

TROPICAL BIRDING



Taiwan: Formosan Endemics

Custom tour

28th April – 9th May, 2014

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Formosan Whistling-Thrush is one of the 24 awesome endemics on this tour.

Following our incredibly successful set departure tour this year, this slightly shorter custom tour also cleaned up on all the endemic species and almost all the available endemic subspecies. Despite the beautiful endemics, including 2 cracking pheasants and a gorgeous blue magpie, the bird of the trip was the much anticipated Fairy Pitta, which we got killer scope views of at the start of the tour. Even though we didn't visit Lanyu, we still clocked up an impressive 205 species of birds. Thanks to the rather rainy weather, we had our best ever tour for frogs and thanks to one tour participant in particular, we recorded an amazing 41 species of butterflies. The tour was further characterized by finding several difficult birds for Taiwan, like Little Curlew, Red-necked Phalarope, Grey-headed Lapwing, Black-naped Tern and Plain Flowerpecker. Despite our bad luck with the weather, we had a splendid time, visiting the different areas of this beautiful island with its breath-taking mountain scenery epitomised by the remarkable Taroko Gorge. We had a great time sampling the delicious cuisine that Taiwan has to offer and getting to know a bit about the culture and the people of this fascinating and friendly island.

28th April – Taipei

Although the meet up time was in the afternoon, several of the tour participants went to the famous Palace Museum in the morning to look at the fascinating cultural exhibits and they also spotted a few great birds for the trip, with **Osprey**, **Oriental Honey-buzzard**, **Crested Serpent-Eagle**, **Red Collared-Dove**, the endemic **Taiwan Blue-Magpie**, **Black Bulbul** and **Arctic Warbler**. Just near the hotel, others saw the recently introduced **Asian Glossy Starling**. After lunch we all met up and after introductions, drove down to the botanical gardens, a great place to see many common birds. We saw **Light-vented Bulbul**, **Japanese White-eye**, the introduced **Oriental Magpie-Robin** plus endemic races of **Black-naped Monarch** and **Gray Treepie**. Most of us had our first endemic species of the trip in the shape of the colourful **Taiwan Barbet** and we very quickly found our other main target here, the **Malayan Night-Heron**. Although not endemic, Taiwan is one of the best places in the world to see this species. On a large pond we saw **White-breasted Waterhen** and **Eurasian Moorhen**. We also had our first mammal, **Pallas's Squirrel**, and amphibian, **Gunther's Brown Frog**. Then, just as we were leaving we saw a crowd of photographers congregating on the edge of the gardens. We went over to investigate and found they were trying to get shots of the endemic **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**. We all had good views but also managed to get one or 2 photographs.



The normally skulking Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler showed nicely in the botanical gardens.

From here it was on to the excellent Riverside Park to look at water birds. We parked our vehicle and walked along the path to the water's edge and saw many common open country birds like **Spotted Dove**, **Brown & Long-tailed Shrikes**, **Black Drongo**, and **Yellow-bellied & Plain Prinias**. We found the increasing rare endemic race of **Crested Myna** amongst the more numerous **Javan & Common Mynas**, plus the attractive **Black-collared Starling**. As we reached the edge of the river we found many water birds, including: **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Yellow Bittern**, **Grey Heron**, **Great, Little & Cattle Egrets**, a **Chinese Pond-Heron** in flight, **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and the introduced **Sacred Ibis** plus **Black-faced Bunting** and **Oriental Reed-Warbler** in long grass by the water. We scanned the exposed mud for shore birds and found **Little Ringed Plover**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Red-necked Stint** and **Common Snipe**. We even had the uncommon **Pin-tailed Snipe** showing its diagnostic features in flight. There were several **Eurasian Magpies**, *taivana* race **Eastern Yellow Wagtails** searching for food on the mud and several **Grey-throated Martins** amongst the common **Barn Swallows**. A final bird was **Black-shouldered Kite**, which until recently was a very rare bird in Taiwan. We left the park to go back to the hotel and out for our first meal of delicious Taiwanese food.

29th April – Taipei to Dasyueshan

Leaving Taipei early we saw several common birds on the way out, like **Red Collared-Dove**, **Asian Glossy Starling**, **House Swift**, **Eurasian Magpie** and **Black Drongo**. We headed south along the modern highways, and in under an hour we were at our first birding site, Shimen Dam. This large dam was at the base of a steep hill covered with lush forest. It is a popular place with hikers and from the parking lot where we had breakfast, there were several paths and trails leading up the hill. During breakfast we saw several common birds, like **Taiwan Barbet**, **Japanese White-eye**, **Light-vented & Black Bulbuls** and **Gray Treepie**. We took a walk along the road and explored a couple of short trails and saw several other species, including **Large-billed Crow**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **White-bellied Erpornis** and **Arctic Warbler** but only heard **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge**. The big surprise of the morning though was finding a **Fairy Pitta**, one of the major targets of the trip. When one started calling, a few of us looked at each other to check that nobody was playing the call out their phone. We realised it was the real thing, and slowly started to get ourselves in position. It moved a couple of times and was a little hidden but it finally perched out in the open and sat there calling its head off. There was my usual worry that it would fly before everybody got on it, but it cooperated and everybody ended up with crippling scope views. It was pretty difficult to top that, but we had a good morning for raptors, and found **Crested Serpent-Eagle**, **Crested Goshawk**, **Chinese Sparrowhawk** and **Oriental Honey-buzzard**. Before leaving we took a short drive along the road to a spot where I have often seen **Taiwan Blue-Magpies**. We got out and almost straight away found a small family group.



The blue of the Fairy Pitta's plumage glows under the forest canopy.

Our final destination today was Dasyueshan, probably the best place to see Taiwan's many endemic bird species. Before we started driving up the long and winding road, we had lunch in Dongshi, a large town at the base of the mountains. In town, we saw **White Wagtail** and even **Red-rumped Swallow**, quite a rare bird in Taiwan. After lunch we started driving up to Dasyueshan and had a few nice birds on the lower half of the mountain, with **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, a stunning male **Swinhoe's Pheasant** crossing the road, **Ashy Wood-Pigeon**, **White-tailed Robin** plus several **White-eared Sibilias**, **Taiwan Shortwings** and even a distant **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler** heard calling. As we got to the higher elevations, we had a **Siberian Weasel** scuttle across the road and we stopped at our usual stakeout for **White-browed Bush-Robin**. This bird is a likely future split and may be called Taiwan Robin. The plan now was to wait at the **Mikado Pheasant** stakeout to see if one of these gorgeous birds would come out. There was plenty to see as we waited and we saw **Maritime Striped & Perny's Long-nosed Squirrels** plus several **Vinaceous Rosefinches**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Black-throated Tit**, **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler**, **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta** and **Flamecrest**. It was very misty by now and several of these we hoped to get better views of later. After waiting quite a while, a **Mikado Pheasant** finally showed and we had very close views of a confiding male. Before heading back, we saw our first **Red-and-white Flying-Squirrel** which had come out a bit earlier than usual. After dinner we took a night walk on which we heard a distant **Mountain Scops-Owl** and had better views of **Red-and-white Flying-Squirrel**.

30th April – Dasyueshan

After an early breakfast we did some birding around the buildings but it was rather cold and there was not much activity. We drove up slope and had a stop on the way up where we found our first **Eurasian Nutcracker**, some extremely tame **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** and a pretty little **Collared Bush-Robin**. We drove all the way to the parking lot at the summit and here saw **Ashy Wood-Pigeons** in flight, **Large-billed Crow** and several **Vinaceous Rosefinches**. We took a walk along the bamboo trail, and a short distance along we heard a **Gray-headed Bullfinch** call back to the parking lot, so we went to investigate, but there was no sign. I sneaked off to water the bushes and had a pair of **Golden Parrotbills** fly over my head and perch right in front of me. I ran back to get the others but the cheeky little fellows had already moved off and couldn't be brought back in. We did get slightly better views of **Flamecrest** although it was misty, rainy and better views were still desired. We also saw Taiwan's newest endemic, the recently split **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta** and heard Eurasian Wren and Taiwan Shortwing. Next we took a steep paved trail towards a pond at the top, and along here we had good views of **Yellowish-bellied & Taiwan Bush-Warblers** plus **Taiwan Fulvetta**. We got back in the vehicle and coming back down we had another few stops. Imitated owl calls brought in large numbers of birds, with **Coal**, **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina** and **White-eared Sibia**.



The attractive White-throated Laughingthrush roams in large flocks.

After lunch back at the resort, we explored lower elevations where we found both **Rusty & Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes** after a bit of searching. Here also we had great views of **White-tailed Robin** and our first **Steere's Liocichlas**. Along an old logging trail we found **Taiwan Cupwing**, but only heard **Formosan Whistling-Thrush**, **Taiwan Shortwing** and a distant **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler** as well as the bark of a **Reeve's Muntjac**. There was also an unexpected **Mikado Pheasant** on the trail ahead of us which quickly disappeared. It had been a great day and we retired for piping hot showers and food at the canteen.

1st May – Dasyueshan

This morning I wanted us to get down to the lower elevation feeding site for Swinhoe's Pheasant and Taiwan Partridge. We left early and our first stop was at a tall, road-side waterfall where we found the dapper **Little Forktail**. We had a stop at a long bridge and found many **Asian House-Martins** which roost under there as well as some **House Swifts** and a **Silver-backed Needletail**. We made it down to the feeding site and saw some **White-tailed Robins** before **Swinhoe's Pheasant** finally showed up. We waited longer but there was no sign of Taiwan Partridge at either of the usual spots. At the parking lot just above there, we caught some great activity and found many flocking species, with **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Green-backed**, **Black-throated** & the endemic **Yellow Tit**. We told our Taiwanese driver to take us back up to the parking lot by the entrance and again we went along the old logging trail. We only heard **White-browed Shortwing** and **Island Thrush**, but we did see **Snowy-browed & Ferruginous Flycatchers**, **Taiwan Barwing**, **Vivid Niltava** and an **Ashy Wood-Pigeon** in flight. We also had a very intriguing mammal which scampered along a fallen tree trunk and disappeared. It was only a brief glimpse, but it was most likely a **Yellow-throated Marten**.



This stunning endemic Swinhoe's Pheasant put on a great show for us.

After a lunch in the parking lot, we drove down slope again and started to explore the lower elevations more thoroughly. At one stop we saw **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Rusty Laughingthrush**, **Steere's Liocichla** and heard our first **White-bellied Pigeon**. Lower down again we walked down a side road to a stone bridge over a small river. This is always a very interesting area we saw our first **Formosan Whistling-Thrush**. At the river itself we found **Plumbeous Redstart**, **Little Egret**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and our main target, **Brown Dipper**. Nearby we also saw endemic races of **Oriental Turtle-Dove**, **Collared Finchbill** and even some tiny **Japanese Buerger's Frogs**. At our last stop we found a different community of birds with **Black-naped Monarch**, **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler**, **Rufous-capped Babbler** and **Dusky Fulvetta**. We tried for **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler** but only heard it, so we would have to try for this again tomorrow. We went all the way down to the town of Dongshi where we checked in to our comfortable business hotel and went out for a delicious meal.

2nd May – Dasyueshan & Shigang Dam

It was our last day up on the mountain and we had just a few more targets to try for. We had a very productive stop lower down, with **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**, our first endemic **Taiwan Hwamei**, the omnipresent **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta**, **Striated Prinia**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **Collared Finchbill**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler** and **Rufous-capped Babbler**. A little higher up, we finally got scope views of a pair of **White-bellied Pigeons**. Our main target this morning was **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler** and we tried my best site one more time. We kept on trying and finally we had a response. I was worried that there wasn't enough undergrowth for them to come in closer, but in the end it seemed that they were calling from up in the canopy which was rather unexpected. The pair finally showed themselves giving everybody a decent look at this trickiest of endemics. There were still a few species upslope that we wanted to find, most of all Taiwan Partridge. We went back to the feeding station and again had **Swinhoe's Pheasant**, **White-tailed Robin** plus many flocking species, like **Vivid Niltava**, **Gray-chinned Minivet** on a nest, **Green-backed**, **Yellow & Black-throated Tits**. The partridges failed to show again, so we went further up and had **Ashy Wood-Pigeon**, **White-eared Sibia** mobbing a **Eurasian Jay**, and **Taiwan Yuhinas** mobbing a **Collared Owlet**. We decided to give the logging trail one more shot, and saw **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Ferruginous Flycatcher** & **Formosan Macaque**.



The Collared Owlet is a voracious predator of small birds, and is mobbed wherever it goes.

After another packed lunch we started down for the last time. We stopped at the bridge for better views of the numerous **Asian House-Martins**, and lower down we found a nice spot with **Eurasian Nuthatch**, a flock of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes** and we heard a **Gray-faced Woodpecker**. This bird was rather uncooperative but our persistence finally paid off and we all got good views. At the bottom of the road, we managed to add one more bird, a gorgeous little **Common Kingfisher** which we spotted from a bridge. We had a bit of time left in the afternoon so we visited the nearby Shigang Dam. From a small park below the dam we scanned across the water and found a remarkable selection of birds, including: **House Swift**, **Gray Treepie**, **White Wagtail**, **Little Grebe**, **Grey Heron**, **Little & Cattle Egrets**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Common & Green Sandpipers** and **Common Greenshank**. **Oriental Turtle-Dove**, **Grey-throated Martin**, **Pacific Swallow**, **Black Bulbul**, **Plumbeous Redstart** and **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**. The highlight of the afternoon for me though was seeing a 3m long **Chinese Keeled Rat Snake** sunning itself at the bottom of the dam wall. We drove the short distance back to Dongshi and after dinner took a walk to try to find **Savanna Nightjar**. We had one calling very close and it responded well and gave us great flight views. Our birding in this area was now finished and tomorrow we would head south.

3rd May – Tainan area

Today was our big day of shorebirding in the Tainan area. We left Dongshi very early and jumped on the highway south. After turning onto the small provincial roads we passed many shrimp ponds where we saw a couple of **White-winged Terns** amongst the more numerous **Whiskered Terns**. We made our way to the Aogu wetland reserve and in some ditches we had **Eurasian Moorhen, Intermediate Egret** and **Yellow Bittern**. These opened out into larger bodies of water and along the edge of these we saw **Black-winged Stilt, Gray-tailed Tattler, Sharp-tailed & Marsh Sandpipers, Common Redshank, Red-necked Stint, Gray Wagtail** and **Little Tern**. We found an especially good concentration of shorebirds and got down from the bus to set up our scopes to find a surprise **Chinese Egret**, many **Curlew & Broad-billed Sandpipers, Dunlin, Lesser & Greater Sand-Plovers**. At our second stop we saw many of the same species again but added **Little Grebe, Pied Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Kingfisher** and our main target, **Black-faced Spoonbill**. Further on we added more and more shorebirds to our tally, with **Black-bellied Plover, Common, Green & Wood Sandpipers, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot** and the diminutive **Long-toed Stint**. At one last stop we found **Oriental Pratincole, Caspian Tern** and we were pleasantly surprised to find several ducks still here, with **Eurasian Wigeon, Eastern Spot-billed Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal**.



The rare Chinese Egret is now considered an endangered species.

Aogu had lived up to its promise, but it was time to go if we wanted to hit one more site before lunch. We headed directly south from here to the Bazhang River mouth where we managed to further add to our already impressive list of shorebirds with **Whimbrel, Far Eastern & Eurasian Curlews, Terek Sandpiper, Common Greenshank** and **Red Knot**. We also had **Striated Swallow** and **Grey Heron** for good measure. It had been a full morning of shore birding and we continued on to the city of Tainan where we had a nice lunch and checked in to our hotel. After a short rest, we headed back out to check other shorebird sites in the area. On the way to the Cigu area and we found **Great Cormorant**, and once there we scanned fields to find **Oriental Skylark, Lesser Coucal, Kentish Plover, Pacific Golden-Plover, Cinnamon Bittern** and **Long-tailed Shrike**. We carried on along the coast where we had a quick stop to look at **Common & Great Crested Terns**. We visited the Black-faced Spoonbill Reserve but it seemed all the spoonbills were at Aogu. The tide was quite high but we did see an **Osprey** on a post devouring a flat fish, **Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone** and even some **Japanese White-eyes** in the hedge of the parking lot. At a pond we found **Oriental Reed-Warbler, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Nutmeg Mannikin** and also **Common Snipe**, and driving back we saw **Black-shouldered Kite**. We went out to a nice restaurant in town and later at night we heard Savanna Nightjar calling next to the hotel.

4th May – Tainan to Taitung

Today we were heading to the eastern side of Taiwan over the southernmost cross-island highway. Our birding site for the morning was the wonderful Shuangliou reserve, literally 'twin flow', named after its distinctive double waterfall. After parking the bus, we set off on a walk and straight away ran into a group of **Formosan Rock Macaques**. Shuangliou is usually good for raptors and we found **Oriental Honey-buzzard** and many **Crested Serpent-Eagles**. Crossing the bridge over the stream, we found **Little Egret**, **Gray Wagtail** and **Pacific Swallow**, then started to follow a trail on the other side. Along the first section we found our first endemic **Styan's Bulbul** along with **Black Bulbul**, **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler** and **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta**. We had a good morning for herps, with **Swinhoe's Japalura & Long-tailed Mabuya**, plus **Japanese Buerger's, Rice Field & Latouchti's Frogs**. One of the highlights of the trip for one person was the multitude of butterflies for which this reserve is well known. After lunch at the visitors centre we continued to look around nearby, finding **Crested Goshawk**, **Taiwan Blue-Magpie**, **Gray Treepie**, **Taiwan Barbet** and lots more butterflies. It was time to continue on our way to Taitung and from the bus we saw **Eurasian Magpie**, **Blue Rock-Thrush** and **Bronzed Drongo**.



Unlike some other macaques, Formosan Rock Macaques are usually cautious of humans.

Before heading to our hotel to check in, we checked out the wonderful Zhiben Grasslands. Along the entrance road we found **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Striated Swallow** and a **Little Ringed Plover** in the road. At an open area, we stopped to scan, and somebody spotted a **Slaty-breasted Rail** bathing in a puddle along the track. We took a walk along a path through the scrub and saw **Lesser Coucal**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Zitting & Golden-headed Cisticolas**, **Yellow-bellied & Plain Prinias** and we also flushed our first **Ring-necked Pheasant**. Further exploration produced **Taiwan Hwamei** and a stunning **Black-naped Oriole**. We drove down to the beach where we found **Oriental Skylark**, **Grey-throated Martin**, **Greater Sand- & Kentish Plovers** plus **Gray-tailed Tattler**. We wanted to check out the shorter grass and we took a walk through an extensive area, full of birds. Here we saw **Little Grebe**, **Grey Heron**, **Osprey**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Black-faced Bunting**, **Nutmeg Mannikin**, **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** (of the nominate *tsutschensis* race), **Pacific & House Swifts**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Oriental Pratincole**, several **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Oriental Reed-Warbler** and we also had a male **Ring-necked Pheasant** showing nicely. The biggest surprise was a **Grey-headed Lapwing** which is a very uncommon bird in Taiwan. We only heard **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge** and **Ruddy-breasted Crake** and would try again for these tomorrow.

5th May – Taitung to Hualien

We started the day back at the Zhiben grasslands which we accessed from a different direction. We walked to a small pond where we saw **Common Kingfisher** and finally **Ruddy-breasted Crake**. In this area we saw plenty of other interesting birds, including **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Black-naped Oriole**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Grey-throated Martin**, **Bank Swallow**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Green Sandpiper** and **Oriental Pratincole**. From there, we hit the Taiping river mouth back in Tainan city, where the offshore wind was now quite strong and we even thought it might bring in a few migrants. One bird that we were still missing was the endemic race of **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge**. We heard one and after trying to call it in, it flew right into the middle of an open field and stuck its head out of the long grass. After that it hopped up onto a wall and just sat there. This is normally a secretive bird. At the river mouth itself, we had a constant stream of birds, one of the most interesting of which was the endangered Chinese Egret. We had an incredible array of shorebirds and we saw **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Gray-tailed Tattler**, **Terek, Marsh, Curlew**, **Sharp-tailed & Broad-billed Sandpipers**, **Whimbrel**, **Long-toed Stint**, **Sanderling**, **Ruddy Turnstone** and **Red-necked Stint**. A large wader flew over giving a rather unfamiliar call which Alan checked out to find was the rare **Little Curlew**. Terns were also much in evidence and we had **Caspian, Common, Little & even a couple of Black-naped Terns**. In a small park on the coast we saw **Brown Shrike**, **Nutmeg Mannikin**, **Blue Rock-Thrush** and even a few herps.



The Taiwan Barbet's incessant calls can be heard all day long.

We still had a long drive ahead of us so we dragged ourselves away. Our next stop was at the Tropic of Cancer monument where people took a few photos and we even saw some more **Black-naped Terns** and added **Pacific Reef-Heron** to our trip list. Further north at Niushan we saw **Styan's Bulbul**, an **Emerald Dove** in flight, **Taiwan Barbet**, **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **White-rumped Munia** and **Black-naped Monarch**. The big surprise here though was the endemic race of **Plain Flowerpecker** which was calling away from the top of a tree. Just before arriving at Hualien we stopped at another river mouth. The wind was still blowing strong and we were on the lookout for migrants. Scanning the large river mouth from the parking lot, we saw **Little Grebe**, **Grey Heron** and **Osprey**. We had many of the same waders as this morning along with **Black-winged Stilt**, **Black-bellied & Kentish Plovers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Black-tailed Godwit** and dozens of **Red-necked Phalaropes** flying north just off shore. We saw more terns here, with **Gull-billed**, **Whiskered**, **Black-naped** and possibly over 1000 **Common Terns**. What a spectacle! It had been an amazing day with impressive visible migration. We arrived at our hotel in Hualien to relax before dinner while a couple of participants took a walk around town and added to the trip list with a **Gray-streaked Flycatcher**.

6th May – Hualien to Cingjing

This morning we were leaving the coast and heading back up into the mountains through the spectacular Taroko Gorge. It was misty and looked like it might rain, which it did, but not enough to stop us enjoying the spectacular scenery. We saw a few nice birds on the way up, including **Pacific & House Swifts**, **Large-billed Crow**, **Pacific Swallow**, **Asian House-Martin**, **Styan's Bulbul** and at some small streams we crossed, **Formosan Whistling-Thrush**, **Plumbeous Redstart** and **Little Forktail**. We came out of the gorge and climbed higher and higher up to Hehuanshan. We stopped at the impressive 'Sacred tree' where we were reacquainted with some of our old friends like **White-eared Sibia**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Coal**, **Green-backed**, **Black-throated & Yellow Tits**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina** and **Vivid Niltava** along with **Formosan Rock Macaque** and **Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel**. Higher up, we even had a **Mikado Pheasant** in the road. We tried for Grey-headed Bullfinch at a stakeout of mine but all we managed to find was the endemic **Taiwan Bush-Warbler**.



The eminently palatable Vinaceous Rosefinch has been split by the IOC. Let's hope Clements will follow.

This road goes over the Wuling pass at 3,275m (10,745ft) making it the highest road in East Asia. The weather was pretty miserable here, but we still managed to find **Vinaceous Rosefinch**, **Eurasian Wren** and our main target, the colourful endemic race of **Alpine Accentor**. Lower down, we stopped at a parking lot and ate our lunch under a shelter whilst waiting for the weather to improve. Outside, we looked at **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, an unusually high **Brown Shrike** and **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler**. With the poor weather, we had limited birding stops, so we headed past Cingjing and further on down to a place I was planning to go tomorrow, the university farm at Chunyang. I was hoping the weather would improve at lower elevations but this was not the case. We found a few common birds here, like **Spotted Dove**, **Black Drongo**, **Light-vented & Black Bulbuls**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Steere's Liocichla**, **Collared Finchbill** and **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta** but there was no sign of our target Vinaceous Parrotbill. It had been a bit of a miserable day weatherwise, so we decided rather than 'flogging a dead cat', to retire a little earlier and get warm and dry.

7th May – Cingjing to Alishan

Taking an early morning walk, one of our group had seen **Vinous-throated Parrotbill & Chinese Bamboo-Partridge**, so after meeting up, we went out to the same spot and managed to find the parrotbills. We also saw **Steere's Liocichla, Formosan Whistling-Thrush** and **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler** but the best bird was **Brown Bullfinch** which can often be rather tricky to find. We had one right next to the parking lot, singing away in the top of a tall tree. We decided to take a short drive up to the Blue Gate trail. We had some nice birds there, including **Green-backed Tit, Taiwan Yuhina, White-eared Sibia**, the beautiful **Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Rufous-faced Warbler, White-tailed Robin, Ashy Wood-Pigeon** and **Gray-faced Woodpecker**. We came back down for a late breakfast before checking out and driving to Huisun Forest, a nice little forest reserve. We drove straight to a stake out for the localised **Varied Tit** which is a very distinctive race and possible future split. In the same area, we also found **Gray-chinned Minivet, Taiwan Blue-Magpie, Gray Treepie, Yellow-browed Warbler, Taiwan Barbet, Gray-capped Woodpecker, White-bellied Erpornis** and **Malayan Night-Heron**. We had a lot to do today, so we didn't linger, heading straight off to our next location.



The Maroon Oriole is remarkably localised considering the degraded habitat in which it is found.

An important target still for us was the distinctive, bright red race of **Maroon Oriole**. In the local town of Puli we checked out the grounds of a temple and very soon had great views of the orioles, as well as of **Crested Goshawk, Bronzed Drongo** and **Black-naped Monarch**. Also driving around the local flooded fields, we saw **White-breasted Waterhen, Little Ringed Plover, Striated Swallow, Collared Finchbill** and even an **Oriental Honey-buzzard**. From here we rushed on to Alishan where the owner of our lodge has set up a blind in the forest. With delays we were a little late but we went up anyway and saw **Swinhoe's Pheasant** but unfortunately no **Taiwan Partridge**. Leaving the blind we saw a **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** in flight, a **Pallas's Squirrel** and **Latouchi's & Olive Frogs**. After dinner we went out owling and got good views of **Collared Scops-Owl & Indian Giant Flying-Squirrel**, but we only heard **Mountain Scops-Owl**.

8th May – Alishan & Shanlinxi to Douliou

We gathered outside the lodge and watched **Green-backed Tit**, **Japanese White-eye** and **Black-naped Monarchs** coming in to feed on moths attracted the night light, while we waited to be transported up the steep road to the blind once again. We were soon settled inside the blind and it wasn't long before our final endemic, the **Taiwan Partridge**, showed up. It was a great relief, and what fantastic views of these attractive birds we had too. We had no reason to hang around inside and walking back down the steep road, we also saw **Taiwan Barbet**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **White-tailed Robin**, **Dusky Fulvetta** and **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge**. Our plan was to drive up to Yushan National Park but unfortunately the road was closed due to a landslide. This was devastating news as it was the best site for 2 of our remaining targets. We looked out from a view point by the road block and watched a **Brown Bullfinch** perched in the top of a tree, then **Black Eagle** and **Crested Goshawk** flying overhead whilst I tried to formulate a plan B.



White-browed Shortwing is one of several mega-skulkers that add adds spice to this tour.

In the end I decided to try out a new forest site in the mountains called Shanlinxi (or 'Sun Link Sea' as it was signed in English). On the way up the winding road, we saw **Large-billed Crow**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **Rufous-capped Babbler** and **White-eared Sibia**. I paid our entry fees and we got out in the large parking lot. Nearby we had our best looks at **Formosan Whistling-Thrush** before we set off on a trail along the river. It was very birdy and we had some of our best views of **Taiwan Barwing**, **Ferruginous Flycatcher**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, **Plumbeous Redstart**, **Steere's Liocichla** and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** as well as our first real looks at the endemic subspecies of **White-browed Shortwing** (a potential split as Taiwan Shortwing). On the way back down, we stopped for tea tasting and some of us bought some as souvenirs. From here we drove back to the highway and headed north towards Douliou. Somebody even added to the trip list with a **Northern Harrier** from the window. We checked in to our hotel and went out for our final dinner at a nice Japanese restaurant. **Savanna Nightjars** were calling away as we walked back to the hotel.

9th May – Douliu, Dasyueshan to Taipei

Originally, this day was a backup in case we hadn't seen Fairy Pitta yet, but what we were really missing now was **Grey-headed Bullfinch** and **Golden Parrotbill**, both very high elevation species. There were

relatively few sites for these, the easiest for us now was to go back up to the top of Dasyueshan. We left Douliou so early, the **Savanna Nightjars** were still active and as we drove along the highway, **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were flying back to their day roosts. We made good time and were soon winding back up the very familiar road up Dasyueshan. We kept stops to a bare minimum but at the lower elevations we still saw **Taiwan Barbet**, **Silver-backed Needletail**, **Pacific & House Swifts**, **Striated Prinia** and **Collared Finchbill**; whilst at mid elevations we had our final views of **Swinhoe's Pheasant**, **Ashy Wood-Pigeon**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Steere's Liocichla**, **Taiwan Barwing**, **Ferruginous Flycatcher**, **Vivid Niltava** and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**.



The pint-size Ferruginous Flycatcher is a breeding visitor to Taiwan.

It was the higher elevation species that we were here for though, but unfortunately by the time we got to the top it was raining quite a bit. We had our packed lunches and waited for a break in the rain, and when it eased off we took a walk along the bamboo trail. We saw many of the same species as before, such as **Taiwan Fulvetta**, **Taiwan Bush-Warbler**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler**, **Vinaceous Rosefinch** and finally decent views of **Flamecrest**, plus fleeting views of **Golden Parrotbill**. The rain got heavier and we were forced to turn back to the parking lot. We stood under the shelter waiting again and finally a flock of **Gray-headed Bullfinches** showed up. They flew across the clearing and we followed to find them feeding on the ground. It was fantastic to finally see this tricky species. A fitting end to a rather wet but extremely successful trip, with 205 bird species of which 201 were seen. We drove down the mountain and onto a luxury hotel by Taoyuan International Airport where we finished the tour.

Bird list

Taxonomy follows Clements 6.8 online checklist. Updated Aug 2013

DUCKS, GEESE and SWANS: Anatidae

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Seen at Aogu & Zhiben.

Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha*

Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu, Zhiben & Hualien.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Seen at Aogu.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Seen at Aogu.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*

Seen at Aogu.

PHEASANTS and PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae

Taiwan Partridge *Arborophila crudigularis* **endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Alishan. Heard at Dasyueshan, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.

Chinese Bamboo-Partridge *Bambusicola thoracicus sonorivox* **endemic subspecies**

This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Taitung, Cingjing & Alishan. Heard at Shimen Dam, Dasyueshan & Zhiben.

Swinhoe's Pheasant *Lophura swinhoii* **endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Dasyueshan & Alishan.

Mikado Pheasant *Syrmaticus mikado* **endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus formosanus* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Zhiben & heard at Aogu.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen at Shigang, Aogu, Zhiben & Hualien.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Seen at Aogu.

HERONS, EGRETS and BITTERNs: Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Seen at Aogu & Cigu.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Aogu, Cigu, Zhiben & Hualien.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu, Bazhang, Cigu, Zhiben & Taroko.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Seen at Aogu.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*

Endangered. Seen at Aogu & Taitung.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Commonly seen near water throughout.

Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra*

Seen at the Tropic of Cancer monument.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Commonly seen throughout.

Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Seen at Riverside Park.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen at many sites.

Malayan Night-Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shimen Dam, Taitung, Zhiben & Puli.

IBISES and SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Introduced. Seen at Riverside Park.

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*

Endangered. Seen at Aogu.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Seen at the Palace Museum, Cigu, Zhiben & Hualien.

HAWKS, EAGLES and KITES: Accipitridae

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu & Cigu.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Seen at Palace Museum, Shimen Dam, Shuangliou, & Puli,

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela hoya*

endemic subspecies

This is a distinctive race & potential split. Commonly seen in lowland and mid-elevation forest.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

Seen at Yushan.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Seen on the way to Shanlinxi,

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus formosae*

endemic subspecies

Seen at Shimen Dam, Shuangliou, Puli, near Yushan & near Shanlinxi.

Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis*

Seen at Shimen Dam.

Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis*

Heard at Dasyueshan.

RAILS, GALLINULES and COOTS: Rallidae

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus taiwanus*

endemic subspecies

Seen at Zhiben.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden, Riverside Park, Dasyueshan & Puli.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*

Seen at Zhiben.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden & Aogu.

AVOCETS and STILTS: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Seen at Aogu & Hualien.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Seen at Aogu.

PLOVERS and LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*

Seen at Zhiben. This is a rare bird in Taiwan.

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Seen at Aogu & Hualien.

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Seen at Aogu.

Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang & Taitung.

Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang & Zhiben.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Seen at Aogu, Zhiben & Hualien.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Zhiben, Hualien & Puli.

SANDPIPERS: Scolopacidae

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Seen at Bazhang, Cigu, Taitung, Taitung & Hualien.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Aogu, Zhiben & Taitung.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Seen at Shigang, Aogu & Zhiben.

Gray-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang, Zhiben, Taitung, Hualien & Taitung.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Aogu, Bazhang, Cigu, Zhiben & Hualien.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang, Cigu, Taitung & Hualien.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Seen at Aogu.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang & Cigu.

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

Two birds seen in flight at Taiping river mouth in Taitung.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Seen at Bazhang & Taitung.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

Vulnerable. Seen at Bazhang.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Near-threatened. Seen at Bazhang,

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Near-threatened. Seen at Aogu & Hualien.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Seen at Aogu.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Taitung, Taitung & Hualien.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Vulnerable. Seen at Aogu.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Seen at Aogu & Bazhang.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*

Seen at Aogu & Taitung.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang, Zhiben & Taitung.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang, Taitung, Taitung & Hualien.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Seen at Aogu & Taitung.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu, Bazhang, Taitung & Hualien.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Seen at Taitung.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Seen at Aogu.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

Seen at Riverside Park.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Good numbers seen offshore at Hualien.

PRATINCOLES: Glareolidae

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

Seen at Aogu, Zhiben & Taitung.

GULLS & TERNS: Laridae

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang, Cigu, Zhiben & Hualien.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Seen at Hualien.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang & Taitung.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Seen at Aogu.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Seen at Aogu, Bazhang & Hualien.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Seen at Cigu, Taitung & Hualien.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

Seen at Taitung, the Tropic of Cancer monument & Hualien.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Seen at Cigu.

PIGEONS and DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Introduced. Commonly seen in urban areas.

Ashy Wood-Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis*

Seen at Dasyueshan & heard at Cingjing.

Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis orii*

Commonly seen in open areas throughout.

endemic subspecies

Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Commonly seen in open areas throughout.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Commonly seen in open areas throughout.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Seen at Niushan.

White-bellied Pigeon *Treron sieboldii*

Seen at Dasyueshan.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides*

Seen at Alishan. Heard at Dasyueshan & Shanlinxi.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*

Heard at Dasyueshan & Alishan.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Seen at Cigu & Zhiben. Heard at Aogu.

OWLS: Strigidae

Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus hambroeki*

Heard at Dasyueshan & Alishan.

endemic subspecies

Collared Scops-Owl *Otus lettia glabripes*

Seen at Alishan.

endemic subspecies

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei pardalotum*

Seen at Dasyueshan.

endemic subspecies

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis stictomus* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Douliu & Taipei. Heard at Dongshi, Tainan & Hualien.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Silver-backed Noddy *Hirundapus cochinchinensis formosanus* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Dasyueshan.

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

Seen at Dasyueshan, Zhiben & Taroko.

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

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Seen at Dasyueshan, Aogu & Zhiben.

ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae

Taiwan Barbet *Megalaima nuchalis* **endemic**

Commonly seen or heard in the lowlands throughout.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Gray-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

Seen at Dasyueshan, Zhiben, Niushan, Huisun & Puli. Heard at Taroko & Shanlinxi.

Gray-faced Woodpecker *Picus canus*

Seen at Dasyueshan. Heard at Cingjing & Shanlinxi.

PITTAS: Pittidae

Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha*

Vulnerable. Seen at Shimen Dam.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae

Gray-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*

Seen at Shimen Dam, Dasyueshan, Hehuanshan, Huisun & Alishan.

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Seen at Riverside Park, Dasyueshan, Aogu, Zhiben, Taitung & Hehuanshan.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu & Zhiben.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*

Seen at Shimen Dam, Dasyueshan, Niushan, Huisun & Puli. Heard at Shanlinxi.

ORIOLES: Oriolidae

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Seen at Zhiben.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii ardens* **endemic subspecies**

This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen in Puli.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus harterti* **endemic subspecies**

Commonly seen in open areas throughout.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus braunianus* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan, near Shuangliou, Niushan & Puli.

MONARCH-FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea oberholseri* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden, Dasyueshan, Zhiben, Niushan, Puli & Alishan. Heard at Shimen Dam & Chunyang.

CROWS: Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius taivanus* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan & heard at Hehuanshan.

Taiwan Blue-Magpie *Urocissa caerulea* **endemic**

Seen at the Palace Museum, Shimen Dam, Shuangliou & Huisun.

Gray Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae formosae* **endemic subspecies**

Commonly seen in lowland areas.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Seen at Riverside Park, Taipei & Tainan.

Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes owstoni* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Seen at Shimen Dam, Dasyueshan, Taroko, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.

LARKS: Alaudidae

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

Seen at Cigu & Zhiben.

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Cigu & Zhiben.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

Seen at Zhiben.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Commonly seen throughout.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Commonly seen throughout.

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*

Seen at Bazhang, Zhiben & Puli.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Seen at Shimen Dam & Puli.

Asian House-Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Seen at Dasyueshan, Taroko & Cingjing.

TITS: Paridae

Varied Tit *Poecile varius castaneiventris* **endemic subspecies**

This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Huisun.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater ptilosus* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan. Heard at Shanlinxi.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus insperatus* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan, Hehuanshan, Cingjing & Alishan.

Yellow Tit *Parus holsti* **endemic**

Near-threatened. Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*

Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Seen at Dasyueshan.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes taivanus* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Hehuanshan & heard at Dasyueshan.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*
Seen at Dasyueshan.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae

Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques cinereicapillus* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Dasyueshan, Chunyang & Puli.

Styan's Bulbul *Pycnonotus taivanus* **endemic**
Vulnerable. Seen at Shuangliou, Taitung & Taroko.

Light-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis formosae* **endemic subspecies**
Commonly seen in the north and west.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus nigerrimus* **endemic subspecies**
Commonly seen in the lowlands.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Flamecrest *Regulus goodfellowi* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan.

CUPWINGS: Pnoepygidae

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

BUSH-WARBLERS: Cettidae

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*
Seen at Dasyueshan, Hehuanshan, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.

Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Horornis fortipes robustipes* **endemic subspecies**
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan. Heard at Cingjing & Shanlinxi.

Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler *Horornis acanthizoides concolor* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Seen at Huisun.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
Seen at Palace Museum & Shimen Dam.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae

Oriental Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*
Seen at Riverside Park, Cigu & Zhiben.

GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES: Locustellidae

Taiwan Bush-Warbler *Locustella alishanensis* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Seen at Zhiben. Heard at Aogu & Cigu.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis volitans* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Zhiben & heard at Cigu.

Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera striata* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Dasyueshan.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*
Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Aogu, Zhiben & Puli.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata flavirostris* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Riverside Park, Dasyueshan, Aogu, Bazhang, Taitung, Zhiben & Alishan.

PARROTBILLS & ALLIES: Paradoxornithidae

Taiwan Fulvetta *Fulvetta formosana* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan.
Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus bulomachus* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Cingjing.
Golden Parrotbill *Paradoxornis verreauxi morrisonianus* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Dasyueshan.

YUHINAS, WHITE-EYES & ALLIES: Zosteropidae

Taiwan Yuhina *Yuhina brunneiceps* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan, Hehuanshan, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.
Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*
Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden, Shimen Dam, Dasyueshan, Cigu, Zhiben, Niushan, Puli & Alishan.

BABLERS: Timaliidae

Rufous-capped Babbler *Cyanoderma ruficeps praecognitum* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Dasyueshan & Shanlinxi. Heard at Cingjing.
Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus musicus* **endemic**
Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden & Dasyueshan. Heard at Shimen Dam, Niushan & Cingjing.
Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler *Megapomatorhinus erythrocnemis* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan.

FULVETTAS & GROUND BABBLERS: Pellorneidae

Dusky Fulvetta *Schoeniparus b. brunnea* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Dasyueshan & Alishan.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES: Leiothrichidae

Gray-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe m. morrisonia* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan, Niushan & Chunyang.
Taiwan Hwamei *Garrulax taewanus* **endemic**
Near-threatened. Seen at Dasyueshan & Taitung.
Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ruficeps* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan.
Rusty Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla poecilorhynchus* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan.
White-whiskered Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron morrisonianum* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.
White-eared Sibia *Heterophasia auricularis* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.
Steere's Liocichla *Liocichla steerii* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan, Cingjing, Shanlinxi & Alishan. Heard at Chunyang.
Taiwan Barwing *Actinodura morrisoniana* **endemic**
Seen at Dasyueshan & Shanlinxi. Heard at Hehuanshan.

FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae

Gray-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*
Seen at Hualien.
Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea*
Seen at Dasyueshan & Shanlinxi.
Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
Introduced. Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden & Aogu.
Vivid Niltava *Niltava v. vivida* **endemic subspecies**
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan. Heard at Shanlinxi.
White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana goodfellowi* **endemic subspecies**
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan & Shanlinxi. Heard at Hehuanshan.

Formosan Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus insularis</i>	endemic
Seen at Dasyueshan, Taroko, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.		
Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri fortis</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan & Taroko.		
White-tailed Robin	<i>Cinclidium leucurum montium</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan, Chunyang, Shanlinxi & Alishan.		
White-browed Bush-Robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus formosanus</i>	endemic subspecies
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan.		
Collared Bush-Robin	<i>Tarsiger johnstoniae</i>	endemic
Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.		
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra innexa</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Cingjing & Shanlinxi. Heard at Dasyueshan.		
Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosa affinis</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan, Shigang, Taroko & Shanlinxi.		
Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	
Seen at Zhiben & Hualien.		

THRUSHES & ALLIES: Turdidae

Island Thrush	<i>Turdus poliocephalus niveiceps</i>	endemic subspecies
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Heard at Dasyueshan.		

STARLINGS : Sturnidae

Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	
Introduced. Seen in Taipei.		
Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus formosanus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Riverside Park,		
Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	
Introduced. Commonly seen throughout.		
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	
Introduced. Commonly seen throughout.		
Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>	
Introduced. Seen at Riverside Park.		

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum uchidai</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Niushan.		
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectum formosum</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan & heard at Shanlinxi.		

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae

Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris fennelli</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Hehuanshan,		

WAGTAILS and PIPITS: Motacillidae

Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis taivana</i>	
Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang & Aogu.		
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis</i>	
Seen at Zhiben.		
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
Seen at Aogu & Shuangliou.		
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
Seen at Dongshi, Dasyueshan, Shigang, Zhiben & Hehuanshan.		
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	
Seen at Zhiben.		

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	
Seen at Riverside Park & Zhiben.		

FINCHES, SISKINS, CROSSBILLS: Fringillidae

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis uchidae* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Cingjing & on the way to Yushan.

Gray-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca owstoni* **endemic subspecies**

This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan.

Vinaceous Rosefinch *Carpodacus vinaceus formosanus* **endemic subspecies**

This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

SPARROWS: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Commonly seen in urban areas.

WAXBILLS and ALLIES: Estrildidae

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

Seen at Niushan.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

Seen at Dasyueshan, Cigu, Zhiben & Taitung.

Mammal list

Follows en.wikipedia.org

OLD WORLD MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae

Formosan Rock Macaque *Macaca cyclopsis* **endemic**

Seen at Dasyueshan, Shuangliou, Hehuanshan & Shanlinxi.

SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae

Red-and-white Flying-Squirrel *Petaurista alborufus lena* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan.

Indian Giant Flying-Squirrel *Petaurista philippensis grandis* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Alishan.

Maritime Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maritimus formosanus* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan.

Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel *Dremomys pernyi owstoni* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus taiwanensis* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden, Shuangliou, Hualien, Shanlinxi & Alishan.

WEASELS: Mustelidae

Siberian Weasel *Mustela sibirica taivana* **endemic subspecies**

Seen at Dasyueshan.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula chrysospila* **endemic subspecies**

A large mustelid seen at Dasyueshan was probably this species.

DEER: Cervidae

Reeve's Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi micrurus* **endemic subspecies**

Heard at Dasyueshan.

Reptile list

Taxonomy follows 台灣兩棲爬行類圖鑑 (2009)

TERRAPINS: Geoemydidae

Chinese stripe-eared Terrapin *Mauremys sinensis*

Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden & Taitung.

AGAMAS: Agamidae

Swinhoe's Japalura *Japalura swinhonis* **endemic**

Seen at Dasyueshan.

GECKOS: Gekkonidae

Gecko sp

Seen at Taitung,

SKINKS: Scincidae

Long-tailed Mabuya

Seen at Shuangliou & Taitung.

Eutropis longicaudata

SNAKES: Colubridae

Chinese Keeled Rat Snake

Seen at Shigang,

Elaphe carinata

Amphibian list

Taxonomy follows 台灣兩棲爬行類圖鑑 (2009)

TOADS: Bufonidae

Central Formosan Toad

Seen at

Speckled Toad

Seen at Hualien.

Bufo bankorensis

endemic

Bufo melanostictus

FROGS: Ranidae

Rice Field Frog

Seen at Shuangliou.

Olive Frog

Seen at Alishan.

Gunther's Brown Frog

Seen at Taipei botanical gardens.

Latouchi's Frog

Seen at Shuangliou, Chunyang & Alishan.

Japanese Buerger's Frog

Seen at Dasyueshan & Shuanliou.

Fejervarya limnocharis

Rana adenopleura

Rana guentheri

Rana latouchii

Buergeria japonica

Butterfly list (Compiled by Peary Stafford)

SWALLOWTAILS: Papilionidae

Common Rose

Seen at Shuangliou.

Common Bluebottle

Seen at Shuangliou.

Common Jay

Seen at Shuangliou.

Common Mormon

Seen at Shuangliou.

The Spangle

Seen at Shuangliou.

Black and White Helen

Seen at Shimen Dam.

Dual Tsui Swallowtail (?)

Seen at Shuangliou.

Pachliopta aristolochilae

Graphium sarpedon

Graphium doson

Papilio polytes

Papilio protenor

Papilio nephelus

Papilio hopponis

WHITES: Pieridae

Redbase Jezebel

Seen at Shuangliou.

Cabbage White

Seen at Shimen Dam.

Indian Cabbage White

Seen at Shimen Dam.

Plain Puffin

Seen at Shuangliou.

Delias pasithoe

Pieris rapae

Pieris canidia

Appias indra

Spotted Sawtooth
Seen at Shan Lin Xi.

Yellow Orange-tip
Seen at Shuangliou.

Great Orange
Seen at Shuangliou.

Scalloped Grass-yellow
Seen at Shuangliou.

Prioneris thestylis

Ixias pyrene

Hebomoia glaucippe

Eurema alitha

MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES: Danaidae

Swinhoe's Chocolate Tiger *Parantica swinhoei*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Blue-banded King Crow *Euploea eunice*
Seen at Puli.

SATYRS: Satyridae

Taiwan Wave-eye *Ypthima multistriata*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Single-ring Bushbrown *Mycalesis sangaica*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Chinese Bushbrown *Mycalesis gotama*
Seen at Puli.

Common Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra*
Seen at Shuangliou.

BRUSHFOOTS: Nymphalidae

The Rustic *Cupha erymanthis*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Lemon Pansy *Junonia lemonias*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Chocolate Pansy *Junonia iphita*
Seen at Shuangliou.

The Jester *Symbrenthia formosanus*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Sullied Sailor *Neptis soma*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Sailor sp *Neptis taiwana*
Seen at Shan Lin Xi.

Common Map *Cyrestis thyodamas*
Seen at Shimen Dam, Shuangliou.

Beautiful Leopard *Timelaea albescens*
Seen at Shuangliou.

HAIRSTREAKS & BLUES: Lycaenidae

Sapphire sp. *Heliophorus ila*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Powdered Oak Blue *Arhopola bazalus*
Seen at Huisen.

Long-banded Silverline *Spindasis lohita*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*
Seen at Bazhuang River Mouth.

Zebra Blue *Leptotes plinius*
Seen at Shuangliou.

Pale Grass Blue
Seen at Shuangliou.
The Malayan
Seen at Shuangliou.

SKIPPERS: Hesperidae
Common Bush-hopper
Seen at Shuangliou.
Formosan Swift
Seen at Shuangliou.

Zizeeria maha

Megisma malaya

Ampittia dioscorides

Borbo cinnara