

TROPICAL BIRDING



Taiwan: Formosan Endemics

Set departure tour

14th – 27th April, 2013

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Mikado Pheasant is one of the most beautiful endemics and a source of pride for Taiwanese people.

This year's Taiwan Set Departure tour was our most successful to date, with an impressive 217 bird species recorded. We saw all 23 Clements endemics easily thanks to our ever-growing knowledge base with some great new stakeouts for some of the more difficult species. With our Taiwan office up and running, logistics went smoothly and last minute changes due to internal flight cancellations were handled with ease, even netting us some unexpected additions like Japanese Yellow Bunting. With fine weather at Dashueshan at the beginning of the tour, we accumulated endemics quickly, leaving us extra time to search for more difficult birds. Highlights were many and aside from the spectacular Mikado & Swinhoe's Pheasants, we found the threatened Black-faced Spoonbill and Fairy Pitta, and enjoyed great views of attractive endemics like Taiwan Partridge, Flamecrest, Formosan Magpie and Formosan Whistling-Thrush as well as a full house of endemic laughingthrushes and scimitar-babblers. We were also lucky enough to find the rarely seen Formosan Serow, a kind of mountain goat. We birded everything from mountain forests, grasslands, mudflats and the rugged island of Lanyu and we were treated to breathtaking scenery, delicious food and charmed by the wonderfully friendly people of this island. Taiwan has a surprising amount to offer and never fails to leave a lasting impression.

14th April – Botanical Gardens & Riverside Park

Today was arrival day and after lunch we met up for our first birding of the trip at the Taipei Botanical gardens, which is a great place to get to grips with the commoner resident birds on the island. Straight away we saw several **Light-vented & Black Bulbuls**, **Japanese White-eye**, **Brown Shrike** and **Oriental Turtle- & Red Collared-Doves**. On one of the ponds we saw **White-breasted Waterhen** and **Eurasian Moorhen** and nearby got our first endemic in the form of **Taiwan Barbet**. Taiwan is an important place to keep track of endemic subspecies and of these we had a beautiful male **Black-naped Monarch** and some **Gray Treepies** along with an endemic race of **Pallas's Squirrel**. Our main target in the gardens was **Malayan Night-Heron** and after a while we found a juvenile spreading its wings to show some beautiful patterning. We moved on to the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial where we explored the gardens to find an adult **Malayan Night-Heron** in the middle of a lawn and **Asian Glossy Starlings**.



Malayan Night-Heron is a difficult bird to see in many parts of its range but in Taipei it is easy.

Our last birding of the afternoon was at the Riverside Park, a great place for waterbirds. Straight away on one of the lawns we saw **Black-collared Starling** and then a **Chinese Pond-Heron** mixed in with several **Cattle Egrets** and on the river, **Sacred Ibis**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Greenshank**, **Wood Sandpiper** and **Common Snipe**. In the reeds bordering the river we saw **Zitting Cisticola**, **Yellow-bellied & Plain Prinias** and flying over were **Black-shouldered Kite** (a rare bird in Taiwan), **Eastern Marsh-Harrier** and a few **Bank Swallows** amongst the more common **Barn Swallows**. Scanning across the river at low tide, a lot of mud was exposed and we saw many **Western Yellow & White Wagtails** and **Red-throated Pipit**. Across the river in some long grass we spotted a flock of **Nutmeg & Chestnut Munias** and also a **Black-faced Bunting**. In a nearby tree one of the clients spotted what was to be the biggest surprise of the afternoon, a **Wryneck**. It flew down and started feeding on the ground in the grass. We met a group of Taiwanese birders further on and made them quite jealous of our discovery. Finally we checked out a group of trees which held **Pale & Brown-headed Thrushes** before we headed back to the hotel.

15th April – Shimen Reservoir to Dashueshan

Leaving Taipei, we saw some **Asian Glossy Starlings** which seem to be a very recently established exotic species. We drove about a hour to our first birding stop called Shimen Dam which was surrounded by some nice low elevation, native forest. Straight away we saw another **Taiwan Barbet**, followed by several other nice birds including **Ashy Minivet**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Gray Treepie**, **Light-vented & Black Bulbuls** and **Japanese White-eye**. We kept our ears and eyes open for Formosan Magpies, but there was no sign. We did however get excellent views of another endemic, the **Formosan Whistling-Thrush** which hopped up on a rock offering fine scope views. Before leaving we scanned the hillside for a calling **Crested Serpent-Eagle** and found it perched up in a tree preening itself.



The endemic race of Chinese Bamboo-Partridge is distinct from the mainland form and may be split.

Next it was off to Dashueshan which was to be our base for the next few days. At the bottom of the road up the mountain we saw a **Common Buzzard** before we started up the winding road to our accommodation. In the lower sections of the road we had an LBJ flew by in front of the car and we stopped to check it out. The bird had disappeared, but right there next to the car we saw a pair of **Chinese Bamboo-Partridges** by the side of the road. They posed nicely for photos before scuttling off inside the forest. We stopped for lunch at a restaurant with a fantastic view over the valley where we had a distant **Black Eagle** and a very close fly over of a **Crested Serpent-Eagle** as well as our first **Pacific Swallows**. After lunch we continued our way up the mountains with other stops producing a pair of **Rufous-faced Warblers** and another endemic, the **Rusty Laughingthrush**. A little further up we had a nice mixed flock including **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Ferruginous Flycatcher** and **Eurasian Nuthatch** which came in to our whistled Collared Owlet impersonations. Further on still we had a **White-tailed Robin** in the road before we stopped at the only place where we had found **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush** on last year's tour, and sure enough, there they were.

Higher up we had our first **Formosan Rock Macaques** which were sitting on the wall next to the road and then many **Asian House-Martins** at a large bridge over the valley where they nest. We reached our accommodations and whilst I checked in, the guys birded around the car park to find their first **Steere's Liocichla**. After dropping our bags in our rooms, we headed straight out to a spot where Mikado Pheasant often shows around 4pm. We arrived a few minutes before and sure enough, a stunning male **Mikado Pheasant** arrived at 4pm on the dot. We couldn't have timed it any better. Some Taiwanese bird photographers had been waiting there all day long. Once we had drank our fill of this stunning bird we checked out the **Maritime & Perny's Long-nosed Squirrels** which had also come in to feed on seed and also several **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** which were rather confiding. We also saw the very distinctive endemic races of **Eurasian Nutcracker** (with very few spots) and **Coal Tit** (with a crest) then we also found the endemic **Collared Bush-Robin** whilst looking for White-browed Bush Robin. After dinner we went in search of **Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel** and got good views. We also heard a distant **Mountain Scops-Owl** before we called it a day.



The tiny Flamecrest's crest is hidden and only seen during the courtship display.

16th April –Dashueshan

We were staying at this high elevation just one more night, so today we needed to find as many of the high elevation endemics and specialties as we could. We couldn't have started any better as there was a flock of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes** right outside our door picking up moths attracted to our outside light. Taiwan isn't a place for early hotel breakfasts so we had stocked up on cereal and other breakfast goodies and tucked in to them outside our rooms. We drove up the road towards the summit and had a few brief birding stops along the way, picking up **Steere's Liocichla**, our first **Taiwan Barwing**, **Ferruginous Flycatcher**, another **White-tailed Robin** in the road and both **White-browed & Collared Bush-Robins**. In one of the upper car parks we saw another group of **Formosan Rock Macaque** and some birding around the summit car park produced the endemic Flamecrest and a lucky **Oriental Cuckoo**, a species far more often heard than seen. We walked along the summit trail and had great views of the endemic subspecies of **White-browed Shortwing**, which although not currently split by Clements must surely split soon. On the way back down we picked up a beautiful male **Vinaceous Rosefinch**, another very distinctive endemic subspecies. Back down at the accommodation area we found our first endemic **White-eared Sibia** and then went to a view point where we found **Oriental Honey-buzzard** and **Mountain Hawk-Eagle**.

After lunch, we took a rest and reconvened mid afternoon. In the forest just outside the rooms I found a beautiful male **Vivid Niltava**, another potential split. For the afternoon we went down to the famous 210 trail where we heard the distinctive call of the **Taiwan Partridge**, and followed it to try and get closer, but ended up flushing it across the trail. Further along, we had some nice flocks with **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Green-backed**, **Yellow & Black-throated Tit** and **Rufous-faced Warbler**. Other good birds seen were endemic races of **Eurasian Jay** and **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** before we turned around and headed back to the car park. Before leaving, we followed the call of the **Rufous-capped Babbler** to some thick grass behind toilet block and called it out to get great views. We also lucked upon a **Siberian Weasel** running along a wall. On the drive back up we found 2 stunning male **Swinhoe's Pheasants** which gave us good views before disappearing up the hill. After dinner we decided to take a night drive up to the summit. On the way up, a **Formosan Serow** (a kind of mountain goat) flushed from the roadside giving brief views and we also got several great views of Red-and-white Flying-Squirrel. There was nothing at the summit but on the way back down we got much better views of **Serow** before heading back to our rooms and bed after another wonderful day.

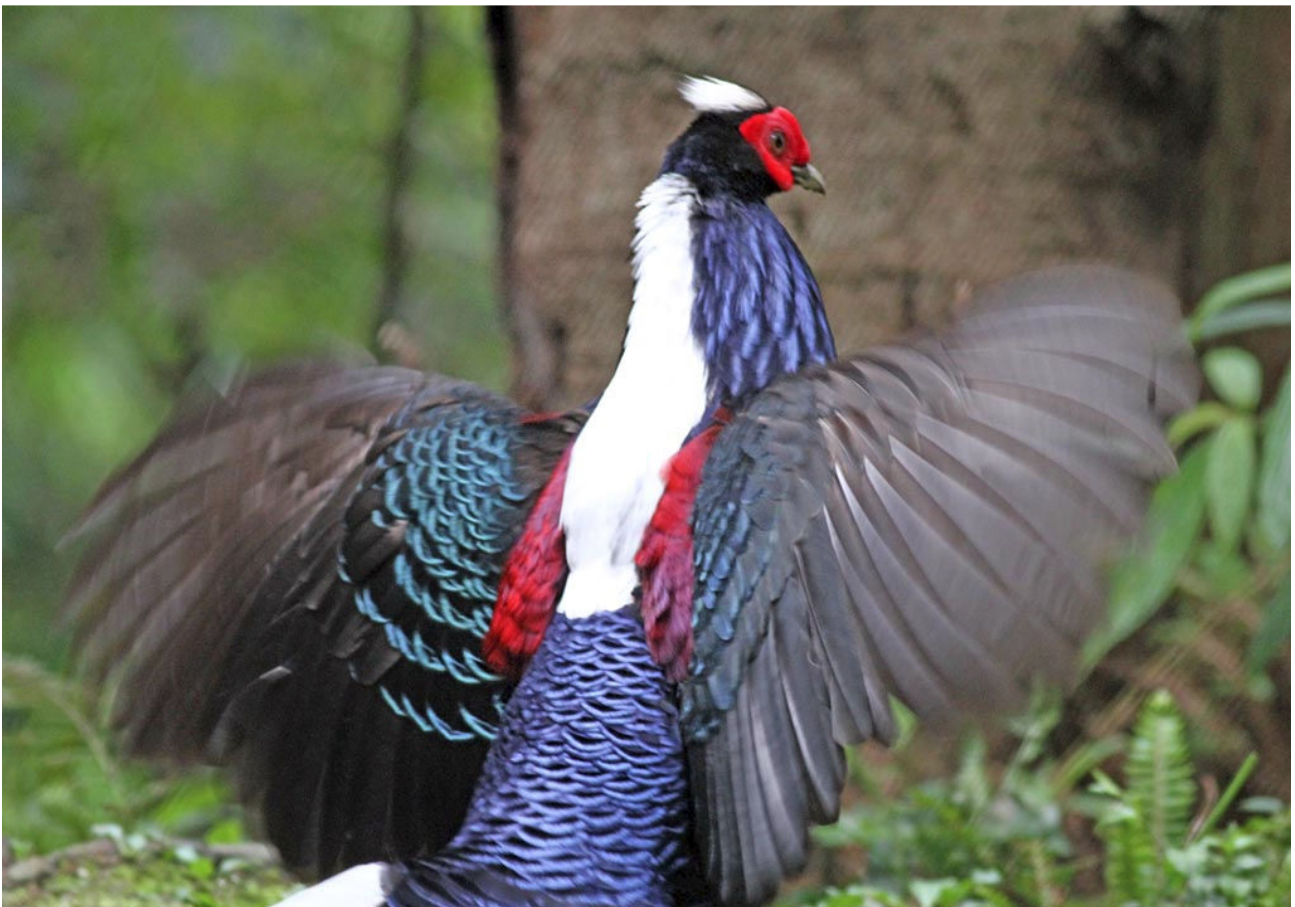


Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush is usually one of the most difficult endemics to find, but not this year.

17th April –Dashueshan

The **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes** were outside our rooms again, catching moths. I was starting to feel a little embarrassed telling the clients how difficult they were to find. After breakfast we drove down the road glimpsing a **Little Forktail** flying up a steep stream next to the road. We got out, but the bird was long gone. We went back to the 210 trail and heard a **Taiwan Partridge** in the same place again but it wouldn't come in. Next we saw some **Ashy Wood-Pigeons** flying high over head and then a **Scaly Thrush** on the ground. One of the main targets for the morning was the **Taiwan Cupwing**, a tiny and very skulking endemic. We located one calling next to the trail and got it to come in quite close. It was so fast moving that it was very tricky to get it in your binoculars and some of us had to make do with naked-eye views. We also had several flocks with birds like **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Taiwan Barwing** and **Vivid Niltava**. When we got back to the gate at the beginning of the trail, there were 2 **Yellow Tits** fighting viciously on the ground and seemed quite unaware of us watching the brawl.

We drove back up and walked along trail near the cabins finding a nice **Gray-faced Woodpecker**, a tricky species that we had missed on last year's tour. Next we went back to the viewpoint spotting a **Pale Thrush** on the way. When we got to there, we flushed a **Reeve's Muntjac** which bolted off into the thick scrub below. We also had another **Siberian Weasel** which ran past nearby. The only bird we added was **House Swift**. We had lunch, checked out and started driving down towards Dongshi at the base of the mountain. On the way down we had more views of **Eurasian Jay** and **White-tailed Robin** as well as **Formosan Rock Macaques** drinking from a stream. Much lower down on the mountain were some feeding stations set up by Taiwanese bird photographers. There was a new one where Taiwan Partridge was supposed to come in and we stood quietly behind the photographers to see if they would show up. First we saw **Steere's Liocichla** and **Eurasian Nuthatch** both of which came in quite close. After waiting for quite some time, a family of **Taiwan Partridges** showed up with a very young chick. We were very happy to have got this tricky endemic under our belts this early in the trip.



Swinhoe's Pheasant is arguably Taiwan's most beautiful bird. In the past it was a difficult bird to find, but now with the help of feeding stations you can watch them at your leisure.

A little further down, another beautiful **Swinhoe's Pheasant** was at the lower feeding station and we stopped briefly to gaze adoringly at it. Towards the base of the mountain was a side road down to a bridge over a river. On the way down, we came across another **Malayan Night-Heron**, a bird which seems to be on the increase in Taiwan despite being difficult to find in other parts of its range. Next we glimpsed a **Dusky Fulvetta** although we would definitely try again for better views. Down at the bridge, we scanned to find **Common Kingfisher**, **Brown Dipper** and **Plumbeous Redstart** on the river and **Black Bulbul**, **White-rumped Munia** and the endemic **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler** in nearby vegetation. Our final birding stop of the day was at the base of the mountain where we saw **Taiwan Barbet**, **Collared Finchbill**, **Rufous-capped Babbler** and the endemic race of **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler** before calling it a day and heading back for dinner and bed.

18th April –Dashueshan

In the morning, we started at the bottom of road when I heard a **Taiwan Hwamei** outside someone's house. We pulled up and had great views from the car window. A little further on we found a great little spot with **Striated Prinia**, **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler**, **Rufous-capped Babbler**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **Collared Finchbill** and **Taiwan Barbet**. We drove on, spotting more **Chinese Bamboo-Partridges** by the side of the road, then we heard the distinctive song of the **Dusky Fulvetta** and stopped to call it out. At the viewpoint we had 3 **Crested Serpent-Eagles** soaring over the valley and further on found a great spot for **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler**. We heard this very tricky endemic in a lush gulley, found a trail that took us closer to the bird and after some effort, we managed to locate it. We had now seen all the available endemics and now concentrated on 1 or 2 other targets. At the feeding station we had more good looks at **Swinhoe's Pheasant** and higher up saw several other good birds including **Ashy Wood-Pigeon**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta**, **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush**, **White-eared Sibia** and **Steere's Liocichla**. Higher up we heard some **Large Hawk-Cuckoos** calling loudly but failed to locate them. The main bird we now needed here was **White-backed Woodpecker** and we had a false alarm when we heard the similar call note of **Gray-capped Woodpecker**. We did finally locate a family of **White-backed Woodpeckers** and could then leave Dashueshan with all major targets seen. We even got scope views of a bonus **Collared Owlet** on the way back down.



Taiwan Barbet was recently split from Black-browed Barbet to become another endemic species.

In the afternoon we checked out the Shigang reservoir where we found **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Little Grebe**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Grey-throated Martin** and **Plumbeous Redstart**. We still had some birding time left and we explored a local hill where a road passed through some woods where we saw **Japanese White-eye**, more **Gray-capped Woodpeckers**, **Gray Treepie** and our first **Gray-streaked Flycatcher** of the trip. One target still missing was the **White-bellied Pigeon** and we spotted a large flock in some open country which appeared to have been flushed by a **Crested Goshawk**. That was the end of birding for this area and tomorrow it was on to Tainan.

19th April – Tainan area

Having cleaned up at Dashueshan we changed the program a little and headed early to Tainan. On the way we saw a **Cinnamon Bittern** fly across the road. We stopped to scan some open fields where we had some good birds, including **Pacific Golden-Plover**, **Intermediate Egret**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Western & Eastern Yellow Wagtails**, **Richard's Pipit** and **Black-winged Stilt** in some flooded rice paddies. One of the participants spotted a shorebird and we put it in the scope to discover it was a **Little Curlew**, a rare migrant and lifer for the guide. Further towards Aogu we had a **Whiskered Tern** flying over some shrimp ponds. Aogu was our best site for shorebirding last year, but unfortunately it was high tide which made it a little more challenging. The water was high and birds a little distant but we still got good views of **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail** and **Garganey** along with a long list of shorebirds including **Whimbrel**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Eurasian & Far Eastern Curlews**, **Kentish & Black-bellied Plovers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Gray-tailed Tattler**, **Common Redshank** and also **Oriental Pratincole**. We also had a good selection of other waterside and open-country birds like **Yellow Bittern**, **Little Grebe**, **Caspian & Little Terns**, **Oriental Reed- & Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Brown & Long-tailed Shrikes**, **Striated Swallow**, an unidentified cuckoo and we heard a **Slaty-breasted Rail** deep in the waterside vegetation.



Little Curlew unlike many shorebirds is found in grassy fields

Of course the main target here was the **Black-faced Spoonbill** and we found several birds and had good scope views. In fact this tour is timed early enough to catch the last birds before they fly north for their breeding grounds. We had done very well at Aogu and went on to Tainan for lunch before continued our shore birding there. We started at a salt farm which was pretty dead except for a **Spotted Redshank** and our first of many **Red-necked Stints**. We went on to the Black-faced Spoonbill Reserve at Cigu where we added several more waders including **Terek Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Curlew Sandpiper** and also a **Gull-billed Tern**. There were no spoonbills here though so we thanked our lucky stars for having found them at Aogu. We went round the back of reserve and picked up our first **Long-toed Stint** and **Great Knot** and also had a fly over of 9 **Black-faced Spoonbills** which looked like they were on their way north. Our last stop of the day was **Dingshan** where we just added **Greater Sand-Plover** before heading to our comfortable hotel after a very productive day.

20th April – Shuangliou & Taidong

Having done so well again yesterday, we were able to stay ahead of schedule and add an extra location in the south for the **Formosan Magpie** called Shuangliou Forest Recreation Area. We got there nice and early to find the entrance gate still shut, but we parked the car outside and continued in on foot. We saw **Light-vented & Black Bulbuls** straight away and soon spotted our first **Styan's Bulbul**, an endemic restricted to the south and east of Taiwan that is currently under threat from hybridisation and competition with the similar Light-vented Bulbul. Next we saw some **Gray Treepies** and a **Taiwan Barbet** before I heard the distinctive call of the **Formosan Magpie**. We followed the call and spotted 2 birds across the valley, which came closer and gave us nice scope views. This was our last endemic and we were quite proud of achieving our goal so quickly. We went back to the gate, paid our entrance fees and drove in to the main car park. We took a nice walk along the river adding **Striated Heron** and **Gray Wagtail** and also saw some **Crested Serpent-Eagles** which were soaring already. Along the trail we saw more **Formosan Rock Macaques** and added to our fledgling reptile list with **Swinhoe's Japalura** and **Long-tailed Mabuya**. We checked out the information centre where the friendly staff put on an introductory video of the reserve in English for us. We also met a nice group of students who appeared to be birders and even gave us some gen for tricky birds later in the trip.



By popular vote, the Formosan Magpie was made the national bird.

We drove on to Taitung in the south-east of the island and after lunch checked out the Taiping River mouth where we saw **White-breasted Waterhen, Pacific Golden- & Kentish Plovers, Great Knot, Common Greenshank, Sanderling, Red-necked & Temmink's Stints**, our first **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, White Wagtail** and **Little Tern**. From here, we drove about 10km south to the Zhiben Grasslands, an excellent area for open-country birds. We stopped along the entrance road and one participant said he thought he'd seen an oriole fly past. We followed it to where it had flown and indeed found a pair of **Black-naped Orioles**, a rare bird in Taiwan. Next we saw a male of the endemic subspecies of **Ring-necked Pheasant** followed by a **Lesser Coucal** and a **Taiwan Hwamei**.

In the very small river mouth we saw a few more shorebirds including **Greater Sand- & Little Ringed Plovers**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Gray-tailed Tattler** and **Whimbrel** plus a **Common Kingfisher**. We saw **Oriental Skylark** and a pair of **Oriental Pratincoles** on the pebble beach and some distant **Common Terns** out at sea. We explored grassland and scrubland nearby and found **Intermediate Egret**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Siberian Stonechat**. The highlight of the afternoon though was flushing a **Savanna Nightjar** with good flight views. Having already had 2 unsuccessful predawn walks, we had finally found this relatively common but difficult to see bird. We went back to our hotel and in the evening found a nice restaurant nearby for some delicious cuisine.



The endemic Styan's Bulbul is threatened by the range expansion of the Light-vented Bulbul.

21st April – Taidong & Wulu

Before our flight to Lanyu we returned to the Zhiben grasslands to see if we couldn't find one or 2 new birds. Along the entrance road we saw some of the same birds as yesterday, including **Lesser Coucal**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, another beautiful **Black-naped Oriole**, a male *philippensis* race **Blue Rock Thrush**, a male **Ring-necked Pheasant** plus some **Gray Treepies** and **Styan's Bulbuls**, but unfortunately no hoped for additions. We went back to the beach where we flushed a pair of **Oriental Pratincoles** and **Oriental Skylarks** as well as a flock of **Whimbrel** and several **Little & Common Terns** out to sea. At the small river mouth we saw several shorebirds including **Little Ringed Plover**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Sanderling**, **Red-necked Stint** along with a nice **Common Kingfisher** and several **Bank Swallows**. Our time was up and we went back to the car and drove to the airport spotting a **Malayan Night-Heron** in a tree on the way out. At the airport we waited for our flight which appeared to be delayed due to strong winds. Our flight was eventually cancelled as were the following ones and it became clear that we weren't going to get out to Lanyu today.

While our office undertook to change our bookings we drove to the Wulu Forest in the mountains near Taitung and on the way spotted a **Cinnamon Bittern** in flight. On the first side road up into the forest we spotted a pair of **Chinese Bamboo-Partridges** in the road and several common forest birds like **Black Bulbul**, **Japanese White-eye** and **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta**. We also had a raptor being mobbed overhead which was probably a **Gray-faced Buzzard**. The road opened out into a small aboriginal village and then into some fields where we got great views of a **Chinese Sparrowhawk** which when it flew showed its characteristic black-tipped flight feathers and orange underwings. We turned around and driving back past the village cabbage patch I spotted some movement on the ground. We got out to investigate and found several birds, including **Collared Finchbill**, **Daurian Redstart**, **Gray Wagtail** and **Olive-backed Pipit**. The best bird here and of the whole day was the very rare **Yellow Bunting** which we had great views of a pair working their way along the edge of the field. We headed back to the main road and then up another forest road to a spot I had found **Maroon Oriole** on a previous trip. At the bottom we saw the beautiful **Emerald Dove** in the road and had great views. Higher up we got to the point and got out to scan and listen. We saw a nice **Bronzed Drongo** on a wire and then we had 2 stunning males **Maroon Orioles** of the race *ardens* which may be split as a full species. Considering our bad luck with the flight, our day hadn't turned out half bad. We returned to Taitung city for an unscheduled second night.



A wrong turn paid off with great views of this Chinese Sparrowhawk.

22nd April – Lanyu Island

To avoid the risk of further flight cancellations we decided to do a day trip to Lanyu by boat which took 2 hours each way. The boat left on time and along with a rather noisy group of mainland Chinese we made our way towards the island. We were met on the other side with our hire car which was in surprisingly good shape considering Lanyu is well known as a graveyard for cars. After filling up with gas we set off and checked some taro fields around the town where we found **Chinese Pond-Heron**, **White-breasted Waterhen** and **Brown Shrike** as well as several feral goats nearby which are now well established on the island. Further along the road we stopped by the forest edge to take our first looks at the distinctive endemic *harterti* race of **Brown-eared Bulbul**. Further on, on the rocky shoreline we found **Blue Rock Thrush** and a **Pacific Reef-Heron**. We stopped at a bridge with a view over the forest where I had been informed **Ruddy Kingfisher** had been seen recently. We didn't see it but did find many other interesting species including **Japanese Sparrowhawk**, **Philippine Cuckoo-Dove**, an endemic race of **Whistling Green-Pigeon**, **Pacific Swift** our first **Lowland White-eyes** and a flyby of a small bird with white patches on its back which confused me until it vocalized and I realized was a male **Mugimaki Flycatcher**.

We moved on to our main forest site in the north of the island although we really only had 2 birds left to worry about. The entrance road been blocked off by locals with their scooters which meant that we had a 5 minute walk in. Our main target here was **Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher** and we also wanted the endemic species of **Ryukyu Scops-Owl** although the chances of seeing this during the day were very slim, or so we thought..... We started with a new bird along the road on the way in, the not too inspiring **Asian Brown Flycatcher**. Once in the forest, it didn't take us long to locate a male **Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher** and after that we walked to where I had heard the scops-owls calling during the day on previous trips. I played the tape and almost immediately there was a response. We walked towards it, and looking up into the canopy I spotted a small dark shape. I checked it in my bins and was amazed that it was a **Ryukyu Scops-Owl**. Easy as that! The owl is extra special as this endemic subspecies may well be split in the future. We drove to lunch in the main town quite proud of ourselves for cleaning up so well.



A Pacific Golden-Plover coming into its breeding plumage.

The only target left to see on the island was Chinese Egret but we didn't have that much time. We went to an egret roost nearby and started scanning for Chinese Egret amongst the **Little, Great, Intermediate & Cattle Egrets**. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't find the features I was looking for. We went on a bit and spotted **Pacific Golden-Plover, Wood Sandpiper** and **Red-necked Stint** along with a lost **Whiskered Tern** along the beach. It was time to return the car but just before we did I checked one more egret flock flying in over the ocean and I finally found what I had been looking for. Long stretched out neck, short legs and a kind of ungainly flight. The 5 birds landed on some rocks nearby and I got them in the scope to confirm their IDs. Yep, they were **Chinese Egrets**. We returned the car and were dropped off at the ferry. The ride was uneventful although a couple of us looked a bit green by the end of it. Due to an unforeseen event, we were forced to change our plans again and spend another night in Taitung, but spirits were still high after such a great day.

23rd April – Taitung to Qingjing

This morning we drove to Hualien early spotting several **Gray Treepies** and **Crested Serpent-Eagles** perched on roadside posts as if they were kites. Our first birding site of the morning was the river mouth just before Hualien. We had hoped for one or 2 more shorebirds or ducks but just saw many of the species we had already seen, like **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Pacific Golden- & Kentish Plovers**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Whimbrel**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Little Tern** and **White Wagtail**. We did get one addition to the list though and this was an **Osprey** circling the river mouth. We met up in Hualien with our ground agent and others for nice lunch, after which we started going up the famous Taroko Gorge. The scenery was spectacular although birdwise all we managed was **Styan's Bulbul**, **Pacific Swift** and a few **Large-billed Crow**. Higher up we stopped at a couple of gushing streams where we found **White-tailed Robin**, **Brown Dipper**, **Plumbeous Redstart** and several **Asian House-Martins**. The winding road took us up and up and finally we found ourselves being reacquainted with some of our old friends like **Collared Bush-Robin**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Vinaceous Rosefinch** and **Steere's Liocichla**. We searched the Wuling Pass (the highest road in East Asia at 3,275m) for Alpine Accentor with no luck so we would try again tomorrow for this high elevation target. Winding down the other side we finally made it to Chingjing after a long travel day.



Vinaceous Rosefinches can be very confiding.

24th April – Chunyang, Aowenda & Hehuanshan

Having done so well on forest birds already there was a very short list of targets for this morning the first 2 of which were to be found at the university farm at Chunyang. After breakfast we drove slope along the steep winding road past a bizarre assortment of hotels and resorts resembling anything from English stately homes to Swiss cottages. When we got to Chunyang, we parked the car and took a walk through a mixture of agriculture and forest edge where we saw **Collared Finchbill** and **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta** amongst others. We arrived at a point where I tried for **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**. In just a few minutes we had a flock of these pretty little birds coming in very close; another distinctive endemic subspecies. Straight after this we had a fly-by of a **White-bellied Pigeon** which perched in the distance offering scope views. They were the only 2 targets for this location and we had done well to find them so quickly. Next it was on to Aowenda to search for the distinctive race of Varied Tit.

We had a nice morning walking along the river and the 'Bird-watching Trail' and we a good assortment of forest birds including **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **Formosan Magpie**, **Green-backed**, **Yellow & Black-throated Tits**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Rufous-capped Babbler**, **Plumbeous Redstart** and also another group of **Formosan Rock Macaques**. Try as we might though, we couldn't find the Varied Tit, and as they are altitudinal migrants, it is possible that they were not present at this time. We had lunch back up at Qingjing and saw **Asian House-Martin** dotting the sky as we ate. The plan for the afternoon was to go back up to Hehuanshan and try for the accentor again. We had a stop on the way up spotting **Coal Tit**, **Flamecrest**, **Yellowish-bellied & Taiwan Bush-Warblers** and **White-tailed Robin** and another near the top with **Taiwan Fulvetta**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush** and **Collared Bush-Robin**. We tried around the car park at the pass again for the **Alpine Accentor** but actually managed to find it along the road, right next to the car. We got out quickly and had the bird hop right by us showing little concern. A little lower we heard the endemic race of **Eurasian Wren** singing but we couldn't get the dam thing to come in. We also tried again for the Grey-headed Bullfinch without success, but we would have one more chance for this bird at Alishan. We drove back down to Qingjing for our last night here.



Taiwan Bush-Warbler may be the drabest endemic but it has the best song.

25th April – Chingjing to Alishan

One of the few birds we were still missing was Brown Bullfinch so early this morning we went to the start of the famous Blue Gate trail where I had seen them on previous trips. We picked up some of the regulars like **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **White-eared Sibia** and **Steere's Liocichla** but there was no sign of the bullfinches and it started raining so we decided to move on early to our next site of Alishan. We took some back roads towards the back entrance to Alishan and at the base passed through an agricultural area. I saw what looked like a baby chicken in the road so pulled up to see a beautiful **Barred Buttonquail** crossing the road very cautiously. We jumped out of the car to get great views of this rarely seen bird. Further along we also had another pair of **Chinese Bamboo-Partridges**. The road started to climb and we took our first birding stop at a small rest area with many cherry trees. We thought we might luck upon a bullfinch coming to feed on them but the best we could manage was a **White-eared Sibia**. We had a **Crested Serpent-Eagle** soaring over the hill side and more flybys of **White-bellied Pigeons** before moving on. Higher up we had a **Plumbeous Redstart** on a stream and several **Asian House-Martins** flying overhead.

As we reached higher elevations we started picking up different birds like **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, **Coal & Black-throated Tits**. We drove on until I heard the distinctive call of **Golden Parrotbills** calling from the thick, roadside bamboo. We jumped out and started scanning for movement. These delightful little birds are real skulkers and took us a while to get good views of. At the same time a **Eurasian Nutcracker** flew in and perched on top of a nearby tree although we just took a quick look before getting back to the parrotbills. We were glad to have this tricky endemic race under our belts and we stopped at a popular rest area for lunch. The clouds were darkening and soon the rain came and we took shelter under a rooved picnic area. We still had 1 bird to see up here, the **Gray-headed Bullfinch**. We waited for a break in the rain before we ventured out, but it didn't take long before it started to come down again. We returned to try and wait it out and in the meantime chatted to some friendly Taiwanese tourists. In the end we gave up and started driving down and just as we did so, the rain stopped, we turned around and took a short walk. I was trying the call of the **Gray-headed Bullfinch** and after a while I heard a response and a bird flew right in for good views.



Mountain Scops-Owl is tricky to see throughout its range, but it is relatively straightforward at Alishan

We had cleaned up again and this was going to save up more time tomorrow. We drove down the winding road to our hotel where we were met by our friendly host. He has a blind set up for Taiwan Partridges and other endemics but having seen them all we decided to have a rest instead. After dinner our host took us owling. He first located a **Mountain Scops-Owl** in his garden which we had great views of, then he took us to the grounds of a local hotel famous for fireflies. We saw more of these than I had seen anywhere else in my life but our main target was the Collared Scops-Owl. We could hear one calling and we followed it around without success. The rain started to come down hard and we sheltered under our umbrellas. We were just about to give up, when I spotted a **Collared Scops-Owl** while scanning the trees with my spotlight. I called everybody back and we got good views before we headed back to the lodge.

26th April – Alishan & Huben

It was our last morning birding Alishan but before leaving our lodge, we saw a **Gray-capped Woodpecker** in the garden. Driving back up the hill we had another **White-tailed Robin** in the road and a little higher up, 2 **Chinese Bamboo-Partridges** by the side of the road. We also had several **White-bellied Pigeons** perched high above the valley on a wire. Back on the main road we passed through a small town where there were several **Striated Swallows** on a wire; our first perched birds of the trip. The clouds looked ominous but the rain held for a while. We tried several spots looking for birds we were missing (which weren't that many) but only managed to see many of the birds we had seen on countless occasions. A mixed flock including **Yellow & Black-throated Tits**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta**, **White-eared Sibia** and **Steere's Liocichla**, all came in to an owllet imitation. On the way down we also saw a flock of **Asian House-Martins**. The weather finally caught up with us and we left Alishan for our next site of Huben for the Fairy Pitta.



Taiwan Yuhina must be one of the most attractive members of its genus.

Leaving Alishan early meant that we had more time to devote to tracking down the pitta. We actually got there in the late morning and just after parking the car by a small river we saw **Little Ringed Plover** and a surprise **Citrine Wagtail**. We walked towards the first site for the birds, and on the way saw several birds including **Crested Serpent-Eagle**, **Collared Finchbill**, **Emerald Dove**, **Taiwan Barbet** and **Gray Treepie**. When we got to the site I tried the call and we had an immediate response. Considering last year we didn't even hear one, this was a great start. We moved through an orchard at the base of a small forested hill getting close to the vocalisation. Fairy Pittas can call from up in trees when they first arrive but it seemed that this one was deep in cover. I tried to scout out the best place to try for it and I found a spot a short way up the hillside with a view inside the dense tangles. We tried for a short while but the bird came no closer so we went off for lunch. We came back again in the afternoon, and the bird called briefly then stopped. I found a better site inside the forest which required a bit of a climb but once we were installed a **Fairy Pitta** popped log enough for me and another participant to get a glimpse before it hopped up and away. We called it a day and decided to try again tomorrow. On the way back we saw a surprise **Formosan Magpie** before heading back to the hotel to freshen up for dinner. On the way to dinner we actually saw a couple of Savanna Nightjars feeding around the top of the tall buildings

27th April – Huben to Taipei

We were back at the pitta site the next morning but it was raining, so we waited until it had eased off a bit before venturing out. We had **Citrine & Gray Wagtails** and **Yellow-bellied Prinia** by the river plus **Bronzed Drongo** and **Collared Finchbill** nearby. At the site itself, there was no sign of the pitta and in the end we had to give it up as a lost cause and make do with the brief views we had yesterday. We began our drive back to Taipei but arrived too early for lunch or check-in so we went back down to the riverside park for a bit of final birding. It was high tide but we still had good views of several water bird species, including **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Sacred Ibis**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Common Sandpiper**. Along the river we had *leucopsis* race **White Wagtail** and *taivana* race **Western Yellow Wagtail**, **Black-faced Bunting** and **Nutmeg & Chestnut Munias**. **Pale & Brown-headed Thrushes** were still in the same spot as 2 weeks ago and we even had our first **Crested Myna** of the tour amongst the more common **Javan & Common Mynas** and **Black-collared Starlings**. A final new trip bird was a long overdue **Black Kite** before we drove to the hotel and had our final lunch together. The final tally for the trip was 217 species, including all of the Taiwanese endemics (and even the majority of the endemic subspecies) making it our most successful Taiwan tour to date.

Bird list

Taxonomy follows Clements 6.6 online checklist. Updated Aug 2012

DUCKS, GEESE and SWANS: Anatidae

1	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Seen at Aogu & Hualien.
2	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam, Zhiben & Hualien.
3	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Seen at Aogu.
4	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen at Aogu.
5	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Seen at Aogu.

PHEASANTS and PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae

6	Taiwan Partridge	<i>Arborophila crudigularis</i>	Near-threatened endemic. Seen at Dashueshan & heard at Chunyang.
7	Chinese Bamboo-Partridge	<i>Bambusicola thoracicus sonorivox</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan, Wulu & Alishan. Heard at Shuangliou & Chunyang.
8	Swinhoe's Pheasant	<i>Lophura swinhoii</i>	Near-threatened endemic. Seen at Dashueshan.
9	Mikado Pheasant	<i>Syrmaticus Mikado</i>	Near-threatened endemic. Seen at Dashueshan.
10	Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus formosanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Zhiben.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

11	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam, Aogu & Cigu
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HERONS, EGRETS and BITTERNs: Ardeidae

12	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Seen at Aogu.
13	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	Seen at Aogu & on the drive to Wulu.
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu, Cigu, Zhiben & Hualien.
15	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Seen at most sites near water.
16	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Seen at Aogu, Zhiben, Lanyu & Hualien.
17	Chinese Egret	<i>Egretta eulophotes</i>	Endangered. Seen on Lanyu.
18	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
19	Pacific Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
20	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
21	Chinese Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & on Lanyu.
22	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Seen at Shuangliou.
23	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Seen at many sites near water.
24	Malayan Night-Heron	<i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>	Seen at Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, Riverside Park & Dashueshan.

IBISES and SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

25	Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.
26	Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	Endangered. Seen at Aogu & Cigu.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

27	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Seen at Hualien.
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HAWKS, EAGLES and KITES: Accipitridae

28	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.
29	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
30	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela hoya</i>	Endemic ssp. Commonly seen throughout.
31	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
32	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
33	Gray-faced Buzzard	<i>Butastur indicus</i>	Seen at Wulu.
34	Eastern Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	Seen by the guide at Riverside Park.
35	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus formosae</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Shigang Dam.
36	Chinese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Seen at Wulu.
37	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
38	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.
39	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen at Dongshi.

RAILS, GALLINULES and COOTS: Rallidae

40	Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Gallirallus striatus taiwanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Heard at Aogu.
41	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Seen at most freshwater sites.
42	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen at most freshwater sites.
43	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Seen at Aogu.

PLOVERS and LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

44	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Seen at Aogu.
45	Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Taiping River Mouth, Lanyu & Hualien.
46	Lesser Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Seen at Cigu.
47	Greater Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Seen at Cigu & Zhiben.
48	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Taiping River Mouth & Hualien.
49	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Zhiben & Huben.

AVOCETS and STILTS:**Recurvirostridae**

50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu & Cigu.
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SANDPIPERS: Scolopacidae

51	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Zhiben & Hualien.
52	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam, Aogu, Taiping River Mouth, Zhiben, Lanyu & Hualien.
53	Gray-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Seen at Aogu & Zhiben.
54	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Seen at Tienjiang Salt Pans.
55	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu, Cigu, Taiping River Mouth & Zhiben.
56	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
57	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Zhiben & on Lanyu.
58	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	Seen at Aogu.
59	Little Curlew	<i>Numenius minutes</i>	Seen in open fields on the way to Aogu.
60	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Zhiben & Hualien.
61	Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Vulnerable. Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
62	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Near-threatened. Seen at Aogu.
63	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Seen at Aogu & Hualien.
64	Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Vulnerable. Seen at Aogu, Cigu & Taiping River Mouth.
65	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Seen at Taiping River Mouth & Zhiben.
66	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Taiping River Mouth, Zhiben & on Lanyu.
67	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Seen at Taiping River Mouth.
68	Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
69	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Seen at Taiping River Mouth.
70	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
71	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Seen at Cigu.
72	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.
73	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.

BUTTONQUAIL: Turnicidae

74	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator rostratus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen crossing the road on the way to Alishan.
PRATINCOLES: Glareolidae			
75	Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	Seen at Aogu & Zhiben.
GULLS & TERNS: Laridae			
76	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Taiping River Mouth, Zhiben & Hualien.
77	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Seen at Cigu.
78	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
79	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrid</i>	Seen at Aogu & on Lanyu.
80	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Seen at Zhiben.
PIGEONS and DOVES: Columbidae			
81	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
82	Ashy Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba pulchricollis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
83	Oriental Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis orii</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
84	Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Seen at many sites.
85	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Dashueshan, Aogu, Cigu & Zhiben.
86	Philippine Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia tenuirostris</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
87	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Seen at Wulu & Huben.
88	White-bellied Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>	Seen near Dongshi, at Chunyang, Alishan & Huben.
89	Whistling Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron formosae formosae</i>	Near-threatened endemic ssp. Seen on Lanyu.
CUCKOOS: Cuculidae			
90	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>	Heard at Dashueshan.
91	Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & heard at Alishan.
92	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Seen at Zhiben & heard at Huben.
OWLS: Strigidae			
93	Mountain Scops-Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus hambroeki</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Alishan & heard at Dashueshan.
94	Collared Scops-Owl	<i>Otus lettia glabripes</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Alishan.
95	Ryukyu Scops-Owl	<i>Otus elegans botelensis</i>	Near-threatened endemic ssp. Seen on Lanyu.
96	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei pardalotum</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan.
NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae			
97	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis stictomus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Zhiben & Douliou. Heard at Dongshi.
SWIFTS: Apodidae			
98	Silver-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis formosanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan.
99	Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Seen on Lanyu & Taroko.
100	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis kuntzi</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at many sites
KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae			
101	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Aogu, Zhiben & on Lanyu.
ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae			
102	Taiwan Barbet	<i>Megalaima nuchalis</i>	Endemic. Seen or heard at most lowland sites.
WOODPECKERS: Picidae			
103	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.
104	Gray-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Shigang, Aowenda & Alishan.
105	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos insularis</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan & heard at Qingjing.
106	Gray-faced Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan. Heard at Hehuanshan.
PITTAS: Pittidae			
107	Fairy Pitta	<i>Pitta nympha</i>	Vulnerable. We had brief views at Huben.
CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae			
108	Gray-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Aowenda.
109	Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>	Seen at Shimen Dam.
SHRIKES: Laniidae			
110	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Seen at many sites.

111	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Seen at Shimen Dam, Aogu & Zhiben.
VIREOS: Vireonidae			
112	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	Seen at Shimen Dam & Aowenda. Heard at Dashueshan.
ORIOLES: Oriolidae			
113	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii ardens</i>	Seen at Wulu.
114	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	Seen at Zhiben.
DRONGOS: Dicuridae			
115	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus harterti</i>	Endemic ssp. Commonly seen in open areas.
116	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus braunianus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan, Wulu, Aowenda & Huben.
MONARCH-FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae			
117	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea oberholseri</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens & heard at Huben.
118	Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone atrocaudata</i>	Near-threatened. Seen on Lanyu.
CROWS: Corvidae			
119	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius taivanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan
120	Formosan Magpie	<i>Urocissa caerulea</i>	Endemic. Seen at Shuangliou, Aowenda & Huben.
121	Gray Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae formosae</i>	Endemic ssp. Commonly seen throughout.
122	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Seen at Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, Riverside Park, Shimen Dam & Aogu.
123	Eurasian Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes owstoni</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan & Alishan.
124	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Seen at Shimen Dam, Dashueshan, Taroko, Chunyang, Aowenda & Alishan.
LARKS: Alaudidae			
125	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Seen at Zhiben
SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae			
126	Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam.
127	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Zhiben.
128	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
129	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Aogu, Wulu, Qingjing, Alishan. & Huben.
130	Striated Swallow	<i>Cecropis striolata</i>	Seen at Aogu, Alishan & Huben.
131	Asian House-Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Taroko, Hehuanshan & Alishan.
TITS: Paridae			
132	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater ptilosus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan, Hehuanshan & Alishan.
133	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus insperatus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan & Aowenda.
134	Yellow Tit	<i>Macholophus holsti</i>	Near-threatened endemic. Seen at Dashueshan, Aowenda & Alishan.
LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae			
135	Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Aowenda & Alishan.
NUTHATCHES: Sittidae			
136	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Aowenda.
WRENS: Troglodytidae			
137	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes taivanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Heard at Hehuanshan.
DIPPERS: Cinclidae			
138	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Taroko.
BULBULS: Pycnonotidae			
139	Collared Finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques cinereicapillus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan, Shigang Dam, Wulu, Chunyang & Huben.
140	Styan's Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus taivanus</i>	Vulnerable endemic. Seen at Shuangliou, Taiping River Mouth, Zhiben, Wulu, Hualien & Taroko.
141	Light-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis formosae</i>	Endemic ssp. Commonly seen in the north and west.
142	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus nigerrimus</i>	Endemic ssp. Commonly seen at most sites.
143	Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis harterti</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen on Lanyu.
KINGLETS: Regulidae			
144	Flamecrest	<i>Regulus goodfellowi</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan & Hehuanshan.

CUPWINGS: Pnoepygidae

145	Taiwan Cupwing	<i>Pnoepyga formosana</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan. Heard at Hehuanshan & Alishan.
BUSH-WARBLERS: Cettidae			
146	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Aowenda, Qingjing & Alishan.
147	Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes robustipes</i>	Seen at Dashueshan. Heard at Alishan.
148	Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler	<i>Cettia acanthizoides concolor</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Hehuanshan & Alishan.
LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae			
149	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Aogu.
REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae			
150	Oriental Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>	Seen at Aogu.
GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES: Locustellidae			
151	Taiwan Bush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus alishanensis</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan. Heard at Hehuanshan.
CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae			
152	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Heard at Aogu & Zhiben.
153	Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis volitans</i>	Heard at Zhiben.
154	Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera striata</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan.
155	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu, Zhiben & Huben. Heard at Shigang Dam.
156	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata flavirostris</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Aogu & Zhiben.
OLD WORLD WARBLERS: Sylviidae			
157	Taiwan Fulvetta	<i>Fulvetta formosana</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan & Hehuanshan.
158	Vinous-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis webbianus bulomachus</i>	Seen at Chunyang.
159	Golden Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis verreauxi morrisonianus</i>	Seen at Alishan.
YUHINAS, WHITE-EYES & ALLIES: Zosteropidae			
160	Taiwan Yuhina	<i>Yuhina brunneiceps</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan, Taroko, Aowenda, Qingjing & Alishan.
161	Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonica</i>	Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens, Shimen Dam, Shigang Dam, Aogu, Wulu, Hualien, Qingjing
162	Lowland White-eye	<i>Zosterops meyeri</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
FULVETTAS & GROUND BABBLERS: Pellorneidae			
163	Gray-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe m. morrisonia</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Wulu, Chunyang, Aowenda & Alishan.
164	Dusky Fulvetta	<i>Schoeniparus b. brunnea</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
LAUGHINGTHRUSHES: Leiothrichidae			
165	Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ruficeps</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan.
166	Rusty Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax poecilorhynchus</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan.
167	Taiwan Hwamei	<i>Garrulax taewanus</i>	Near-threatened endemic. Seen at Dashueshan & Zhiben.
168	White-whiskered Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax morrisonianus</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan, Hehuanshan & Alishan.
169	White-eared Siberia	<i>Heterophasia auricularis</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan, Aowenda, Qingjing & Alishan. Heard at Hehuanshan.
170	Steere's Liocichla	<i>Liocichla steerii</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan, Hehuanshan, Qingjing & Alishan.
171	Taiwan Barwing	<i>Actinodura morrisoniana</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan.
BABBLERS: Timaliidae			
172	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyridopsis ruficeps praecognita</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Aowenda. Heard at Wulu, Taroko, Qingjing & Alishan.
173	Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan. Heard at Chunyang, Alishan & Huben.
174	Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus musicus</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan. Heard at Wulu, Alishan & Huben.
FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae			
175	Gray-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>	Seen near Dongshi.
176	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
177	Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
178	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens.
179	Vivid Niltava	<i>Niltava v. vivida</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Aowenda.

180	Taiwan Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx (montana) goodfellowi</i>	Seen at Dashueshan. Heard at Taroko & Alishan.
181	Formosan Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus insularis</i>	Endemic. Seen at Shimen Dam & Dashueshan. Heard at Alishan.
182	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri fortis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & heard at Taroko.
183	White-tailed Robin	<i>Cinclidium leucurum montium</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Taroko, Qingjing & Alishan.
184	White-browed Bush-Robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus formosanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan.
185	Collared Bush-Robin	<i>Tarsiger johnstoniae</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan, Hehuanshan & Alishan.
186	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra innexa</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan.
187	Mugimaki Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>	Seen briefly on Lanyu.
188	Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosa affinis</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan, Shigang Dam, Taroko, Aowenda & Alishan.
189	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	Seen at Wulu.
190	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius phillipensis</i>	Seen at Zhiben, Wulu & on Lanyu.
191	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>	Seen at Zhiben.

THRUSHES & ALLIES: Turdidae

192	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Aowenda.
193	Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Dashueshan. Heard at Shigang Dam & Shuangliou.
194	Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolais</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.

STARLINGS : Sturnidae

195	Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus formosanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Riverside Park.
196	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
197	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shimen Dam, Dashueshan, Aogu & Cigu.
198	Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.
199	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	Introduced. Seen at CKS Memorial,

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

200	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectum formosum</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan & Aowenda.
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ACCENTORS: Prunellidae

201	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris fennelli</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Hehuanshan.
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WAGTAILS and PIPITS: Motacillidae

202	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava taivana</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.
203	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla t. tschutschensis</i>	Seen in open fields on the way to Aogu.
204	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Seen at Huben.
205	Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Seen at Shuangliou, Wulu & Huben.
206	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba ocularis & leucopsis</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Taiping River Mouth, Hualien & Zhiben
207	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	Seen at Aogu & Zhiben.
208	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Seen at Wulu.
209	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

210	Yellow Bunting	<i>Emberiza sulphurata</i>	Vulnerable. Seen at Wulu.
211	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.

FINCHES, SISKINS, CROSSBILLS: Fringillidae

212	Gray-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca owstoni</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Alishan.
213	Vinaceous Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus vinaceus formosanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan.

SPARROWS: Passeridae

214	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
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WAXBILLS and ALLIES: Estrildidae

215	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
216	Nutmeg Mannikin	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.
217	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla formosana</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Riverside Park.

Mammal list

Taxonomy follows en.wikipedia.org

OLD WORLD MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae			
1	Formosan Rock Macaque	<i>Macaca cyclopsis</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan, Shuangliou, Aowenda & Huben.
SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae			
2	Red-and-white Flying-Squirrel	<i>Petaurista alborufus lena</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan
3	Maritime (Formosan) Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops maritimus formosanus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan
4	Perny's (Owston's) Long-nosed Squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi owstoni</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan
5	Pallas's (Formosan) Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus taiwanensis</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens, Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, Dashueshan
WEASELS: Mustelidae			
6	Siberian (Golden) Weasel	<i>Mustela sibirica taivana</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan
DEER: Cervidae			
7	Reeve's Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi micrurus</i>	Endemic ssp. Seen at Dashueshan
BOVIDS: Bovidae			
8	Taiwan Serow	<i>Capricornis swinhoei</i>	Endemic. Seen at Dashueshan

Reptile list

Taxonomy follows 台灣兩棲爬行類圖鑑 (2009)

1	Swinhoe's Japalura	<i>Japalura swinhonis</i>	Endemic. Seen at Shuangliou.
2	Long-tailed Mabuya	<i>Eutropis longicaudata</i>	Seen at Shuangliou.
3	Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	Introduced. Seen at Shimen Dam
4	Formosan Smooth Skink	<i>Scincella formosensis</i>	Endemic. Seen at Taroko.
5	Formosan Chinese Skink	<i>Plestiodon chinensis</i>	Seen at Aowenda.