



# TAIWAN TOUR REPORT

17<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Malayan Night-Heron
- Taiwan Hill-Partridge
- Taiwan Bamboo-partridge
- Swinhoe's Pheasant
- Mikado Pheasant
- Black-faced Spoonbill
- Grey-tailed Tattler
- White-bellied Green-pigeon
- Mountain Scops-owl
- Taiwan Barbet
- White-backed Woodpecker
- Fairy Pitta
- Siberian Rubythroat
- Taiwan Shortwing
- Taiwan Bush-robin
- Collared Bush-robin
- Taiwan Whistling-thrush
- Pale Thrush
- Brown-headed Thrush
- Taiwan Bush-warbler
- Flamecrest
- Black-necklaced Scimitar-babbler
- Taiwan Cupwing
- Golden Parrotbill
- Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush
- Rusty Laughingthrush
- Taiwan Hwamei
- Taiwan Barwing
- White-eared Sibia
- Taiwan Blue Magpie

## SUMMARY:

The second **ZOOTHERA** tour to the mountainous island of Taiwan once again proved to be very enjoyable with all of the currently recognised endemics seen, along with Black-faced Spoonbill and an early returning Fairy Pitta to add a little icing on the cake. We began at Dasyueshan where our first endemics included Swinhoe's Pheasant, Steere's Liocichla and Rusty Laughingthrush. Our endemic-fest continued at Huisun where Taiwan Varied Tit was seen well, and from here another incredibly scenic drive took us to Wushe. Both Black-necklaced Scimitar-babbler and Taiwan Bamboo-partridge were seen quickly and then we birded the heights of Hehuan Shan. Stunning Flamecrests, Taiwan Bush-robins and Taiwan Barwings were seen amidst moss-encrusted forests before we dropped down to the lowlands. Here, several wintering Black-faced Spoonbills still lingered around the coastal lagoons of Aogu, along with a good selection of waders. Then we were back up in the mountains at Alishan for Taiwan Hill-Partridge and stunning views of Mountain Scops-owl, before we spent some time looking for migrants and ended up with a perched Fairy Pitta at Huben. Our small group size certainly added to the overall quality of the tour, and this combined with good infrastructure, friendly people and stunning views of everything made this a tour to remember.

## Days 1 - 2 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April

We flew on a direct flight to Taipei with Eva Airways, which entailed a touchdown in Bangkok along the way. This meant we had to get off the plane for nearly 2 hours in Bangkok and re-board the plane again, which was a bit of a pain. However the flight from here to Taipei was not full and we managed to get exit seats or have a row of seats to ourselves. Upon arrival we met Richard Foster and drove south for a couple of hours to Fongyuan and a decent hotel for the night.

## Day 3 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April

We met for breakfast at the rather civilised hour of 6.30am and tackled our first Taiwanese breakfast, which fortunately had toast, fried eggs and coffee, as well as plenty of unidentified inedible objects! So we finally left at 7.15am and drove out of the city and into the countryside at the base of Dasyueshan Mountain, following a narrow lane to a new area where there were several singing **Taiwan Hwamei**. After a little while we had great views of a pair sat in a tree singing their hearts out on the slope above us and it was very nice to be able to watch them at leisure. As an aside, I was a little surprised to see blue skies and boy was it warm (!), especially after the heavy overnight rain.

Despite this, there was a lot of bird activity with **Pacific Swallows**, **House Swifts**, **Striated Swallows**, and a few **Silver-backed Needletails** overhead, as well as lots of **Vinous-throated Parrotbills**, **Plain Prinias**, **Chinese Bulbuls**, **Javan Mynas**, **Taiwan Barbet**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Grey Treepie** and **Oriental Cuckoo** all being noted. Best of all though, was a pair of **Taiwan Scimitar-babblers** that responded very well to the ipod and I managed a decent, albeit distant, record shot. A short drive up the road to a fruiting



**Vinous-throated Parrotbill at Dasyueshan**

tree and we found several **Rufous-capped Babblers**, **Red Collared-dove**, **Japanese White-eye**, **Collared Finchbill** and **Himalayan Black Bulbuls** that actually looked a lot different to the mainland forms. The only slight disappointment was hearing **Taiwan Bamboo-partridge** calling from below us, and with no access to the fields we had no hope of seeing it. It's always a tricky species and I know it will take some finding! Another short drive higher up and we had **White-bellied Erpornis**, and our first views of **Grey-cheeked Fulvetta**, now an endemic species according to the IOC and one of a 4-way split – thanks IOC now I've seen them all!! The highlight for me was seeing a male **Malayan Night-heron** perched up in a tree, with a female sat on a nest nearby, and that's not something you see everyday is it? With the temperature soaring, we had a nice raptor session this morning as well with lots of **Crested Serpent-eagles**, **Japanese Sparrowhawks** and a few **Crested Goshawks** adding some variety.

Our next stop alongside a tumbling stream gave us **Brown Dipper**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Plumbeous Water-redstart**, a male **Grey-chinned Minivet** attacking its reflection in our wing mirror and in-your-face views of **Rufous-faced Warbler**. So from here we drove right up into the mountains, passing through great forest and marvelling at spectacular views until we

reached the police station where we went inside and had our picnic lunch! What? Yeah, very surreal to use their kettle to make some tea and have a picnic on their dining table – not something you could do in the UK right? Can you imagine just popping in to the local constabulary and asking to have a picnic there and using their toilet!!!! Welcome to friendly



**Swinhoe's Pheasant at Dasyueshan**

Taiwan! As we munched on sandwiches, cake, biscuits, fruit and all sorts the mist descended, so we left to go up ever higher to the **Swinhoe's Pheasant** stake-out. Rounding the corner just before the site, sure enough there was a male pheasant right there in front of us, with a few **Steere's Liocichlas** for company. We had a nice look through the windscreen before driving by and parking

further up the hill so as not to disturb the area. Sure enough we walked back downhill and sat down beside the road and had more stunning views of a truly spectacular bird for a while, chatting to some locals and also seeing a **White-tailed Robin** as well. Easy birding!

Back up at the large layby a Taiwanese photographer had set up a little feeding station and allowed us in to take a look at a **Taiwan Hill-partridge** that was just sat in the leaf litter about 10 metres away. Nice! Always a tricky species and this really took the pressure off I can tell you. This stretch of road also gave us a **Large Hawk-cuckoo** that had been continually calling, and we nailed the endemic **Yellow Tit** and a pair of endemic **Rusty Laughingthrush**. How about that? A decent supporting cast of **Oriental Honey-buzzard**, **Black-throated** and **Green-backed Tits**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, and more **liocichlas** and **fulvetta**s meant that a very pleasurable hour or so was had by all. Leaving here we continued up the mountain, stopping for a **White-backed Woodpecker** en-route, and headed for the Mikado Pheasant site but it was getting late and there was nothing doing, apart from a brief **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, so we headed down to the lodge and an early night.

## **Day 4 Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

A rather frustrating day as the mountain was shrouded in thick mist and it also rained most of the day as well. Lovely! We were out at 6am and sheltering under the eaves of some cabins, full of optimism to start with and hopeful the weather would lift a little later. You could 'see' the way it was going to be today when a couple of probable **Pale Thrushes** disappeared into the mist before we could nail them. So as we looked out into the gloom from our sheltered position, a little luck was due and it came in the form of a small flock of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes** that just happened to pass right by us. They were a noisy bunch and hung around long enough for us to get great views – our first endemic of the day. A short while later, David discovered a **Taiwan Barwing** feeding in a tree and we rushed out and quickly relocated the bird as it made its way higher up into



a conifer. So what a result as I'm always a little concerned about just where we're going to see these two species. Anyway, not a lot happened after this apart from more sheltering from the deluge, so we had our breakfast. And nice it was too! No noodles for us, just granola, cheese on toast and some nice breads! Another group here had to settle for the set breakfast but Richard had done us proud with a fine assortment of foods and even had our own coffee.

Afterwards we drove up towards the summit, stopping for half an hour at the Mikado stake-out but there was nothing doing in the dreary conditions, apart from crappy looks at our first **Collared Bush-robin**. About a quarter of a mile below the top we hopped out of the minibus as the weather seemed to be clearing – oh how mistaken was I! Both bush-warblers were singing but not responding to tape, yet **Flamecrests** were everywhere and what a stunning bird. You could say they could light up even the dullest day. Also, a pair of **Nutcrackers** were hanging out along the road and we eventually made up for initial silhouette views when the weather lifted slightly and could see some plumage detail as one of them fed on the ground beside the road. We walked around the corner and then a **Taiwan Bush-warbler** sang really close to the road, so everyone got in position and a short, quiet bit of playback from the ipod resulted in the bird coming straight in



Steere's Liocichla

and perching completely out in the open. Of course it decided to rain heavily just at that moment and I couldn't be bothered to take the camera out of its raincover, but we'd all seen the bird very well anyway. So with the weather deteriorating we decided to get some hot soup in the café and warm up a bit, which gave us some welcome relief! Afterwards we walked around the car park and made our first attempt at **Taiwan Shortwing** which sang its heart out from the bamboo covered slope above us but didn't come in – no surprise there. However, a **Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler** was much more responsive and we had several really nice views of a bird flitting around at eye-level and

we enjoyed plenty more views of several stunning **Collared Bush-robins** and **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes**. Buoyed by this success we opted to walk along a nearby trail but it really was dark and gloomy and a torrential downpour literally dampened any optimism with another calling shortwing – although this bird was so close we just couldn't see it in the dense bamboo. But the rain eased and we checked out a different spot and found ourselves watching a pair of **Mikado Pheasants** – the iconic bird of Taiwan! Just like that, a totally unexpected find and we were even treated to clearer conditions and much better visibility for a short while to help us 'soak' up the beauty of the bird. See what I did there....?

Then we drove back down to the lodge where I planned to have lunch and then walk some of the trails for a couple of skulkers we still needed. Well we had lunch amidst a crowd of noisy locals (bagels and cheese was nice) and then arranged to meet some 20 minutes later. However, the weather had one more trick up its sneaky sleeve and it literally chucked it down for the rest of the day. Oh and don't forget pea-soup thick mist as well. So that was it – rain stopped birding due to a

waterlogged forest! We did walk around the cabins a bit, hiding in sheltered little areas waiting for the rain to ease but it never seemed likely, so we called it quits. We all met up again at 6pm for dinner and it's really strange here as everyone comes at the same time, eats very quickly and it's all over and done with – so as we are doing the checklist the staff are trying to get rid of us at seven!

## Day 5 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Poked my head out of the lodge at 4.50am and it was clear but when I met up with the group at 6am we had dense mist again. We birded the gardens at the edge of the forest for an hour, seeing a few regular birds, as well as getting decent views of a pair of **Pale Thrushes** skulking in a damp corner below the restaurant before heading in to breakfast an hour later. Afterwards we drove up the mountain and despite low cloud and/or mist there was no rain at all today, but must admit I was in two minds whether or not to turn around and drive back down. Good job I didn't as we did pretty well, starting with a walk along the open track where a pair of **Mikado Pheasants** performed well and we watched the male slowly walk right



Collared Bush-robin

across the path and up onto the grassy bank. Several **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** and **Yellowish-bellied Bush-warblers** also proved a bit of a distraction, but best of all along here was our first **Taiwan Fulvettas** that gave repeated views in the trees right next to us. We also had another very close pair at the observation platform that kept moving through the bushes right below us several times. And at the same spot a **Taiwan Bush-warbler** was most obliging as well. Another trail here is very good for **Taiwan Shortwing**, and following our first abortive attempt we had several views of at least two birds. Never an easy bird to see well, but I think everyone had varying degrees of tickable views whilst here. A **Taiwan Bush-robin**



Taiwan Bush-warbler

was much easier and eventually hopped out onto the path in front of us, after a bit of a chase but our perseverance was well rewarded in the end. Several **Collared Bush-robins** also showed well with one male in particular positively glowing in the murky gloom. After some nice fried rice in the café and a cup of tea we drove lower, stopping at the pheasant site and had more close laughingthrushes and better yet, a cracking **Taiwan Rosefinch** feeding right beside the road.



Back down by the lodge it didn't take long to find a **Pygmy Cupwing**, and a star performer indeed as it worked its way across the bank above us for several minutes, showing all the time albeit usually under the overhanging foliage. A short walk down the road resulted in a great view of a **Taiwan Shortwing** perched on an old fallen tree before we spent the last couple of hours birding the gardens in nice clear weather. We managed to find a flock of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrushes**, but there were no barwings following them unfortunately as we wanted better views.

After dinner we had an excellent mammal session, beginning with a couple of **Masked Civets** feeding on kitchen scraps at the edge of the forest, followed by **Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel** and finishing off with a **Taiwan Serow** on the slope below.

## Day 6 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

A few of us got up early and birded the gardens in much clearer conditions than we'd experienced so far – and even had a bit of blue sky. The male **Pale Thrush** showed quite well feeding along a path, David and Ian had **Taiwan Barwing**, and there were plenty of other birds around this morning as well. I knew it was going to be one of those days when I saw a **Scaly Thrush** and **Ashy Woodpigeon** and no one else got onto them. Anyway, we left after breakfast and slowly made our way down the mountain, but it took too long as we waited for a while for **Little Forktail** to show without any joy, then a puncture delayed us further but we did get a **Taiwan (Vivid) Niltava** during the



**Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush at Dasyueshan**

wheel changing process which was a result. We made a couple more stops on the way out and really only got **Strong-footed Bush-warbler** in the process that is of any note, and only heard **Black-necklaced Scimitar-babbler** and **Taiwan Bamboo-partridge**. I did like getting to watch a huge flock of **Asian House-martins** feeding below us from the big bridge and when the mist came in quickly got a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** here as well. Oh and there was a fine pair of **White-bellied Green-pigeons** on some telegraph wires as well. It took maybe just over an hour to reach Huisun and we drove into this scenic spot where we enjoyed another great picnic lunch. It then took several hours of walking around before we finally managed to find a **Taiwan Varied Tit** high up in the canopy. Phew and well spotted Ian! There were also flocks of **Japanese White-eyes**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Grey-cheeked Fulvetta**, **Taiwan Barbets**, **Large-billed Crow**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Silver-backed Needletail**, **Bronzed Drongo** and a few others, but it was hard going. One glaring miss was **Taiwan Blue Magpie** which just wasn't around and in all we spent over 6 hours here and staking out the entrance where you are supposed to get them without a sniff. A pair of **Grey-capped Woodpeckers** was a little compensation, but hardly and I must admit I left here feeling a bit despondent. But there's always another chance or two in the next few days. From here it took an hour to get to Wushe and our excellent lodge.

## Day 7 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

An early start saw us at a particularly favourite little spot of mine by just after 6am and we got off to a good start with a pair of **Taiwan Bamboo-partridges** running across the track in front of us, which most of the group managed to get on. And there was a bonus sighting of a pair of **Eye-browed Thrushes** feeding out in the open as well. The hills were alive with birdsong and when we heard the distinctive call of another bamboo-partridge after a short walk it was very



Taiwan Bush-robin

pleasing to have another decent sighting. Shortly after the bird we really wanted began calling and after a little playback I managed to call in a pair of **Black-necklaced Scimitar-babblers**. Always difficult to see well, this pair were no exception, but with a little effort everyone managed some sort of view as they circled us several times in the dense vegetation all around us. I must say this site is very good and just to name a few goodies we also had here, how about a pair of **Rusty Laughingthrushes** on view for ten minutes, calling, perching overhead and generally showing off.

A pair of **White-bellied Green-pigeons** were also quality, and there was also **White-tailed Robin**, **Rufous-faced Warbler** and **Taiwan Barbet**. So with that double-whammy (partridge & babbler!) completed before 8am that left us with the easy option of driving up to Hehuan Shan at 3275m, stopping at a '7 and 11' for breakfast and nice coffee. At the pass we quickly found an **Alpine Accentor** in one of the car parks, but it didn't hang around for long. At another parking area, a **Taiwan Bush-warbler** performed unbelievably well, singing from an exposed branch right below the road. So from here we took a nice trail down into pine forest, where **Flamecrests** gave their best showing of the entire trip and a **Taiwan Bush-robin** was building a nest in a mossy bank. At the end of the trail before it dropped steeply down into the valley, we found the forest edge alive with activity. More **Flamecrests**, **Collared Bush-robin**, **Taiwan Fulvetta** came in to just a few feet, **Yellowish-bellied Bush-robin** and the distinctive race of **Coal Tits** adorned the trees here.



Taiwan Fulvetta

Leaving here we drove down several kilometres and birded the road in excellent mixed forest, where we bumped into numerous bird waves. It was a very enjoyable afternoon seeing lots of birds although we certainly walked several kilometres, so earned the right to our luck I think. I was surprised to see several small groups of **Eurasian Siskin** coming in to the owl call, but I think everyone else appreciated our first **Ferruginous**



**Flycatcher** much better! I was also glad to get a couple sightings of **Taiwan Barwing**, which had proved a bit tricky for some of the group to date. Most of the flocks comprised of loads of **Taiwan Yuhinas** and **Black-throated Tits**, but also **Grey-chinned Minivet**, **Green-backed** and **Coal Tits**, both bush-robins also put in appearances with a **Taiwan Bush-robin** showing very well on a mossy branch at one stage right in front of us, **Steere's Liocichlas** were common, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, and we even had a **Pallas's Warbler** in one mixed flock. There was also another very confiding **Taiwan Cupwing** perched in a bush at point-blank range.

Driving back up to the pass, a female **Vinaceous Rosefinch** was found beside one of the car parks, and down at the Blue Gate Trail another pair of **Black-necklaced Scimitar-babblers** gave even better views than this morning. A good day indeed.

## Day 8 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April



Taiwan Hill-partridge.

It was a longish drive to the coastal wetlands of Aogu this morning and by the time we arrived it was getting quite hot and upon arrival at the Information Centre we were told that there had been no sightings of the spoonbills for over a week. Great! But we decided to drive around these extensive wetlands anyway and a good move it turned out to be as at our first stop to scan one of the lagoons we found 4 **Black-faced Spoonbills**! Our first waders here were **Wood Sandpiper**, **Kentish** and **Pacific Golden Plovers**, whilst a few **Intermediate Egrets** were

also present. Overall I was slightly disappointed with the low numbers of waders present when compared to last year but we still managed a reasonable selection. Some small fish ponds nearby held groups of breeding-plumaged **Curlew Sandpipers**, along with **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Whimbrels**, more KP's and a few **Yellow Bitterns**, whilst there were lots of **Black-crowned Night-herons** flying around and perched at the water's edge. Moving on we found another group of BFS, as well as **Garganey**, **Northern Pintail**, **Shoveler** and **Eurasian Wigeon**, whilst **Greater Sandplover** and **Red-necked Stints** were the wader highlights. A **Caspian Tern** flew past, and some **Little Terns** were spotted perched a while later, whilst **Black-shouldered Kite** and some other commoner species were found.

By the time we'd done a complete circuit it was after 1pm so we headed into a nearby town for lunch and ice-cream, passing a field full of **Oriental Pratincoles** along the way before heading up into the hills and the lower regions of Alishan. Arriving just in time for some late afternoon birding we got lucky with a **Taiwan Hill-partridge** and a pair of **Swinhoe's Pheasants** feeding in a secluded corner of the bamboo forest. And to round off the day how



about magnificent looks at a **Mountain Scops-owl** that took all of one minute to call in and land in the tree right in front of us. A little later we also spotlighted a **Collared Scops-owl** but that didn't hang around and all too quickly flew off.

## Day 9 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April



Golden Parrotbill - a potential future split.

After a bit of birding in the garden we drove off up into the dizzy heights of Alishan where we saw plenty of previously seen endemics and other species, but our main aim was to find parrotbills and bullfinches. As it turned out the **Golden Parrotbills** came in right on cue and gave mind-blowingly prolonged views and much better than on my previous visit, with at least 5 birds lingering in some roadside bushes. What cuties! We then spent the remainder of the day, some 7 hours searching for bullfinches without any joy. Well that's birding and we did at least try – very hard. In fact in the afternoon we had thick mist, low

cloud and heavy rain that curtailed our efforts, but still saw **Taiwan Shortwing**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Taiwan Barwing**, and all the other usual suspects. As I'm typing this I can hear **Savanna Nightjars** flying past my hotel room window. So now for the pitta.....

## Day 10 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Left the hotel very early and drove the short distance to Huben Village, famous for its population of Fairy Pittas that arrive during late April to breed. I wasn't that optimistic, having dipped here last year and not even hearing one call either on my previous tour. This was compounded with the fact that only 4 birds turned up last year, which was down from 44 in 2006 – depressing news indeed. However, I should know that birding is never ever straightforward (thank goodness) and this year had some local expert help and within 30 minutes of searching I had a **Fairy Pitta** teed up in the scope as it called from high up in a tree for some 20 minutes! Nice spot there by Sir David! Wow! We also nailed **Taiwan Blue Magpie** at last straight after and then drove a few kilometres away and got **Red Oriole** – a potential split from **Maroon Oriole**, but a local endemic race anyway. It took a while to find, but in the end the crippling views were worth it. Several views of **Taiwan Bamboo-partridge** followed, 2 more pittas were also calling here and our first **Dusky Fulvetta** appeared. Back at Huben, a **Malayan Night-heron** showed amazingly well and another **Dusky Fulvetta** was found. So with that little lot done we decided to change plans and head to the very southern tip of the island and Longluan Lake. It took a few hours driving but as soon as we pulled into the car park, a **Styan's Bulbul** appeared and we saw many more here – our last endemic. We'd seen 31 of the 32 endemics and potential endemics for this beautiful island. So now for some light relief and a bit of migrant hunting, but the gale force winds didn't help. An **Arctic Warbler** decided to skulk low down and practically out of sight in some dense fenced-off

bushes, with a possible **Eastern Crowned Warbler** showing even less and not being



Malayan Night-Heron at Huben

confirmed. At the posh hide, complete with numerous scopes and large glass windows we scanned the lake and found a **Grey-tailed Tattler** hiding from the wind amongst a group of **Chinese Spot-billed Ducks**. A fruiting fig tree at the rear of the building held a **Taiwan Barbet**, **Grey Treepie** and we had a very brief sighting of a thrush species which disappeared all too quickly. More thrushes were calling back along the approach road but the wind was making things way too difficult so we headed down to the road and our 'interesting' accommodation for the night.

## Day 11 Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Yet another early start saw us at the southernmost tip of the island in search of some migrants, which turned up hardly anything apart from a calling **Yellow-browed Warbler** – plus a group of **Taiwan Scimitar-babblers**. So we left here and returned to Longluan Lake but the conditions were the same as yesterday with a howling gale. A few thrushes were heard calling from the entrance road, around a large fruiting tree which were most probably all **Eye-browed Thrushes**, yet one bird that did perch out in the open was a **Brown-headed Thrush**..... So we decided to call it quits here and packed our luggage onto the minibus and headed north to Tainan and the Tsengwen Estuary area. The weather by now had become a lot calmer, but with low cloud and light rain which didn't help things. But at our first stop from another decent hide we picked up our first **Terek Sandpipers** of the trip, as well as a group of 18 **Caspian Terns**, both **Gull-billed** and **Common Terns**, as well as an **Osprey**. We then followed the road around a large lagoon and picked up yet more waders, with at least 10 **Grey-tailed Tattlers**, 15+ **Terek Sandpipers**, both **Greater** and **Mongolian Sandplovers**, **Red-necked Stint**, and a few more commoner species. As we drove further along a cracking male **Siberian Rubythroat** flew up from beside the road and we tracked it down along the beach where it showed amazingly well. In fact, we found another two at a small wood nearby. This small patch of conifers along the beach proved to be a little goldmine with somewhere approaching 100 **Eye-browed Thrushes**, a **Blue Rock-thrush**, 3 **Oriental Cuckoos**, both



Taiwan Scimitar-babblers

**Arctic** and **Yellow-browed Warblers**, plus maybe 20 **Brown Shrikes** to add to the already considerable fall of this latter species we had witnessed so far today. With that done it was time for dinner before boarding the Bullet Train to the airport and a short taxi transfer to our hotel for the night.

## Day 12 Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April

A smooth transfer to Taipei airport this morning was followed by our flight back to the UK via Bangkok and the conclusion of a successful tour.

# BIRDLIST FOR TAIWAN APRIL 2013

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
2.	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
3.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
4.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
5.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>
6.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
7.	Pacific Reef Egret	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
8.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
9.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
10.	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
11.	Malayan Night-heron	<i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>
12.	Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
13.	Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>
14.	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
15.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
16.	Chinese Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>
17.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
18.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
19.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
20.	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
21.	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus formosanus</i>
22.	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela hoya</i>
23.	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus formosae</i>
24.	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>
25.	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>
26.	<b>Taiwan Hill-partridge</b>	<b>E</b> <i>Arborophila crudigularis</i>



27.	<b>Taiwan Bamboo-partridge</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Bambusicola sonorivox</i>
28.	<b>Swinhoe's Pheasant</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Lophura swinhoii</i>
29.	<b>Mikado Pheasant</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Syrnaticus mikado</i>
30.	Eastern Water Rail (H)		<i>Rallus indicus</i>
31.	White-breasted Waterhen		<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
32.	Ruddy-breasted Crake (H)		<i>Porzana fusca</i>
33.	Eurasian Moorhen		<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
34.	Common Coot		<i>Fulica atra</i>
35.	Black-winged Stilt		<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
36.	Pied Avocet		<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>
37.	Oriental Pratincole		<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
38.	Little Ringed Plover		<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
39.	Kentish Plover		<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
40.	Mongolian Sandplover		<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
41.	Greater Sandplover		<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
42.	Black-bellied Plover		<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
43.	Pacific Golden Plover		<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
44.	Red-necked Stint		<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
45.	Curlew Sandpiper		<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
46.	Whimbrel		<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
47.	Terek Sandpiper		<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
48.	Common Sandpiper		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
49.	Grey-tailed Tattler		<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
50.	Common Greenshank		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
51.	Marsh Sandpiper		<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
52.	Wood Sandpiper		<i>Tringa glareola</i>
53.	Common Redshank		<i>Tringa totanus</i>
54.	Little Tern		<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
55.	Gull-billed Tern		<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
56.	Caspian Tern		<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
57.	White-winged Tern		<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
58.	Whiskered Tern		<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
59.	Common Tern		<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
60.	Rock Pigeon		<i>Columba livia</i>
61.	Ashy Woodpigeon		<i>Columba pulchricollis</i>
62.	Oriental Turtle Dove		<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
63.	Red Collared Dove		<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
64.	Spotted Dove		<i>Streptopelia chinensis formosona</i>
65.	Emerald Dove		<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
66.	White-bellied Green-pigeon		<i>Treron sieboldii sororius</i>
67.	Large Hawk-cuckoo		<i>Hierococcyx sparveroides</i>
68.	Oriental Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus optatus</i>
69.	Mountain Scops-owl		<i>Otus spilocephalus hambroeki</i>
70.	Collared Scops-owl		<i>Otus lettia glabripes</i>
71.	Collared Owlet (H)		<i>Glaucidium brodiei pardalotum</i>
72.	Savanna Nightjar (H)		<i>Caprimulgus affinis stictomus</i>
73.	Silver-backed Needletail		<i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis</i>
74.	Fork-tailed Swift		<i>Apus pacificus</i>
75.	House Swift		<i>Apus nipalensis kuntzi</i>

76.	Common Kingfisher		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
77.	<b>Taiwan Barbet</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Megalaima nuchalis</i>
78.	Grey-capped Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus kaleensis</i>
79.	White-backed Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>
80.	Grey-headed Woodpecker		<i>Picus canus tancolo</i>
81.	Fairy Pitta		<i>Pitta nympha</i>
82.	Oriental Skylark		<i>Alauda gulgula wattersi</i>
83.	Grey-throated Martin		<i>Riparia c. chinensis</i>
84.	Barn Swallow		<i>Hirundo rustica gutturalis</i>
85.	Pacific Swallow		<i>Hirundo tahitica namiyei</i>
86.	Striated Swallow		<i>Cecropis striolata striolata</i>
87.	Red-rumped Swallow		<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
88.	Asian House-Martin		<i>Delichon dasypus nigrimentalis</i>
89.	Olive-backed Pipit (H)		<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
90.	Green-headed Wagtail		<i>Motacilla flava taivana</i>
91.	Grey Wagtail		<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
92.	Amur (White) Wagtail		<i>Motacilla alba leucopsis</i>
93.	Grey-chinned Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>
94.	Collared Finchbill		<i>Spizixos semitorques cinereicapillus</i>
95.	<b>Styan's (Taiwan) Bulbul</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Pycnonotus taivanus</i>
96.	Himalayan Black Bulbul		<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus niggerimus</i>
97.	Chinese (Light-vented) Bulbul		<i>Pycnonotus sinensis formosae</i>
98.	Brown Dipper		<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
99.	Alpine Accentor		<i>Prunella collaris fennelli</i>
100.	Eurasian Wren		<i>Troglodytes troglodytes taivanus</i>
101.	Siberian Rubythroat		<i>Calliope calliope</i>
102.	<b>Taiwan Shortwing</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Brachypteryx goodfellowi</i>
103.	<b>Taiwan Bush-Robin</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Tarsiger formosanus</i>
104.	<b>Collared Bush-Robin</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Tarsiger johnstoniae</i>
105.	Plumbeous Redstart		<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus affinis</i>
106.	White-tailed Robin		<i>Cinclidium leucurum montium</i>
107.	Blue Rock Thrush		<i>Monticola solitaries philippensis</i>
108.	White-rumped Shama (H)		<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
109.	Oriental Magpie-robin		<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
110.	<b>Taiwan Whistling-Thrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Myophonus insularis</i>
111.	White's Thrush (L)		<i>Zoothera dauma</i>
112.	Eye-browed Thrush		<i>Turdus obscurus</i>
113.	Pale Thrush		<i>Turdus pallidus</i>
114.	Brown-headed Thrush		<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>
115.	Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler		<i>Cettia fortipes robustipes</i>
116.	Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler		<i>Cettia acanthizoides concolor</i>
117.	<b>Taiwan (Alishan) Bush-warbler</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Bradypterus alishanensis</i>
118.	Striated Prinia		<i>Prinia crinigera striata</i>
119.	Yellow-bellied Prinia		<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
120.	Plain Prinia		<i>Prinia inornata</i>
121.	Rufous-faced Warbler		<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>
122.	Dusky Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
123.	Pallas's Leaf-warbler		<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>
124.	Yellow-browed Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>

125.	Arctic Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
126.	<b>Flamecrest</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Regulus goodfellowi</i>
127.	<b>Taiwan Vivid Niltava</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Niltava vivida vivida</i>
128.	Ferruginous Flycatcher		<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>
129.	Black-naped Monarch		<i>Hypothymis azurea oberholseri</i>
130.	<b>Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis</i>
131.	<b>Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Pomatorhinus musicus</i>
132.	<b>Taiwan Cupwing</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Pnoepyga formosana</i>
133.	Rufous-capped Babbler		<i>Stachyris ruficeps praecognita</i>
134.	Vinous-throated Parrotbill		<i>Paradoxornis webbianus bulomachus</i>
135.	Golden Parrotbill		<i>Paradoxornis verreauxi morrisonianus</i>
136.	<b>Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax ruficeps</i>
137.	<b>Rusty Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax poecilorhynchus</i>
138.	<b>White-whiskered Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax morrisonianus</i>
139.	<b>Taiwan Hwamei</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax taewanus</i>
140.	<b>Steere's Liocichla</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Liocichla steerii</i>
141.	<b>Taiwan Barwing</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Actinodura morrisoniana</i>
142.	<b>Taiwan Fulvetta</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Fulvetta formosana</i>
143.	Dusky Fulvetta		<i>Alcippe brunnea brunnea</i>
144.	<b>Grey-cheeked Fulvetta</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Alcippe morrisonia</i>
145.	<b>White-eared Sibia</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Heterophasia auricularis</i>
146.	<b>Taiwan Yuhina</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Yuhina brunneiceps</i>
147.	White-bellied Erpornis		<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>
148.	Black-throated Tit		<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
149.	<b>Taiwan Varied Tit</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Sittiparus castaneiventris</i>
150.	Coal Tit		<i>Periparus ater ptisolus</i>
151.	<b>Yellow Tit</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Macholophus holsti</i>
152.	Green-backed Tit		<i>Parus monticolus insperatus</i>
153.	Eurasian Nuthatch		<i>Sitta europaea</i>
154.	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker		<i>Dicaeum ignipectum formosum</i>
155.	Japanese White-eye		<i>Zosterops japonicus simplex</i>
156.	<b>Taiwan Oriole</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Oriolus trailli ardens</i>
157.	Brown Shrike		<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
158.	Long-tailed Shrike		<i>Lanius schach formosae</i>
159.	Black Drongo		<i>Dicrurus macrocercus harterti</i>
160.	Bronzed Drongo		<i>Dicrurus aeneus brounianus</i>
161.	Eurasian Jay (H)		<i>Garrulus glandarius taivanus</i>
162.	<b>Taiwan Blue Magpie</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Urocissa caerulea</i>
163.	Grey Treepie		<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>
164.	Spotted Nutcracker		<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes owstoni</i>
165.	Large-billed Crow		<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
166.	Common Myna		<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
167.	Javan Myna		<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
168.	Crested Myna		<i>Acridotheres cristatellus formosanus</i>
169.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow		<i>Passer montanus</i>
170.	White-rumped Munia		<i>Lonchura striata</i>
171.	Scaly-breasted Munia		<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
172.	<b>Vinaceous (Taiwan) Rosefinch</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Carpodacus vinaceus formosanus</i>
173.	Eurasian Siskin		<i>Carduelis spinus</i>





Mountain Scops-owl was easily seen again this year.



A flock of Oriental Pratincoles were seen on passage.



This Taiwan (Red) Oriole showed well at Huben.



Rusty Laughingthrush is one of the shyer endemics



We travelled to the very south of the island to see Styan's Bulbul



Taiwan Rosefinch - a potential split





**White-whiskered Laughingthrush is an endemic of high elevations**



**White-eared Sibia at Dasyueshan**



**Taiwan Yuhina is a common endemic of higher areas.**