Taiwan: Formosan Endemics
Custom tour
28th April – 9th May, 2014

Tour leader: Charley Hesse
Report & photos by Charley Hesse

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, taiwana 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 Sibias, 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-Warbiers plus Taiwan Fulvetta. We got back in the vehicle and coming back down we had another few stops. Imitated owlet 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.](image)

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.

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.
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.

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 grassland 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**.

![Image of a bird](image)

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 Latouchti’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 viewpoint 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 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 Dousiou. 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.

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 Savanna Nightjars were calling away as we walked back to the hotel.
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
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 BITTENS: 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.

RUDY-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.

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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.

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 sparverioides*
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.

Collared Scops-Owl *Otus lettia glabripes*
Heard at Alishan.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei pardalotum*
Heard at Dasyueshan.
**NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae**

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

**SWIFTS: Apodidae**

Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchenensis 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*

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
See 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*
Commonly seen in lowland areas.

LARKS: Alaudidae
Oriental Skylark  *Alauda gulgula*
Seen at Cigu & Zhiben.

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae
Grey-throated Martin  *Riparia chinensis*
Commonly seen throughout.
Bank Swallow  *Riparia riparia*
Commonly seen throughout.
Barn Swallow  *Hirundo rustica*
Commonly seen throughout.
Pacific Swallow  *Hirundo tahitica*
Commonly seen throughout.
Striated Swallow  *Cecropis striolata*
Commonly seen throughout.
Red-rumped Swallow  *Cecropis daurica*
Commonly seen throughout.

TITS: Paridae
Varied Tit  *Poecile varius castaneoventris* endemic subspecies
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Huisun.
Coal Tit  *Periparus ater pilosus* endemic subspecies
See at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan. Heard at Shanlinxi.
Green-backed Tit  *Parus monticolus insperatus* endemic subspecies
See 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*
Commonly seen throughout.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae
Eurasian Nuthatch  *Sitta europaea*
See at Dasyueshan.
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<tr>
<th><strong>WRENS</strong>: Troglodytidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eurasian Wren</strong></td>
<td><em>Troglodytes troglodytes taivanus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Hehuanshan &amp; heard at Dasyueshan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DIPPERS</strong>: Cinclidae</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brown Dipper</strong></td>
<td><em>Cinclus pallasii</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Dasyueshan.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>BULBULS</strong>: Pycnonotidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collared Finchbill</strong></td>
<td><em>Spizixos semitorques cinereicapillus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Dasyueshan, Chunyang &amp; Puli.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Styan's Bulbul</strong></td>
<td><em>Pycnonotus taivanus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vulnerable. Seen at Shuangliou, Taitung &amp; Taroko.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Light-vented Bulbul</strong></td>
<td><em>Pycnonotus sinensis formosae</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonly seen in the north and west.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Black Bulbul</strong></td>
<td><em>Hypsipetes leucocephalus nigerrimus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonly seen in the lowlands.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>KINGLETS</strong>: Regulidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flamecrest</strong></td>
<td><em>Regulus goodfellowi</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Dasyueshan.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CUPWINGS</strong>: Pnoepygidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taiwan Cupwing</strong></td>
<td><em>Pnoepyga formosana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Dasyueshan. Heard at Hehuanshan &amp; Shanlinxi.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>BUSH-WARBLERS</strong>: Cettidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rufous-faced Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Abroscopus albogularis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen at Dasyueshan, Hehuanshan, Cingjing &amp; Shanlinxi.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Horornis fortipes robustipes</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
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<td>This is a distinctive race &amp; potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan. Heard at Cingjing &amp; Shanlinxi.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Horornis acanthizoides concolor</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Dasyueshan &amp; Hehuanshan.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>LEAF WARBLERS</strong>: Phylloscopidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yellow-browed Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Phylloscopus inornatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Huisun.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Arctic Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Phylloscopus borealis</em></td>
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<td>Seen at Palace Museum &amp; Shimen Dam.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>REED WARBLERS</strong>: Acrocephalidae</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oriental Reed-Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Acrocephalus orientalis</em></td>
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<td>Seen at Riverside Park, Cigu &amp; Zhiben.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>GRASSBIRDS &amp; ALLIES</strong>: Locustellidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taiwan Bush-Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Locustella alishanensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic</td>
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<td>Seen at Dasyueshan &amp; Hehuanshan.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CISTICOLAS</strong>: Cisticolidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zitting Cisticola</strong></td>
<td><em>Cisticola juncidis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Zhiben. Heard at Aogu &amp; Cigu.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Golden-headed Cisticola</strong></td>
<td><em>Cisticola exilis volitans</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Zhiben &amp; heard at Cigu.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Striated Prinia</strong></td>
<td><em>Prinia crinigera striata</em></td>
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<td>Endemic subspecies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yellow-bellied Prinia</strong></td>
<td><em>Prinia flaviventris</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Aogu, Zhiben &amp; Puli.</td>
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Plain Prinia  
Prinia inornata flavirostris  
derendemic subspecies
Seen at Riverside Park, Dasyueshan, Aogu, Bazhang, Taitung, Zhiben & Alishan.

PARROTBILLS & ALLIES: Paradoxornithidae
Taiwan Fulvetta  
Fulvetta formosana  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan.
Vinous-throated Parrotbill  
Paradoxornis webbianus bulomachus  
derendemic subspecies
Seen at Cingjing.
Golden Parrotbill  
Paradoxornis verreauxi morrisonianus  
derendemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan.

YUHINAS, WHITE-EYES & ALLIES: Zosteropidae
Taiwan Yuhina  
Yuhina brunneiceps  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan, Hehuanshan, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.
Japanese White-eye  
Zosterops japonicus  
derendemic
Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden, Shimen Dam, Dasyueshan, Cigu, Zhiben, Niushan, Puli & Alishan.

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

FULVETTAS & GROUND BABBLERS: Pellorneidae
Dusky Fulvetta  
Schoeniparus b. brunnea  
derendemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan & Alishan.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES: Leiothrichidae
Gray-cheeked Fulvetta  
Alcippe m. morrisonia  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan, Niushan & Chunyang.
Taiwan Hwamei  
Garrulax taweanus  
derendemic
Near-threatened. Seen at Dasyueshan & Taitung.
Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush  
lanthocincla ruficeps  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan.
Rusty Laughingthrush  
lanthocincla poecilorhynchus  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan.
White-whiskered Laughingthrush  
Trochalteropteron morrisonianum  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan.
White-eared Sibia  
Heterophasia auricularis  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.
Steere’s Liocichla  
Liocichla steerii  
derendemic
Seen at Dasyueshan, Cingjing, Shanlinxi & Alishan. Heard at Chunyang.
Taiwan Barwing  
Actinodura morrisoniana  
derendemic
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  
derendemic subspecies
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan & Hehuanshan. Heard at Shanlinxi.
White-browed Shortwing  
Brachypteryx montana goodfellowi  
derendemic subspecies
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Seen at Dasyueshan & Shanlinxi. Heard at Hehuanshan.
Formosan Whistling-Thrush  *Myophonus insularis* endemic
Seen at Dasyueshan, Taroko, Cingjing & Shanlinxi.

Little Forktail  *Enicurus scouleri fortis* endemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan & Taroko.

White-tailed Robin  *Cinclidium leucurum montium* endemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan, Chunyang, Shanlinxi & Alishan.

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

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

Snowy-browed Flycatcher  *Ficedula hyperythra innexa* endemic subspecies
Seen at Cingjing & Shanlinxi. Heard at Dasyueshan.

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

Blue Rock-Thrush  *Monticola solitarius*
Seen at Zhiben & Hualien.

THRUSHES & ALLIES: Turdidae
Island Thrush  *Turdus poliocephalus niveiceps* endemic subspecies
This is a distinctive race & potential split. Heard at Dasyueshan.

STARLINGS : Sturnidae
Asian Glossy Starling  *Aplonis panayensis*
Introduced. Seen in Taipei.

Crested Myna  *Acridotheres cristatellus formosanus* endemic subspecies
Seen at Riverside Park,

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

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

Black-collared Starling  *Gracupica nigricollis*
Introduced. Seen at Riverside Park.

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae
Plain Flowerpecker  *Dicaeum minullum uchidai* endemic subspecies
Seen at Niushan.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker  *Dicaeum ignipectum formosum* endemic subspecies
Seen at Dasyueshan & heard at Shanlinxi.

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae
Alpine Accentor  *Prunella collaris fennelli* endemic subspecies
Seen at Hehuanshan,

WAGTAILS and PIPITS: Motacillidae
Eastern Yellow Wagtail  *Motacilla tschutschensis taivana*
Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang & Aogu.

Gray Wagtail  *Motacilla cinerea*
Seen at Aogu & Shuangliou.

White Wagtail  *Motacilla alba*
Seen at Dongshi, Dasyueshan, Shigang, Zhiben & Hehuanshan.

Richard's Pipit  *Anthus richardi*
Seen at Zhiben.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae
Black-faced Bunting  *Emberiza spodocephala*
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 Eutropis longicaudata
Seen at Shuangliou & Taitung.

SNAKES: Colubridae
Chinese Keeled Rat Snake Elaphe carinata
Seen at Shigang,

Amphibian list
Taxonomy follows 台灣兩棲爬行類圖鑑 (2009)

TOADS: Bufonidae
Central Formosan Toad Bufo bankorensis endemic
Seen at
Speckled Toad Bufo melanostictus
Seen at Hualien.

FROGS: Ranidae
Rice Field Frog Fejervarya limnocharis
Seen at Shuangliou.
Olive Frog Rana adenopleura
Seen at Alishan.
Gunther's Brown Frog Rana guentheri
Seen at Taipei botanical gardens.
Latouchti's Frog Rana latouchii
Seen at Shuangliou, Chunyang & Alishan.
Japanese Buerger's Frog Buergeria japonica
Seen at Dasyueshan & Shuanliou.

Butterfly list (Compiled by Peary Stafford)
SWALLOWTAILS: Papilionidae
Common Rose Pachliopta aristolochilae
Seen at Shuangliou.
Common Bluebottle Graphium sarpedon
Seen at Shuangliou.
Common Jay Graphium doson
Seen at Shuangliou.
Common Mormon Papilio polytes
Seen at Shuangliou.
The Spangle Papilio protenor
Seen at Shuangliou.
Black and White Helen Papilio nephelus
Seen at Shumen Dam.
Dual Tsui Swallowtail (?) Papilio hopponis
Seen at Shuangliou.

WHITES: Pieridae
Redbase Jezebel Delias pasithoe
Seen at Shuangliou.
Cabbage White Pieris rapae
Seen at Shumen Dam.
Indian Cabbage White Pieris canidia
Seen at Shumen Dam.
Plain Puffin Appias indra
Seen at Shuangliou.
Spotted Sawtooth  
*Prioneris thestylis*  
Seen at Shan Lin Xi.

**Yellow Orange-tip**  
*Ixias pyrene*  
Seen at Shuangliou.

**Great Orange**  
*Hebomoia glaucippe*  
Seen at Shuangliou.

**Scalloped Grass-yellow**  
*Eurema alitha*  
Seen at Shuangliou.

**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  
*Zizeeria maha*  
Seen at Shuangliou.

The Malayan  
*Megisma malaya*  
Seen at Shuangliou.

**SKIPPERS: Hesperiidae**  
Common Bush-hopper  
*Ampittia dioscorides*  
Seen at Shuangliou.

Formosan Swift  
*Borbo cinnara*  
Seen at Shuangliou.