, SE China. Currently classified *Vulnerable* by BirdLife, the large scale projected modifications to its main stronghold suggest this bird will only become rarer and rarer in future.

Taiga Bean-Goose *Anser fabalis*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Tundra Bean-Goose *Anser serrirostris*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Tundra (Bewick's) Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. Throughout Hokkaido, northern Japan.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* East Asian Endemic. Seen in a park in Tokyo, Japan, and again in SE China.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. Seen in Japan and Taiwan.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China, Japan and Taiwan.

Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha*. Seen at Poyang Hu and Taiwan.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. Seen in Japan.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. Seen in Japan.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*. This stunning and much wanted species was seen nearby in a park in central Tokyo, Japan.

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal *Anas c. crecca*. Seen at Poyang Hu and Taiwan.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China and Japan.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. Seen in Japan.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Seen in good numbers in Hokkaido, Japan.

White-winged (Siberian) Scoter *Melanitta fusca stejnegeri*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Black Scoter *Melanitta americana*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan. Considered **Vulnerable** by BirdLife International.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Common Merganser *Mergus m. merganser*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. Seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Scaly-sided Merganser *Mergus squamatus*. Seen at a small river in SE China, one of the last sites where this scarce bird can be reliably seen. This species is now considered **Endangered** by BirdLife and its small population continues to decrease.

PHEASANTS and PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae

Taiwan Partridge *Arborophila crudigularis* Taiwan endemic. Near-threatened. Seen well at Dasyueshan.

White-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila gingica*. Heard only at Emeishan, SE China.

Chinese Bamboo-Partridge *Bambusicola thoracicus*. Seen in SE China.

Cabot's Tragopan *Tragopan caboti*. An amazing and stunning male was coaxed across the road by our skilled guide Laolin. Once all the clients were getting an eyeful, I nailed it with my camera! Classified **Vulnerable** by BirdLife International, and very localized in SE China.

Copper Pheasant *Syrnaticus soemmerringii*. A male of this Japanese endemic beauty was seen well, if very briefly in the Yacho-no-mori forest at Kuriyazawa early one morning.



Mikado Pheasant *Syrmaticus mikado* Taiwan endemic. Near-threatened. Seen exceptionally well at Dasyueshan.

Elliot's Pheasant *Syrmaticus ellioti*. SE Chinese endemic. Near-threatened. Seen exceptionally well at Emeifong. This was once a mystical bird, it is good to know that there are new localities emerging where this incredible bird can be seen with greater ease than before. Worth the admission price!

Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha*. Another stunning pheasant, seen alongside the car on Emeifong, SE China. Apparently getting rarer at this locality.

Swinhoe's Pheasant *Lophura swinhoii* Taiwan endemic. Near-threatened. Seen exceptionally well at Dashueshan.

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera*. Becoming abundant on Emeifong. We counted over 40 encounters with these stunning birds on one day on the mountain.

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*. The Japanese endemic subspecies (*versicolor*) was seen briefly while driving, and it as seen again in Taiwan and SE China.

Brown Eared-Pheasant *Crossoptilon mantchuricum*. This amazing species was seen only on the recce extension to Shanxi. **Vulnerable** according to BirdLife, and another bird that until recently was not being seen by anyone very often, let alone posing for full-frame photographs.

GAVIIFORMES: Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*. Japan.

Arctic Loon *Gavia arctica*. Japan.

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Japan.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*. Japan.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. Japan.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*. Japan.



CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana*. We saw amazing numbers of this, one of the rarest of all storks, including a single flock in excess of 200 individuals. Here at its main wintering stronghold, Poyang Hu, SE China. Currently classified **Endangered** by BirdLife, the large scale projected modifications to its main stronghold suggest this bird will only become rarer and rarer in future.

PROCELLARIIFORMES: Diomedidae

Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis*. Seen on a pretrip jolly pelagic trip to Hachijojima in Tokyo Bay, Japan.

Black-footed Albatross *Phoebastria nigripes*. Seen on a pretrip jolly pelagic trip to Hachijojima in Tokyo Bay, Japan.

Short-tailed Albatross *Pheobastria albatrus*. Seen on a pretrip jolly pelagic trip to Hachijojima in Tokyo Bay, Japan. Classified as **Vulnerable** by BirdLife International, this species' fortunes are one of the few in the Far East that are improving!

PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*. Seen on a pretrip jolly pelagic trip to Hachijojima in Tokyo Bay, Japan.

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Japanese endemic *hanedae* subspecies seen.

Japanese Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus*.

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*.

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*.

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Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*.

Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*.

Malayan Night-Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*. The famous birds in the Taipei Botanical Gardens were cooperative as usual.

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*. Introduced to Taiwan. Seen near Tainan.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* East Asian Breeding Endemic. BirdLife classifies this as *Endangered*, but the numbers are increasing and hopefully it will be downlisted soon. A late flock of 15 birds was seen at Cigu, Taiwan.

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. In flight when driving across Tokyo, Japan.

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. Surprise individual seen in a blizzard while driving in Hokkaido, Japan.

Black (-eared) Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*. Commonly seen throughout.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*. Taiwan only.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*. The Taiwan endemic *formosae* race was seen several times.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. Seen repeatedly at the same location feeding on a carcass of a female Cabot's Tragopan. Emeifong, SE China.

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Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*. Endemic Taiwan race *hoya*.

Eastern Marsh-Harrier *Circus splilonotus*. At Poyang Hu in SE China.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. At Poyang Hu in SE China.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis*. This rare bird in this part of the world was seen in Taiwan.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Countless individuals along the Rausu shoreline and elsewhere in Hokkaido.

Steller's Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus* East Asian Endemic. **Vulnerable**. This staggering bird was seen in huge numbers along the Rausu shoreline and elsewhere in Hokkaido.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*. Seen at Kiritappu & Habomai.

Common (Eastern) Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. Japan and SE China.

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*. Seen a few times around Poyang Hu, SE China.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. Seen a few times around Poyang Hu, SE China.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*. Seen a few times around Poyang Hu, SE China.

GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

White-naped Crane *Grus vipio*. **Vulnerable** according to BirdLife. Seen at Poyang.

Common Crane *Grus grus*. Seen at Poyang, SE China.

Hooded Crane *Grus monacha*. **Vulnerable** according to BirdLife. Seen at Poyang Hu, SE China.

Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*. East Asian Endemic. **Endangered** according to BirdLife. Seen at Akan, Setsuri River, Tsuruimura & Hakuchodai, Japan.

Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*. Seen at Poyang Hu SE China, where the vast majority of the world's population now overwinter and lone vagrant individual in Jinshan, near Taipei. **Critically Endangered** according to BirdLife.

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CHARADRIIFORMES: Avocets: Recurvirostridae

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. SE China.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*.

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Seen on the Hachijojima ferry, Japan.

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Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. Japan

Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris*. Japan

Mew (Kamchatka) Gull *Larus canus kamtschatschensis*. Japan

Herring (Vega) Gull *Larus argentatus vegae*. Japan

Caspian (Mongolian) Gull *Larus cachinnans mongolicus*. Poyang Hu, SE China.

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* East Asian Endemic. Japan

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*. Japan

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. Japan

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*. Taiwan.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*. Taiwan.

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*. Introduced. Commonly seen throughout.

Ashy Wood-Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis*. Seen at Dasyueshan, Taiwan.

Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* endemic Taiwan subspecies *orii* commonly seen in open areas throughout Taiwan.

Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*. Commonly seen in open areas throughout.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*. Commonly seen in open areas throughout.

OWLS: Strigidae

Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* Taiwan endemic *hambroeki* subspecies heard at Dasyueshan & Alishan.

Collared Scops-Owl *Otus lettia* Taiwan endemic *glabripes* subspecies seen at Alishan.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* Taiwan endemic *pardalotum* subspecies heard at Dasyueshan and seen in SE China.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* Taiwan endemic *stictomus* subspecies seen overhead in East Coast towns of Taiwan.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*. Seen at Taroko Gorge, Taiwan.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis kuntzi* Taiwan endemic subspecies. Commonly seen throughout.

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. SE China.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*. SE China.

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* Near-endemic *pallida* subspecies, seen in Hokkaido, Japan.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*. SE China.

ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae

Taiwan Barbet *Megalaima nuchalis* Taiwan endemic. Commonly seen or heard in the lowlands throughout.

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Gray-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*. Seen near Chingjing, Taiwan.

Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos kizuki*. East Asian endemic. Seen at Kuriazawa, Japan.

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*. The Taiwan endemic *insularis* form was seen at Dashueshan, Taiwan.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*.

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Japanese Woodpecker *Picus awokera* Endemic. Seen at Kuriyazawa, Japan.

Gray-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*. Heard at Cingjing, seen at Emeifong, SE China.

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae

Gray-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*. Seen throughout Taiwan.

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus*. Seen once in Japan.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*. Commonly seen in Taiwan.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*. Commonly seen in SE China.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*. Heard and seen briefly at Emeifong, SE China.

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*. Seen at Puli, Taiwan.

DRONGOS: Dicuridae

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Taiwan endemic *harterti* subspecies. Commonly seen in open areas throughout.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* Taiwan endemic *braunianus* subspecies. Seen only once near Puli.

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MONARCH-FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* Taiwan endemic *oberholseri* subspecies common throughout.

CROWS: Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*. Both endemic Japanese subspecies (*japonicas*), and endemic Taiwanese subspecies (*taivanus*) were seen in respective regions.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus japonica* Endemic Japanese subspecies; also seen in Shanxi, NE China on the extension.

Red-billed Blue-Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*. Seen frequently in Shanxi on the extension.

Taiwan Blue-Magpie *Urocissa caerulea* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Huisun.

Gray Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae formosae* Taiwan endemic subspecies. Commonly seen in lowland areas. Also seen in NE China.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*. Commonly seen in lowland areas of Japan, Taiwan and NE China.

Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes owstoni* Taiwan endemic subspecies. Seen at Alishan, Taiwan and also in Shanxi, NE China.

Carrion (Oriental) Crow *Corvus corone orientalis*. Japan.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. SE China around Poyang Hu.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*. Seen in Japan and in Taiwan at Dasyueshan, Taroko, and Cingjing.

LARKS: Alaudidae

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*. Seen in Hualien and Poyang Hu, SE China.

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae

Gray-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis*. Seen in the lowlands of Taiwan, especially near wetlands.



Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. SE China, Poyang Hu.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*. Commonly seen throughout Taiwan.

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*. Seen at Puli, Taiwan.

Asian House-Martin *Delichon dasypus*. Seen at Dasyueshan, Taroko & Cingjing, Taiwan.

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris hensoni* Endemic subspecies in Japan.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus restrictus* Endemic subspecies in Japan. Songar Tit race *songarus* was seen in NE China in Shanxi.

Varied Tit *Poecile varius*. Seen multiple times in Japan (*varius*) and once in Taiwan (*castaneiventris*). Races are due to be split as several species.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*. Seen at Kuriyazawa in Japan, the Taiwan endemic *ptilosus* race was seen at Dashuashan in Taiwan, and it was seen again in Shanxi.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*. The Taiwan endemic race *inseperatus* was seen commonly in the mountains.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus*. The incredible *rex* race Seen a few times on Emeifong, SE China.

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*. This colorful and large tit was seen beautifully and well on Emeifong, in SE China.

Japanese Tit *Parus minor*. Throughout Honshu and SE China.

Taiwan Yellow Tit *Parus holsti*. This stunning Taiwan endemic was seen a couple of times.

PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae

Chinese Penduline-Tit *Remiz consobrinus*. Seen once, briefly at Poyang Hu, SE China.

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae

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Long-tailed Bushtit *Aegithalos caudatus* Endemic Japanese subspecies *kiusiuensis* seen at Kuriazawa.

Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus*. Common throughout Taiwan.

Silver-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos glaucogularis* Seen several times in the hills of Shanxi, NE China.

PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* Endemic Japanese (*roseillia*) subspecies was seen. Also seen in Taiwan.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Endemic Taiwan subspecies *taivanus* seen at Dasyueshan.

PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*. Seen a few times at Kuriazawa, Japan.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae

Brown-eared Bulbul *Hypsipetes amaurotis*. Commonly seen throughout Japan.

Collared (Gray-headed) Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques* Taiwan endemic subspecies *cinereicapillus* seen at Puli. Also seen in SE China.

Styan's Bulbul *Pycnonotus taivanus* Taiwan endemic. **Vulnerable** according to BirdLife International. Seen at Hualien.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*. Seen in SE China along rivers while searching for Scaly-sided Merganser.

Light-vented (Formosan) Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* Taiwan endemic subspecies (*formosae*) seen in north and west Taiwan. Also seen in SE China at Poyang Hu.

Black (Velvety) Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*. Taiwan endemic subspecies (*nigerrimus*). Commonly seen in the lowlands.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mccllellandii*. Seen on Emeifong in SE China.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. Seen in Japanese Alps.

Flamecrest *Regulus goodfellowi* Taiwan endemic. Seen, extremely well at Dashueshan.

CUPWINGS: Pnoepyidae

Taiwan Cupwing *Pnoepyga formosana* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan. Heard at Hehuanshan & Shanlinxi.

Pygmy Cupwing *Pneopyga pusilla*. Heard on Emeifong. Not searched for as it had been seen by all participants before.

BUSH-WARBLERS: Cettidae

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*. Seen at Dasyueshan and Cingjing in Taiwan.

Yellowish-bellied (Taiwan) Bush-Warbler *Horornis acanthizoides*. Taiwan endemic (*concolor*) subspecies. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Horornis fortipes*. Seen multiple times on Emeifong, SE China.

GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES: Locustellidae

Taiwan Bush-Warbler *Locustella alishanensis* Taiwan endemic. Heard only once briefly at Dasyueshan. Because we were running this trip in mid-winter to make sure we got the cranes and eagles in Japan and China, we always ran the risk of not seeing this bird. Still getting almost all the Taiwan endemics in only five days of birding in mid-winter isn't too bad.

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*. Seen at Puli, Taiwan.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* Taiwan endemic subspecies *flavirostris* seen at Hualien. Also seen in SE China.

Chinese Hill Warbler *Rhopophilus pekinensis*. Seen several times close to the monastery in Shanxi. Loud and spectacular songster.

PARROTBILLS & ALLIES: Paradoxornithidae

Taiwan Fulvetta *Fulvetta formosana* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Alishan.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora webbiana*. Seen at Poyang Hu in SE China.

Reed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis huedei*. Seen in reedbeds near Shanghai, SE China.

YUHINAS, WHITE-EYES & ALLIES: Zosteropidae

Indochinese Yuhina *Yuhina torqueola*. Uncommon on Emeifong, SE China.

Taiwan Yuhina *Yuhina brunneiceps* Taiwan endemic. Commonly seen throughout Taiwan's mountains.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonica*. Seen throughout Japan and Taiwan.

BABBLERS: Timaliidae

Rufous-capped Babbler *Cyanoderma ruficeps* Taiwan endemic subspecies *praecognitum* seen throughout Taiwan's mountains.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*. Seen well, if briefly, on Emeifong, SE China.

Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus musicus* Taiwan endemic. Seen well at Huisun.

Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler *Megapomatorhinus erythrocnemis* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan.

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LAUGHINGTHRUSHES: Leiothrichidae

Morrison's (Gray-cheeked) Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Chingjing.

Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*. Common on Emeifong, SE China.

Taiwan Hwamei *Garrulax taewanus* Taiwan endemic. Seen near Puli. Near-threatened.

Chinese Hwamei *Garrulax canorus*. Seen on Emeifong, SE China.

Plain Laughingthrush *Garrulax davidi*. Commonly seen in NE China, Shanxi.

Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus*. Seen on Emeifong, SE China.

Rusty Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla poecilorhynchus* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Buffy Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla berthemyi*. Seen on Emeifong, SE China.

White-browed Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla sannio*. Seen near Poyang Hu. SE China.

White-whiskered Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron morrisonianum* Taiwan endemic. Seen throughout Taiwan.

White-eared Sibia *Heterophasia auricularis* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Steere's Liocichla *Liocichla steerii* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Taiwan Barwing *Actinodura morrisoniana* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*. Introduced. Heard at Taipei Botanical Garden.

Vivid (Taiwan) Niltava *Niltava v. vivida* Taiwan endemic subspecies. This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan.

White-browed (Taiwan) Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana goodfellowi* Taiwan endemic subspecies and potential split. Seen at Alishan.

Formosan Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus insularis* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan and Taroko.



White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaultia*. Seen on Emeifong, SE China.

White-browed (Taiwan) Bush-Robin *Tarsiger indicus formosanus* Taiwan endemic subspecies. This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Collared Bush-Robin *Tarsiger johnstoniae* Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

Plumbeous Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosa affinis* Taiwan endemic subspecies. Seen at Dasyueshan, & Taroko.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*. Seen in Japan.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* Seen in Japan.

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*. Seen on Emeifong, SE China.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*. Seen at Dashueshan, Taiwan.

THRUSHES & ALLIES: Turdidae

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*. Seen at Dashueshan on Taiwan.

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus niveiceps* Taiwan endemic subspecies. This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan, Taiwan.

Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum*. Not uncommon near Poyang Hu, SE China.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Abundant in SE China.

Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus*

Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*

Brown-headed Thrush *Turdus chrysolaus*. Seen briefly in Tokyo, Japan.

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*. Common across Honshu, Japan.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*. Introduced. Seen in Taipei.

Crested (Formosan) Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* endemic Taiwan subspecies (*formosanus*). Seen in Taiwan. Also seen in SE China.

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*. Introduced. Commonly seen throughout Taiwan.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*. Introduced. Commonly seen throughout.

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*. Common in SE China.

Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus*. Common in SE China.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Uncommon in SE China.

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectum formosum* Taiwan endemic subspecies. Seen at Chingjing, Taiwan.

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae

Japanese Accentor *Prunella rubida* Japanese endemic. Seen at Karuizawa.

Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella*. Seen once briefly in Shanxi, NE China.

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. Seen in Japan and Taiwan.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Japanese Wagtail *Motacilla grandis* Breeding Endemic. Seen at the Setsurigawa River in Hokkaido.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*. Emeifong, SE China.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*. Poyang Hu, SE China.

American (Buff-bellied) Pipit *Anthus rubescens*. Poyang Hu, SE China

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PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewski*. NE China, Shanxi.

Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fuscata*. Poyang Hu, SE China.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. Poyang Hu, SE China.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza c. ciopsis* Endemic subspecies in Japan.

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Asian Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte arctoa*. Seen at Kiritappu.

Eurasian (Gray-bellied) Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula griseiventris*. Seen in Japan.

Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibiricus*. Seen in Shanxi NE China.

Taiwan Rosefinch *Carpodacus formosanus*. This remarkable Taiwanese endemic finch in red was seen at Hohuanshan.

Oriental Greenfinch *Chloris sinica*

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*. Poyang Hu, SE China.

Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona p. personata* Endemic subspecies

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. Commonly seen throughout.

WAXBILLS and ALLIES: Estrildidae

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White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*. Seen at Puli, Taiwan.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*. Seen at Puli, Taiwan.

Mammal list

Follows en.wikipedia.org

PORPOISES: Phocoenidae

Finless Porpoise *Neophocaena phocaenoides*. Poyang Hu, SE China.

OLD WORLD MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae

Formosan Rock Macaque *Macaca cyclopsis*. Taiwan endemic. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Japanese Macaque (Snow Monkey) *Macaca fuscata*. Japanese endemic. Seen at the famous baths at Jigokudani in Honshu, Japan.

DOGS: Canidae

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*. Seen multiple times in Hokkaido.

SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae

Red-and-white Flying-Squirrel *Petaurista alborufus lena* endemic subspecies. Heard only on Dasyueshan.

Japanese Squirrel *Sciuris lis*. Seen at Kuriyazawa. Endemic to Japan.

Maritime Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maritimus formosanus* endemic subspecies. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel *Dremomys pernyi owstoni* endemic subspecies. Seen at Dasyueshan.

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Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus taiwanensis* endemic subspecies. Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens.

Pere David's Rock Squirrel *Sciurotamias davidianus*. Common in Shanxi.

WEASELS: Mustelidae

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula chryospila* endemic subspecies. The large and fast-moving mustelid seen at Alishan was this species.

DEER: Cervidae

Reeve's Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi micrurus* endemic subspecies. Heard at Dasyueshan.

Sika Deer *Cervus nippon*. Common on Hokkaido, Japan.

