

Report of a Birding Trip to

Taiwan

from 27 April to 8 May 2017

Participants:

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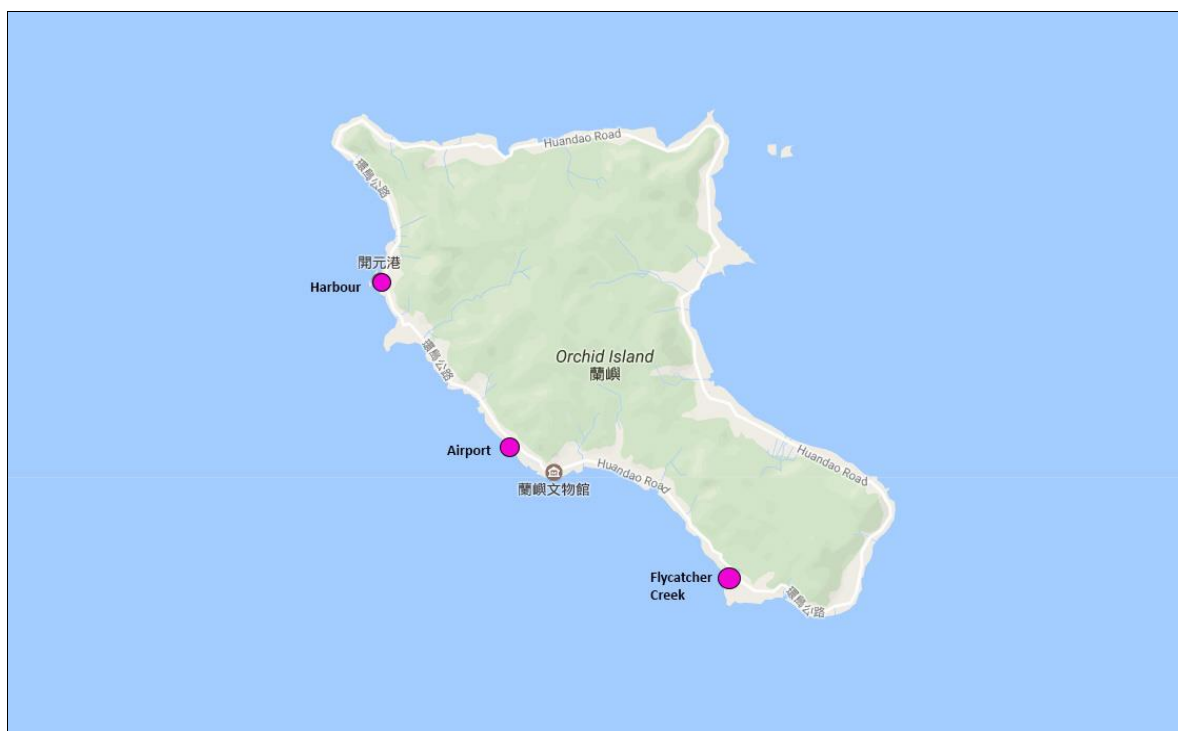


Taiwan Thrush (*Turdus niveiceps*), 30 April 2017, Dasyueshan National Forest Recreation Area; © Jan van der Laan.

Maps



Map of Taiwan with places we visited.



Lanyu Island.

Introduction

In 2017 we thought it was time for some comfort and good birds, so Taiwan was the place to go. Moreover, we learned that the Fairy Pitta population in the world was decreasing rapidly and Taiwan seems to be the best place for this species. Again, like in 2016, we went in the last week of April, a time good for endemics and Fairy Pitta. We booked a cheap ticket for € 521.96 with China Airlines, with the Amsterdam-Taipei part flown by KLM. We rented a car for € 571.56 at AVIS with 400 free Km each day. We booked our hotels at booking.com, but for the Snow Mountain lodge you can only book at [their site](#) which is in Chinese and rooms are quickly gone and can be reserved 30 days in advance only.

Itinerary

- 27 April** Again like in 2016, Arjan took the train from Culemborg and I was brought by my family from Alkmaar to Schiphol, **Amsterdam**. We arrived almost at the same time at 17:30. The drop-off for the luggage went smoothly and at the KLM counter we were able to upgrade our seats to economy plus (€ 72). At 20:45 we boarded the KL807 and the seats were indeed more comfortable, with plenty of room for my long legs. I watched three movies, amongst them the gruesome Brimstone. Arjan slept almost the entire journey.
- 28 April** We arrived at **Taipei** at around 15:30. We went immediately to the Avis counter where we were expected and our car turned out to be a nice Volkswagen Polo. We drove to a [grassy area](#) southwest of the airport what was supposed to be a good place for Golden-headed Cisticola. The only birds we saw were Black Drongo, Light-vented Bulbul, Zitting Cisticola and Plain Prinia. Next we went to a place where the day before Black-faced Spoonbills were observed. While looking for this place we noticed a pond with Black-headed Ibises. We stopped, but the ibises flew away and there were no spoonbills around. During this search we found a pair of Golden-headed Cisticolas. With an hour daylight to go we went to the Black-faced Spoonbill place [near Hsinchu](#) which we got from E-bird. It was a small pond next to a secondary road, full of herons and stints. We scanned every bird carefully. We found Sharp-tailed, Marsh, Common, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, House Swifts, a lone Himalayan Swiftlet (a vagrant!), Grey Wagtail, Little and Intermediate Egrets and lots of Eastern Cattle Egrets. When it became too dark to identify any spoonbill we drove to Taichung and reached around 19:30 the [Grand City Hotel](#) in **Fengyuan** (€ 86 per night). We had dinner and a (large) beer and went to sleep at around 22:00 hours.
- 29 April** We were awake at around 5:00 hours and were shocked it was already getting light. We had promised ourselves to have a good breakfast, but the kitchen opened only at 6:30. We ate our breakfast as quickly as possible and left the hotel at around 6:45 with the sun already shining! The TomTom navigation system sent us on many secondary roads and there was no option to choose between secondary and less secondary roads. But in 30 minutes we arrived at our first stake-out at **Lane 727 of the Dongkeng Road**, near Km 4 for Taiwan Hwamei. We quickly heard a Hwamei singing, but it took us some effort to get the birds (a pair) into view. Other birds seen were Crested Serpent Eagle, Collared Finchbill, Brown Shrike, Crested Goshawk, Plain Prinia and we heard Taiwan Barbet and Taiwan Bamboo Partridge. Just before the bridge to the main connecting road, there suddenly was some bird activity with a Hwamei next to the car and a pair of Vinous-throated Parrotbills in the orchards. Next stop was near **Km 15** near the police station where there is a small bridge crossing a stream, supposed to be good for Brown Dipper. Within seconds we found the dipper together with Plumbeous Redstart, Dusky Fulvetta, Rufous-capped Babbler and the first Steere's Liocichlas. We continued birding along the road between Km 20 and Km 37 with White-tailed Redstarts, White-cheeked Sibia, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, Taiwan Yuhina and Rufous-faced Warbler. We checked in at the Visitor Centre of the **Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area** and we learned the reservation for the **Snow Mountain Lodge**

was received (105 € for the 1st night, € 68 for the 2nd night). Also we heard that the road to Km 47 and beyond was off limits from Km 43.2. A blow for us, since we put a lot of emphasis on finding the birds here for the next three days. We dropped our bags in the hotel room and checked the forest around the hotel. Taiwan Vivid Niltava, Ferruginous Flycatcher and Green-backed Tit were quickly found, but a Taiwan Cupwing refused to show itself. We waited an hour or so for the Mikado Pheasant to turn up at the **Police Station at Km 42**, but we thought there were too many people around and talking too loudly. We ended the day at **Forest Road 210**, where we were successful with White-backed Woodpecker and the mysterious Taiwan Scaly Thrush. We had two birds defending a territory and we obtained some pictures. Also here were Reeves' Muntjac, Taiwan Serow and Taiwanese Macaque. We were just in time for dinner (kitchen closes at 19:00 hours) and at 20:30 hours we went to bed.

30 April In the early morning we checked the Police Station again for the Mikado Pheasant, but besides Collared Owlet and our first Ashy Woodpigeon there were the same noisy people as the day before, so we drove quickly to the **waterfall at Km 41** to see if the Little Forktail would show up. The waterfall was devoid of birds, so we drove back to the Police station. A male Swinhoe's Pheasant crossed the road in panic, but long enough for us to appreciate its beauty. At the **Police Station** the waiting crowd had become even noisier, so we gave up on the place and decide to drive to Forest Road 210. At around **Km 37** however we heard from the car a thrush-like song and immediately after stopping the car we discovered a beautiful singing male Taiwan Thrush high up in a tree! We could take several pictures (see front cover) and eventually the bird was chased away by another male Taiwan Thrush! Next we birded the **Forest Road 210** again. Best birds were (again!) two male Taiwan Thrushes, three secretive and silent Rufous-capped Laughingthrushes (the only-ones we saw this holiday), Steere's Liocichla and another Taiwan Serow. While walking back we discovered a Taiwan Barwing in a small group of White-eared Sibia's. Also here were Green-backed Tit, Black-throated Tits, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, Taiwan Barbet, the local race of Snowy-browed Flycatcher and a female White-backed Woodpecker. After this visit we drove back to the **Visitor Centre** to buy some food and drinks, get information about the walking trail to Km 49.5 and to have a coke. At 10:30 we started to walk to **Km 43.2** where indeed a gate was blocking the road. We climbed the **National Trail** (starts at Km 43.2) and kept directions to the right (the first left is to the so-called Skid Trail). The trail is quite steep and consists almost totally of stairs and it is meant to walk the trail while descending and not for ascending. When the first pine trees appeared we knew we had to watch for Flamecrest and indeed these birds were quickly found. Then the bamboo zone starts and where the trail levelled we found two Taiwan Barwings, Taiwan Bush Robin and Yellow-bellied Warbler. Eventually the trail started to climb very steeply and at that point we found Taiwan Fulvetta that came within a distance of a meter, a confiding Taiwan Shortwing and the first Coal Tits. Finally we reached the second T-junction at some radar post and here the path became a road and we knew we had to walk only a short 2 kilometres to reach Km 49.5. During this short stretch we found a pair of nesting Golden Parrotbills, Taiwan Rosefinch and Taiwan Bullfinch. We reached **Km 49.5** at 14:50 and we immediately heard a singing Taiwan Bush Warbler which came inspecting us after we played its song. Now we decided to take the closed road and to take the gamble that we could pass the road all the way to Km 43. The gate at **Km 49** (same type of gate as at Km 43.2) was open and in a short time we saw a car and two Nordic walkers going in, so we took the risk and went in. At **Km 48** a police car arrived but it passed us and we could continue our walk. We had the road to ourselves and as the temperature was going down, birds started to appear with Collared Bush Robin, Eurasian Wren and Taiwan Bush Robin all next to the road. At 15:55 we arrived at **Km 47**. Just before the Km 47 marker there had been a landslide and there were a lot of construction works, but no workers as they had either a day off or they had called it a day. We could get pass the landslide without any problem, and we took a short break at the Mikado Pheasant place. At this spot there was

a crane, a bulldozer and a lorry, all parked at the grassy part where the Mikado Pheasants used to pose for the photographers. We sat down, crestfallen as we believed the Mikado's must be gone for sure. We opened a pack of crackers and out of nowhere the male Mikado Pheasant appeared from under the lorry and walked straight towards us! Then half a meter in front of me he stopped and started to utter short calls, exactly like this [sound](#). We didn't feed the bird as was advised on several signs here and the bird soon lost interest and walked slowly away. There was no rest for joy as the next target - Taiwan Cupwing - was heard lower along the road. It took some effort, but finally with all views added, we had seen all plumage features of this wonderful species. Last notable birds seen between **Km 47** and **Km 43** were some Southern Nutcrackers which showed itself very well. We could get past the gate by a small path left of it. We arrived at 18:00 hours at the car park, had some talk with the people from the Visitor Centre, had dinner at the restaurant and went for night birding **along the road** between the park entrance and our hotel. We managed to hear at least five Mountain Scops Owls, saw several Red-and-white giant flying squirrels (nicknamed Pikachu after several encounters) and a smart Chinese Ferret Badger crossing the road. At around 22:30 hours we went to bed, very happy with the result of today.

1 May

Again an early rise at 4:45 started a new day. We checked the **waterfall** at **Km 41**, but the Little Forktail - supposed to live here - was again not present. We did see however several Taiwan Whistling Thrushes. We continued to **Forest Road 210** and looked for Yellow Tit (not a sign) and Taiwan Partridge (heard at a distance). The park gate opened at 6:30 and we checked the bushes behind the toilet block, supposed to be good for Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler. We found a very unobtrusive female Swinhoe's Pheasant, but no babbler. We continued to **Km 23.5** which was supposed to be good for Yellow Tit, Rusty Laughingthrush and Taiwan Partridge. We heard the partridges at close range but they did not show themselves. It was getting more crowded with large luxury cars ascending so we thought it was better to go down and do some occasional birding along the road. We finally found a pair of Rusty Laughingthrushes along the road, the first sightings of Taiwan Barbets, several White-bellied Green Pigeons and our first Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler. At **Km 12** and **Km 8** we tried to lure in Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, but no success. We also had a short stop at **Km 4** to look for Taiwan Bamboo Partridge, but again nothing. Therefore it was time to have a coffee and second breakfast in a 7-Eleven along the road. After this welcome break we drove to Guguan to look for Taiwan Blue Magpie and Chestnut-bellied Tit. **Guguan** was crowded as it was Labour Day (1st May) and a lot of people came here to eat the local specialty, sturgeon. At first we looked for the tit at [the place](#) where everybody seems to see them, but the place was too noisy and the only birds we saw were Black Bulbuls, Grey Treepie and our first Taiwan Scimitar Babbler. We also did a short search for Taiwan Blue Magpie behind the **suspension bridge**, but it was too hot and crowded to do some proper birding. So we chose to go to our hotel, [Uni-Resort Ku-Kuan](#) (€ 101) which was according to the reservation 15 km outside Guguan, but it turned out to be in the centre of Guguan at the very spot we had parked our car in the first place! After some refreshments we went back to the Chestnut-bellied Tit location, but I was the only one who saw it while Arjan was chasing a White-bellied Erpornis for a while. This place was not very good for birding as a lot of heavy trucks were passing, so we thought it was better to go to the nearby **Basianshan National Forest Recreation Area**. We arrived there at the gate at 16:35 hours (plenty of birding time left), but we were informed the reserve would close already at 17:00 hours. We begged the lady at the entrance to let us go for these 20 minutes and she agreed and told us that leaving at 18:00 hours would be ok too. We drove past the Visitor Centre, parked our car at the second parking place and ran into a corner of pine trees and deciduous forest. Immediately we heard a bird singing at close range, and within a minute a Chestnut-bellied Tit showed itself very well for five minutes, while singing, preening and even bathing. Then the bird disappeared, so we left the area and at 17:01 hours we were back at the gate showing the lady at the entrance our best pictures

of the bird. Next on the program was the [Li Yang Station](#) at **Guguan** which was supposed to be a good place for Taiwan Blue Magpie. We played the call of Taiwan Blue Magpie once and immediately three birds came in, giving good views. When returning at the hotel at around 18:00 hour we saw another Taiwan Blue Magpie at a distance opposite the riverbank. We had a good dinner in the hotel with sturgeon and all kind of other local specialties. Very satisfied we went to bed at 20:30 hours.

2 May

We woke at 4:45, had some coffee and started to drive in the direction of Huben, which would take us c 2 hours. When leaving Highway 3 and driving on **road 218** we heard a Taiwan Bamboo Partridge calling at close range. We tried to see the bird from the car, but no luck. A small canal nearby produced a calling Ruddy-breasted Crake and Arjan had a brief look at it. We arrived at the **Tian sheng Temple** at **Huben** at around 7:00 hours and we immediately started birding. At first we focused on seeing Red Oriole. We quickly found three birds in the tree tops, but almost simultaneously a Taiwan Bamboo Partridge and a Fairy Pitta started to call! We finished the sightings of the Red Oriole by taking several pictures. We focused all our attention to the Pitta, but the bird stopped calling, as did the Taiwan Bamboo Partridge. After two hours of birding we thought it was time to have a drink at the **Pitta Café**. The girl at the Pitta Café gave us a map of the area and said Linnei Park was also a good option for Fairy Pitta. We did however made arrangements for a guide to look for the pitta this afternoon. After refreshments we nevertheless first drove to **Linnei Park** and after some effort to find an entrance we were soon in the park and heard a Fairy Pitta beneath us. We tried to reach the place through a maze of small roads which resulted in a good sighting of a Malayan Night Heron and again hearing Bamboo Partridges. The Pitta could not be found again and as the temperature was rising we thought it was time for lunch at the Pitta Café. We heard the guide would pick us up at 14:00 hours, so we had plenty of time. Sharp at 14:00 Mr. Chang arrived on his scooter and ordered us to follow him. We drove to a patch of secondary forest and immediately we heard a Fairy Pitta singing from a tree. It took some time to locate the bird and when we did it flew over our heads to another part of the forest. Mr. Chang however was very skilful in finding it again and we had good views of the Fairy Pitta for c 15 minutes while it was perched on a branch. At 15:00 we said goodbye to Mr. Chang but agreed to do some owling at 20:00 hours. In the meantime we would bring our stuff to the Formosa Hotel in **Douliu** (€ 68 per night) and subsequently to look the rest of the day for Taiwan Bamboo Partridge. We drove around south of **Huben** on the smallest and most quiet roads we could find and at last a Taiwan Bamboo Partridge was seen crossing the road, giving excellent views. Other birds seen were Red Oriole, Malayan Night Heron, White-breasted Waterhen and Chinese Sparrowhawk. After dinner we did some owling and that resulted in a good sighting of Mountain Scops Owl and we heard several Slaty-legged Crakes flying over the forest. At 21:00 we said goodbye to Mr. Chang and the people at the Pitta Café. I forgot we had parked the car next to a deep ditch, so I stepped in it accidentally, face down. My knees were very painful, but with a bag of ice kindly provided by the people of the Pitta Café the hardest pain soon disappeared, although one knee kept swollen for weeks. When driving back to **Douliu** we heard more than 10 Savanna Nightjars and saw one, a common species in Taiwan in cities! We reached the hotel at 21:30 and soon we were asleep.

3 May

We woke up even earlier than before and at 4:35 we were already on our way to Alishan. We had hoped to be in time at the Firefly Lodge for the Taiwan Partridge. On our way to **Alishan**, our navigation system knew a shortcut, but in the end it was not a good idea, as the roads the TomTom had chosen were overgrown with bamboo. We ended on the porch of an angry Taiwanese who threatened us with a long bamboo stick! From now on we called every backroad a bamboo road or mad-dog-owner's lane. However, it did produce a close by male Swinhoe's Pheasant who had to run for his life, a Rusty Laughingthrush and a very close calling Taiwan Bamboo Partridge, who showed himself very well to the driver (Arjan) but when the assistant driver (me) showed his face outside the car, the bird flew away. At 7:00 hours sharp we arrived at **the Firefly Lodge** in **Alishan** and we had hoped something could be arranged for the afternoon for the famous hide there. On arrival a Sunbird group just left the

hotel in a bus. We could exchange some info with tour leader Paul Holt, but the assistant-leader was very eager to tell us we were not welcome in the lodge and that the hide was for only guests who stayed overnight. He also said something in Chinese to the owner and the guide translated that the owner was very sure there were no rooms left the coming days and that even if we paid for a room and not using it, the hide would still be exclusively for guests who stayed at the lodge. The owner however did offer us some coffee and when the Sunbird group had left, we did some birding behind and above the lodge. We heard several Taiwan Partridges and Bamboo Partridges and had good views of a Striated Prinia. At 10:00 hours it was time to leave the area and to head south to Taitung. First we head west to reach highway 3 and then head south, right across the southern tip of Taiwan, hit the east coast and then drove north again to Taitung. When arriving at the coast we saw the first Styan's Bulbuls. Just south of **Taitung** at around 15:30 hours we found a small estuary near Dongwai Wetland Park that was filled with shorebirds. We saw Great and Red Knot, Marsh and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Sanderling, Red-necked Stint, Broad-billed Sandpipers, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Lesser and Greater Sand Plover, Painted Snipe and a first-year Black-tailed Gull. After half an hour birding we drove to Taitung Harbour (with a dark-phase Eastern Reef Heron) to find our hotel (Yenhi Bed & Breakfast, € 101 per night). It took some effort finding anyone at home, but finally somebody opened the door and we got a spacy room. We thought we would have dinner at 19:30, so we did some birding at the nearby river mouth. We found two Common Pheasants (both new for us) and a Black-tailed Godwit. At 19:30 we were back at the hotel, only to find out there was no dinner, as they thought we meant breakfast. And all the restaurants in the harbour had closed their kitchen already at 19:00 hours! So we had dinner at the nearest 7-Eleven with a beer to celebrate we made it so far. At 21:00 hours we went to bed.

4 May

We were awake at 5:00 as our plane to Lanyu would depart at 7:40, but before we would like to some birding at the estuary we were yesterday. The same group of shorebirds was present, but the Lesser Sand plover was lying dead on the shore. We heard Common Pheasant and Taiwan Hwamei and saw a female Blue Rock Thrush. At 6:00 we arrived at the **airport** where the Daily Air check-in counter was not open yet. After half an hour it did and we quickly checked-in. The plane departed on time and we reached **Lanyu Island** at 8:10 hours on time. On arrival we learned there were no taxis on the island so we tried to walk. When we reached the village, we decided to check-in in the nearest hotel. The first was full, but the second (Lanyu Xiariu Minsu) had room. With Google Translate we tried to persuade the owners to bring us to the [Flycatcher Creek](#) and after some funny misunderstandings the owners agreed to bring us both on their scooters to the creek. The place was easily found after a 10 minutes' drive and we agreed we would walk back or tried to hitch a ride back. So at 9:20 we had already reached the place and started birding. Lowland White-eye and Brown-cheeked Bulbul were already seen en route. At first we found a Northern Boobook, followed by Taiwan Green Pigeon and after less than an hour we found a pair of Black Paradise Flycatchers, followed by Philippine Cuckoo Dove. The Lanyu Scops Owl made us search more, but at the end of the creek we found a bird perched on a branch holding a lizard in its bill. In two hours we had seen all the specialties and even more we had very good looks at every one of them! At 11:45 we were back on the road again and started to walk back. Several cars passed us, but finally a lorry stopped and we could take a seat in the back. The driver brought us a beach restaurant where we had a cold banana milkshake. From here it was a short walk back to the hotel. At the hotel we met four US citizens who bicycled through Taiwan for two weeks. One of them spoke Chinese and could translate for us. From them we learned the boat was departing from Lanyu at 15:30 hours. So we thought it was best to leave the island already. After a quick lunch, the owners of the hotel brought us to the boat. A ticket was bought at the quay (1200 Twd each) and happily there was still room left. The boat departed on time and Arjan and I stood outside to look for seabirds. Between Lanyu and Green Island we found eight Bulwer's Petrels, one Swinhoe's Petrel, a Pomarine Skua and the best bird of them all, a Tahiti Petrel! Also observed where

dozens of flying Fish and two groups of dolphins. At 18:00 hours we reached **Taitung**. We said goodbye to our American friends and took a taxi to **Taitung Airport**. At the Airport we would get our money back for the flight Lanyu – Taitung. Hungry as we were and finding again all restaurants closed, we had dinner had a 7-Eleven. As it was already quite late and we did not know if there were any hotels in the neighbourhood, we decided to get to Yenhi Bed & Breakfast of last night. The owner was very surprised, but there was room, although a twin bed only. We didn't mind and we were glad we had a room anyway. At 22:00 hours we went to sleep, very happy with the result of today.

5 May

We left the hotel at 5:00 hours. The TomTom advised us to go south first, instead of driving north first to Hualien and from there through the Tarako Gorge to the west. That route would take 6 hours and 40 minutes, while the route south first then west and finally north and northeast would take 5 hours and 45 minutes. At daylight we did some birding just south of **Pintung**, with Oriental Skylark and Brown Shrike as best birds. With two stops underway, we arrived finally at the **Blue gate Trail** near **Renai** at about 12:25 hours. We started to look for Yellow Tit first and after five minutes we encountered a flock of Green-backed and Black-throated Tits and suddenly we saw a pair of Yellow Tits amongst them. The Yellow Tits were quite elusive and always stayed hidden in the foliage, but we could get good views of them and random picture taking resulted in one recognisable picture (which I found out when at home again). With this quick result we finally had one endemic species to see, the Taiwan Partridge. Random playing the sound resulted immediately in an angry bird next to the trail, with short views at very close range. So in half-an-hour we managed to see our target birds and the rest of the day we could concentrate on birds we would like to see (instead of must see!). Other birds seen here were Black Eagle, Steere's Liocichla, Taiwan Cupwing and Taiwan Shortwing. After a short siesta in the car we drove north into the higher mountains. At the first stop we saw a pair of Brown Bullfinches (the only ones we saw). The first parking lot beneath the **Hehuan Pass** produced a beautiful male Taiwan Rosefinch and several White-whiskered Laughingthrushes. The second parking lot and the highest point of the road (c 3250 meters) saw more Taiwan Rosefinches and two Alpine Accentors. Also a beautiful male Collared Bush Robin showed itself very well. We heard Taiwan Bush Warbler and also a Eurasian Wren stayed well-hidden. At 16:15 hours it started to rain, so we went back to our hotel in **Renai** where we booked **Cingjing Brilliant Twins of Seattle** (€ 67 per night). Our room was situated in a bright yellow building. The room was spacious, but the pillow of my bed smelled like dog. Dinner in the hotel consisted of a lot of vegetables and meat which you had to plunge in a pan of hot boiling water. The beer however, tasted very good. The rain continued, so at 21:00 hours we went to sleep.

6 May

In the morning we went back to the **Blue gate Trail** again. Bird activity was low, but a male Swinhoe's Pheasant gave good views and the same pair of Taiwan Partridges was present at the same place. This time we could see them even better and I managed to take some blurry pictures. Yellow Tits were also seen at the same place and a perched Ashy Woodpigeon on the way out. Just outside **Renai** we found a place supposed to be good for Brown-flanked Bush Warbler and after some play-back a bird came in to inspect us and gave reasonable views. At 9:00 hours we went back to the hotel to have breakfast and after the checkout at 10:00 we started to drive in the direction of Yushan NP. We checked some streams along **road 14** just before **Nantou** to see if any Little Forktail would show up. No Forktail but another Chestnut-bellied Tit showed up and we had close views of a Striated Prinia, White-bellied Erpornis and Plumbeous Redstart. Via **Sun Moon Lake** we took **road 21**, which proved to be one of the most beautiful roads we had travelled so far. A male Mikado Pheasant crossed the road, but it disappeared in the bamboo. At around 14:15 we reached the Visitor Centre at **Tatatia** in **Yushan NP** and immediately typical birds of the higher levels appeared. We had good views of Collared Bush Robin, Coal Tit, Taiwan Bush Robin, Taiwan Shortwing, Taiwan Fulvetta, Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler, Southern Nutcracker, two Taiwan Bullfinches and Flamecrest. The last hours of daylight we birded behind the gate of **road 21** (road 21 becomes road 18 at Tatatia). We heard a Grey-headed Woodpecker, saw a Besra twice, lured in another Taiwan Bush-Warbler and a heard another Brown-

flanked Bush Warbler. A male White-backed Woodpecker was only seen by me. When walking back to the car park we saw two Yellow-throated Martins and a group of Taiwan Macaques. When darkness fell we birded **road 18** for quite some time to look for Himalayan Owl, but in the end we had one heard-only plus several Mountain Scops Owls and a Siberian Weasel crossing the road. Then we had a long drive down to Chiayi, with a dinner stop in a 7-Eleven at Alishan. Just before **Chiayi** in the **East District** we found a motel which most probably served other purposes than hosting two tired birders, but we were so tired we didn't care and at 00:30 hours we went asleep, while a very annoying repetitive birthday card music was playing, but we only discovered the off-button the next morning...

7 May

For the first time this holiday we stayed in bed a little longer and had breakfast at 8:00. Today was our last day and we had time left to go to **Tsengwen River** mouth near **Tainan** to look for shorebirds and secretly Chinese Crested Tern (totally forgetting to visit the Pheasant-tailed Jacana site). We checked every saltpan, shore or small lake and it added a lot of new birds to the holiday list. Best birds were Oriental Pratincole, Grey-throated Martin, Common Pheasant, Little Grebe, Eastern Yellow Wagtail (two forms), Whiskered, Great Crested and Gull-billed Terns, Greater and Lesser Sandplover, Pacific Golden Plover, Black-winged Kite, Oriental Reed Warbler, Far Eastern Curlew, Eurasian Whimbrel, Kamchatka or Japanese Warbler, Grey-capped Woodpecker, Long-tailed Shrike and three Chinese Egrets. At the observation platform there were hardly any birds, except for three Caspian Terns, but Arjan discovered suddenly two spoonbills which proved to be Black-faced Spoonbills! Perhaps the last in the whole reserve as the majority was already in Korea or mainland China. Next we had lunch at a fish restaurant. When we checked the time after lunch we found out it was already 15:00 hours and we had still a four hour drive to Taipei. We encountered a lot of traffic jams (it was Sunday and all Taiwanese went home) and it took us more than five hours to reach the airport. Only to find out that there is another international airport in downtown Taipei, called Taipei International Airport. The TomTom had directed us to the wrong airport! Luckily the right international airport (called Chiang Kai Shek International Airport in Taiwan, outside Taiwan called **Taoyuan** International Airport) is only a thirty minutes' drive away, although the road to it is on very high pillars and Arjan suffered some vertigo (fear of heights). We arrived at the **Taoyuan Airport** at 21:30 hours. We returned the car in good shape, had to pay for the toll roads (five pages with specifications, but the total was only € 30!) and checked in. We heard we had the exit row seats and after some dinner and beer and buying presents for home we finally went to the gate. There we found out our plane – an Airbus 350 - had a large [Mikado Pheasant on its tail!](#)

8 May

Our flight CI73 to Amsterdam departed on time at 00:35 hours. As we were both very tired, we slept the whole journey. We arrived at **Schiphol, Amsterdam** at 7:40 hours. Arjan took the train home to Culemborg and went to work, I took the train to Alkmaar and had a day off.



Our faithful and trusty TomTom navigation system; © Jan van der Laan.



Place at Km 4 of the Dongkeng Road where we observed Taiwan Hwamei and our only Vinous-throated Parrotbills of the holiday. Both species were seen on the left where the road turns to the right; 29 April 2017 © Google Earth.



Booking the Snow Mountain Lodge proved to be a challenge, but we managed to book a room for two nights!



Construction works at Km 47, the Mikado Pheasant stake-out for years, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Pine trees in Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Li Yang Station along the Shiwenxi Communication Road at Guguan where we saw Taiwan Blue Magpie. The birds were seen on the wires just right from the pine trees. 1 May 2017; © Google Earth; right: the plane from Daily Air that brought us from Taitung to Lanyu (Orchid Island), 4 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Traditional fishing boat on Lanyu, 4 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



View from the Hehuan pass, east of Renai, 5 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Our rental car, a Volkswagen Polo. Very trustworthy, 5 May 2017, Hehuan Pass, Renai, 5 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.

Species Accounts

Order and nomenclature follows www.worldbirdnames.org, version 14.2. The Taiwan Thrush was split for a short time in the draft version of 7.1, but this split was postponed and finally included in version 11.2. Taiwan Vivid Niltava is now an endemic species too. According to 14.2 of the IOC there are now **32** endemic species (here in LARGE CAPITALS) on Taiwan and c 55 endemic subspecies (in SMALL CAPITALS).

Recommended Literature

As a field guide we used the Birds of East Asia by Mark Brazil, which was very useful, although the illustration of Taiwan Partridge left us in disbelief.

Trip Reports and Site Information

Several trip reports can be found at www.cloudbirders.com and www.birdtours.co.uk. We thought the most useful reports were the ones made by [Alain Jortay](#) in 2016, by [Henk Hendriks](#) in 2015 and by [Andy Walker](#) in 2014. Also very useful was the blog [Dom The Birder](#) with detailed descriptions of several locations.

Sound Recordings

To get the best sound recordings we used the well-known sites of [Xeno-Canto](#), [AVoCet](#) and the [Macaulay Library](#).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Ruud Schenk and Eric Bos, Arjan Dwarshuis, Thomas van der Es, Martijn Bunskoek, the staff of the Pitta Café, the people at the Snow Mountain Lodge, the four American Bicyclists on Lanyu for being interpreters, the owners of the Lán yǔ xià rì mínsù (蘭嶼夏日民宿) on Lanyu, who transported us on their scooters to the Flycatcher Creek, the Taiwanese couple who showed us the Barwings at Yushan, Teunis Piersma for providing information on the colour-ringed Knot at Taitung and finally James Eaton for the latest gen and advice about the itinerary. And last but not least again our dear [Wags](#) for taking care of the Homefront!

[Arjan Brenkman](#), Culemborg May-June 2017,

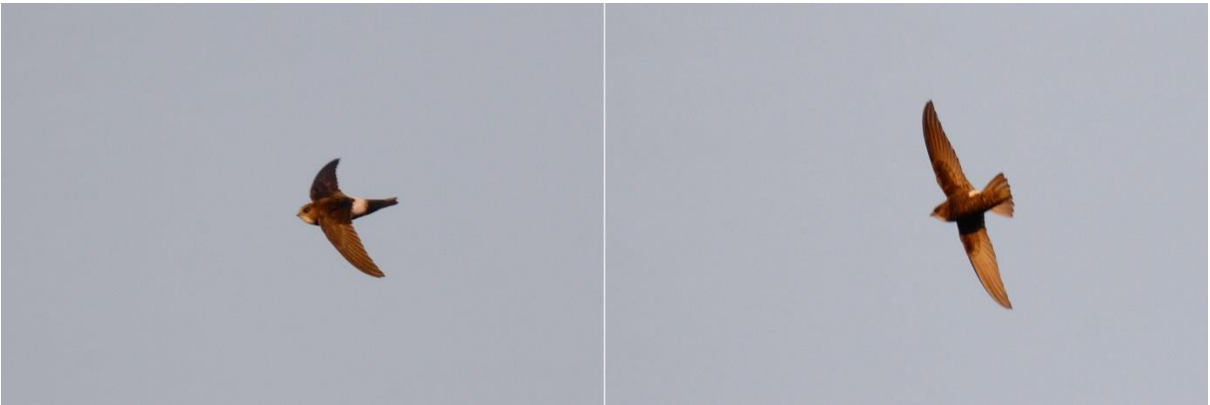
[Jan van der Laan](#), Alkmaar May-June 2017.



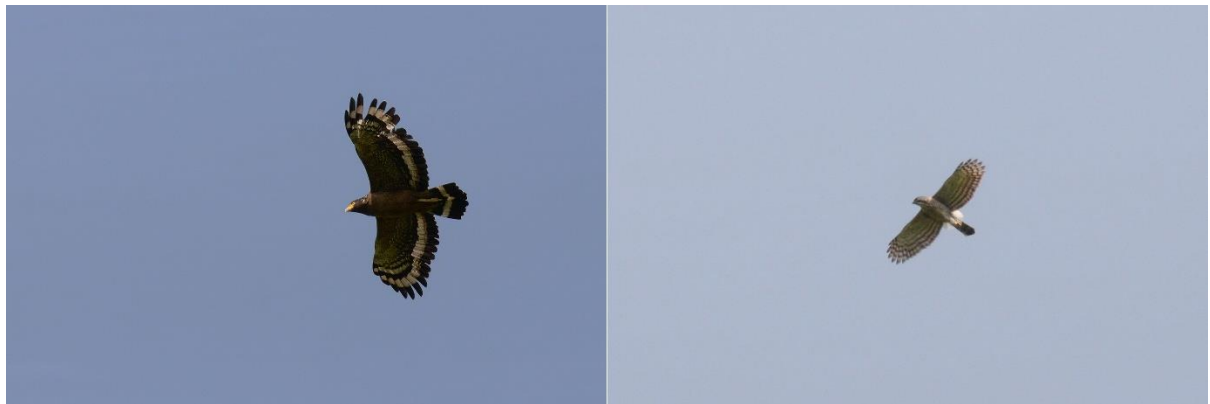
Bob Ross is everywhere in Taiwan! Hehuan Pass, Renai, 5 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Golden-headed Cisticola (*ssp volitans*); right: Eastern Spot-billed Duck, both between Taipei and Taichung on 28 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



House Swifts (*ssp kuntzii*), both between Taipei and Taichung, 28 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Crested Serpent-Eagle (*ssp hoya*); right: Crested Goshawk (*ssp formosae*), both at Km 4 of the Dongkeng Road, Taichung, 29 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Brown Dipper (*ssp pallasii*), my fifth and final Dipper in the world!; right: Night Heron in the same stream; 29 April 2017, Dongkeng Road, Taichung; © Jan van der Laan.



A pair of Plumbeous Redstarts (*ssp affinis*), 29 April 2017, Dongkeng Road, Taichung; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Taiwan Yuhina, one of the most common (and cutest!) forest birds; right: White-tailed Robin (*ssp montium*), also common, but mostly heard, both in Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 29 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Unknown Scaly Thrush taxon along the Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 29 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan. Note there is one large primary spacing, characteristic for the dauma-group, birds from the aurea-group have two obvious primary spacings and therefore longer and more pointed wings ([cf Mees, 1977](#)).



Left: Ferruginous Flycatcher; right: the newly split Taiwan Vivid Niltava (IOC 11.2), both at the Snow Mountain Lodge, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 29 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush; Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; right: Golden Parrotbill (ssp *morrisonianus*), near Km 49.5, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: White-whiskered Laughingthrush, near Km 49.5, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: White-eared Sibia, common and more often heard than seen and difficult to photograph; right: Taiwan Bullfinch (now a good species since the IOC 11.1 update), Km 49, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



The famous male Mikado Pheasant at Km 47, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



The same male Mikado Pheasant, Km 47, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



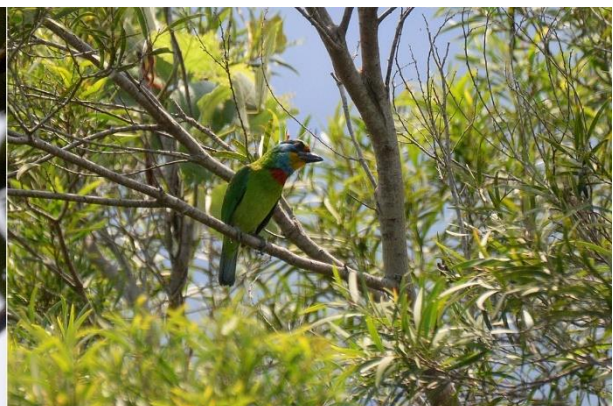
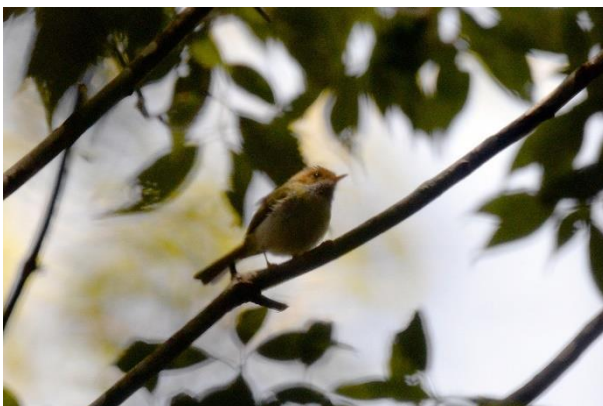
Southern Nutcracker (*spp owstoni*, in IOC 14.2 split from Spotted Nutcracker), Km 44, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



White-backed Woodpecker (*spp insularis*), Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 1 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Female Swinhoe's Pheasant, entrance of Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 1 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Rufous-faced Warbler; right: Taiwan Barbet, both along the Dongkeng Road, 1 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Two Rusty Laughingthrushes, below Km 23, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 1 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan. The bird seemed to wear a ring, but it is something on the twigs!



Chestnut-bellied Tit, showing its white nape patch, Basiashan National Forest Recreation Area, 1 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Taiwan Blue Magpie, Li Yang Station along the Shiwenxi Communication Road, Guguan, 1 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left and right: Red Orioles (*ssp ardens*), Huben, 2 May 2017; the bird on the left picture is certainly a male, the left bird on the right picture is most probably an adult female; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Oriental Turtle Dove (*ssp orientalis*); right: Black Bulbul (*ssp nigerrimus*) both at Huben, 2 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: White, male Amur Wagtail or White-faced Pied Wagtail (*ssp leucopsis*); right: female, Linnei, 2 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Malayan Night Heron; right: Bronzed Drongo, both at Linnei, 2 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Fairy Pitta, the main target of the trip (apologies for the twigs!), Huben, 2 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



The same Fairy Pitta, Huben, 2 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Taiwan Bamboo Partridge crossing the road and photographed through the windshield, therefore out of focus; right: Javan Mynas, the most common Myna on Taiwan; both at Huben 2 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Chinese Sparrowhawk (eating a lizard); right: Plain Prinia (*ssp flavirostris*), both near Huben, 2 May 2017; Jan van der Laan.



Taiwan is probably the best place to see Mountain Scops Owl (*ssp hambroeki*), Huben, 2 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Grey Treepie; right: Styan's Bulbul, both south of Taitung, 3 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Great Knot and Black-tailed Gull; right: same Black-tailed Gull, Taitung, 3 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Great and Red Knot, Sharp-tailed and Broad-billed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint, Taitung, 3 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Northern Boobook (ssp. *totogo*); right: Brown-eared Bulbul (ssp. *nagamichii*), both on Lanyu, 4 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Taiwan Green-Pigeon (*ssp formosae* formerly known as Whistling Green Pigeon); right: Philippine Cuckoo-Dove (*ssp septentrionalis*), both on Lanyu, 4 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: female Black (aka Japanese) Paradise-Flycatcher, right: male Black Paradise-Flycatcher (both *ssp periophthalmica*), Lanyu, 4 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Ryukyu or Lanyu Scops Owl (*ssp botolensis*) holding a lizard, Lanyu, 4 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Lowland White-eye (*ssp batanis*); right: Pacific Swallow (*ssp namiyei*), both on Lanyu, 4 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Oriental Skylark (*ssp wattersii*); right: Brown Shrike (*ssp lucionensis*), both near Pintung, 5 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Yellow Tit, the Taiwan endemic we were most afraid to miss, Blue gate Trail, Renai; right: Brown Bullfinch (*ssp uchidai*), a scarce endemic subspecies, Renai, both on 5 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Taiwan Rosefinch, right: female Taiwan Rosefinch, both at the Hehuan Pass, Renai, 5 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Alpine Accentors (*ssp fennelli*) at the Hehuan Pass, Renai, 5 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Taiwan Partridge, the last of the Taiwan endemics we finally bagged, photographed in the gloom of the forest of the Blue gate Trail near Renai, 6 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Swinhoe's Pheasant, Blue gate Trail near Renai, 6 May 2017; right: Collared Finchbill (*ssp cinereicapillus*), Renai, 6 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



White-bellied Green Pigeon (*ssp sororius*), 6 May 2017, Renai, 6 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Striped Prinia (*ssp. striata*); right: Chestnut-bellied Tit, both on 6 May 2017 along road 14 before Nantou; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Chinese Coal Tit (*ssp. ptilosus*); right: Collared Bush Robin, both on 6 May 2017 at Tatatia in Yushan NP; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Taiwan Bush Robin (according to IOC 14.2 now a good species); right: Taiwan Shortwing (according to IOC 9.1 now a good species), both on 6 May 2017 at Tatatia in Yushan NP; © Jan van der Laan.



Flamecrest (same bird); note the black patch around the eye and the black mouth stripe, probably serving to make the eye bigger and the bill longer, both on 6 May 2017 at Tatatia in Yushan NP; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler (ssp *concolor*); right: Taiwan Bush Warbler, 6 May 2017 at Tatatia in Yushan NP; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Taiwan Barwing at Tatatia in Yushan NP, 6 May 2017; right: Long-tailed Shrike (ssp *schach*), Tsengwen River mouth, 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Oriental Pratincoles at the Tsengwen River mouth, 7 May 2017; note the light trailing edge of the secondaries; © Jan van der Laan.



Eastern Yellow Wagtails (ssp *tschutschensis*), note the white chin patch and spotted breast; Tsengwen River mouth on 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Eastern Cattle Egret; right: Common Pheasant (*ssp formosanus*), both in Tsengwen River mouth on 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Kamchatka or Japanese Leaf Warbler (note lack of yellow hue on underparts); right: Chinese Egret, both in Tsengwen River mouth on 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Siberian Sand Plover; right: Pacific Golden Plover (note the freckled black and white flanks); Tsengwen River mouth on 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Greater Sandplover (*ssp leschenaultii*) in the Tsengwen River mouth on 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Gull-billed Tern; right: Kentish Plover, both in the Tsengwen River mouth on 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Seen from far away, in an opening in the bushes: two Black-faced Spoonbills, still around at the Tsengwen River mouth on 7 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.

001. Eastern Spot-billed Duck - *Anas zonorhyncha*

- 28-04 1 near [Hsinchu](#).
 03-05 2 [Dongwai Wetland Park, Taitung](#); same here on 4 May.

002. TAIWAN PARTRIDGE - *Arborophila crudigularis*

- 01-05 2 (heard only) at [Forest Road 210](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 2 (heard only) at Km 23.5, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 03-05 3-4 (heard only) behind the Firefly Lodge, Alishan.
 05-05 2 (pair well seen) [Blue gate Trail](#), Renai.
 06-05 2 (same pair well seen) [Blue gate Trail](#), Renai.
 1 (heard only) [Renai](#).

003. MIKADO PHEASANT - *Syrnaticus mikado*

- 30-04 1 (male) [Km 47](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 06-05 1 (male) [along road 21](#), north of Tatatia, Yushan NP.

004. COMMON PHEASANT - *Phasianus colchicus formosanus*

- 03-05 3 in [river bank](#) between Taitung Harbour and Taitung.
 04-05 3 (heard only) [Dongwai Wetland](#) park, south of Taitung.
 07-05 1 (male) [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.

005. TAIWAN BAMBOO PARTRIDGE - *Bambusicola sonorivox*

- 29-04 2 (heard only) [Km 4](#), Dongkeng Road, Taichung.
 02-05 1 (heard only), [along road 218](#), just before Huben village.
 4 (heard only) around the Huben village.
 1 (finally seen) along [a farm road](#) east of Fenguh Road, Huben.
 03-05 1 seen well, [Dahua Road](#), Alishan.
 2 (heard only) [near Firefly Lodge](#), Alishan.
 1 between Taitung Harbour and Taitung.

006. SWINHOE'S PHEASANT - *Lophura swinhoii*

- 30-04 1 male) [between Km 41 and 42](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 01-05 1 (female) [entrance](#) of the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 03-05 1 (male) along a [very secondary road](#) near Zhuqi Township, Alishan.
 06-05 1 (male) [Blue gate Trail](#), Renai.

007. SAVANNA NIGHTJAR - *Caprimulgus affinis strictomus*

- 02-05 12 (one seen) in the evening, Douliu.
 03-05 2 in the early morning, Douliu.
 04-05 3 (hear only) Taitung.
 06-05 1 (heard only) [Chiayi](#).

008. Himalayan Swiftlet - *Aerodramus brevirostris*

- 28-04 1 near [Hsinchu](#).

A brown swiftlet with slightly lighter rump and dark brown body and underwing coverts was seen between the House Swifts and was believed to be this species.

009. Pacific Swift - *Apus pacificus kanoi*

- 02-05 1 [along highway 3](#) between Taichung and Linnei.
 04-05 2 Lanyu.

010. HOUSE SWIFT - *Apus nipalensis kuntzi*

Common throughout the country, e.g. seen under highway bridges, with sometimes c 50 birds together.

011. Large Hawk-Cuckoo - *Hierococcyx sparveroides*

29-04	1	(heard only) between Km 18 and 19 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
01-05	1	(heard only) Km 23 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
	1	(heard only) Km 21 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

012. Himalayan Cuckoo - *Cuculus saturatus*

02-05	1	(heard only) Tian sheng Temple, Huben.
05-05	1	(heard only) Blue gate Trail, Renai.

013. Rock Dove - *Columba livia*

Common in urban areas. Introduced.

014. Ashy Wood Pigeon - *Columba pulchricollis*

29-04	2-3	Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
30-04	2	parking lot of the Visitor Centre, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
01-05	2	Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05	1	at the start of the Blue gate Trail.

015. Oriental Turtle Dove - *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*

Quite common, seen almost daily, also in the mid elevations of Taiwan.

016. Red Turtle Dove - *Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis*

Common, seen daily, especially in the lower parts of Taiwan.

017. Spotted Dove - *Spilopelia chinensis chinensis*

Fairly common, seen daily, especially in the lower parts of Taiwan.

018. Philippine Cuckoo-Dove - *Macropygia tenuirostris septentrionalis*

04-05	2-3	Flycatcher Creek , Lanyu.
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019. Common Emerald Dove - *Chalcophaps indica indica*

03-05	1	Huben.
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020. WHITE-BELLIED GREEN PIGEON - *Treron sieboldii sororius*

01-05	2	along road 200 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05	5	Renai .

021. TAIWAN GREEN PIGEON - *Treron formosae formosae*

04-05	3	Flycatcher Creek , Lanyu.
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With the split of Ryukyu Green Pigeon *T. permagnus*, Taiwan Green Pigeon is now endemic to Taiwan and the islands between Taiwan and the Philippines.

022. Common Moorhen - *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

28-04	1	near Hsinchu.
07-05	2	Tsengwen River mouth , Tainan.

023. **Ruddy-breasted Crane** - *Zapornia fusca erythrothorax*
02-05 1 [along road 218](#), just before Huben village.
024. **SLATY-LEGGED CRAKE** - *Rallina eurizonoides formosana*
02-05 2-3 (heard only, doing an advertising call in flight) just south of Huben.
025. **White-breasted Waterhen** - *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*
02-05 2 Huben.
026. **Little Grebe** - *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
07-05 10-15 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
027. **Black-winged Stilt** - *Himantopus himantopus*
28-04 26 near [Hsinchu](#).
03-05 c 10 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung; also there on 4-05.
07-05 c 30 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
028. **Pacific Golden Plover** - *Pluvialis fulva*
07-05 c 10 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
029. **Grey Plover** - *Pluvialis squatarola*
07-05 1 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
030. **Little Ringed Plover** - *Charadrius dubius jerdoni*
04-05 1 Lanyu airfield.
031. **Kentish Plover** - *Charadrius alexandrinus nihonensis*
07-05 8 (also with chicks) Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
032. **Siberian Sand Plover** - *Charadrius mongolus mongolus/stegmanni*
03-05 3 [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung.
04-05 2 (one dead) Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
07-05 2 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
In the 13.2 version of IOC's World Bird List, the Lesser Sandplovers are now two species. All birds we saw had freckled flanks, excluding Tibetan Sand Plover.
033. **Greater Sand Plover** - *Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii*
03-05 2 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
04-05 1 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
07-05 4 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
034. **Greater Painted-snipe** - *Rostratula benghalensis*
03-05 1 (female) [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung.
035. **Whimbrel** - *Numenius phaeopus*
07-05 2 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
036. **Far Eastern Curlew** - *Numenius madagascariensis*
07-05 1 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.

037. **Black-tailed Godwit** - *Limosa limosa melanuroides*
 03-05 1 (colour-ringed) in [river bank](#) between Taitung Harbour and Taitung.
038. **Ruddy Turnstone** - *Arenaria interpres*
 03-05 1 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
039. **Great Knot** - *Calidris tenuirostris*
 03-05 4 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung; also on 4 May.
040. **Red Knot** - *Calidris canutus*
 03-05 3 ([one colour-ringed](#)) Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
 04-05 1 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
 We tracked down the origin of the colour-ringed bird by its flags and it had been ringed at Nanpu, Shanghai either in 2010 or 2012.
041. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** - *Calidris falcinellus sibirica*
 03-05 c 10 [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung.
 04-05 6 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
 07-05 3-4 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
042. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** - *Calidris acuminata*
 28-04 4 [near Hsinchu](#).
 03-05 8 [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung.
 04-05 5 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
 07-05 6 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
043. **Curlew Sandpiper** - *Calidris ferruginea*
 28-04 3 [near Hsinchu](#).
 03-05 1 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
044. **Red-necked Stint** - *Calidris ruficollis*
 03-05 c 10 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
 04-05 6 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
 07-05 5 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
045. **Sanderling** - *Calidris alba rubida*
 03-05 1 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
046. **Terek Sandpiper** - *Xenus cinereus*
 03-05 2 [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung; also there on 4-05.
 07-05 c 30 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
047. **Common Sandpiper** - *Actitis hypoleucos*
 28-04 2 near Hsinchu.
 03-05 2 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
048. **Grey-tailed Tattler** - *Tringa brevipes*
 03-05 1 [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung; also there on 4-05.
 07-05 c 25 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

049. **Common Redshank** - *Tringa totanus*

03-05 1 in river bank between Taitung Harbour and Taitung.
 07-05 5 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

050. **Marsh Sandpiper** - *Tringa stagnatilis*

28-04 8 [near Hsinchu](#).
 03-05 6 [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung.

051. **Wood Sandpiper** - *Tringa glareola*

28-04 6 [near Hsinchu](#).

052. **Common Greenshank** - *Tringa nebularia*

07-05 c 5 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

053. **Oriental Pratincole** - *Glareola maldivarum*

04-05 1 during taxiing on Taitung Airport.
 05-05 3 along [Highway 1](#) (seen from the car), Pingtung.
 07-05 18 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.

054. **Black-tailed Gull** - *Larus crassirostris*

03-05 1 (1st summer) [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung; also on 4 May.

055. **Gull-billed Tern** - *Gelochelidon nilotica affinis*

07-05 1 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.

056. **Caspian Tern** - *Hydroprogne caspia*

07-05 3 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

057. **Greater Crested Tern** - *Thalasseus bergii cristatus*

07-05 c 10 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

058. **Little Tern** - *Sternula albifrons sinensis*

03-05 c 20 Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.

059. **Common Tern** - *Sterna hirundo longipennis*

03-05 c 5 at sea, Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.

060. **Whiskered Tern** - *Chlidonias hybrida*

07-05 c 10 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

061. **Pomarine Jaeger** - *Stercorarius pomarinus*

04-05 1 between Lanyu Island and Green Island, Taiwan.

062. **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** - *Hydrobates monorhis*

04-05 1 between Lanyu Island and Green Island, Taiwan.

Together with two Bulwer's Petrel. The general impression and size was more like a miniature Bulwer's Petrel, but smaller in direct comparison and unlike what we are used with Leach's Storm Petrels *H. leucorhous* we see in Europe.

063. Tahiti Petrel - *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

04-05 1 between Lanyu Island and Green Island, Taiwan.

A typical pterodroma-like petrel flying by at short distance from the boat. Dark chocolate brown overall with clear white belly and undertail coverts. Stayed close to the surface.

064. Bulwer's Petrel - *Bulweria bulwerii*

04-05 8 between Lanyu Island and Green Island, Taiwan.

065. African Sacred Ibis - *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

28-04 7 [Hsinchu](#) where road 61 goes into road 15. Introduced.

066. Black-faced Spoonbill - *Platalea minor*

07-05 2 [Spoonbill Visitor Centre](#), Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

067. Malayan Night Heron - *Gorsachius melanolophus*

02-05 2 (1 in [orchard](#), 1 along an [irrigation channel](#)) southern part of Linnei.
 1 near the [Tian sheng Temple](#), Huben.

068. Black-crowned Night Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen daily in the lower parts of Taiwan with daily totals up to 10-20 birds. At dusk seen flying in groups.

069. Striated Heron - *Butorides striata*

07-05 1 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.

070. Chinese Pond Heron - *Ardeola bacchus*

03-05 1 [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung.

071. Eastern Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus coromandus*

The most common heron with up to 300 birds seen daily, also groups seen from the plane to Lanyu flying above sea. Also seen on Lanyu.

072. Grey Heron - *Ardea cinerea jouyi*

03-05 1 [Highway 1](#), seen from the car in river, Pingtung.
 07-05 1 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

073. Great Egret - *Ardea alba*

07-05 c 10 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

074. Intermediate Egret - *Ardea intermedia intermedia*

Seen daily in the lower parts of Taiwan with daily totals up to 10 birds. Also on Lanyu.

075. Little Egret - *Egretta garzetta*

Seen daily in the lower parts of Taiwan with daily totals up to 20-30 birds.

076. Pacific Reef Heron - *Egretta sacra sacra*

03-05 1 Taitung Harbour.

077. Chinese Egret - *Egretta eulophotes*

07-05 3 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.

078. **Black-winged Kite** - *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*
07-05 2 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
079. **CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE** - *Spilornis cheela hoyi*
Seen daily, especially in the foothills with maximum up to 5 birds a day.
080. **Black Eagle** - *Ictinaetus malaiensis malaiensis*
06-05 1 [Blue gate Trail](#), Renai.
081. **CRESTED GOSHAWK** - *Accipiter trivirgatus formosanus*
29-04 1 [Km 4](#), Dongkeng Road, Taichung.
01-05 1 [Km 20](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area
07-05 2 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
082. **Chinese Sparrowhawk** - *Accipiter soloensis*
02-05 1 (male eating a lizard) in the [vicinity](#) of Huben.
083. **BESRA** - *Accipiter virgatus fuscipectus*
06-05 1 [along road 21](#), just north of Tatatia, Yushan NP.
084. **Northern Boobook** - *Ninox japonica totago*
04-05 1 (very well seen) [Flycatcher Creek](#), Lanyu.
085. **COLLARED OWLET** - *Glaucidium brodiei pardalotum*
30-04 1 [Police Station at Km 42](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
086. **MOUNTAIN SCOPS OWL** - *Otus spilocephalus hambroeki*
30-04 5 (heard only) between Km 36 and 41, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
03-05 1 ([seen](#)) Huben.
06-06 3 (heard only) along road 18, Yushan NP
087. **RYUKYU SCOPS OWL** - *Otus elegans botelensis*
04-05 3-4 ([one seen](#), others heard), Flycatcher Creek, Lanyu.
088. **HIMALAYAN OWL** - *Strix niviculum yamadae*
07-05 1 (heard only) [Km 95.3](#) along road 18, Yushan NP.
089. **Common Kingfisher** - *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*
03-05 1 Lanyu.
07-05 1 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
090. **TAIWAN BARBET** - *Psilopogon nuchalis*
Common throughout the whole country in forested areas, mostly heard, at least 4 seen.
091. **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** - *Dendrocopos canicapillus kaleensis*
07-05 1 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
Several other woodpeckers heard calling in Yushan NP could have been this species.

092. WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER - *Dendrocopos leucotos insularis*

29-04	1	(female) Forest Road 210 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area; also on 30-04.
30-04	1	(heard only) National Trail, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area
01-05	1	(female) Forest Road 210 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05	1	(heard only) Blue gate Trail, Renai.
06-05	1	(male) Tatatia, Yushan NP.

093. Grey-headed Woodpecker - *Picus canus tancolo*

06-05	1	(heard calling only) along road 21 just north of Tatatia, Yushan NP.
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094. Fairy Pitta - *Pitta nympha*

03-05	1	(heard only) south of the Tian sheng Temple, Huben Area.
	1	(heard only) Linnei Park, Linnei.
	1	(seen well) Huben Area.

095. Grey-chinned Minivet - *Pericrocotus solaris griseogularis*

29-04	2	Forest Road, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
30-04	2-3	between Km 34 and Km 22, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05	2	Renai.

096. Brown Shrike - *Lanius cristatus lucionensis*

28-04	1	near Km 4, Dongkeng Road.
05-05	4	in a field just east of Pintung , southern Taiwan.

097. Long-tailed Shrike - *Lanius schach schach*

07-05	1	Tsengwen River mouth , Tainan.
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098. White-bellied Erpornis - *Erpornis zantholeuca griseiloris*

01-05	1	Guguan .
06-05	1	along road 14 before Nantou .

099. MAROON OR RED ORIOLE - *Oriolus traillii ardens*

03-05	3	(2 males, 1 female) south of the Tian sheng Temple, Huben.
	1	(1 male) south of Huben.

100. BLACK DRONGO - *Dicrurus macrocercus harterti*

Most common in urban and agricultural areas, with up to 10-20 birds each day.

101. BRONZED DRONGO - *Dicrurus aeneus braunianus*

Less common than Black Drongo, more in forested area, e.g. Huben and Renai.

102. BLACK-NAPED MONARCH - *Hypothymis azurea oberholseri*

29-04	2	(pair) Lane 727, near Km 4 along the Dongkeng Road.
01-05	1	(male) Lane 727, near Km 4 along the Dongkeng Road.
02-05	2	(pair) Tian sheng Temple, Huben.

103. Black Paradise Flycatcher - *Terpsiphone atrocaudata periophtalma*

04-05	3	(pair and 1 lone female) Flycatcher Creek, Lanyu.
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The subspecies *periophtalma* is only found on Lanyu and the Batan Islands, N Philippines. The English name is changed to the more geographically inclusive and descriptive **Black Paradise Flycatcher** (IOC 13.2, 2023).

104. EURASIAN JAY - *Garrulus glandarius taivanus*

29-04 2 Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 30-04 2 Visitor Centre, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

105. TAIWAN BLUE MAGPIE - *Urocissa caerulea*

01-05 3 [Li Yang Station](#), Guguan.
 1 [behind](#) the Uni-Resort Hotel, Guguan.

106. GREY TREEPIE - *Dendrocitta formosae formosae*

First seen on 1 May. From then on regularly seen in pairs or threes in the lowlands and mid elevations.

107. Oriental Magpie - *Pica serica serica*

A few of this newly split species were seen along the road in the lowlands.

108. SOUTHERN NUTCRACKER - *Nucifraga hemispila owstoni*

30-04 c 8 Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 06-05 2 (1 adult plus a food-begging juvenile) Tatatia, Yushan NP.
 Southern Nutcracker is split from Spotted Nutcracker in IOC version 14.2.

109. Large-billed Crow - *Corvus macrorhynchos colonorum*

Regularly observed in mid and high elevations of Taiwan, like Ravens in Europe.

110. COAL TIT - *Periparus ater ptilosus*

30-04 c 5 along the National Trail, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 06-05 c 5 Tatatia, Yushan NP.

111. CHESTNUT-BELLIED TIT - *Sittiparus castaneoventris*

01-05 1 [along road 8](#), just northeast of Guguan.
 1 [2nd parking lot](#) of Basianshan National Forest Recreation Area.
 06-05 1 [along road 12](#), east of Nantou.

112. GREEN-BACKED TIT - *Parus monticolus insperatus*

Common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, Blue gate Trail near Renai and in the Yushan NP.

113. YELLOW TIT - *Machlolophus holsti*

05-05 2 [first part](#) of the Blue gate Trail, Renai; also 2 (the same?) on 6 May.

114. ORIENTAL SKYLARK - *Alauda gulgula wattersi*

05-05 c 10 (2 seen, others heard) [in a field just east](#) of Pintung (southern Taiwan).
 07-05 2 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.

115. BROWN-EARED BULBUL - *Microscelis amaurotis nagamichii*

04-05 10-12 between the Airport and Flycatcher Creek, Lanyu Island.

116. BLACK BULBUL - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus nigerrimus*

Common in the lowlands and lower elevations. Highest point was behind our hotel in Renai.

117. COLLARED FINCHBILL - *Spizixos semitorques cinereicapillus*

Fairly common in the lowlands and mid elevations of Taiwan.

118. **LIGHT-VENTED BULBUL** - *Pycnonotus sinensis formosae*
Common in the western part of Taiwan.
119. **STYAN'S BULBUL** - *Pycnonotus taivanus*
First birds were seen on 3 May [along road 9](#) (southern tip of Taiwan). From there common to Taitung with daily totals of up to 20 birds. Last birds again seen [along road 9](#) on 5 May.
120. **Grey-throated Martin** - *Riparia chinensis chinensis*
07-05 2 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
121. **Pacific Swallow** - *Hirundo tahitica namiyei*
Several birds on different locations, e.g. Lanyu Island.
122. **Barn Swallow** - *Hirundo rustica*
Quite common, with c 10-20 birds on average each day.
123. **Asian House Martin** - *Delichon dasypus nigrimentale*
Common, especially under bridges, e.g. many birds under the blue bridge before the entrance of the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
124. **Striated Swallow** - *Cecropis striolata striolata*
Common, especially in villages.
125. **TAIWAN CUPWING** - *Pnoepyga formosana*
Regularly heard in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, Blue gate Trail and in Yushan NP, typically heard singing. Seen only once on 30 April at Km 45.5 in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area but not tried for later.
126. **Rufous-faced Warbler** - *Abroscopus albogularis fulvifacies*
Common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, Blue gate Trail and in Yushan NP.
127. **BROWN-FLANKED BUSH WARBLER** - *Horornis fortipes robustipes*
03-05 1 (heard only) Dahua Road, Alishan.
05-05 2 (1 seen well) [Renai](#).
06-05 1 (heard only) [along road 21](#) just north of Tatatia, Yushan NP.
128. **YELLOW-BELLIED BUSH WARBLER** - *Horornis acanthizoides concolor*
30-04 4 ([1 seen well](#), others heard) National Trail, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
06-05 3-4 ([1 seen very well](#), others heard) Tatatia, Yushan NP.
129. **Black-throated Bushtit** - *Aegithalos concinnus concinnus*
29-04 c 5 Snow Mountain Lodge, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
30-04 c 5 Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05 c 10 Blue gate Trail, Renai; also here on 6 May.
06-05 c 5 Tatatia, Yushan NP.
130. **Kamchatka/Japanese Leaf Warbler** - *Phylloscopus examinandus/xanthodryas*
06-05 2 [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
The greyish-white underparts point to Kamchatka Leaf Warbler, the call more to Japanese Leaf Warbler.

131. **Oriental Reed Warbler** - *Acrocephalus orientalis*
06-05 1 Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
132. **TAIWAN BUSH WARBLER** - *Locustella alishanensis*
30-04 1 (seen well) [Km 49.5](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05 1 (heard only) 1st parking lot at Hehuan Pass.
06-05 1 (seen well) [along road 21](#) just north of Tatatia, Yushan NP
133. **Zitting Cisticola** - *Cisticola juncidis tinnabulans*
28-04 4 Taoyan.
2 where road [61 meets road 15](#), Xinfeng Township.
134. **GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA** - *Cisticola exilis volitans*
28-05 2 where road [61 meets road 15](#), Xinfeng Township.
135. **STRIPED PRINIA** - *Prinia striata striata*
03-05 1 Firefly Lodge, Alishan.
06-05 1 [along road 12](#), east of Nantou.
In the checklist of the IOC version 11.2 the name is changed from Swinhoe's Prinia to Striped Prinia.
136. **Yellow-bellied Prinia** - *Prinia flaviventris*
Commonly seen throughout in open areas, e.g. the ditch in Huben, the start of the Dongkeng road and in grassy fields near Taitung.
137. **PLAIN PRINIA** - *Prinia inornata sonitans*
Commonly heard and several seen throughout. Very common at the Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan.
138. **TAIWAN FULVETTA** - *Fulvetta formosana*
30-04 2 [National Trail](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
06-05 2 Tatatia Visitor Centre, Yushan NP.
139. **GOLDEN PARROTBILL** - *Suthora verreauxi morrisoniana*
30-04 2 (nest building) [National Trail](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
140. **VINOUS-THROATED PARROTBILL** - *Sinosuthora webbiana bulomacha*
29-04 2 [Lane 727](#), near Km 4 along the Dongkeng Road.
141. **TAIWAN YUHINA** - *Yuhina brunneiceps*
The most common bird in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, in the area around Renai and in Yushan NP. Most birds were seen and heard in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
142. **Swinhoe's White-eye** - *Zosterops simplex simplex*
Fairly common, observed almost daily at middle elevations with maximum totals of up to 10 birds.
143. **Lowland White-eye** - *Zosterops meyeri batanis*
04-05 c 20 Lanyu Island.
Most birds were seen in the so-called Flycatcher Creek and less so during the walk back.

144. RUFOUS-CAPPED BABBLER - *Stachyridopsis ruficeps praecognita*

Regularly in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, Blue gate Trail and in Yushan NP, typically heard singing, but some sightings, e.g. on hovering on the road on 1 May near Km 20, Dongkeng Road.

145. TAIWAN SCIMITAR BABBLER - *Pomatorhinus musicus*

01-05 2-3 ([1 bird seen well](#)) Guguan.

02-05 3-4 Huben.

03-05 c 3 (heard only) Alishan County.

A species we had neglected a little bit, as no effort was undertaken to photograph it.

146. BLACK-NEKLACED SCIMITAR BABBLER - *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*

01-05 1 [between Km 23 and Km 22](#), Dongkeng Road.

02-05 1 heard only) Huben.

05-05 1 (heard only) Renai.

147. DUSKY FULVETTA - *Alcippe brunnea brunnea*

Regularly in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, behind the Firefly Lodge in Alishan, the Blue gate Trail near Renai and in Yushan NP.

148. GREY-CHEEKED FULVETTA - *Alcippe morrisonia*

Quite common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, Blue gate Trail and in Yushan NP. Too little attention was spent to photograph it.

149. WHITE-WHISKERED LAUGHINGTHRUSH - *Trochalopteron morrisonianum*

30-04 2 Snow Mountain Lodge, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

1 (heard only) Police Station at Km 42, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

2 [just before Km 49.5](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

3 Km 47, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area

05-05 2 1st parking lot at Hehuan Pass.

2 2nd parking lot at the Hehuan Pass.

06-05 c 5 Visitor Centre at Tatatia, Yushan NP

150. WHITE-EARED SIBIA - *Heterophasia auricularis*

Common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, in the area around Renai and in Yushan NP. Most birds were seen and heard in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

151. TAIWAN BARWING - *Actinodura morrisoniana*

30-04 1 [Forest road 210](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

2 [National Trail](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

06-05 2 [along the road](#) to the Dongpu Hostel (東埔山莊), Yushan NP.

152. STEERE'S LIOCICHLA - *Liocichla steerii*

Common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, in the area around Renai and in Yushan NP. Most birds were seen and heard in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area. Hard to photograph!

153. TAIWAN HWAMEI - *Garrulax taewanus*

29-04 4 [Lane 727](#), near Km 4 along the Dongkeng Road.

01-05 1 (heard only) Lane 727, near Km 4 along the Dongkeng Road.

04-05 1 (heard only) Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.

154. RUFOUS-CROWNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH - Garrulax ruficeps

30-04 3 [Forest road 210](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 These were the only birds we saw and the only Taiwan endemic we saw only once.

155. RUSTY LAUGHINGTHRUSH - Garrulax poecilorhynchus

01-05 2 [between Km 23 and Km 22](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 03-05 1 along a very secondary road near Zhuqi Township, Alishan.
 06-05 1 along road 21, north of Tatatia, Yushan NP.

156. FLAMECREST - Regulus goodfellowi

30-04 6-8 [National Trail](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 06-05 c 5 [Tatatia Visitor Centre](#), Yushan NP.

157. EURASIAN WREN - Troglodytes troglodytes taivanus

30-04 1 Km 48, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 05-05 1 (heard only) 2nd parking lot at the Hehuan Pass.
 06-05 1 (heard only) Tatatia Visitor Centre, Yushan NP.

158. EURASIAN NUTHATCH - Sitta europaea formosana

29-04 4 Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 30-04 2-3 National Trail, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 05-05 1 Blue gate Trail, Renai.

159. Javan Myna – Acridotheres javanicus

The most common Myna, seen daily in numbers from 10-20 birds each day.

160. Common Myna - Acridotheres tristis

A few were observed along the road in the western part of Taiwan.

161. 'TAIWAN' SCALY THRUSH - Zoothera dauma ssp nova

29-04 2 (pair alarming) [Forest Road 210](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 Although birds from Taiwan belong to the dauma-group, it is yet not clear which taxon lives on Taiwan.

162. TAIWAN THRUSH - Turdus niveiceps

29-04 2 (males, one male seen well) [Km 38](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 2 (males) [Forest Road 210](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

At last split from the Island Thrush complex and to quote IOC version 11.2: "*the sexually dimorphic niveiceps is not a member of the Island Thrush complex*". One of the best birds we saw as it is easily missed in spring.

163. Pale Thrush - Turdus pallidus

29-04 1 seen only by Arjan from the window from the hotel room of the Snow Mountain Lodge in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

164. White-rumped Shama - Copsychus malabaricus

03-05 2 (heard only) Linnei Park, Linnei.

165. Ferruginous Flycatcher - Muscicapa ferruginea

Fairly common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, especially around the Snow Mountain Lodge with up to 4 birds seen or heard daily.

166. TAIWAN VIVID NILTAVA - *Niltava vivida*

29-04	1	Km 38, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
	2	Snow Mountain Lodge , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
	1	Forest Road 210 , Tsengwen River mouth, Tainan
30-04	2-3	National Trail, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
06-05	2-3	Yushan NP.

167. TAIWAN SHORTWING - *Brachypteryx goodfellowi*

Common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, Blue gate Trail and in Yushan NP, typically heard singing. Seen only on 30 April along the National Trail in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area and on 5 May in Yushan NP.

168. WHITE-TAILED ROBIN - *Myiomela leucura montium*

Common in the Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area and Yushan NP, typically heard singing.

169. TAIWAN BUSH ROBIN - *Tarsiger formosanus*

30-04	2	(pair) National Trail, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
	1	(male) Km 47, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
06-05	1	(male) Tatatia Visitor Centre , Yushan NP.

170. COLLARED BUSH ROBIN - *Tarsiger johnstoniae*

30-04	2	(pair) near the parking lot at Km 49.5, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
	2	(pair) Km 48, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05	1	(male) 2nd parking lot at the Hehuan Pass.
06-05	4	(2 pairs) Tatatia Visitor Centre , Yushan NP.

171. TAIWAN WHISTLING THRUSH - *Myophonus insularis*

01-05	8	in total between Km 41 and Km 22, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
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172. SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER - *Ficedula hyperythra inexxa*

30-04	1	(male) Forest Road 210 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
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173. PLUMBEOUS WATER REDSTART - *Phoenicurus fuliginosa*

29-04	2	(pair) in a stream at Km 15 of the Dongkeng.
05-05	2	(pair) along road 14 , southwest of Renai.
06-05	3	along road 12 , east of Nantou.
	1	(male) along road 21 , Yushan NP

174. Blue Rock Thrush - *Monticola solitarius philippensis*

04-05	1	(female) Dongwai Wetland Park, south of Taitung.
	1	(male) Lanyu Airport , Lanyu Island.

175. Brown Dipper - *Cinclus pallasii pallasii*

29-04	1	near Km 15 , Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
02-05	1	behind the pole bridge, Guguan.

176. FIRE-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER - *Dicaeum ignipectus formosum*

30-04	2	Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
	2	National Trail, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
01-05	1	(male) Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.

177. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** - *Passer montanus saturatus*
Common in urban and rural areas, as common as House Sparrow was once in the Netherlands.
178. **Scaly-breasted Munia** - *Lonchura punctulata topela*
01-05 c 10 near Km 4, Dongkeng Road.
179. **White-rumped Munia** - *Lonchura striata swinhoi*
29-04 c 20 near Km 4, Dongkeng Road.
03-05 2 Firefly Lodge, Alishan.
180. **ALPINE ACCENTOR** - *Prunella collaris fennelli*
05-05 2 (pair) [2nd parking lot](#) at the Hehuan Pass.
181. **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** - *Motacilla tschutschensis*
03-04 2 (ssp taivana) [Dongwai Wetland Park](#), south of Taitung.
07-04 8 (7 ssp tschutschensis, 1 taivana) [Tsengwen River mouth](#), Tainan.
182. **Grey Wagtail** - *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*
28-04 1 near [Hsinchu](#).
02-05 2-3 Linnei Park, Linnei.
183. **White (Amur) Wagtail** - *Motacilla alba leucopsis*
Seen daily along streams at Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, Guguan, Huben and Yushan NP.
184. **BROWN BULLFINCH** - *Pyrrhula nipalensis uchidai*
05-05 1 (heard only) at the start of the Blue gate Trail, Renai.
 2 [along Road 14](#), Renai.
185. **TAIWAN BULLFINCH** - *Pyrrhula owstoni*
30-04 1 (female) [near](#) Km 49.5, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
 2 (pair) [Km 49](#), Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
06-05 2 (pair) Tatatia Visitor Centre, Yushan NP.
This species is split from Grey-crowned Rosefinch - *Pyrrhula erythaca*, following IOC, version 11.1.
186. **TAIWAN ROSEFINCH** - *Carpodacus formosanus*
30-04 2 (pair) [near](#) Km 49.5, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area.
05-05 1 (male) [1st parking lot](#) at Hehuan Pass.
 6 (5 males, 1 female) [2nd parking lot](#) at the Hehuan Pass.

List of mammals

Risso's Dolphin – *Grampus griseus*

Two pods alongside the boat from Lanyu to Taitung.

Formosan Rock Macaque - *Macaca cyclopis*

A single along Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, several at Guguan and fairly common in the Yushan NP.

Red and White Giant Flying Squirrel - *Petaurista alborufus*

Two seen and several heard at Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, one spotlighted in the Yushan NP. Nicknamed Picachu by us.

Pallas' Squirrel - *Callosciurus erythraeus centralis*

First seen at Snow Mountain Lodge, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area. Several more were seen here and at higher elevations of this park as well as at Alishan.

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

Several seen at various locations.

Maritime Striped Squirrel - *Tamiops maritimus formosanus*

Several throughout in the mountains.

Taiwan Grey Shrew - *Crocidura tanakae*

A blackish shrew crept amongst the bamboo in forest above the Firefly lodge in Alishan. Because of its big ears was believed to be this species.

Chinese Ferret Badger - *Melogale moschata*

This smart creature crossed the road at night at Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area around Km 40.

Siberian Weasel - *Mustela sibirica*

One on the road whilst spotlighting in the Yushan NP.

Yellow-throated Marten - *Martes flavigula*

A pair darting on the roadside verge at dusk in the Yushan NP.

Reeve's Muntjac - *Muntiacus reevesi*

Fairly common at Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, even seen during the daytime. One sick animal at night in the Yushan NP.

Taiwan Serow - *Capricornis swinhoei*

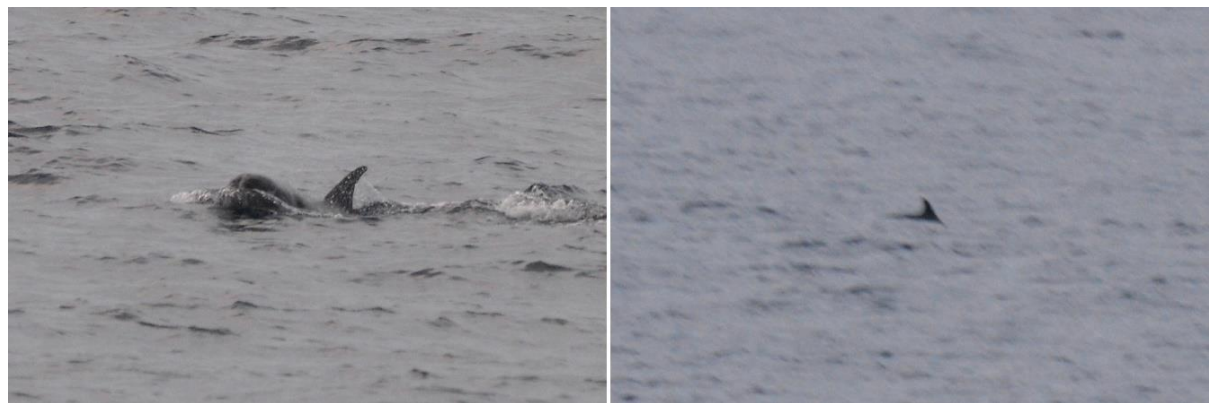
Several at Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area along Forest Road 210, at Km 47 and Km 40.



Left: Taiwan Serow, Forest Road 210, Dasyueshan Forest Recreation Area, 30 April 2017; right: Pallas's Squirrel, Guguan, 1 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Taiwan Grey Shrew, behind the Firefly Lodge, 3 May 2017; right: Pery's Long-nosed Squirrel doing a '[Hang Wire](#)', Renai, 6 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.



Risso's Dolphin (but suggestions welcome), 4 May between Lanyu and Green Island; Jan van der Laan.



Left: Formosan Rock Macaque; right: Yellow-throated Martens, both along Road 21, Yushan NP, 6 May 2017; © Jan van der Laan.