

TROPICAL BIRDING



Taiwan: Formosan Endemics

Set departure tour
17th – 30th April, 2016

Tour leader: Charley Hesse

Report and photos by Charley Hesse. (All photos were taken on this tour)



Mikado Pheasant has become so accustomed to people at the feeding sites, it now comes within a few feet.

Taiwan is the hidden jewel of Asian birding and one of the most under-rated birding destinations in the world. There are currently in impressive 25 endemics (and growing by the year), including some of the most beautiful birds in Asia, like Swinhoe's & Mikado Pheasants and Taiwan Blue-Magpie. Again we had a clean sweep of Taiwan endemics seeing all species well, and we also found the vast majority of endemic subspecies. Some of these are surely set for species status, giving visiting birders potential 'arm chair ticks' for many years to come. We also saw other major targets, like Fairy Pitta, Black-faced Spoonbill and Himalayan Owl. Migrants were a little thin on the ground this year, but we still managed an impressive 189 bird species. We did particularly well on mammals this year, seeing 2 giant flying-squirrels, Formosan Serow, Formosan Rock Macaque and a surprise Chinese Ferret-Badger. We spent some time enjoying the wonderful butterflies and identified 31 species, including the spectacular Magellan Birdwing, Chinese Peacock and Paper Kite. Our trip to the island of Lanyu (Orchid Island) adds a distinct flavour to the trip with its unique culture and scenery. With some particularly delicious food, interesting history and surely some of the most welcoming people in Asia, Taiwan is an unmissable destination.

17th April - Taipei

Today was arrival day, and after lunch, all the trip participants met in the lobby of the hotel, and we went out for our first birding of the trip. We started at the nearby Taipei Botanical Gardens which is a great place to familiarize ourselves with some of the common birds of the area. After entering the beautiful gardens, we walked past some small ponds where we saw **Eurasian Moorhen** and the shining jewel of a **Common Kingfisher**. Some common birds of the park included **Spotted Dove**, **Japanese White-eye** and the endemic race of **Light-vented Bulbul**. We also had a surprise **Asian Brown Flycatcher** and scope views of a **Crested Goshawk**. One of the main targets was the **Malayan Night-Heron**, which stalks the shady lawns in search of juicy worms. After a bit of searching we found an adult that was remarkably confiding and we sat down and watched it at our leisure. We also bagged our first Taiwan endemic in the form of **Taiwan Barbet**. They were a little elusive at first but we soon had scope views of a pair perched high up in a tree.



It was fascinating to spend time watching the Malayan Night-Heron feeding (Charley Hesse)

Next we went to the Riverside Park where we had our fill of common water birds, including **Great, Little & Cattle Egrets**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and the introduced **Sacred Ibis**. The river here was tidal and the current low tide meant that there was plenty of exposed mud on which **Little Ringed Plover**, **Common & Wood Sandpipers**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** and even **Eurasian Magpie** were feeding. On the park's grassy lawns, we saw the introduced **Black-collared Starling**, the endemic race of **Crested Myna** and **Black-faced Bunting**; in the parkland trees **Brown Shrike** and **Japanese White-eye**; and in the reed beds **Yellow-bellied Prinia**. We even had fly-overs of **Black-shouldered Kite** and **Peregrine Falcon**. It had certainly been a productive afternoon.

18th April – Jinshan & Shimen to Daxueshan

Ordinarily we would drive south this morning to our first birding sites, but ordinarily there isn't a **Siberian Crane** in Taiwan. This MEGA species has been well-'twitched' by the Taiwanese birders for the last few weeks, but luckily it was good enough to stick around until we started our tour. So we set off in the opposite direction from normal, to the small town of Jinshan. GPSs are wonderful machines and ours took us directly to this rare bird. As we drew close to the saved point, it came into view and we enjoyed close views as it stalked through the flooded paddy field looking for food. It was raining so we watched it from the car, along with many other water birds, including **Eurasian Moorhen**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Greenshank**, **Common, Marsh & Wood Sandpipers**. We had a long way to go, so after also looking at some **Black Drongos**, **Black Bulbuls** and **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, we set off back towards Taipei.

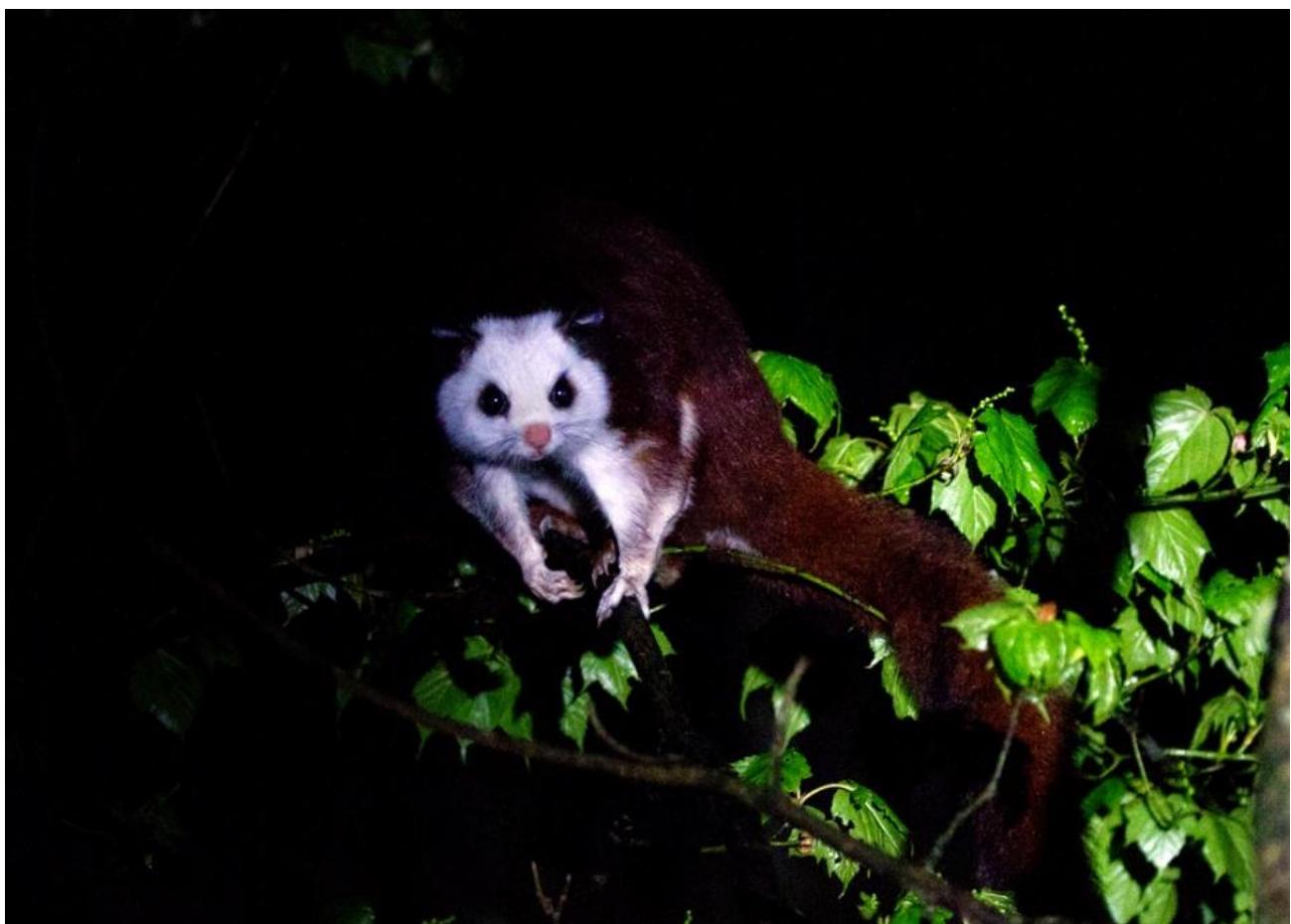


The critically endangered Siberian Crane was a once in a lifetime bird in Taiwan (Charley Hesse)

Luckily the highway skirted around the capital and soon we were back on track. We had our usual stop at Shimen Dam. We tried for the endemic Taiwan Blue-Magpie but had to be content with scope views of a perched **Crested Serpent-Eagle** and some **Gray Treepies** (both endemic subspecies). We did find a very vocal pair of **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babblers** but despite much effort we were unable to lure them into view. Onwards to Daxueshan (literal translation, 'Big Snowy Mountain'). On the way up we added **Green Sandpiper** on a stream and the dapper **Little Forktail** on a roadside waterfall. We were rushing a little as I wanted to check in, then go and wait at one of the Mikado Pheasant feeding stations. Today it didn't show but we did see our first **Taiwan Rosefinch**, **White-Whiskered Laughingthrushes** plus **Maritime & Perny's Long-nosed Squirrels**. We settled into our rooms, had dinner, then took a short night drive during which we saw several endemic **Formosan Serows**, the beautiful **Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel**, plus the rarely seen **Chinese Ferret-Badger**.

19th April - Daxueshan

We had 4 nights to bird Daxueshan and we would spend the first 2 days concentrating on the upper section on the road. Outside our well-appointed cabins we started our high-elevation birding in earnest by spotting the endemic **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush** and often tricky **Brown Bullfinch**. We drove all the way up to the top of the mountain road, where the Mikado Pheasant has been more reliable recently. At the feeding site, we took our places to wait along with another birding group. As we waited, we saw **Gray-headed Bullfinch**, **Taiwan Rosefinch** and **White-whiskered Laughingthrush** on the lawn by the feeding site. The pheasants weren't showing, so we birded nearby, never venturing too far just in case. Around the edge of the large parking lot, we saw **White-backed Woodpecker**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Eurasian Nutcracker**, **Coal & Green-backed Tits**, **Yellowish-bellied & Taiwan Bush-Warblers** and **Oriental Cuckoo**. One of the highlights through was the endemic **Flamecrest** which came in, 'too close for binoculars'. By mid-morning, it was clear that the pheasants were not going to show, so we took a walk along a nearby trail through mixed bamboo forest. On the way over there, we had a lucky **Taiwan Barwing** which turned out to be the only one seen on the tour. Along the trail we saw **Ashy Wood-Pigeon** in flight, **Taiwan Fulveta**, **White-browed & Collared Bush-Robins** and some of us, the very distinctive Taiwanese race of **White-browed Shortwing**.



Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrels are a common sight on night drives at Daxueshan (Charley Hesse)

We started our way back to the lodge, and on the way down had several roadside birding stops, where playing the Collared Owlet call brought in lots of birds. At the first stop we saw **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **Rufous-capped Babbler** and **Steere's Liocichla**. At the next, **Large-billed Crow**, **Coal, Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, and **Ferruginous Flycatcher**. Lower still, we had a soaring **Crested Serpent-Eagle**, plus **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, a roaming flock of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes**, and the beautiful **Vivid Niltava**. After lunch, we had a rest before heading out again in the afternoon. We got to the lower feeding site for the **Mikado Pheasant** where another group had just seen them. Unluckily, some maintenance workers were making lots of noise nearby, spoiling any chance they would return. However, we went back to the top and found a stunning pair by the upper feeding site. They showed amazingly well before skulking off into the bushes. What a relief! We stuck around and they returned to give us even better views. On a night drive, we came across the rare **Himalayan Owl** and glimpsed a **Mountain Scops-Owl**, plus more **Serows** and **flying-squirrels**.

20th April – Daxueshan to Dongshi

With almost all of the high elevation targets in the bag, this morning we headed down slope. After an early breakfast we saw some nice birds outside our rooms, with **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush**, **Brown Bullfinch** and a surprisingly high **Taiwan Barbet**. We packed the vehicle up and set off down the long, winding road. Again we had several birding stops along the way, the first of which netted us the plucky **Rufous-faced Warbler** and the endemic race of **Vivid Niltava**, which along with many other subspecies stands a good chance of being raised to species status in the future. We also heard a **Gray-headed Woodpecker** way down slope. Further stops produced **White-backed Woodpecker**, **Ashy Wood-Pigeon**, and our first **White-eared Sibia** & **White-tailed Robin**. Several years ago, a huge landslide had wiped out the road, cutting off the upper section of the park. A rather impressive bridge was built in its place, under which **Asian House-Martins** now roost. We got out to watch these white-rumped hirundines zip to and fro and we also saw **Black Eagle**, **Eurasian Jay** and the endemic **Yellow Tit**. Further on I heard the Taiwan's newest endemic, the recently split **Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge** and we managed to get scope views of a bird perched low in a tree.



The high-pitched song of the Taiwan Cupwing is a common sound in Taiwan's forests (Charley Hesse)

Having seen the Mikado Pheasant, we now switched our attention to the equally if not more spectacular **Swinhoe's Pheasant**. There was a feeding site lower down where a stunning male showed up with a few **Gray Treepies** in tow. We continued, looking at a mixed flocks with **Yellow**, **Black-throated** & **Green-backed Tits** and **Taiwan Yuhina**. We all had good views of one of the trickiest endemics, **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler**. We had a quick jaunt along the famous 210 trail where we picked up **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** and another tough skulker, **Taiwan Cupwing**; basically a black ping-pong ball with legs and a bill. After a picnic lunch we continued down, hearing the distinctive call of the **Large Hawk-Cuckoo**. We turned down a side road towards a river in small valley. On the way, we tried for the very skulky **Dusky Fulvetta** of which we all got glimpses. From the bridge, we saw **Brown Dipper** and **Plumbeous Redstart** and nearby added **Collared Finchbill**, **Plain Prinia** and **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**. Our last birding stop of the day was at an impressive viewpoint where we added common open country birds like **Oriental Turtle-Dove**, **Black Drongo**, **Pacific Swallow** and **Striated Prinia**, before calling it a day and heading back to civilization in the town of Dongshi below.

21st April – Daxueshan & Shigang Dam

Today was a clean-up operation. We still had a number of new birds to see and we birded our way upslope checking stakeouts as we went. At our first stop we saw several common species such as **Oriental Turtle- & Red Collared-Doves**, **Collared Finchbill** and **Black Bulbul**. We also added our target **Taiwan Hwamei** and a surprise **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**; a wonderful, pink-throated ball of fun usually only seen later in the tour. Higher up, we had a very productive stop with **Taiwan Barbet**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **Rufous-capped Babbler** and a soaring **Crested Serpent-Eagle**. We added several new species to our trip list, with **White-bellied Pigeon**, the beautifully deep-blue **Black-naped Monarch**, **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler**, **White-rumped Munia** and one of Taiwan's newer endemics, the recently split **Morrison's Fulveta**. Higher up we saw **Pacific Swift**, more **Taiwan Yuhinas** and **White-eared Sibias** plus our main target of the morning, the endemic **Rusty Laughingthrush**.

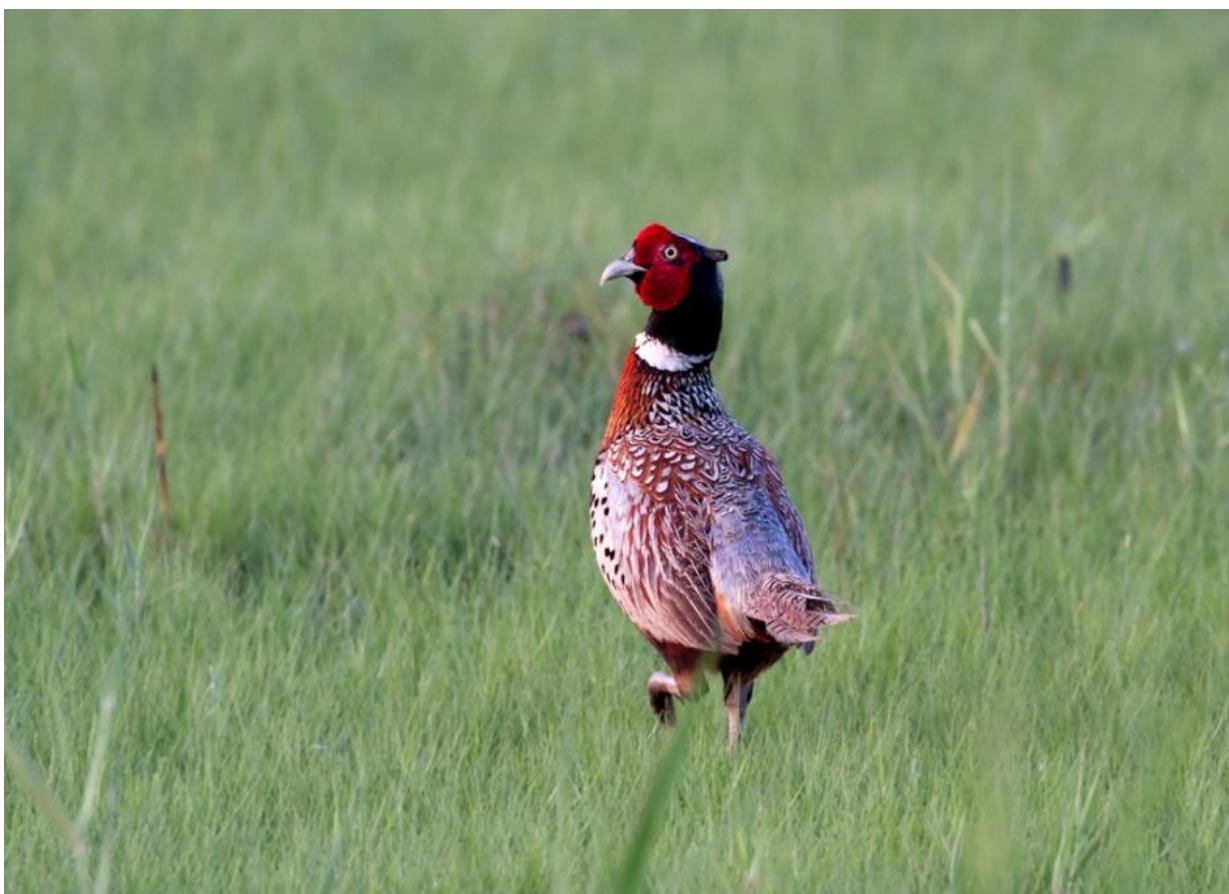


Yellow Tit is one of Taiwan's most charismatic endemics (Charley Hesse)

We continued and Collared Owlet calls brought in many flocking species, with **Vivid Niltava**, **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Gray-chinned Minivet** and **Green-backed, Yellow & Black-throated Tits**. We even had an owlet responding although it didn't come in. We had a few owl lovers in the group so we were all happy when we finally called one in higher up and got great scope views. A quick stop on the way down produced some soaring **Crested Goshawks** from the viewpoint, before we drove down to town for lunch. In the afternoon, we drove to the nearby Shigang Dam where we picked up a few new species, including **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Common Sandpiper**, **House Swift**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Gray-throated Martin**, **Black Bulbul** and **White Wagtail**. We had missed **Savanna Nightjar** at dawn but we picked it up on a short walk through the city streets after dinner. This species roosts on rooves during the day and flies around picking up insects attracted to the lights at night. Our birding at Daxueshan was at an end and tomorrow we would head south.

22nd April – Aogu to Tainan

After a 2 hour drive, we arrived at Aogu; arguably one of the top shore-birding sites in Asia. One of the first birds we saw was the rare **Chinese Egret** but we also had several shorebirds including **Kentish Plover, Gray-tailed Tattler** and **Common Greenshank**. One client had been asking about seeing **Slaty-breasted Rail**, and just afterwards we had one fly across the road in front of us. On some high tide roosts we saw **Pacific Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Black-winged Stilt, Intermediate Egret** and on the water **Northern Shoveler, Little Grebe** and **Great Cormorant**. Despite the high tide, we found one muddy area full of shorebirds with **Terek, Common, Marsh, Wood, Sharp-tailed & Curlew Sandpipers, Common Redshank** and **Red-necked Stint**. Flying over the water, we had **Little, Gull-billed & Whiskered Terns, Gray-throated Martin** and **Striated Swallow**, and in bushes around the edge, **Common Kingfisher, Long-tailed Shrike** and **Scaly-breasted Munia**. We drove on to our next site, the Bazhang River mouth. As soon as we pulled up, we saw 2 **Black-faced Spoonbills** on a small muddy pond. As we got closer they flushed but came down on a sand bank in the river mouth with a couple of dozen other spoonbills. We counted 29 birds in total, and it looked like they might be leaving for their breeding grounds any time soon. Other nice birds around the river mouth included **Pied Avocet, Terek Sandpiper, Gray-tailed Tattler, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone & Caspian Terns**.



The endemic race of Ring-necked Pheasant is particularly attractive (Charley Hesse)

On the way to the next site, we stopped at some flooded fields where we saw **Marsh, Wood & Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** and **Long-toed Stint**. It had been a full morning and we were slowly racking quite a good list of shorebirds. After lunch in Tainan, we checked in and after a short rest we went to the Yanshui river estuary where we had breeding-plumage **Lesser & Greater Sand-Plovers** side by side. The last site of the day was the Black-faced Spoonbill reserve at Qigu. On our way there we saw a **Black-shouldered Kite**; a common bird elsewhere in Asia but a rarity in Taiwan. The reserve itself held **Eurasian Wigeon**, just 2 **Black-faced Spoonbills**, **Black-bellied Plover**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Gray-tailed Tattler** and best of all, 2 **Far Eastern Curlews**. To finish the day we visited some flooded fields behind the reserve where we saw **Black-winged Stilt**, **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Kentish Plover**, **Broad-billed, Sharp-tailed** & some breeding-plumaged **Curlew Sandpipers**, **Common Redshank**, **Long-toed & Red-necked Stints**. On one last drive around the fields, we saw **Gray-throated Martin**, **Cinnamon Bittern**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Oriental Pratincole** and **Zitting Cisticola**. One of the best birds of the day though was a stunning male **Ring-necked Pheasant** strutting through a field.

23rd April –Tainan to Taitung

Today we were driving around the southern end of the island to the scenic and much quieter east coast. On the way we stopped in at the pleasant Shuangliu Forest Recreation Area to break up the drive. When we arrived we saw a pair of **Crested Serpent-Eagles** and a **Crested Goshawk** soaring above the hills. We parked and after trying for the endemic Taiwan Blue Magpie around the visitors centre we walked along the wide track upstream along the crystal clear river. Along here we saw a **Green Sandpiper**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Gray Wagtail** plus **Pacific Swallows** flying up and down. We saw one of our final endemics in the form of **Styan's Bulbul** although the first one we came across was hybridized with **Light-vented Bulbul**. We were following a lead from one of the local guides who I had chatted with about the blue magpie but we didn't find any. Every time I tried the tape, angry **Black Bulbuls** would fly in. We did see the endemic **Taiwan Barbet** plus some interesting reptiles and lots of beautiful butterflies. We went back to the visitors centre for lunch after which we continued our journey towards Taitung.



The Common Kingfisher is always a pleasure to see (Charley Hesse)

Just south of Taitung, we checked out the Zhiben grasslands which had been totally flooded and held little more than **Eastern Spot-billed Duck** and a few egrets. The nearby scrub land had **Lesser Coucal**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, many **Styan's Bulbuls**, **Taiwan Hwamei**, **House Swift** and flying over the beach, **Richard's Pipit**. We had a little bit of time left so we went to explore the Zhiben forest road. Here we saw **Taiwan Barbet**, plus **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Black Bulbul** and we heard a **White-bellied Erpornis**. We arrived at a stunning waterfall by the roadside which we enjoyed for a while before heading back down the hill. On the way down we heard **Plain & Fire-breasted Flowerpeckers**, but couldn't get any of them to come in. We went for an early dinner and afterwards settled into our quaint lodge.

24th April – Taitung to Lanyu

We were taking the early morning fast boat to the island of Lanyu (Orchid Island) off the east coast of Taiwan. Culturally it is a very different place from Taiwan and has many unique aboriginal customs. The boat took about 2 and a half hours and we were soon disembarking at the port where we were met by someone from our hotel with our rental car. After settling in to our hotel, we had some lunch and a rest before heading out in the afternoon for our first birding. We drove north along the coast, spotting a **Common Kingfisher**, several **Little Egrets** and our first **Pacific Reef-Heron** along the jagged, volcanic coast. We stopped at a small bridge over a forested stream. It was quite a productive spot and we saw several of our targets, including **Whistling Green-Pigeon**, **Brown-eared Bulbul**, **Lowland White-eye**, **Gray-streaked Flycatcher** and possible **Cook's Swifts**. We continued along the road spotting some common species, like **Brown Shrike**, **Blue Rock-Thrush**, **Gray Wagtail** and large flocks of **Cattle Egrets**. I also spotted a **Chinese Pond-Heron** in flight. Our main birding site for the afternoon held the mouth-watering **Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher** which we found quickly. **Philippine Cuckoo-Doves** were also common here but we only heard the endemic race of **Ryukyu Scops-Owl** which we would look for again tonight. On the way out we also saw our first **White-breasted Waterhen** in a flooded Taro field before we drove back to our hotel. After dinner, we went to a stakeout for the **Ryukyu (Lanyu) Scops-Owl**. We heard them calling but despite our efforts they wouldn't come in. We continued searching the forest edge along the road and soon found a responsive bird that flew right in offering great views.



The philippensis race of Blue Rock-Thrush is a common sight along Lanyu's coast (Charley Hesse)

25th April – Lanyu to Hualien

With all the targets in the bag, we rewarded ourselves with a slightly later breakfast, and a casual drive around the island. We saw many of the same birds as yesterday, including **Little & Cattle Egrets**, **Pacific Reef-Heron**, **Cook's Swift**, **Brown Shrike**, **Brown-eared Bulbul**, **Lowland White-eye**, **Blue Rock-Thrush** and **Barn & Pacific Swallows**. We also saw the spectacular **Magellan Birdwing**; a large, black and yellow butterfly found nowhere else on Taiwan. Today though, the emphasis was more on enjoying the scenic beauty of the island. We had several stops to take photos of the scenery and some of the interesting volcanic rock formations around the island. We went to our favourite restaurant for lunch and relaxed before our afternoon boat ride back to Taitung. The return trip was quicker, and we were soon back in our regular vehicle and on our way to Hualien where we spent the night.

26th April - Taroko to Qingjing

The Taroko Gorge is spectacular and one of the most popular tourist sites on Taiwan. The Chinese Nationalist army built a road up in the 1950's and 226 soldiers died in the process. Later in the morning, it gets full of tourist buses with mainland Chinese, so we left early to get ahead of the rush. We had a couple of stops to take scenery photos and had our first birding stop at a striking red bridge over one of the river's tributaries. Here we saw **Brown Dipper**, **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush**, **Plumbeous Redstart**, **Pacific Swift** and nearby our first **White-bellied Erpornis**. The many tunnels had nesting Pacific Swallows in them. We left the gorge, but continued climbing and the mountain scenery was just as spectacular. Here we picked up **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Large-billed Crow**, **White-eared Sibia** and had great views of the dapper **Little Forktail** on a waterfall, a pick up by Diane. Further on still, we had a soaring **Crested Serpent-Eagle** and several **Morrison's Fulvettas**.

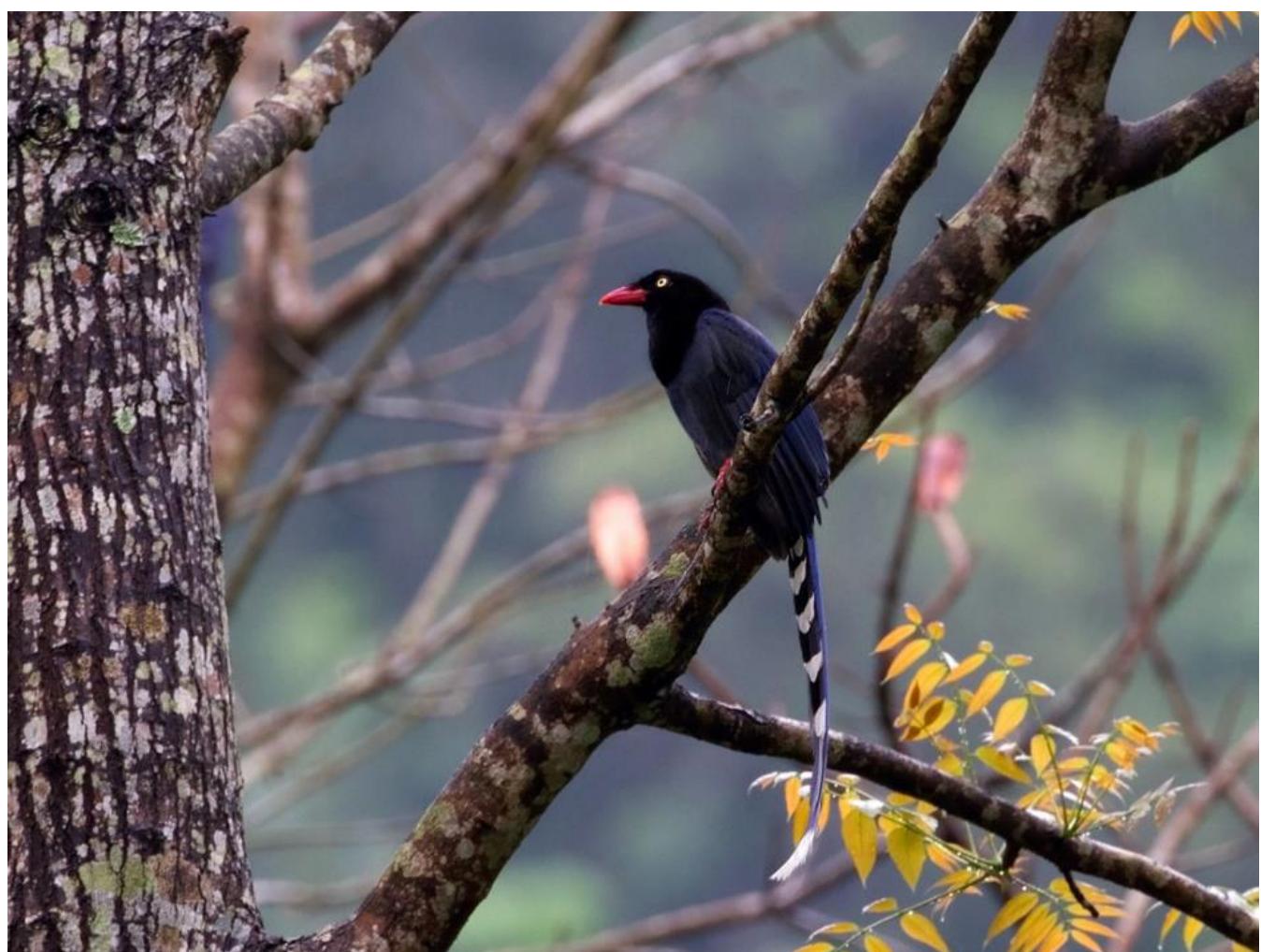


This Little Forktail uncharacteristically posed for photos (Charley Hesse)

As we climbed higher, the bird communities changed composition, and we were soon back to our familiar high elevation birds. At a quick stop at the information centre near the top, we saw **Oriental Cuckoo**, plus confiding **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** and **Collared Bush-Robin**. The highest point in the road, in fact the highest road anywhere in East Asia, is the Wuling Pass, which crosses the mountains at an altitude of 3,275m (10,745ft). This is the domain of the widespread **Alpine Accentor**, although the endemic subspecies here is particularly attractive. It was cold and misty in the parking lot, but it wasn't long before we had located a pair. There were also a couple of **Taiwan Rosefinches** hopping about. Having found the accentors, we didn't hang about, but started our drive down the other side. We made it to our lodge for lunch after which we had a rest before heading out for some afternoon birding. The famous Blue Gate trail, up from Qingjing held some great birds. We had many mixed species flocks, including **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Taiwan Yuhina** and **White-eared Sibias**, plus another look at **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, but our target White-browed Shortwing was silent. I flushed a couple of **Taiwan Partridges**, but they were gone before you could say 'Jack Robinson' and nobody else saw them. At night we enjoyed some hearty food at a local hotspot restaurant.

27th April – Huisun Forest & Qingjing

This morning we drove to Huisun in search of the endemic **Taiwan Blue-Magpie**. After an hour's drive, we arrived at the gate. As I paid our entries fees, one of the clients spotted a family of **Taiwan Blue-Magpies** up in the trees. We parked and got out to look at them in the scope. One bird was sat on the nest and the others nearby in the trees. It was overcast and drizzly, so the light wasn't great, but we still had good views. After watching them, we heard a **Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge** calling nearby but it was staying well hidden. We continued driving into the reserve and passed some grassy lawns on the way where **Malayan Night-Herons** were busy hunting for worms. Our next major target here was the endemic subspecies of **Varied Tit** which has been split by the IOC as the Chestnut-bellied Tit. Let's hope ebird/Clements follows suit. We searched for the tit but only saw **Pale Thrush**, **Bronzed Drongo** and **Black Bulbul**. The **Varied Tit** finally flew in and sung from the top of the trees long enough for us all to have decent scope views. Our job here was done and we set off stopping briefly at the gate to have more views of the magpies in much better light.



Taiwan Blue-Magpie is Taiwan's national bird (Charley Hesse)

On the drive we had a lucky **Emerald Dove** flying across the road in front of us before we made it to a temple in the town of Puli. Here our target was the bright red version of **Maroon Oriole** which is also a possible split. We walked up into the garden filled with Buddha statues. We saw a few common birds, including **Malayan Night-Heron**, **Taiwan Barbet**, **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Black Bulbul** and **Japanese White-eye** before I heard a **Maroon Oriole** calling. I located it in the top of a tree to see it was a young male with quite a funky colour scheme. We also had a mystery *Phylloscopus* warbler until it sang and identified itself as **Arctic Warbler**. We drove back up to Qingjing for lunch and in the afternoon we went back out to the forest trails, upslope. One bird that some people were still missing was the endemic subspecies of **White-browed Shortwing**. On today's trail they were vocal and responsive and we all had great looks at a singing bird. We had the usual array of **Yellow & Black-throated Tits**, **Morrison's Fulvetta** and **Steere's Liocichla** before we called it a day and went back for dinner

28th April – Qingjing to Alishan, via Yushan National Park

We went up first thing to try the same trail as yesterday for Island Thrush but no luck. We did see **Black-throated Tit**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **White-eared Sibia** and **Steere's Liocichla**. I also heard a **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** which had eluded us up until now. We went closer and a couple of people saw the bird at the top of a tree before it flew off. We heard **Taiwan Partridges** calling by the roadside but they refused to come any closer so we went for breakfast back at the hotel. We packed up the vehicle and started a 2 hour drive to Yushan National Park. Yu-shan is literally ‘Jade Mountain’ when translated. It was our last high elevation birding and our best and last chance for the tough **Golden Parrotbill**. We drove pretty much straight to the top and began our search. We saw the usual suspects of **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Taiwan Rosefinch**, **Black-throated Tit** and **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler** as well as a few more interesting ones like **Taiwan Fulvetta & Spotted Nutcracker**, the latter which showed very well. I finally heard the parrotbills calling and managed to coax them in. After a picnic lunch, we started driving down. There was a big flock of **Asian House-Martin** plus surprise **Oriental Honey-buzzard** and **Black Eagle**. A bigger surprise was seeing a pair of **Mikado Pheasants** by the side of the road. We also stopped to photograph a group of **Formosan Rock Macaques** further down.



Swinhoe's Pheasant is one of the top birds of the tour (Charley Hesse)

There was one endemic left that the clients hadn't seen yet, and our last real chance to see **Taiwan Partridge** was at a viewing blind set up by our lodge owner at Alishan. After dropping our bags at the lodge, the guy took us up the steep forest roads in his small 4x4 truck. We then walked down a steep trail to the viewing blind and made ourselves comfortable. The **Taiwan Partridges** showed very briefly and most people got on them. We were told later that a Crested Goshawk sometimes perches above the blind and may have been preventing them from coming in. Afterwards, we did get amazing views of **Swinhoe's Pheasant**, which stuck around for a while. We also saw **Taiwan Barbet** and **Steere's Liocichla** before the owner came to pick us up. We went into the village for dinner, after which we did a spot of owling. Fireflies were out in force which were quite a sight. A **Collared Scops-Owl** finally came in and showed well. On the way back, we also found an **Indian Giant Flying-Squirrel** up in a huge tree which it very cooperatively glided out of for us. We tried the **Mountain Scops-Owl** near the hotel. We got them close but they wouldn't show themselves, and in the end we called it a day.

29th April – Alishan to Huben

We had a nice breakfast in the garden, and watched some **Green-backed Tits** attracted to moths brought in by lights during the night. We packed up, said goodbye to our hosts, and set off down the winding road. By a stream in the nearby village, we saw **Taiwan Whisling-Thrush** perched on a roof and **Plumbeous Redstart** on a wire. Further on we stopped briefly at some forest edge where I called in a **Dusky Fulvettas** for our best views yet. Further on, there was a nice patch of activity where we saw **Rusty Laughingthrush, Morrison's Fulvettas** and **Rufous-capped Babblers**. We even heard **Taiwan Partridge** calling nearby but we couldn't persuade them to come in. Alishan is a very famous tea-growing area, and there was a constant stream of tourist buses coming the other way. We saw a few **Striped Swallows** along the road before we jumped onto the highway and towards our final site, Huben. We arrived mid-morning and we went around sites I had seen the pittas in the past, but all we saw were **Bronzed Drongo** and **Grey Treepie**. We expanded the search to nearby hills where we finally got lucky and heard a **Fairy Pitta** calling. We tried everything to see the bird, which was calling from the nearby trees, but it wouldn't come out. We had found a territory though and still had this afternoon and tomorrow morning to get views. We came back in the afternoon but unfortunately there was no sign. Just **Black-naped Monarch**, **Collared Finchbill** and **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**. Tomorrow was our last chance.



Plumbeous Redstart are usually found near mountain streams (Charley Hesse)

30th April – Huben to Taipei

The plan was to go to the same site early and have a field breakfast. On the drive, an **Emerald Dove** flushed off the road. We arrived at the **Fairy Pitta** spot and after a short while heard one calling way up on the adjacent hill. Fortunately it came down to play but was up to the same tricks as yesterday. Finally we got a fly over from one side of the narrow, forested valley to the other. We saw the size and shape of the bird, but it was a definite BVD. 'Better View Desired'. We celebrated our partial success with our last field breakfast. Nearby we saw **Black-naped Monarch**, **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**, **Taiwan Barbet** and **Bronzed Drongo** imitating Japanese Sparrowhawk. After brekkie we knuckled back down to the serious business of obtaining better views. First we relocated it a little further up the valley and managed a much better flight view. We saw it flying towards us against the dark valley background, meaning this time we saw the colours in their full glory. Yellow belly, shining blue above with white wing patches. That was as well as we were going to do and we were happy. All that remained now was to drive north to Taipei and enjoy our last lunch together before saying goodbye to each other and this beautiful island.

Bird list

Taxonomy follows ebird/Clements online checklist. Updated Aug 2015

DUCKS, GEESE and SWANS: Anatidae

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Seen at Aogu & Qigu.

Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha*

Seen at Shigang, Aogu & Zhiben.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Seen at Aogu.

PHEASANTS and PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae

Taiwan Partridge *Arborophila crudigularis*

Near-threatened. Seen at Qingjing & Alishan. Heard at Dasyueshan & Taroko.

endemic

Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge *Bambusicola sonorivox*

Seen at Daxueshan. Heard at Shimen Dam, Shuangliu, Zhiben, Huisun, Qingjing, Alishan & Huben.

endemic

Mikado Pheasant *Syrmaticus mikado*

Near-threatened. Seen at Daxueshan & Yushan.

endemic

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus formosanus*

Seen at Qigu & heard at Zhiben.

endemic subspecies

Swinhoe's Pheasant *Lophura swinhoii*

Near-threatened. Seen at Daxueshan & Alishan,

endemic

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen at Aogu & Qigu.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Seen at Aogu.

HERONS, EGRETS and BITTERNS: Ardeidae

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Seen at Qigu.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seen at Jinshan, Shimen, Aogu & Zhiben.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

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

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Seen at Aogu.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*

Endangered. Seen at Aogu.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Commonly seen in aquatic habitats throughout.

Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra*

Seen on Lanyu.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Commonly seen throughout.

Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Seen by the guide on Lanyu.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shigang, Aogu & Qigu.

Malayan Night-Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*

Seen at Taipei botanical gardens, Huisun & Puli.

IBISES and SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Introduced. Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*

Endangered. Seen at Bazhang river mouth & Qigu.

HAWKS, EAGLES and KITES: Accipitridae

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Seen at Riverside Park & Qigu.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Seen at Yushan.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela hoya*

endemic subspecies

Seen at most forest sites. This is a distinctive subspecies and potential split.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

Seen at Daxueshan and Yushan.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus formosae*

endemic subspecies

Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens, Daxueshan, Shuangliu & Huisun.

RAILS, GALLINULES and COOTS: Rallidae

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus taiwanus*

endemic subspecies

Seen at Aogu.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Seen on Lanyu.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*

Heard at Qigu.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at Taipei botanical gardens, Riverside Park, Aogu, Qigu & Zhiben.

CRANES: Gruidae

Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*

Critically endangered. Seen at Jinshan.

AVOCETS and STILTS: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Seen at Jinshan, Aogu & Qigu.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Seen at Aogu.

PLOVERS and LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Seen at Qigu.

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Seen at Aogu & Qigu.

Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Seen at Tainan & Qigu.

Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Seen at Tainan.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Seen at Aogu & Qigu.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Seen at Riverside Park & Shigang.

SANDPIPERs: Scolopacidae

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Seen at Aogu & Bazhang.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Seen at Daxueshan & Shuangliu.	
Gray-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
Seen at Bazhang, Aogu & Qigu.	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Seen at Jinshan & Aogu.	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Seen at Jinshan & Aogu.	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Seen at Riverside Park, Jinshan & Aogu.	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Seen at Aogu.	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Seen at Aogu.	
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Near-threatened. Seen at Qogu.	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Near-threatened. Seen at Bazhang River mouth.	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Seen at Bazhang River mouth.	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>
Seen at Qigu,	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Seen at Aogu & Qigu.	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Seen at Aogu & Qigu.	
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
Seen at Qigu,	
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
Seen at Riverside Park & Aogu.	

PRATINCOLES: Glareolidae

Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
Seen at Qigu.	

GULLS & TERNS: Laridae

Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Seen at Qigu.	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Seen at Aogu.	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Seen at Qigu,	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Seen at Aogu & Qigu,	
Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Seen at Qigu.	

PIGEONS and DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Introduced. Commonly seen in urban areas throughout.	
Ashy Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba pulchricollis</i>
Seen at Daxueshan.	
Oriental Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis orii</i>
Seen at Daxueshan.	endemic subspecies
Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
Seen at Daxueshan, Aogu & Huben.	

Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	
Commonly seen at most sites.		
Philippine Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia tenuirostris</i>	
Seen on Lanyu.		
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	
Seen at Huisun & Huben. Heard on Lanyu.		
White-bellied Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>	
Seen at Daxueshan & heard at Huisun.		
Whistling Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron formosae formosae</i>	endemic subspecies
Near-threatened. Seen on Lanyu.		

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

Large Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>	
Heard at Daxueshan.		
Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	
Seen at Daxueshan & Hehuanshan.		

OWLS: Strigidae

Mountain Scops-Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus hambroecki</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen briefly at Daxueshan & heard at Alishan.		
Collared Scops-Owl	<i>Otus lettia glabripes</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Alishan.		
Ryukyu (Lanyu) Scops-Owl	<i>Otus elegans botelensis</i>	endemic subspecies
Near-threatened. Potential split. Seen on Lanyu.		
Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei pardalotum</i>	endemic subspecies
Heard at Daxueshan.		
Himalayan Owl	<i>Strix nivicola yamadae</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis stictomus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Dongshi & Douliu. Heard at Taitung & Hualien.		

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Silver-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis formosanus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Taroko.		
Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	
Seen at Daxueshan & Taroko.		
[Cook's Swift	<i>Apus cooki]</i>	
According to distribution notes on the ebird/Clement's list. Cook's Swift occurs on Lanyu.		
House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis kuntzi</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Shigang, Aogu & Zhiben.		

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens, Aogu, Qigu, Shuangliu & Lanyu.		

ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae

Taiwan Barbet	<i>Megalaima nuchalis</i>	endemic
Seen or heard at most lowland & mid-elevation forest sites.		

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Gray-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	
Seen at Daxueshan, Zhiben & Puli. Heard at Shuangliu.		

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos insularis* endemic subspecies

Seen at Daxueshan.

Gray-faced Woodpecker *Picus canus*

Heard at Daxueshan.

FALCONS: Falconidae

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Seen at Riverside Park & Shimen.

PITTAS: Pittidae

Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha*

Vulnerable. Seen at Huben.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae

Gray-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*

Seen at Daxueshan, Zhiben forest, Taroko & Qingjing.

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Seen at Riverside Park, Zhiben & Lanyu.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Seen at Aogu & Zhiben.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*

Seen at Taroko & heard at Zhiben forest.

ORIOLES: Oriolidae

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii ardens*

Seen at Puli. This is a very distinctive subspecies and potential split. endemic subspecies

DRONGOS: Dicruridae

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus harterti*

Commonly seen in open areas. endemic subspecies

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus braunianus*

Seen at Daxueshan, Huisun & Huben. endemic subspecies

MONARCH-FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea oberholseri*

Seen at Daxueshan, Zhiben forest & Huben. Heard at Puli. endemic subspecies

Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata*

Near-threatened. Seen on Lanyu.

CROWS: Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius taivanus*

Seen at Daxueshan. endemic subspecies

Taiwan Blue-Magpie *Urocissa caerulea*

Seen at Huisun. endemic

Gray Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae formosae*

Commonly seen throughout. endemic subspecies

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Seen at Riverside Park, Shimen & Qigu.

Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes owstoni*

Seen at Daxueshan & Yushan. endemic subspecies

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Seen at Shimen, Daxueshan, Taroko, Huisun & Yushan.

LARKS: Alaudidae

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
 Seen at Shigang & Qigu.

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis*
 Seen at Shigang, Aogu & Qigu.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
 Commonly seen throughout.
Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
 Commonly seen throughout.
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica japonica*
 Seen in Taitung.
Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*
 Seen in Aogu & Alishan.
Asian House-Martin *Delichon dasypus*
 Seen at Daxueshan, Huisun & Yushan.

TITS: Paridae

Varied (Chestnut-bellied) Tit	<i>Poecile varius castaneoventris</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Huisun. This is a very distinctive subspecies and potential split. Already split by IOC.		
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater ptilosus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan & heard at Yushan.		
Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus insperatus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan, Qingjing & Alishan.		
Yellow Tit	<i>Parus holsti</i>	endemic subspecies
Near-threatened. Seen at Daxueshan & Qingjing.		

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*
 Seen at Daxueshan, Qingjing & Yushan.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
 Seen at Daxueshan.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*
 Seen at Daxueshan & Taroko.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae

Collared Finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques cinereicapillus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan & Huben.		
Styan's Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus taivanus</i>	endemic
Vulnerable. Seen at Shuangliu & Zhiben forest.		
Light-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis formosae</i>	endemic subspecies
Commonly seen in the lowlands of the north and west.		
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus nigerrimus</i>	endemic subspecies
Commonly seen throughout.		
Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis harterti</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen on Lanyu.		

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Flamecrest *Regulus goodfellowi*
 Seen at Daxueshan & heard at Yushan.

CUPWINGS: Pnoepygidae

Taiwan Cupwing *Pnoepyga formosana* endemic
 Seen at Daxueshan. Heard at Qingjing & Yushan.

BUSH-WARBLERS: Cettidae

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*
 Seen at Daxueshan.
Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Horornis fortipes robustipes* endemic subspecies
 Seen at Daxueshan. This is a distinctive subspecies and potential split.
Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler *Horornis acanthizoides concolor* endemic subspecies
 Seen at Daxueshan. Heard at Hehuanshan & Yushan.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Seen at Puli.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae

Oriental Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*
 Heard at Aogu.

GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES: Locustellidae

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

CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	
Seen at Qigu & Zhiben.		
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis volitans</i>	endemic subspecies
Heard at Qigu & Zhiben.		
Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera striata</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	
Seen at Riverside Park, Jinshan, Shigang & Zhiben.	Heard at Aogu.	
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata flavirostris</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan, Aogu & Zhiben.	Heard at Riverside Park.	

PARROTBILLS & ALLIES: Paradoxornithidae

Taiwan Fulvetta	<i>Fulvetta formosana</i>	endemic
Seen at Daxueshan & Yushan.		
Vinous-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis webbianus bulomachus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		
Golden Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis verreauxi morrisonianus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Yushan.		

YUHNAS, WHITE-EYES & ALLIES: Zosteropidae

Taiwan Yuhina	<i>Yuhina brunneiceps</i>	endemic
Seen at Daxueshan, Qingjing & Alishan.		
Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	
Seen at Taipei Botanical Gardens, Daxueshan & Huisun.	Heard at Aogu.	
Lowland White-eye	<i>Zosterops meyeni</i>	
Seen on Lanyu.		

BABBLERS: Timaliidae

Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma ruficeps praecognitum</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan & Huben.	Heard at Shuangliu, Zhiben & Qingjing.	
Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus musicus</i>	endemic
Seen at Daxueshan & Huben.	Heard at Shuangliu.	

Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler *Megapomatorhinus erythroclemis* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan. Heard at Shimen & Alishan.

FULVETTAS & GROUND BABBLERS: Pellorneidae

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

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES: Leiothrichidae

Morrison's Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan, Shuangliu, Taroko, Qingjing & Alishan.

Taiwan Hwamei *Garrulax taewanus* **endemic**
Near-threatened. Seen at Daxueshan & Zhiben.

Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ruficeps* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan.

Rusty Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla poecilorhynchos* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan & Alishan.

White-whiskered Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron morrisonianum* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan, Hehuanshan & Yushan.

White-eared Sibia *Heterophasia auricularis* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan, Taroko, Qingjing & Alishan.

Steere's Liocichla *Liocichla steerii* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan, Hehuanshan, Qingjing & Alishan, Heard at Taroko.

Taiwan Barwing *Actinodura morrisoniana* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan.

FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
Seen at Taipei Botanical Garden.

Gray-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*
Seen on Lanyu.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea*
Seen at Daxueshan & Qingjing.

Vivid Niltava *Niltava v. vivida* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Daxueshan. This is a distinctive subspecies and potential split.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana goodfellowi* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Daxueshan & Qingjing. This is a distinctive subspecies and potential split.

Taiwan Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus insularis* **endemic**
Seen at Daxueshan, Taroko & Alishan,

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri fortis* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Daxueshan & Hehuanshan.

White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum montium* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Daxueshan & Qingjing, Heard at Taroko.

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

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

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra innexa* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Daxueshan & Qingjing.

Plumbeous Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosa affinis* **endemic subspecies**
Seen at Daxueshan, Taroko & Alishan.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius philippensis*
Seen on Lanyu.

THRUSHES & ALLIES: Turdidae

Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus*
Seen at Huisun.

STARLINGS : Sturnidae

Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	
Introduced.	Commonly seen in the lowlands.	
Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	
Introduced.	Commonly seen in the lowlands.	
Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus formosanus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Riverside Park.		
Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>	
Introduced.	Seen at Riverside Park.	

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectum formosum</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Qingjing & heard at Zhiben forest.		
Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum uchidai</i>	endemic subspecies
Heard at Zhiben forest.		

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae

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

WAGTAILS and PIPITS: Motacillidae

Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis taivana</i>	
Seen at Riverside Park & Qigu.		
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
Seen at Shuangliu & Lanyu.		
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
Seen at Shigang & Huisun.		
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	
Seen at Zhiben.		

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

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

FINCHES, SISKINS, CROSSBILLS: Fringillidae

Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis uchidae</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		
Gray-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca owstoni</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan. This is a distinctive subspecies and potential split.		
Taiwan Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus formosanus</i>	endemic
Seen at Daxueshan, Hehuanshan & Yushan.		

SPARROWS: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
Commonly seen throughout.		

WAXBILLS and ALLIES: Estrildidae

White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	
Seen at Daxueshan.		
Nutmeg Mannikin	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	
Seen at Aogu.		

Mammal list

Taxonomy follows en.wikipedia.org

OLD WORLD MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae

Formosan Rock Macaque	<i>Macaca cyclopis</i>	endemic
Seen at Daxueshan, Yushan & Huben.		

SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae

Red-and-white Flying-Squirrel	<i>Petaurista alborufus lena</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		
Indian Giant Flying-Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis grandis</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Huben.		
Maritime Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops maritimus formosanus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		
Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi owstoni</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		
Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus taiwanensis</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Taipei botanical gardens & Huben.		

WEASELS: Mustelidae

Siberian Weasel	<i>Mustela sibirica taivana</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen briefly at Daxueshan.		
Chinese Ferret-Badger	<i>Melogale moschata subaurantiaca</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		

DEER: Cervidae

Reeve's Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi micrurus</i>	endemic subspecies
Seen at Daxueshan.		

BOVIDS: Bovidae

Formosan Serow	<i>Capricornis swinhoei</i>	endemic
Seen at Daxueshan.		

Reptile list

Taxonomy follows 台灣兩棲爬行類圖鑑 (2009)

AGAMAS: Agamidae

Swinhoe's Japalura	<i>Japalura swinhonis</i>	endemic
Seen at Shuangliu, Lanyu & Huben.		

GECKOS: Gekkonidae

Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Heard at Alishan.	

SKINKS: Scincidae

Brown Forest Skink	<i>Sphenomorphus incognitus</i>
Seen at Shuangliu.	
Formosan Chinese Skink	<i>Plestiodon chinensis formosensis</i>
Seen on Lanyu	

Amphibian list

Taxonomy follows 台灣兩棲爬行類圖鑑 (2009)

TOADS: Bufonidae

Speckled Toad **Bufo melanostictus**
Seen on Daxueshan.

FROGS: Ranidae

Japanese Buerger's Frog **Buergeria japonica**
Seen at Huben.

Butterfly List

Taxonomy follows 台灣蝴蝶大圖鑑 (2013) The photographic book of all butterflies in Taiwan

SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLIES: Papilionidae

Magellan Birdwing	<i>Troides magellanus sonani</i>
Common Windmill	<i>Byasa polyeuctes polyeuctes</i>
Common Bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon connectensL</i>
Lesser Mime	<i>Chilasa epycides melanoleucus</i>
Spangle	<i>Papilio protenor protenor</i>
Chinese Peacock	<i>Papilio bionor kotoensis</i>
Paris Peacock	<i>Papilio hermosanus</i>

PIERID BUTTERFLIES: Pieridae

Himalayan White-streaked Jezebel	<i>Delias lativitta formosanus</i>
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae crucivora</i>
Plain Puffin	<i>Appias indra aristoxemis</i>
Great Orange Tip	<i>Hebomoia glaucippe formosana</i>
Scalloped Grass-yellow	<i>Eurema alitha esakii</i>

MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES: Danaidae

Glassy Tiger	<i>Parantica aglea maghaba</i>
Paper Kite	<i>Idea leuconoe clara</i>

SATYRS & WOOD-NYMPHS: Satyridae

Taiwan Wave-eye	<i>Ypthima multistriata</i>
White Fourring	<i>Ypthima esakii</i>
Angled Red Forester	<i>Lethe chandica ratnaeri</i>
Black-spotted Labyrinth	<i>Neope muirheadi nagasawai</i>
South China Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis zonata</i>
Common Palmfly	<i>Elymnias hypermnestra hainana</i>

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES: Nymphalidae

The Rustic	<i>Cupha erymanthis</i>
Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias aenaria</i>
Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina kezia</i>
Sullied Sailor	<i>Neptis soma tayalina</i>
Five-dot Sergeant	<i>Limenitis sulpitia tricula</i>
Common Mapwing	<i>Cyrestis thydomas formosana</i>
Yellow Emperor	<i>Chitoria chrysolona</i>

GOSSAMER-WINGED BUTTERFLIES: Lycaenidae

Restricted Purple Sapphire	<i>Heliosphorus ila matsumurae</i>
Transparent Six-line Blue	<i>Nacaduba kurava therasia</i>
Taiwan Black Cupid	<i>Tongeia hainani</i>
Metallic Hedge Blue	<i>Callenia melaena shonen</i>

BUTTERFLY GALLERY

(All photos taken on this tour)



Byasa polyeuctes



Chilasa epycides



Papilio protenor



Papilio bionor



Delias lativitta



Pieris rapae



Appias indra



Eurema alitha



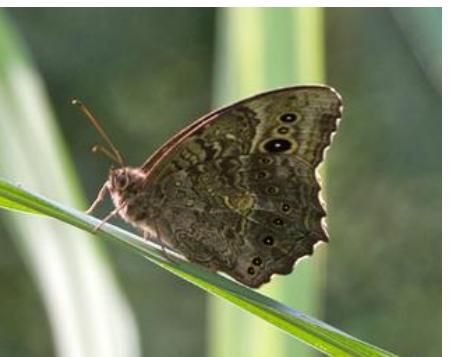
Ypthima multistriata



Ypthima esakii



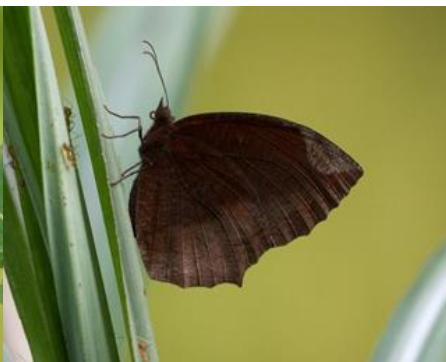
Lethe chandica



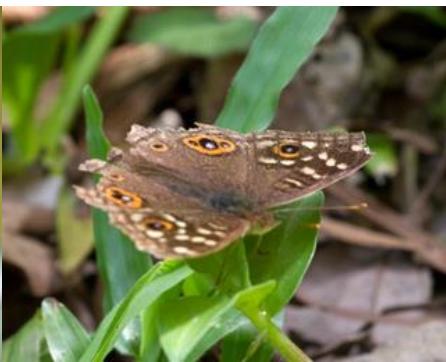
Neope muirheadi



Mycalesis zonata



Elymnias hypermnestra



Junonia lemonias



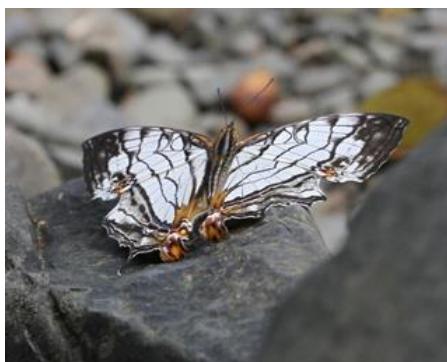
Hypolimnas bolina



Neptis soma



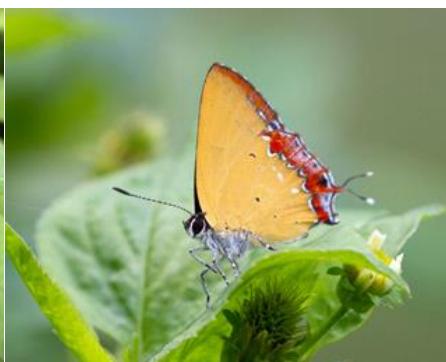
Limenitis sulpitia



Cyrestis thyodamas



Chitoria chrysolona



Heliophorus ila



Nacaduba kurava



Tongeia hainani



Callenya melaena