

Birdwatching trip report to Taiwan 19.11-26.11.2016

Compiled by Tarvo Valker

Logistic

Me and my partner Helen planned our route by following trip reports available in the internet. There are also several websites (e.g. birding asia) suggesting birding sites in Taiwan with some details on how to find them. Generally the amount of decent trip reports about birding in Taiwan is surprisingly low compared with many other destinations in Asia. Hopefully the reading below is useful for some self travelling birders in future.

As we had only short time (one week) to visit Taiwan, we booked most accommodations in advantage. We considered renting a car, but for several reasons finally decided to abandon this option. The main reason was that Estonian international driving license is not accepted in Taiwan. You still find a few companies who are willing to rent you a car, but if you end up in an accident, life could turn a bit complicated. Secondly, traffic is quite a chaos in towns.

During the trip we didn't have to regret not renting the car as public transport is really convenient and good way to explore most of the birding places. The car (with or without the driver) is recommended in some national parks to make early morning drives on sidetracks to find gamebirds. The national parks that we visited were rather easy to access by public transport –so you can see a lot even then you don't use a car or taxi at all.

For the bird ID we used Birds of East Asia field guide by Mark Brazil. It is a bit out of date book by now and some illustrations are rather poor, making few ID-s more challenging – especially Taiwan endemic subspecies of some species. Although we had quite a few bird calls in our smart phones we didn't use playback at all.

Our main target in birding was to spot as many endemic birds as possible (I follow IOC systematics myself). We also payed extra attention to the all endemic subspecies as several of them are most likely future splits. Besides endemics our big targets were Malayan Night-heron – a species which can be real boggy bird in other countries and Black-faced Spoonbill – a globally threatened species wintering in Taiwan.

Our trip route covered areas for 23 Taiwan endemic birds out of 24 (Styan's Bulbul can be found only in extreme south of the Taiwan). During one week stay with easy going birding we ended up with 14 endemics – all of them were well seen and apart from Taiwan Scimitar Babbler, I was able to get at least a record shot of them all.

Our budget:

Taiwan is clearly cheaper than Northern or most of the Western Europe. Accommodations can be found with good prices in most of the places but hotels in Taipei are generally overpriced. Our budget in Taiwan was following:

1. **Accommodation for 8 nights:** 280 euros for 2 persons. On average, you can find double rooms for 30-35 euros a night in most places.
2. **Transportation (trains, buses, taxis)** – total cost was 120 euros per person The main cost was fast trains, bus tickets don't cost much. Hiring a taxi is also great option. For example, we payed 300 NTD (9 euros) for 10 km ride.
3. **Food** - cheaper than in Estonia. About 150 euros per person . c. 15 euros per day.
4. **Entrance fees** - less than 30 euros per person. We visited two sites where we had to pay a small entrance fee – Alishan Recreational area and Xitou Nature Education area. Other birding sites that we visited (Taipei BG, Tsengwen and Yushan) were for free.

Our adventures are written in below. Endemics or other highlight species are marked in bold.

Taipei– 19.11

After several long flights we arrived in Taipei around midday. Boarder control was smooth. We took a bus from the airport to MRT main station. The journey was about 45 minutes and we ticked first birds for our Taiwan list. There were plenty of Little Egrets around, in addition I spotted a Black Drongo on the wire. Other birds included Red Collared Doves, Feral Pigeons and many Tree Sparrows. So nothing exciting during our bus ride to Taipei.

Hotels in Taipei are overpriced and therefore our first accommodation was picked out by using considerably cheaper airbn'b service. Our host Larry, whom we never met, gave us good details how to find the place and everything worked out very well. The place itself was located less than 10 minute walk from the MRT station on a very small and quiet street. The room was nice and had air conditioner, fridge and private bathroom. We used this accommodation for 2 nights.

As it gets dark around 5 p.m. in Taipei, we didn't have much option to go birding anymore. So we just had a short rest and walk in the city.

Taipei -20.11

We woke up just after sunrise (6:30 am) and after a quick snack headed towards Taipei Botanical Garden. It is well known easiest place in the world to see Malayan Night-heron. As it was only two stations away by train, we decided to walk there. We encountered many Chinese Bulbuls and Japanese White-eyes on the way. As soon as we reached the entrance, a large bird caught my eye. I grabbed my bin and there it was – stunning **Taiwan Blue Magpie** – the first endemic of the trip. After some seconds we located 3 individuals and one of them was holding a lizard in its peak. It was a bit surprising record as Taiwan Blue Magpies are usually encountered outside Taipei and sightings in the botanical garden are rather uncommon. During the rest of our trip we didn't have any more sightings of this amazing bird.

Taipei Botanical Garden is a busy place with many locals doing their morning yoga. Some of the territory was closed in the early morning and was not opened before 8:30 a.m. Fortunately there was plenty to watch in the open area as well. We quickly ticked White-breasted Waterhen, Chinese Pond Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron into our trip list.

After a while **Taiwan Barbets** started to call and soon we had several sightings of this beautiful endemic Barbet. Other birds included endemic formosae subspecies of the Grey Treepies, Black Bulbul, introduced Oriental Magpie Robin, Grey Wagtail and Common Kingfisher. But we didn't have any sign of the Malayan Night heron yet.



Malayan Night Heron is an easy bird at Taipei Botanical Garden and great introduction into Taiwan birding. Photo by Tarvo Valker

We waited until the closed area was opened and after a 15 minute walk around the new area we finally nailed our target bird. A stunning **Malayan Night Heron** was standing on the lawn and from time to time pulling out some worms. It was a great way to finish birding on our first morning in Taipei.

We spent the rest of the day walking around the city – we visited several temples, had a nice relaxing Chinese massage and enjoyed some great meals. Late evening we both started to feel sick and I visited the toilet quite a few times during that night.

Taipei – Tainan, 21.11

I was still rather weak but by 9 a.m. we decided to leave our accommodation and headed to the Taipei main station (MRT). We hadn't booked any tickets in advance, but there wasn't any hassle to get ticket for the fast train. Trains run between Taipei and Tainan about twice an hour and the journey takes about 2,5 hours. The train was moving quickly therefore I wasn't able to do much birding from the train. So I decided to have a sleep and get more energy for the afternoon.

After a check in to the hotel and some food that mainly only Helen was able to eat, we headed to Tainan scenic area. On the way Helen spotted Brown Shrike perched on a palm tree. Tainan scenic area is a nice wetland with some walking paths and I started to feel much better now. Our list improved a lot here. We had our only Little Grebes in the ponds and the place was also good for the waders – including some Pacific Golden Plovers and 50+ Black-winged Stilts. We also managed to see our only Peregrine Falcon hunting here. Peregrines can be seen in Taiwan only during winter months. We stayed there until darkness and then returned to our hotel. In Tainan we stayed at Lincoln hotel. The place is really nice and clean with nice view to the city and can be recommended.

Tsengwen – Alishan tea homestay, 22.11

Tsengwen (Zengwun) is a most important wintering site for the globally endangered Black-faced Spoonbills. There are roughly 3,000 birds remained in the entire world and about 1/3 of the population are wintering at Tsengwen River estuary. So it would be very rude not to visit this site, if you are on a birding trip to Taiwan during winter months.

You can reach Tsengwen by the Taijang tourist shuttle bus nr.99, which you can board near the Tainan train station. However, you have to be aware that the buses don't go as far as the Black-faced Spoonbill birdwatching pavilion every hour. There is a tourist information in the train station, so it might be wise to ask them for additional information. Tickets can be bought directly from the bus driver.

We wanted to reach Tsengwen in the early morning. But the night before we discovered that shuttle bus to Tsengwen does not run before 9 a.m.. Reality turned out to be even worse – the first bus came at 9:45 and it didn't even make the full round. That means we got closer (to Longshan village) but had to get the taxi to reach Black-faced Spoonbill birdwatching pavilion.

Getting the taxi in Longshan was more complicated than we thought. There was only one free taxi and the driver was not interested in driving us to the Black-faced Spoonbill site saying it is too far (10 km-s). Soon we spotted another driver parking next to him and with a great hope we tried to convince older chap to take us there. Unfortunately he didn't speak any English. Showing the map and place name in hieroglyphs didn't do the job either. Luckily the third taxi driver with good English passed by and although he was occupied, he helped us out by explaining the old taxi driver where we want to go. And so the journey began. Finally.

We didn't speak much with each other as the man didn't understand English and our Mandarin was no better either. But that was not a problem. The man drove slowly and had some trouble finding the place, but luckily we got to the place eventually. The taximeter showed 500 NTD but the old man returned us 200 NTD, so the cost for us was only 300. It's always good to meet friendly and

honest people and to our great pleasure most of the local people we met during our trip carried those qualities.

During the taxi ride I spotted Black-shouldered Kite hovering next to the road. This species has been rather uncommon in Taiwan and has spread more during last decade. We encountered at least 3 different individuals around Tsengwen area.

As soon as we reached the Black-faced Spoonbill wildlife center we had also our target bird. A nice flock of 110 **Black-faced Spoonbills** was in reasonable scoping distance. We improved our wetland bird list here with many birds familiar from home – including 50+ Caspian Terns, several Curlews and Wood Sandpiper. We also had good numbers of Whiskered Terns feeding along the water.



Tsengwen sancuntary in Southwest Taiwan is one of the most important wintering areas for the globally threatened Black-faced Spoonbills. Photo by Tarvo Valker

While we were birding, the old taxi driver stayed with us. Birding seemed to make him laugh from time to time. We asked the friendly old chap to take us back to Longshan but this time we wanted to make birding stops on the way to explore ponds and mudflats. He was happy to do that. During the stops we recorded 4-5 Long-toed Stints, at least 10 Red-necked Stints and 50+ Curlew Sandpipers. Pacific Golden and Kentish Plovers were also presented in good numbers. As we requested to have stops in absolutely insane places, the taxi driver had great laugh.

The taxi driver seemed to like us and was eager to show us around. So he took us to salt mountains nearby paying the entrance fee of 300 NTD (the money we gave for our ride to Black-faced Spoonbill site) for us. We were a bit worried about what could be our bill at the end of the journey because this time the taximeter was switched off. But reality turned to be unbelievable. As we got back to Longshan, he at first rejected to take any money at all. Of course we didn't agree with that, so we handed him 600 NTD for the ride and salt mountain tickets.

As Tsengwen is a really big area and we spent just few hours here, we didn't have any luck with Far Eastern Curlew or Saunders Gull. It is recommended to come to the area for full day if you spend longer time in Taiwan. We suggest to hire a driver or to rent a car to explore this area more easily.

Our next aim was to visit Yushan NP and therefore we tried to get accommodation closer to the national park. As Alishan turned to be rather expensive, we booked one night at Alishan Tea homestay located at the village of Shizhuo.

We recommend showing the bus driver where you want to go when you enter the bus as the bus stops shown on the screen are only in hieroglyphics. The driver seemed to have a rush getting home and was speeding a lot on those narrow mountain roads.

We arrived to the village of Shizhuo about 7 p.m. There was a shop next to the bus stop and we asked the girl from the shop to call our accommodation. Soon a nice chap with good English (young lad from Mauritania) came to pick us up. We stayed at the Alishan Tea homestay which is a really new place, having started their business in June 2016. The family was very helpful. Hearing that we

hadn't made arrangements for the next day yet they called to Yushan to book accommodation there for us and helped us with all the details how to get to Tataka (Yushan NP) by public transport. Although we might have been a bit needy with that many requests everyone was extremely friendly to us.

Alishan-Yushan, 23.11

The day started with short pre-breakfast birding around Alishan Tea homestay. It was foggy, but with no rain and the birds were active. There were two male Daurian Redstarts just next to our accommodation. **Steere's Licochilas** were very vocal as well and we had distant views of one flock. The breakfast at Alishan consisted of Chinese omelet and fruits. It was a bit small, but delicious. The host gave us a free lift to bus stop and helped to buy tickets from the local shop. We took the bus to Alishan Recreation area. Despite being very touristic and noisy area many birds are easy to spot here. Our main problem was thick fog followed by pouring rain, making birding really challenging. Despite the rain, few hours along the trails were really enjoyable. We were lucky to find one quiet area with loads of birds. We ticked our first pair of **Collared Bush Robins** there and soon Helen spotted Eye-browed Thrush next to them. After a while, a flock of passerines took our attention. The flock had mainly Green-backed Tits, but I managed to pick out 4-5 **Flamecrests** amongst them. Other species in the same flock included Coal Tit, **Taiwan Yuhina** and Brambling. We found female Plumbeous Redstart on a small river and later we also had a good view of the smart looking male.



Male Collared Bush Robin. Yushan NP. Photo: Tarvo Valker

There are only 2 buses a day (1 and 2 pm) from Alishan Recreation area that drive through Yushan NP with the final stop at Sun Moon Lake. It was roughly 1,5 hours bus journey to Tataka Recreation Area in Yushan NP (Bus stop: Shangdongpu or Tataka). As we arrived it was still raining but as the rain was quite light we decided to put our bags quickly to the guesthouse and use the last hour of the daylight for the birding. Tataka is already higher than 2500 meters above sea level, so birds there were mostly new for us. A short 10 minute walk from the bus stop to the guesthouse provided us another endemic – a group of **Taiwan Barwings**. After the check in we picked out several new birds for our list. There was a nice group of **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** and a flock of Black-throated Tits gave excellent views as well. In a scrubby habitat we managed to find our only Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler of the trip. In addition a stunning male Collared Bush Robin was posing just at the side of the road and about a half a dozen Eyebrowed Thrushes were feeding on

berries.

As it was getting dark, we headed to our guesthouse to dry the clothes and warm us up with cup noodles and hot tea. Despite of the pouring rain and a thick fog we ticked five new Taiwan endemics + quite a few other lifer birds on that day.

The accommodation at Tataka (Dongpu Hostel) is very basic - they have only bunkbeds. However, you don't have to bring your sleeping bag as they provide bedclothes. The most inconvenient for us was the fact that they didn't have a radiator or any heating to dry wet clothes. You also have to book meals in advance therefore it is recommended to take your own food with you. It is possible to use their kitchen and cook your own. With hot water provided, it is probably easiest to eat cup noodles, as we did. There is also basic dining room at Tataka visitor center but it closes at 5 p.m.

Yushan NP itself is a quite restricted area. Some trails can be visited only with an hiking permit (which must be applied several weeks advance) and to go to the highest peaks you need mountain climbing permit (if you are on a birding trip, you probably won't go for that). However, many trails can still be visited without a special permit, allowing you to explore the area. We decided to use that option.

Yushan – Ji ji, 24.11

Next morning we woke up 6 a.m and rushed outside to check the weather. It was beautiful! No rain, just a few clouds in the sky. So we made superfast breakfast and headed out to the field or actually to the mountains. White-whiskered Laughingthrushes were posing at the guesthouse doorstep and same did few Nutcrackers.



Taiwan Fulvetta is a confinding endemic at Yushan NP. Photo by Tarvo Valker.

First half an hour provided many sightings of the Flamecrests, Black-throated Tits and Collared Bush Robins. To our fortune, **Taiwan Fulvettas** were rather easy to find. As we were walking along the road, new birds started to turn up. Soon we had nice male White-browed Robin at the roadside and suddenly Helen spotted movement through trees. A bird landed on a nearby tree and we had Scaly Thrush in the bins. I was still smiling after those two nice lifers while **Taiwan Rosefinches** caught our attention. There were at least 3-4 females on the same tree but unfortunately no colorful males around.

Walk to the Linchi mountain wasn't too birdy but the views were just stunning. However, we added few birds here as well – a pair of Indian Black Eagles made a great performance and to our big surprise we flushed up a Short-eared Owl. It was a bit unexpected sighting to see Short-eared Owl at the height of 2800 meters, but during migration season they do cross high mountains and that

individual was probably just resting after nocturnal migration.



Stunning views of the mountain peaks at Yushan. Photo by Helen Pikkat.

The walk back to the guesthouse didn't provide many new species although we picked slightly different route. The only addition on the walk back was a flock of Grey-chinned Minivets. We grabbed our luggage from the guesthouse and waited for the bus. The first bus to Sun Moon Lake that arrived at 1:45 p.m. was full, but after an hour came the second and also the last one. Luckily there were many vacant places. It was a bit over two hour road trip. From Sun Moon Lake we took another bus to Ji Ji. We had to wait only half an hour for the bus and it took less than an hour to get to Ji Ji. On the arrival we headed straight to the restaurant for the meal. The restaurant staff was helpful and called our accommodation letting them know that we are there. Soon the owner of Ji Ji farm homestay came to pick us up with he's van. The accommodation was an enjoyable private cabin with nice view to the mountains and can be recommended to others.

Ji Ji - Xitou Forest Education area – 25.11

We woke up early again and made an hour pre-breakfast birding. Another superb weather and superb day. As soon as we opened the door, i spotted Ashy Wood Pigeon perched on the tree top. Walk along the road led to the wet area with high vegetation where we encountered few Plain Prinias and a flock of the White-rumped Munias. Soon we spotted a raptor above our head which turned out to be Crested Serpent Eagle nobbed by Black Drongo. Other birds here included few Taiwan Barbets, Black Bulbul, many Chinese Bulbuls, single Brown Shrike and good numbers of Grey Treepies.

Breakfast at Ji Ji farm was a mixture of oriental and continental cuisine. Anyway, there were quite a few things that tasted nice and most importantly - they provided proper coffee!

After the breakfast the owner gave us a free lift to the bus stop. During this 10 minute drive we managed to get into the small car accident when the other car hit the back end of our van. Luckily nothing serious happened and we got to the bus stop on time.

We took bus to Xitou Nature Education area. This place was discovered and picked out by Helen and it was not mentioned in the tour reports that we read. At first the entrance looked really frightening with loads of tourists and screaming kids. However, it turned out to be a real birding paradise. Soon we found quieter routes and the birding started. There were tame Steere's Licochilas everywhere and also good numbers of **Grey-cheeked Fulvettas** (a fairly recent split and another endemic) and Rufous-capped Babblers. Soon we spotted a **Taiwan Sibia** and a few minutes later we found two more birds. During the walk along the forest trails we encountered several flocks of

Taiwan Barwings and Taiwan Yuhinas.



Taiwan Barwings gave us cracking views at Xitou. Photo by Tarvo Valker

Our next great bird at Xitou was 1cy **White-tailed Robin** which posed really nice for us. Soon we heard Scimitar babbler in the bush near the track. We needed that one and luckily two birds gave brief but close views and I even manage to get one record shot. **Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler** was now in our trip list and another endemic of the island was ticked. After some time we reached to the reedbed area surrounded with bushes that turned out to be really birdy.



Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler is a noisy bird, but decent views are hard to get. Xitou Nature Education. Photo by Tarvo Valker.

We had good views of the two Rufous-faced Warblers and brief views of the two **Taiwan Scimitar Babblers**. There was quite a lot movement in the reeds, but soon after that thick fog hit the area making birding almost impossible. As it was just 1,5 hours to the sunset, we started to head towards the entrance to catch the bus. It's a pity that we had to rush as the canopy forests were stunning in the fog.

As we got to the bus stop there were many tourists waiting there. The system for booking the bus tickets was complicated so we had to wait in the general que. We waited for more than an hour and several buses passed before we finally got on the bus to Taichung. Therefore it would be wise to get to the bus stop well before the last bus, to ensure that you get the place on one of the buses. From Taichung we took a train to Taipei to spend our last day there. That was the end of our birding.



Full list of birds seen on the trip:

1. Little Grebe – 5 at Tainan scenic area on 21.11
2. Grey Heron – common in wetlands
3. Great White Egret – single bird at Tainan scenic area on 21.11
4. Intermediate Egret – few birds seen at Tainan scenic area on 21.11 and Tsengwen on 22.11
5. Little Egret – very common
6. Black-crowned Night Heron – fairly common, including handful sightings in Taipei and Tainan cities
7. Malayan Night Heron – 1 well seen at Taipei botanical garden on 20.11
8. Black-faced Spoonbill – there was flock of 110 birds at Tsengwen on 22.11
9. Northern Shoveler – 1 bird in female plumage at Tainan scenic area on 21.11
10. Black-shouldered Kite – This species has become more regular in Taiwan just during recent years. We had minimum 3 different individuals around Tsengwen area.
11. Crested Serpent Eagle – 1 near Ji Ji farm homestay and 2 at Xitou Nature Education area on 25.11
12. Besra – single bird perched on telegraph wires near Alishan Tea homestay on 23.11
13. Indian Black Eagle – two birds circling around us at Linchi peak (Yushan NP) on 24.11
14. Peregrine Falcon – single bird hunting at Tainan scenic area on 21.11
15. White-breasted Waterhen – few birds at Taipei botanical garden on 20.11
16. Common Moorhen – common
17. Eurasian Coot – few birds at Tainan scenic area
18. Black-winged Stilt – 50+ at Tainan scenic area on 21.11 and small numbers at Tsengwen on 22.11
19. Pacific Golden Plover – seen in good numbers at Tainan scenic area on 21.11 and Tsengwen on 22.11
20. Little Ringed Plover – few birds seen at Tsengwen on 22.11
21. Kentish Plover – seen in good numbers at Tainan scenic area on 21.11 and Tsengwen on 22.11
22. Lesser Sand Plover – a few at Tainan scenic area
23. Eurasian Curlew – at least 5 birds at Tsengwen on 22.11
24. Greenshank – small numbers at Tainan scenic area and Tsengwen
25. Common Redshank – few birds at Tainan scenic area and Tsengwen

26. Wood Sandpiper – few birds at Tsengwen
27. Red-necked Stint – 10+ at Tsengwen on 22.11
28. Long-toed Stint – at least 5 birds at Tsengwen on 22.11
29. Curlew Sandpiper – common at Tsengwen
30. Whiskered Tern – 50+ at Tsengwen on 22.11
31. Gull-billed Tern – 1 at Tsengwen on 22.11
32. Caspian Tern – 50+ at Tsengwen on 22.11
33. Ashy Wood Pigeon – 2 birds near Ji ji farm homestay on 25.11
34. Feral Pigeon - common
35. Spotted Dove – common in lowlands
36. Short-eared Owl – a surprising record! 1 at Lindchi peak on 25.11
37. House Swift – small numbers
38. Common Kingfisher – 1 at Taipei Botanical Garden on 20.11
39. Taiwan Barbet – 4-5 birds at Taipei Botanical Garden, few birds also heard near Ji Ji farm homestay
40. Grey-throated Martin – few birds en route on 25.11
41. Barn Swallow – small numbers at wetlands
42. Red-rumped Swallow – small numbers at wetlands
43. Pacific Swallow – small numbers at wetlands
44. Asian House Martin – 4-5 birds at Xitou Nature Education area on 25.11
45. Grey Wagtail – 1 at Taipei Botanical Garden on 20.11, one heard only in Taipei on 26.11
46. Grey-chinned Minivet – a vocal flock seen close in flight at Yushan on 24.11
47. Chinese Bulbul – common
48. Black Bulbul – seen in small numbers in various places
49. Flamecrest – 4-5 at Alishan Recreation area on 23.11, 10+ at Yushan NP on 24.11
50. Winter Wren – 2-3 birds seen at Yushan NP on 24.11
51. Scaly Thrush – single bird seen at Yushan NP on 24.11
52. Eyebrowed Thrush – 1 at Alishan and at least 5 at Yushan on 23.11, few birds at Yushan on 24.11
53. Plain Prinia – 2-3 birds near Ji Ji farm homestay on 25.11
54. Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler – 1 bird well seen at Yushan NP on 23.11
55. Rufous-faced Warbler – 2-3 birds seen at Xitou Nature Education area on 25.11
56. White-browed Bush Robin – 1 male well posing at Yushan NP on 24.11
57. Collared Bush Robin – male and female at Alishan on 23.11, handful number of sightings at Yushan NP on 23.11 and 24.11
58. Plumbeous Redstart – good views of the male and female at Alishan on 23.11
59. Daurian Redstart – 2 males near Alishan tea homestay on 23.11, 1 female near Ji ji farm homestay on 25.11
60. White-tailed Robin – single bird in female plumage at Xitou Nature Education area
61. White-whiskered Laughingthrush – common and very vocal at Yushan NP on both days
62. Steere's Liocichla – common at Alishan area on 23.11 and at Xitou Nature Education Area on 25.11. One of the easiest endemics.
63. Black-necked Scimitar Babbler – 2 birds briefly seen at Xitou Nature Education Area on 25.11
64. Taiwan Scimitar Babbler – 2 birds briefly seen at Xitou Nature Education Area on 25.11
65. Rufous-capped Babbler – very common at Xitou Nature Education area on 25.11
66. Taiwan Barwing – a small flock at Yushan on 23.11, at least 15 birds in several flocks at Xitou Nature Education area on 25.11
67. Taiwan Fulvetta – not uncommon at Yushan NP on 24.11
68. Grey-cheeked Fulvetta – a fairly recent split and now considered as an endemic. Common at Xitou Nature Education area on 25.11
69. White-eared Sibia – 1+2 birds at Xitou Nature Education area on 25.11

70. Taiwan Yuhina – few birds at Alishan on 23.11, common at Yushan on 24.11 and Xitou on 25.11
71. Black-throated Tit – common at Yushan NP on 23.11 and 24.11
72. Coal Tit – seen in small numbers at Alishan on 23.11 and Yushan on 24.11
73. Green-backed Tit – common and seen in several days
74. Japanese White-eye – common
75. Brown Shrike – 1 at Tainan on 22.11
76. Black Drongo – not uncommon
77. Taiwan Blue Magpie – a great finding from Taipei Botanical Garden on 20.11 with 3 birds showing well.
78. Grey Treepie – endemic formosae subspecies common at various places, often in small flocks.
79. Eurasian Magpie – single birds seen in various places
80. Azure-winged Magpie – 4-5 birds near Tainan
81. Eurasian Nutcracker- vocal and common at Yushan NP on 24.11
82. Large-billed Crow – presented in small numbers at higher and mid-elevations
83. Javan Myna – single bird at Tainan on 21.11
84. Common Myna – common
85. Eurasian Tree Sparrow – common
86. White-rumped Munia – at least 15 birds near Ji ji farm homestay on 25.11
87. Taiwan Rosefinch – at least 3 females showing well at Yushan NP on 24.11
88. Brambling – 1 at Alishan and 2-3 at Yushan on 23.11, several birds at Yushan on 24.11

Mammals:

1. Maritime Striped Squirrel – a few encountered at Yushan NP
2. Pallas's Squirrel – common, also in city parks
3. Formosan Macaque – seen a few times at Yushan NP