

TROPICAL BIRDING

Taiwan: Formosan Endemics

Set departure tour

13th – 26th April, 2012

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Report & photos by Charley Hesse

(All photos were taken on this tour)



Mikado Pheasant (top left), Flamecrest (top right), Taiwan Partridge (bottom left) & Swinhoe's Pheasant (bottom right)

With 23 endemic bird species according to the latest Clements update and more sure to follow, Taiwan is an increasingly important birding destination. It is not just quantity of endemics though but quality, with some of the most desirable birds in Asia, including the stunning Mikado & Swinhoe's Pheasants. Taiwan also has world class shorebirding and is probably the best place in the world to see the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill. On this tour we visited a wide variety of locations, from the mudflats of Tainan and coastal grasslands of Zhiben to the cool montane forests of Dashueshan and the rugged island of Lanyu with its unique mix of birds and interesting aboriginal culture. On this tour (one of 2 Spring trips we ran this year) we recorded a total of almost 200 species including all the endemics (with just 1 heard only). We witnessed breath-taking scenery, ate delicious food and met wonderfully hospitable people on a daily basis. Taiwan makes a wonderful introduction to East Asian birding.

13th April – Botanical gardens & Riverside Park

On the arrival day we kick-started the tour at the fantastic Taipei Botanical Gardens: A great place to get familiar with some of Taiwan's commoner birds. We picked up our first endemic species easily in the form of **Taiwan Barbet**. Previously considered a sub-species of Black-browed Barbet, it has now been split as a full species. The other main target was the interesting **Malayan Night-Heron** which we also found without too much trouble. These birds can often be found wandering slowly around on the grassy lawns weaving their heads from side to side in a very distinctive motion. On one of the many ponds we found **White-breasted Waterhen** and **Eurasian Moorhens** seemingly disputing a territory and beautiful **Common Kingfishers** fishing from low branches over the water. Keeping track of endemic subspecies is especially important in Taiwan with the distinct possibility of future splits and we saw endemic races of **Oriental Turtle-Dove**, **Grey Treepie**, **Black-naped Monarchs** by a nest and **Light-vented** & **Black Bulbuls**. Taiwan has many introduced species, most originating from cagebirds. One such example is the **Oriental Magpie-Robin** which are common in the gardens. We also got our mammal lists started with **Red-bellied Tree Squirrel**.



The distinctive endemic race of Gray Treepie is more easily seen than its continental counterparts.

Next we headed down to the nearby Riverside Park, an excellent place to see water and open-country birds. Here we found **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Grey Heron**, **Great & Little Egrets**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and some of the introduced and now well established **Sacred Ibis**. Even though it was high tide, we still found our first shore birds in the form of **Common & Wood Sandpipers**. In the short grass by the path we found **Eurasian Magpie**, the introduced **Black-collared Starling**, the *taivana* race of **Western Yellow Wagtail** as well as **White-rumped**, **Nutmeg** & **Chestnut Munias**, whereas in the long grass we saw **Brown Shrike**, **Yellow-bellied** & **Plain Prinias** and a female **Stonechat**. In distant trees we scoped our first **Red Collared & Spotted Doves**, a cooperative **Black-faced Bunting** and we had flybys of many **Grey-throated Martins**, the endemic race of **Crested Myna** and the introduced **Common Myna**. We had quite a list for a short afternoon of casual birding and were nicely warmed up for the next day.

14th April - Dashueshan

Today we were headed to the wonderful Dashueshan, home of the majority of Taiwan's endemics. Leaving Taipei we spotted an **Asian Glossy Starling** perched on a traffic light, but whether this bird was an escapee or a rare migrant remained unclear. Along the highway we saw several **House Swifts** and our first **Crested Serpent-Eagle**. A distinctive endemic race that may well be split in the future as the Taiwan Serpent-Eagle. On our way to Dashueshan we stopped at Shimen Dam to search for Formosan Magpie but unfortunately didn't find any. We did pick up a new endemic in the form of **Formosan Whistling-Thrush** by the side of the reservoir and after an outdoor breakfast we saw several common species, adding our first **Large-billed Crow**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Black Drongo** and **Gray-capped Woodpecker**. We saw another **Taiwan Barbet** but only heard **Chinese Bamboo-Partridges** before continuing to the town of Dongshi from where we drove up the winding road to Dashueshan.



Despite being the easiest to see of the endemics, White-whiskered Laughingthrushes have real character.

For the first 2 days we would concentrate on the upper section of the mountain, and we based ourselves at the lodge close to the top. On the way up, we stopped at the park gate and found some photographers who had set up a feeding station for **White-tailed Robin**. We stood behind them and had great views of a beautiful male. We had several birding stops on the way up and saw **Asian House-Martin** and **Black-throated Tit**; endemic races of **White-backed Woodpecker**, **Eurasian Jay** and **Green-backed Tit**; and the Taiwan endemic **White-eared Sibia**. Feeding stations set up to photograph the endemic pheasants have made seeing these previously difficult species a mere formality. We tried to limit stops so we could make it to the Mikado Pheasant feeding station in time. Lots of photographers were gathered and we took our places to wait. In the meantime we enjoyed watching very tame endemic **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** which were almost hopping around at our feet. We also saw the endemic **Collared Bush-Robin** and distinctive endemic race of **Vinaceous Rosefinch** along with both **Formosan Striped & Owston's Long-nosed Squirrels**, but the Mikados did not show again that day. Down the hill we found the **White-browed Bush-Robins** at their usual spot. Another distinctive endemic race that may be split as Taiwan Robin. After checking in to our cabins and dinner at the restaurant we took a walk around to find **White-faced Flying-Squirrels**. We had great views of these delightful creatures before calling it a day.

15th April - Dashueshan

After some early morning birding around the hotel which produced our first **Eurasian Jay**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Taiwan Barwing**, **Steere's Liocichla** and **Taiwan Yuhina**, we drove back up to the feeding station to wait for Mikado Pheasants. We had great views of the very distinctive race of **Eurasian Nutcracker** along with **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, **Formosan Striped & Owston's Long-nosed Squirrels** before a pair of **Mikado Pheasants** appeared behind us (thankfully spotted by a perceptive member of the group). They gave a great show, and the male strutted around showing off his dazzling plumage. We finally left them and carried on to the summit. We had some very productive birding walking around the edge of the car park, with **Vinaceous Rosefinch**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, the delightful endemic **Flamecrest** and both **Yellowish-bellied & Taiwan Bush-Warblers**, which make up for what they lack in looks with fantastic vocalizations. We missed the target **Taiwan Fulvetta** & **Grey-headed Bullfinch** but had some nice birding along a trail where we found more **Taiwan Barwings** and **Steere's Liocichlas** along with our first **Ferruginous Flycatcher** and the very interesting endemic race of **Coal Tit** that actually has a crest! We also had our first glimpses of **Taiwan Macaque** but there was no sign of our hoped for **Golden Parrotbills**, so we drove back down to our hotel for lunch.



The endemic Collared Bush-Robin like many of the high elevation birds is very confiding.

In the afternoon, we birded lower down and walked a particularly productive section of the road where we saw **Eurasian Nuthatch**, a beautiful male **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Green-backed Tit** and yet another endemic: The **Rusty Laughingthrush**. We parked at the entrance gate and took a walk along the famous 210 trail. Use of the Collared Owllet call brought in mobbing hoards of **Black-throated Tits** and **Gray-cheeked Fulvettas** along with the odd **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Vivid Niltava** and **Rufous-faced Warbler** but no owllets responded. We also had **White-tailed Robin** hopping out on the trail, but 2 further endemics took a lot more effort to find. Neither **Taiwan Shortwing** nor **Taiwan Wren-Babbler** are particularly uncommon, they are both just very adept skulkers. We tried for them at several points along the trail but of course we located them both at exactly the same time. Some people had good views of one or the other but both would require further effort to show them to everyone in the group. It had been an amazing day full of endemics and after dinner we retired to our mountain cabins for a well deserved rest.

16th April – Dashueshan & Shigang Dam

In the early morning we checked out and drove straight downslope spotting another male **Mikado Pheasant** on the way. At a mountain stream further down I spotted a flash of black and white and I got the driver to stop. We all piled out of the bus and scanned up the steep rock faces of the waterfall where we spotted the **Little Forktail**, a particularly tricky species. Once we were all on the bird, we carried on down to the entrance car park where we had a field breakfast before going along the 210 trail once more. We saw many of the same flocking species as yesterday, such as **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **Gray-cheeked Fulvetta**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Taiwan Barwing** and **Vivid Niltava** as well as scope views of a male **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**. We tried again for **Taiwan Wren-Babbler** and **Taiwan Shortwing** with some others getting their first views and also added the beautiful endemic **Yellow Tit**, the endemic race of **White-backed Woodpecker** and a surprise **Yellow-browed Warbler** which was in full song. We continued lower down where we found a flock of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes**, which because of their roaming nature is one of the more difficult endemics to find. We had brief views of a male **Swinhoe's Pheasant** on the way down but we would be trying again for this stunning endemic tomorrow. Lower still we saw our first endemic **Rusty Laughingthrushes** and endemic races of **Rufous-capped Babbler** and **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** as well as a pair of majestic **Black Eagles** soaring over the valley.



Taiwan Barwings are very active foragers and rarely sit still for long.

The next 2 days would be spent birding the lower sections of the mountain so we quickly skipped these now and for lunch down in Dongshi after which we drove to a local dam where Scaly-sided Merganser had been seen recently. We parked below the dam and scanned the river to find **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Grey-throated Martin** before walking through a park with **Gray Treepie**, **Japanese White-eye** and **Black Bulbul** to get to the top of the dam wall. From here we saw **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and **Osprey** but then the rain got a little too heavy so we drove on to another spot where we could actually scan the reservoir from the bus window. We added other common water birds like **Little Grebe**, **Eurasian Moorhen**, **Common Greenshank** and **Common Kingfisher** along with **White Wagtail** and **Richard's Pipit** around the edge but unfortunately no sign of the mergansers. We were all pretty wet as we drove back to Dongshi for dinner and we went to sleep to the sound of **Savanna Nightjars** calling from the neighbourhood roofs.

17th April – Dashueshan

We had an early start today and it was still dark while we ate our breakfast in the lobby. Before setting off we heard a **Savanna Nightjar** calling nearby and followed it to get nice flight views as dawn began to break. We set off for the mountain and on our way up, flushed a pair of **Malayan Night-Herons** from the road. One particularly observant trip participant spotted a **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge** which also flushed from the side of the road. We arrived at the lower feeding station and made ourselves comfortable by the side of the road. There were many **Owston's Long-nosed Squirrels** feeding on the scattered seed but it took a while for any birds to show up. In the end we had a stunning male **Swinhoe's Pheasant** which strutted backwards and forwards offering fantastic photo opportunities. Our desired Taiwan Partridge never showed and we only heard them way down the slope. As we sat quietly we also had other small birds such as **White-eared Sibia**, **Steere's Liocichla** and **White-tailed Robin** coming and going.



Its not difficult to see why Swinhoe's Pheasant was voted bird of the trip.

We continued on up higher where we saw the flock of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes** in the same spot as yesterday. Then up to the entrance car park where we found a **Taiwan Macaque** which took off through the trees when it saw us. The Km 210 trail was misty and we squinted through our bins to make out **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Taiwan Yuhina** and **Vivid Niltava**. We tried again to call out the tricky **Taiwan Shortwing** but only saw it flying across the trail. After a warming lunch of noodle soup, we headed downslope to the lower feeding station again to try again for the Taiwan Partridges. It was gloomy and we tried to keep our spirits up in the rain with more views of several gorgeous **Swinhoe's Pheasants**, but the partridges never showed. We tried to get out of the rain at lower elevations and down a side road at Km 15 we found **Dusky Fulvetta** in the bamboo forest before walking down to a stone bridge over river where **Brown Dipper**, **Formosan Whistling-Thrush** and **Plumbeous Redstart** all showed well. We explored the bordering riparian vegetation to find a smart pair of **Collared Finchbills** and some skulking **Taiwan Scimitar-Babblers**. We continued downslope adding to our trip list with **Pacific Swift** and a skulking **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler** but only heard **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge**. After dusk we tried for some owls by the roadside but had to make do with some delightful fireflies instead.

18th April – Dongshi to Tainan

We left Dongshi early and headed south towards Tainan. Our first birding site of the day was the Aogu Wetlands. In a town on the way someone shouted “raptor!” and we piled out to see a couple of soaring **Common Buzzards**. As we approached the wetland we spotted a **Long-tailed Shrike** by the side of the road which posed nicely for photos. At Aogu we scanned the ditches and found **Yellow Bittern**, **Intermediate Egret** and several **Common Kingfishers** before the habitat opened out into extensive ponds. There were large numbers and an incredible diversity of waders and we had what several people described as some of the best shorebirding of their lives. To name but a few, we had **Lesser & Greater Sand-Plovers**, **Kentish**, **Black-bellied & Pacific Golden-Plovers**, **Gray-tailed Tattler**, **Common Greenshank & Redshank**, 1 **Eurasian Curlew** mixed in with several **Far Eastern Curlews**, a single **Bar-tailed** and a group of beautifully plumaged **Black-tailed Godwits**, breeding plumage **Red & Great Knots**, **Dunlin**, hundreds of **Red-necked Stints**, **Terek**, **Common**, **Marsh**, **Wood**, **Sharp-tailed**, **Broad-billed** and breeding plumage **Curlew Sandpipers**. It was an absolute ‘Wader Fest’. Whilst enjoying our shorebirds we tried to remember the main reason we were there was to see the endangered **Black-faced Spoonbill** which we soon found a group of 3 with their heads tucked away. Terns were also in evidence and we saw **Little**, **Whiskered**, **Caspian** and a ghostly white **Gull-billed Tern**. Time was running out, but we had one more stop which turned out to be one of the best. Along with another 20 or so **Black-faced Spoonbills** we had great ducks, with **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Garganey** and a gorgeous male **Falcated Duck**. We also had several uncommon birds in Taiwan: **Great Cormorant**, **Pied Avocet** and **Common Coot**.



This beautiful Long-tailed Shrike posed nicely for photos.

Our time was up for the morning and we went for lunch in Tainan before checking in and having a short rest. We headed out again, first birding the Taijiang saltworks which were pretty quiet but for a **Spotted Redshank**, **Long-toed Stint** and a **Eurasian Magpie**. Next we drove to Cigu. We birded a back road where we had more views of **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** and our first **Striated Swallow**, **Black-shouldered Kite** and just the head of a **Ring-necked Pheasant** sticking out of the grass. A mystery harrier was seen briefly by 2 participants but disappeared before it could be identified. No spoonbills were to be seen at the Black-faced Spoonbill Reserve, just a few shorebirds including **Terek Sandpiper**, **Gray-tailed Tattler** and **Whimbrel**. Our shorebirding here was at an end and we headed back to our hotel in Tainan.

19th April – Tainan to Taidong

We had a long drive around the south of the island and on the way we experienced some mechanical difficulties which we left the driver to sort out as we took taxis to an interesting park called Shuangliou. Our main target here was the Taiwan Blue or **Formosan Magpie**. The taxi drivers dropped us off at the car park, where Romney spotted our first magpie which quickly disappeared. After a short walk we relocated it and had scope views of this beautiful endemic. It was fine weather and we spotted several raptors soaring. They were mainly **Crested Serpent-Eagles** with a single **Oriental Honey-buzzard** mixed in. **Pacific Swifts** also flew overhead as we started along a trail by the river, where we saw both **Gray** and **White Wagtails**. **Taiwan Barbets** were common and we also spotted **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Gray Treepie** and our first **Styan's Bulbul**, yet another endemic. We also got our first decent views of **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge** which had been calling noisily next to the path. On the way back, we had much better views of this bird and it even posed nicely for photos. The scenery was delightful and there was a lot more to hold our attention than just birds. We saw a myriad of butterflies and several lizard species which we identified as **Swinhoe's Japalura**, **Long-tailed Mabuya** and **Hekou's Gecko**. A replacement bus had been sent, and after a spot of lunch in the fantastic visitors centre, we were on our way to Taitung.



The endemic race of Chinese Bamboo Partridge is very distinct and is likely to be split.

Just before we arrived we stopped in at the Zhiben grassland where we saw some great birds. Just around the car park we saw **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, more **Styan's Bulbuls**, **Grey-throated Martin** and our first **Zitting Cisticola**. We started walking through the grasslands and noticed several **Oriental Skylarks** and a **Richard's Pipit** very agitated by a huge **Common Rat Snake** slithering by. We continued picking up new birds including **Lesser Coucal**, scope views of a **Peregrine Falcon**, several **Oriental Pratincoles**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, **Blue Rock-Thrush** and we even flushed up a **Savanna Nightjar**. We moved on to the Taiping River Mouth, where although it was high tide, we saw **Little Ringed Plover**, **Terek Sandpiper** and **Red-necked Stint**. Up a muddy little stream we flushed a **Green Sandpiper** and **White-breasted Waterhen**. At the river mouth we saw **Common Kingfisher**, a female **Blue Rock-Thrush** and walking along the river, a large group of migrating **Eastern Yellow Wagtails** of the distinctive *tshutchensis* race. We drove on to our hotel in Taitung and met up again with Yvonne, our tour assistant before going out for another delicious meal.

20th April – Taidong to Lanyu

Before our flights to Lanyu, we had just enough time to bird a new park near the centre where our main target was **Taiwan Hwamei**. We found it in minutes along with a flock of **Japanese White-eyes** and also had much better views of the endemic race of **Ring-necked Pheasant**. We walked around the lake which had some common waterbirds like **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Black-winged Stilt** & **Common Greenshank**. We heard **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge** and saw several other common birds like **Brown Shrike**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Styan's Bulbul**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Black-faced Bunting**, **Nutmeg** and **Chestnut Munias**. Scanning over the river mouth we picked up some distant **Whimbrel**, **Little Terns** and a **Common Kingfisher** and also watched a pair of **Pacific Swallows** coming and going to their nest under the roof of a viewing platform. It was now time for our flights to Lanyu, the orchid island. After a short flight and slightly bumpy landing on what must be one of the few bits of flat land on the island, we took a short rest in the middle of the day.



The *philippensis* race of Blue Rock-Thrush is common along the rocky coastline of Lanyu

Before heading out for a drive around the island, we scanned the rocks near our hotel to find **Pacific Golden-Plover**, **Common Kingfisher** and some **Pacific Swallows** perched nicely on an overhead wire. On our drive around island we stopped to look at the very distinctive race of **Brown-eared Bulbul** perched on an overhead wire and then a group of **Lowland White-eyes** moving along the side of the road; the latter a bird more typical of the Philippines. Continuing around, we stopped at a bridge where one observant member spotted our first **Philippine Cuckoo-Dove** and we had our first glimpses of **Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher**. At another stop with a wonderful view over forest we had fine scope views of **Whistling Green-Pigeon**. Scanning over the ocean we had a very distant **Brown Booby** and closer on the rocks, a **Blue Rock-Thrush** and our first **Pacific Reef-Heron**. The scenery on the island was spectacular and we stopped to take photos of the rugged coastline and fascinating rock formations. During World War 2, one particular set of rocks out in the sea had been mistaken for a Japanese Battleship by the America Air Force and bombed for several minutes before they realised their mistake. We arrived at our main forest site and as we stepped out saw some **Pacific Swifts** zipping backwards and forwards overhead. We walked inside the forest where we quickly came across our main target: The **Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher**. We even located a nest, and looking through the scope we had great views of adults feeding 2 chicks. We also had more views of **Whistling Green-Pigeon**. We went back to the main town where we went out for a quick dinner to a local restaurant before driving to a stake out for **Ryukyu Scops-Owl**.

The race here may well be split in the future as Lanyu Scops-Owl. As soon as we arrived, the owl was calling very nearby and we managed to find it without even using the tape. We had great views and observe it for several minutes before we left it in peace. On our way out we tried not to run over the numerous **Speckled Toads** hopping around on the road, picking up insects under the lights. We had cleaned up on forest birds and enjoyed a well deserved rest.

21st April – Lanyu to Hualien

Our main target this morning was the Chinese Egret. We had found all our target forest birds so we decided to drive around the island scanning the rugged coastline for white dots. We found several **Pacific Reef-Herons**, **Common Kingfishers** and **Blue Rock Thrushes**, but all white shapes we stopped to investigate were pieces of debris. **Brown-eared Bulbul** was again common and we saw a few other birds such as **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Red Collared-Dove**, **Pacific Swift** and **Pacific Swallow**. We were also on the lookout for migrants and found **Eastern Yellow & Gray Wagtails**, **Black-faced Bunting** and hundreds of **Brown Shrikes** as well as a few shorebirds in the shape of **Pacific Golden-Plover**, **Common & Marsh Sandpipers**, but no Chinese Egrets. We had made a full circuit of the island and I had given up when Wade spotted 4 white egrets landing on a rock just along the coast. Our hopes weren't high but we checked in the scope and saw the tell-tale yellow bill and shaggy crest of the **Chinese Egret**. What a relief! We drove to the airport thanking our lucky stars.



Chinese Egret is a threatened species with a global population of only around 3000 individuals.

We checked in for our flight after an initial concern that it might be cancelled and soon we were on our way back to Taitung on the main island. We were staying further north along the east coast in the town of Hualien and during the scenic but not particularly birdy drive we saw an **Eastern Spot-billed Duck** in flight and many endemic **Styan's Bulbuls**. Our first proper birding stop was a stakeout for the endemic race of **Maroon Oriole**, whose colour is actually bright red. This very different looking and sounding bird is highly likely to be split in the future as the endemic Red Oriole. The first bird we saw was a **Taiwan Barbet** sat on an overhead wire and great views of the distinctive endemic race of **Black Bulbul**. Scanning the opposite hillside I soon picked out the bright red bird which we oohed and aaahed over through the scope before continuing on our way to Hualien. Close to Hualien we saw some **Taiwan Hwameis** in some scrub, then quickly checked out the river mouth where we saw 2 **Chinese Egrets** mixed in a larger flock of **Little Egrets**. We also added to our list with a nice male **Tufted Duck** before checking in to our hotel and going out for a delicious meal.

22nd April – Hualien to Chingjing

We left Hualien early and started up the famous Taroko Gorge. An impressive road chiselled into sheer cliffs. We had seen most of the birds in this area but stopped at a spot by a bridge to try for better views of Little Forktails. None of these were around but we did enjoy great views of **Formosan Whistling-Thrush** and **Plumbeous Redstart** before continuing on our way. We had another couple of scenic stops including one at the Sacred Tree where we saw **Pacific Swift**, **Asian House-Martin** and our first **Silver-backed Needletail**. A few stops higher up we found a particularly birdy spot with **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Styan's & Black Bulbuls** and **Steere's Liocichla**. Before the pass we had a stop where we found **Gray-headed Bullfinch** along with a surprise **Brambling** feeding on a flowering cherry tree. We got up to the Wuling pass which at 3275m is the highest road in east Asia. The conditions were dreadful and there was no sign of Alpine Accentors so we continued down the other side. The bad weather seemed to be following us, so we drove straight down to Chingjing for lunch. We stood out on the balcony while they got our table ready and we got our first views of **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**.



Taiwan fulvetta has recently been placed in the same family as Sylvid warblers and parrotbills.

After lunch the weather appeared to have improved somewhat so we took the opportunity to bird the Wuling pass again. On the way up we managed to find one of our few remaining endemics, the **Taiwan Fulvetta**. We also saw **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, **Vinaceous Rosefinch** and **Taiwan Bush-Warbler**. It was a bit misty and drizzly at the pass when we got back up but it was a vast improvement on before. We again looked around for our target Alpine Accentors in the car park but there was no sign. We did however hear the song of **Winter Wren** and we tried to get views, but before they showed, we noticed another bird hopping around to our left. It was an **Alpine Accentor** which most of us got views of before it flew off. We went back to the **Winter Wren** and after a lot of hard work, we saw the birds. On the way back down, we birded the first part of the Blue Gate Trail where we saw **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Coal Tit**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Steere's Liocichla** and **White-tailed Robin**. It had been a long but productive day and we headed to our hotel to get warm and dry.

23rd April – Chunyang & Ao Wen Da

We started the day at the university farm site at Chunyang, almost directly below Chinjing. It is an area of mixed habitat and agriculture and held a few targets we still needed. It was a beautiful day and as we started to explore after breakfast, we had a brief view of **Rusty Laughingthrush** high up in a tree and a single **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge** sat in the middle of the road. Up until this point we had poor luck with raptors but with a change in the weather we now had **Crested Goshawk**, **Crested Serpent-Eagle** and a magnificent **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** soaring overhead. We also finally saw our **White-bellied Pigeon** flying across the hillside. **Steere's Liocichla** were calling everywhere and we had better views of the skulking **Rufous-capped Babbler**. In the trees we had good views of **Gray-capped Woodpecker** and **Collared Finchbill** and in the long grasses, **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler**, **Striated Prinia** and the distinctive pink-headed race of **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**. Our main target, the **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler**, was not calling lower down so we had to hike up a steep hill, but as soon as we got close to them, they went silent. We had to console ourselves with a beautiful male **Vivid Niltava** before walking back down to the bus.



The endemic race of Vivid Niltava is a candidate to be split

We drove to the nearby Ao Wen Da Forest Recreation Area and on the way in, Bill spotted a raptor perched above the road. We got off for brief views of **Besra** and then **Bronzed Drongo** which was perched on an overhead wire. We had our packed lunch at the visitor centre where we were joined by **Pacific Swallow** which darted backwards and forwards nest-building. After lunch we started a walk along a trail and after a short distance saw 2 more **Formosan Magpies** and our first **Brown-headed Thrush** spotted by Anne. At a stream we spotted a **Plumbeous Redstart** and in the forest, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Rufous-faced Warbler** using a nestbox and many **Gray-cheeked Fulvettas**. We also found a pile of feathers belonging to a **Oriental Turtle-Dove** which had been predated. After a long walk, we reached the Birdwatching platform which had great activity with **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Green-backed Tit** and **Taiwan Yuhina** amongst others. No sign of our target Varied Tit though. Two clients took the opportunity to cross huge the suspension bridge and take some pictures. On our way back we had nice views of **Taiwan Macaque** and one or 2 more birds. It had been what 1 client described as a “Jolly good walk” and now we were heading back to our hotel.

24th April – Chingjing to Alishan

On our last morning at Chingjing, we went up to the famous Blue Gate trail to look for Taiwan Partridge plus 1 or 2 other birds we still needed. As soon as we stepped out of the car we heard an out of place **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler** and **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler**. The latter was as uncooperative as ever. We had a roadside breakfast surrounded by flocking species such as **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Vivid Niltava**, **Taiwan Barwing** and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**. We started the trail, walking silently and listening for partridge calls. The first call we heard though was **Ashy Wood-Pigeon** but only 1 person saw a fly over. We also heard the beautiful tinkling calls of **Taiwan Shortwing** and **White-tailed Robin** and had brief views of both. **Steere's Liocichlas** skulked and chattered inside the bushes. Finally we heard the **Taiwan Partridge** call close and we all got in position to get views along the trail before trying to lure them across. They were uncooperative and seemed to be heading in the opposite direction so we followed them along. We were looking upslope when 1 partridge took fright and flushed but only a couple of people saw it. We tried for a while longer but they were gone and we headed back to the bus with a quick stop to take a look at a **Ferruginous Flycatcher** through the scope.



Mountain Scops-Owl is a widespread but notoriously difficult bird to see. This is an endemic subspecies.

We were now on our way to Alishan and our penultimate birding site of the tour. After we arrived at our lodge we were taken up to a hide over-looking a feeding station set up for partridges and pheasants. After a short while a stunning male **Swinhoe's Pheasant** showed up but we had waited almost 2 hours before a family of **Taiwan Partridges** came to feed. It was a tremendous relief and we went back down in high spirits. After dinner, the lodge owner was good enough to take us to his favourite owling spot. Just before leaving we spotted a **Savanna Nightjar** in flight. We were very impressed when he found us both **Collared** and **Mountain Scops-Owl** within 5 minutes.

25th April – Alishan to Huben

We set off for the higher elevations of Alishan, and on the way up spotted **Formosan Whistling-Thrush** and **White-tailed Robin** by the side of the road. We also stopped to take photos of a group of **Taiwan Macaques** sitting by the edge of the road. No doubt they had become accustomed to irresponsible tourists throwing food out of the window. We made it to a spot known for Golden Parrotbill and we started our search. We had several **Flamecrests** and **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warblers** plus **White-browed & Collared Bush-Robins** along the road. We searched the flocks containing **Coal Tit**, **Taiwan Fulvetta** and **Taiwan Barwing** for parrotbills without success. **Taiwan Shortwing** hopped out nicely for some and on a side road we also lucked upon a smart pair of **Gray-headed Bullfinches** before heading back to the bus where Diane had taken a good photo of **Eurasian Nutcracker**. We started our drive to Huben, a site in the lowlands for the Fairy Pitta. They had apparently arrived and been heard but not seen yet. We hoped to be the first group to do so. We walked some favoured territories for them seeing some other nice birds like **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Bronzed Drongo** and **Collared Finchbill**. **Dusky Fulvetta** and **Rufous-capped Babblers** were their usual skulky selves but showed briefly, as did **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**. We also had a surprise **Taiwan Macaque** which eyed us through the bamboo. Another bird we still needed was the **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler** which we got calling but as with previous individuals on this trip, they refused to come any closer. We stayed until dusk to see if we could catch a pitta calling but finally called it a day.



Taiwan Macaques are difficult to see at most sites but at Alishan they are used to people.

26th April – Huben

It was our last morning of the trip and our last chance to try for Fairy Pitta. We had our earliest start yet, and we were standing by the temple in the dark listening carefully for calls. Another group of birders were owling nearby and we saw a **Red Giant Flying-Squirrel** glide by in their beam. **Malayan Night-Herons** let out their distinctive booming calls as we quietly ate our breakfast. We took the bus to another nearby pitta site and stood around waiting with no results so we crossed the stream and tried again for the **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler**. Again the birds responded briefly then went quiet and before further efforts could be made, it started to rain. We looked at the darkening skies on the horizon and decided to head back to the bus before we got soaked. We were just in time before the rain came down and with even darker rain clouds on the horizon, we decided to call it a day. We had a tremendously successful tour recording 198 species in total, including all 23 endemics with just our last only heard. Apart from the birds we were treated to truly spectacular scenery, delicious food and friendly, hospitable people.

Bird list

Taxonomy follows Clements 6.6 online checklist. Updated Aug 2011

Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shimen Dam, Shigang Dam, Zhiben, Taitung & Hualien.
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Seen at Hualien.
Taiwan Partridge	<i>Arborophila crudigularis</i>	This near-threatened endemic was seen at Chingjing & Alishan and heard at Dashueshan.
Chinese (Taiwan) Bamboo-Partridge	<i>Bambusicola thoracicus sonorivox</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen at Dashueshan, Shuangliou & Chunyang and heard at Shimen Dam, Taitung, Ao Wen Da, Alishan & Huben.
Swinhoe's Pheasant	<i>Lophura swinhoii</i>	This near-threatened endemic was seen at Dashueshan & Alishan.
Mikado Pheasant	<i>Syrmaticus mikado</i>	This near-threatened endemic was seen at Dashueshan.
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus formosanus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Cigu, Zhiben & Taitung.
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam & Aogu.
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam, Aogu & Taitung.
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Seen at most sites near water.
Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Seen at Aogu & Hualien.
Chinese Egret	<i>Egretta eulophotes</i>	This vulnerable species was seen on Lanyu & at Hualien.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Seen at most sites near water.
Pacific Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Seen at most lowland sites.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam, Aogu, Taitung & Huben.
Malayan Night-Heron	<i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>	Seen at Botanical gardens, Dongshi & Huben.
Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	This introduced species was seen at Riverside Park.
Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	This endangered species was seen at Aogu.
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam.
Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Seen at Shuangliou.
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Seen at Cigu.
Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela hoya</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen at many forest sites.
Harrier sp.	<i>Circus</i> sp.	Seen at Cigu.
Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus fimosae</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Chunyang.
Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus fuscipectus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen on the way to Ao Wen Da.
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen on the way to Aogu.
Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	Seen at Chunyang.
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Seen at Zhiben.
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Seen at Botanical gardens, Lanyu & Taitung.
Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Porzana fusca</i>	Heard at Taitung.

Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen at many sites near water.
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu & on Lanyu.
Lesser Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
Greater Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam, Taitung & Huben.
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu & Taitung.
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu & Taitung.
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen at most sites near water.
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Seen at Taitung.
Gray-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Seen at Taijiang salt pans.
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam, Aogu, Cigu & Taitung.
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu, Zhiben & on Lanyu.
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Seen at Cigu, Taitung & Hualien.
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	This vulnerable species was seen at Aogu.
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	This near-threatened species was seen at Aogu.
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	This near-threatened species was seen at Aogu.
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	This vulnerable species was seen at Aogu.
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Seen at Aogu, Cigu & Taitung.
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	Seen at Taijiang salt pans.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	Seen at Zhiben.
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Seen at Aogu & Taitung.
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Seen at Aogu.
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Seen at Aogu & Cigu.
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	This introduced species was widely seen throughout.
Ashy Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba pulchricollis</i>	Seen at Chingjing.
Oriental Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis orii</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at many sites.
Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam, Aogu, Zhiben, Taitung & on Lanyu.
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Seen at most lowland sites.
Philippine Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia tenuirostris</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Heard on Lanyu & at Huben.
White-bellied Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>	Seen at Chunyang. Heard at Dashueshan & Chingjing.
Whistling Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron formosae formosae</i>	This near-threatened endemic subspecies was seen on Lanyu.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparveroides</i>	Heard at Alishan.
Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Heard at Dashueshan, Alishan & Huben.
Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Seen at Aogu & Zhiben.
Mountain Scops-Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus hambroeki</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Alishan.
Collared Scops-Owl	<i>Otus lettia glabripes</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Alishan.
Ryukyu (Lanyu) Scops-Owl	<i>Otus elegans botelensis</i>	This near-threatened endemic subspecies and potential split was seen on Lanyu.
Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei pardalotum</i>	This endemic subspecies was heard at Dashueshan.
Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis stictomus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dongshi, Zhiben & Alishan.
Silver-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis formosanus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen above Taroko.
Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Seen at Dongshi, Shuangliou, Lanyu, Taroko & Ao Wen Da.
House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis kuntzi</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Shimen & Shigang Dams, Aogu & Taitung.
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen at most sites with water.
Taiwan Barbet	<i>Megalaima nuchalis</i>	This endemic was seen at Botanical gardens, Shimen Dam, Shuangliou & Huben and heard at Dashueshan, Hualien, Ao Wen Da & Alishan.
Gray-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	Seen at Shimen Dam, Chunyang & Huben.
White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos insularis</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan.
Gray-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing & Ao Wen Da.
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam, Aogu, Taitung, Lanyu & Hualien.
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Seen at Aogu & Zhiben.
White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	Seen at Shimen Dam, Dongshi, Shuangliou & Ao Wen Da.
Maroon (Red) Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii ardens</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen near Hualien.
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus harterti</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at most lowland sites.
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus braunianus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Ao Wen Da & Huben.
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea oberholseri</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at the Botanical gardens, Taitung & Chunyang and heard at Huben.
Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone atrocaudata</i>	This near-threatened species was seen on Lanyu.
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius taivanus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan and heard at Chingjing.
Formosan Magpie	<i>Urocissa caerulea</i>	This endemic was seen at Shuangliou & Ao Wen Da,
Gray Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae formosae</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Shimen & Shigang Dams, Dongshi, Shuangliou & Zhiben. Heard at Dashueshan.
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	This Introduced species was seen at Riverside Park & at Taijiang salt pans.
Eurasian Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes owstoni</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan & Alishan.
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Seen at Shimen Dam, Zhiben, Taroko, Chunyang & Ao Wen Da.
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Seen at Cigu, Zhiben & Taitung.
Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam, Zhiben, Taitung & on Lanyu.
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen at most sites.
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	Seen at Taitung, Lanyu, Taroko, Chunyang, Ao Wen Da & Huben.
Striated Swallow	<i>Cecropis striolata</i>	Seen at Cigu.
Asian House-Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Taroko.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater ptilosus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing & Alishan.

Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus insperatus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan, Dongshi, Taroko, Chingjing & Ao Wen Da.
Yellow Tit	<i>Macholophus holsti</i>	This near-threatened endemic was seen at Dashueshan.
Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Taroko, Chingjing, Chunyang & Alishan.
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Taroko & Chingjing.
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes taivanus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Wuling Pass.
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
Collared Finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques cinereicapillus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan, Chunyang & Huben.
Styan's Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus taivanus</i>	This vulnerable endemic was seen at Shuangliou, Zhiben, Taitung, Hualien & Taroko.
Light-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis formosae</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at most sites.
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus nigerrimus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at most sites.
Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis harterti</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Lanyu.
Flamecrest	<i>Regulus goodfellowi</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan & Alishan and heard at Chingjing.
Taiwan Cupwing (Wren-Babbler)	<i>Pnoepyga formosana</i>	This endemic was seen as Dashueshan and heard at Chingjing & Alishan.
Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	Seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing, Chunyang & Ao Wen Da. Heard at Alishan & Huben.
Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes robustipes</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen at Dashueshan & Chunyang and heard at Chingjing.
Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler	<i>Cettia acanthizoides concolor</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan, Wuling Pass & Alishan.
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Seen at Dashueshan.
Taiwan Bush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus alishanensis</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan and heard at Wuling Pass & Alishan.
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen at Zhiben & heard at Taitung.
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis volitans</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Zhiben.
Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera striata</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Chunyang.
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Zhiben, Taitung & Huben.
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata flavirostris</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at most lowland sites.
Taiwan Fulvetta	<i>Fulvetta formosana</i>	This endemic was seen at Chingjing & Alishan.
Vinous-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis webbianus bulomachus</i>	This distinctive endemic subspecies was seen at Chingjing & Chunyang.
Taiwan Yuhina	<i>Yuhina brunneiceps</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Taroko, Chingjing, Chunyang, Ao Wen Da & Alishan.
Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	Seen at most forest sites.
Lowland White-eye	<i>Zosterops meyeri</i>	Seen on Lanyu.
Gray-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe morrisonia morrisonia</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing, Chunyang & Ao Wen Da.
Dusky Fulvetta	<i>Schoeniparus brunnea brunnea</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan & Huben.
Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ruficeps</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan.
Rusty Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax poecilorhynchus</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan & Chunyang.
Taiwan Hwamei	<i>Garrulax taewanus</i>	This near-threatened endemic was seen at Taitung & Hualien.
White-whiskered Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax morrisonianus</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Wuling Pass & Alishan.
White-eared Sibia	<i>Heterophasia auricularis</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing, Chunyang & Alishan.
Steere's Liocichla	<i>Liocichla steerii</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Taroko, Chingjing, Chunyang & Alishan.
Taiwan Barwing	<i>Actinodura morrisoniana</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing & Alishan and heard at Taroko.

Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyridopsis ruficeps praecognita</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Chunyang & Huben and heard at Dashueshan.
Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis</i>	This endemic was heard at Dashueshan, Chingjing, Chunyang, Alishan & Huben.
Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus musicus</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Chunyang & Huben.
Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>	Seen at Dashueshan & Chingjing.
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	This introduced species was seen at the Botanical gardens.
Vivid Niltava	<i>Niltava vivida vivida</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing & Chunyang.
White-browed (Taiwan) Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana goodfellowi</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen at Dashueshan & Alishan and heard at Chingjing.
Formosan Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus insularis</i>	This endemic was seen at Shimen Dam, Dashueshan, Taroko & Alishan.
Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri fortis</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan.
White-tailed Robin	<i>Cinclidium leucurum montium</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan, Chingjing, Chunyang & Alishan.
White-browed Bush-Robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus formosanus</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen at Dashueshan & Alishan.
Collared Bush-Robin	<i>Tarsiger johnstoniae</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Wuling Pass & Alishan.
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra innexa</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan.
Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosa affinis</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan, Taroko & Ao Wen Da.
Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius phillipensis</i>	Seen on Lanyu & at Hualien.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Seen at Riverside Park.
Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>	Seen at Ao Wen Da.
Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus formosanus</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Riverside Park & Taroko.
Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	Seen at many lowland sites.
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	This introduced species was seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.
Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>	This introduced species was seen at Riverside Park.
Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	Seen in Taipei. Could be either a migrant or escapee.
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectum formosum</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan & Chingjing.
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris fennelli</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Wuling Pass.
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang Dam & Cigu.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>	Seen at Taitung & on Lanyu.
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Seen at Shuangliou & on Lanyu.
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam, Cigu, Shuangliou, Taitung, Hualien & Taroko.
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	Seen at Shigang Dam, Zhiben & Taitung.
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Only seen by the guide at Chunyang.
Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Taitung & Lanyu.
Vinaceous Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus vinaceus vinaceus</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen at Dashueshan, Wuling Pass & Alishan.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	This rare winter visitor was seen near the Wuling Pass.
Gray-headed (Owston's) Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca owstoni</i>	This endemic subspecies and potential split was seen near the Wuling Pass & Alishan.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Commonly seen throughout.
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Huben.
Nutmeg Mannikin	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Seen at Riverside Park, Cigu & Taitung.
Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	Seen at Riverside Park & Taitung.

Mammal list

Reeve's Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi micrurus</i>	This endemic subspecies was heard at Dashueshan.
Taiwan Macaque	<i>Macaca cyclopsis</i>	This endemic was seen at Dashueshan, Ao Wen Da, Alishan & Huben.
Formosan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops martimus</i>	This endemic was seen as Dashueshan.
Owston's Long-nosed Squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi owstoni</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan & Alishan.
Red-bellied Tree Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythacaeus</i>	Seen at the Botanical gardens, Shimen Dam, Ao Wen Da & Huben.
White-faced Flying-Squirrel	<i>Petaurista alborufus lena</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Dashueshan.
Red Giant Flying-Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista grandis</i>	This endemic subspecies was seen at Huben.

Reptile & Amphibian list

Swinhoe's Japalura	<i>Japalura swinhonis</i>	Seen at Shuangliou & on Lanyu.
Long-tailed Mabuya	<i>Eutropis longicaudata</i>	Seen at Shuangliou.
Hekou's Gecko	<i>Gekko hokouensis</i>	Seen at Shuangliou.
Common Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	Seen at Zhiben.
Speckled Toad	<i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	Seen on Lanyu & at Chunyang.
Central Formosan Toad	<i>Bufo bankorensis</i>	Seen at Chingjing.
Japanese Buerger's Frog	<i>Buergeria japonica</i>	Seen at Shuangliou.