



CHINA BIRDING TOUR

Lingshan
Poyang Lake
Sichuan
Taiwan

20th February to
2nd March 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

Siberian Crane, Tibetan Snowcock, Golden Pheasant, Swinhoe's Pheasant, Mikado Pheasant, Swinhoe's Rail, Baer's Pochard, Darjeeling Woodpecker, Saunders's Gull, Black-faced Spoonbill, Oriental Stork, Maroon Oriole, Japanese Waxwing, Collared (Johnstone's) Bush Robin, Marsh Grassbird, Dusky Fulvetta, Siberian Accentor, Pallas's Rosefinch.



Introduction.

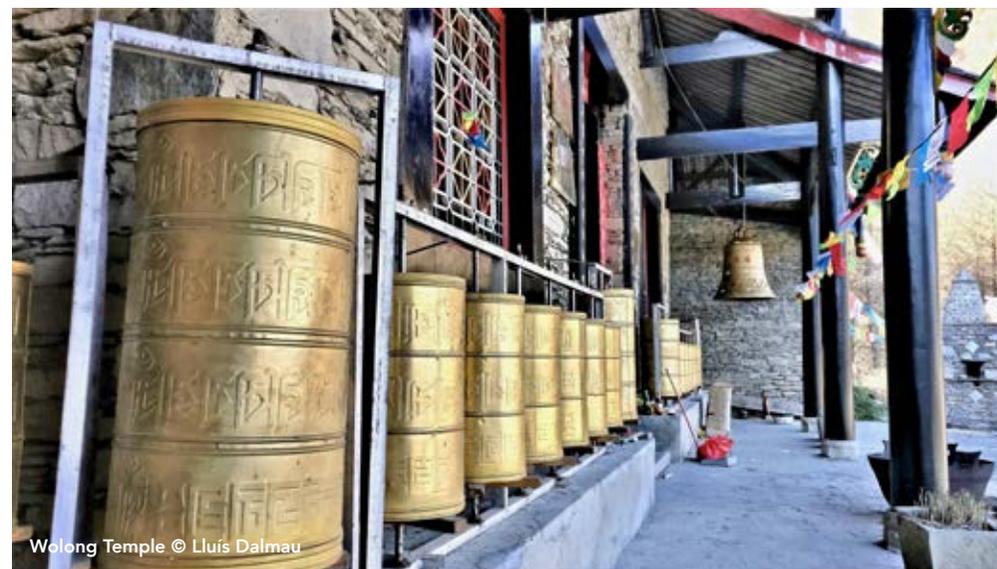
Our purpose was to visit Poyang Lake to see wintering Cranes and combine that with another lifelong dream of seeing pheasants in the wild. For the latter, Sichuan is a diversity hotspot holding 25 of the 63 species of Phasianidae recorded in China, where our main targets were Lady Amherst's and Golden Pheasants. As preparations for the trip proceeded, we added an extension to Taiwan to include their own very special endemic Pheasants.

Combining both targets into eleven days is difficult. We had a narrow window of time available – not too early for Pheasants in Sichuan where bad weather could disrupt plans and not too late for Cranes at Poyang. Unfortunately, this space of just a couple of weeks falls within the Chinese New Year holiday - when this year there were apparently 300 million Chinese in transit and hotels. The fact that we were able to see most of our targets, and build a list of over 250 species is in large part thanks to the expert planning (and re-planning) of Steven An (info@chinadreamstour.com) in Poyang, Tang Jun in Sichuan and Wú Chóng Hàn in Taiwan.

Steven did a great job of planning, arranging and orchestrating our complex itinerary. He has excellent knowledge of the Poyang area and wisely put us in the capable and enthusiastic hands of Terry Townshend in Beijing (www.birdingbeijing.com) and Tang Jun in Sichuan. Steven was recommended by Craig Brelsford (www.shanghaibirding.com) who also put us in touch with Wú Chóng Hàn who, with his wife Rachel, guided us brilliantly – and drove over 1200 km in 3 days in Taiwan.

In this report, we don't provide detailed location descriptions as the routes taken at most of the sites visited followed rather classic itineraries described in detail in the many trip reports already published.

In retrospect we were extremely fortunate with no serious disruptions caused by bad weather, holiday congestion or air traffic delays that can so often create havoc with internal flights. The hotels chosen for us by Steven were excellent, in particular, the Panda Conservation Hotel in Wolong. For any information on planning such a trip, please contact Steven.





Longcanggou © Lluís Dalmau



Mike at Balangshan © Lluís Dalmau

Such a trip, though is physically demanding, and gives no time to retrace steps if birds do not show on first attempt. Added to that, as Tang Jun made clear, we were in Sichuan 2 months too early and hence most of the mid-elevation targets were extremely difficult. Longcanggou was particularly quiet, with only brief views of Lady Amherst's Pheasant and no sign of Temminck's Tragopan.

In summary this tour had been a lifelong dream for us to some mythical places. Landscapes throughout were stunning, and the bitter cold of Lingshan, disappointments of not seeing well some of our key targets and the sleep deprivation were soon forgotten.

Thanks again to all in China and Taiwan who made this possible.

Literature: We used the MacKinnon and Phillipps Field Guide to the Birds of China and Mark Brazil field guides throughout. The excellent field guide to the birds of Taiwan has just been published in English, with really stunning artwork. Tang Jun and Dong Lei have produced a very nice book called Pheasants guide to Wolong National Nature Reserve in collaboration with the Sichuan Wolong National Reserve Administration and published by the Sichuan National University Electronic Press that contains many fine photographs of these iconic birds – something to marvel over on the flight out of Chengdu as you reminisce over your near misses and tenuous encounters!

Photography: This was a birding trip, so photography was for records. All pictures, except where marked, were taken by Mike using a Nikon D810 and Nikkor 600mm F/4. Thanks to Chóng Hàn for advice on photography in general, but Savannah Nightjar technique and loan of bean bag especially. More photos on Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157096279@N08>).



CONTACT

Mike May
mike@lullula.org

Ponç Feliu
pfeliu1975@gmail.com

Lluís Dalmau
ldalmau@perutresnortes.com

LOGISTICS CHINA

Steven An
info@chinadreamstour.com

LOGISTICS TAIWAN

Wú Chóng Hàn
rachel-new@yahoo.com.tw



Wolong Temple © Ponç Feliu



Lingshan © Lluís Dalmau



Longcanggou © Lluís Dalmau

Itinerary:

Day 1.

20th February, Lingshan, Beijing;

Day 2.

21st February, early flight to Nanchang, and then all day birding at Poyang;

Day 3.

22nd February, all day birding at Poyang;

Day 4.

23rd February, most of day birding at Poyang, with evening flight to Chengdu;

Day 5.

24th February, all day birding at Longcanggou;

Day 6.

25th February, morning at Longcanggou, drive to Wolong and evening birding there;

Day 7.

26th February, all day birding Wolong-Balangshan-Wolong;

Day 8.

27th February, morning birding in Wolong, then flight from Chengdu to Taipei, drive to Taichung City county for overnight at B&B;

Day 9.

28th February, all day birding Dasyueshan, overnight at Huben village;

Day 10.

1st March, lowland endemics near Huben, then all day birding AliShan, overnight at Huben village;

Day 11.

2nd March, all day birding Pingtung county, then central western wetland areas, late night flight from Taipei.

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

NT = Near Threatened

V = Vulnerable

EN = Endangered

CE = Critically Endangered

1. Snow Partridge

Lerwa lerwa major

2 distant birds heard for more than an hour below the monument at Balangshan, Sichuan (4.200 m.). Despite a long wait, and despite responding to playback, the birds remained distant and hidden.

2. Tibetan Snowcock

Tetraogallus tibetanus henrici

A total of 6 birds seen in pairs at Balangshan, Sichuan (3.900-4.500 m.), including a very obliging pair by the roadside just before the Balangshan Pass. Undisturbed by our presence in the car, the birds provided great photo opportunities, finally retreating to a ridge where we observed them from a distance.





3. Chestnut-throated Partridge

Tetraophasis obscurus NT

3 birds calling at dawn in scrub above the last tunnel on the Wolong to Balangshan road (2.300m) and again 3 more the next day at the same place at about 1 p.m. Despite responding to playback, and a long wait, the birds remained hidden in the fog.

4. Taiwan Partridge

About 8 birds seen very closely at a roadside feeding area on the Dasyueshan Forest Road at km 23, 1500m elevation. They moved in to feed quietly once it was safe and the highly excited male Swinhoe's Pheasant had withdrawn. This area was full of birds in the canopy.





5. Bamboo Partridge

Bambusicola thoracica thoracica (China)

Heard in several places during the trip in Poyang and Sichuan.

Bambusicola thoracica sonorivox (Taiwan)

Regularly heard in Taiwan lowlands on all three days.

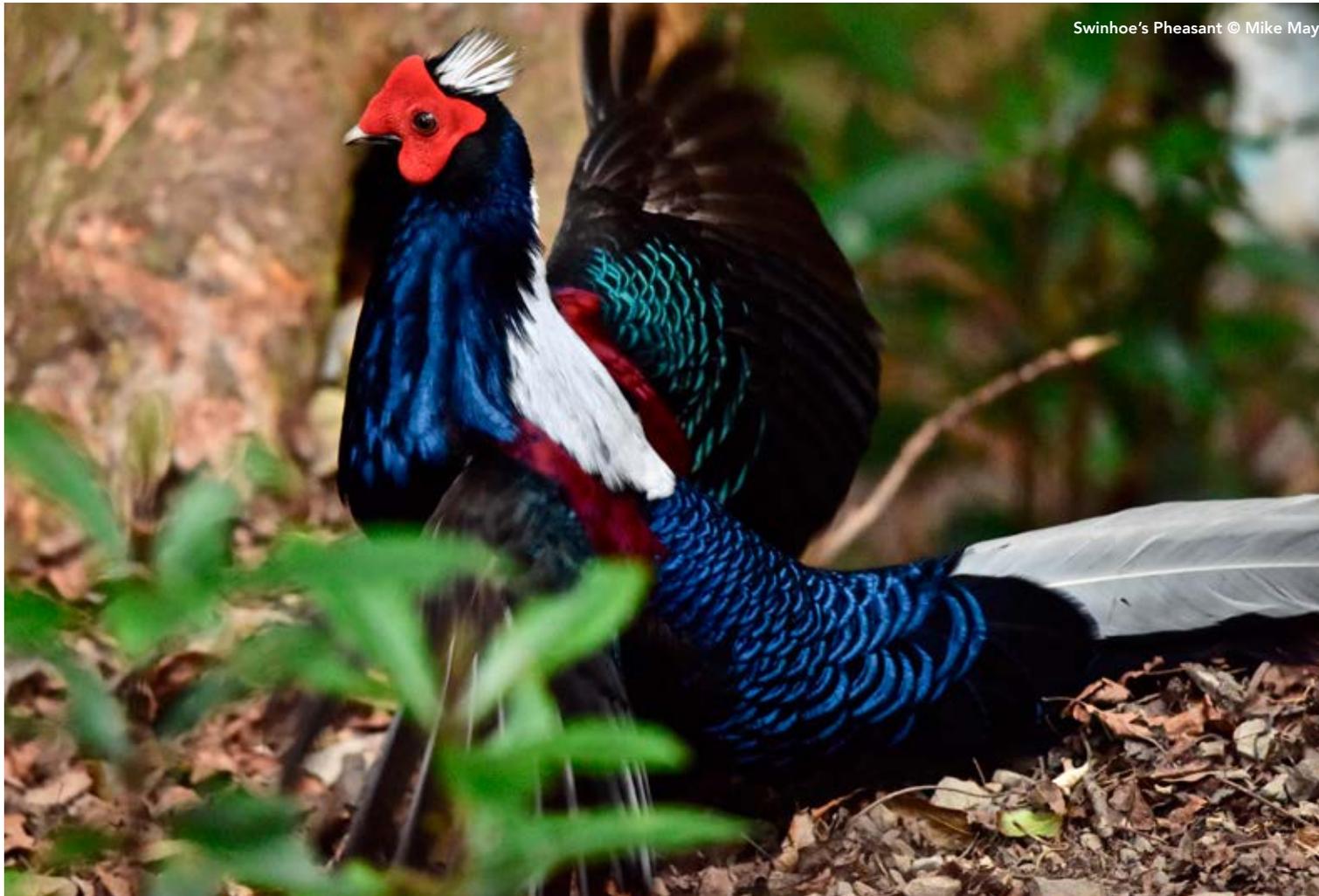
6. Koklass Pheasant
Pucrasia macrolopha

Several males calling at dawn in scrub above the last tunnel on the Wolong to Balangshan road, Sichuan (2.200 m.) and one male seen close to the road in the freezing fog.



7. Chinese Monal *Lophophorus lhuysii* V

At least three males heard for more than one hour at dawn at the now famous site at the last tunnel on the Wolong to Balangshan road, Sichuan (2,200 m.). Whilst these birds are notoriously shy, the dense fog made our chances of seeing them worse. A big pity. Come back in May said Tang Jun!



8. Swinhoe's Pheasant *Lophura swinhoii* NT

2 males, 1 immature male and 9 females feeding close to the road at km 23 on the Dasyueshan road, Taiwan. One male was particularly confident, and in a high state of excitement, chasing the females that had arrived earlier with greatly distended facial skin mask, and displaying repeatedly with a display that involved stretching the neck upwards and quivering extended wings. The second male was seen at a separate nearby spot, and was more subdued, although during most of his appearance was too close for photography (with a 600mm lens). An amazing experience to be surrounded by these birds for over an hour.



Swinhoe's Pheasant © Mike May



Swinhoe's Pheasant © Mike May

9. Common Pheasant
Phasianus colchicus

Seen 4 times in Beijing, Poyang and Sichuan lowlands.

10. White Eared Pheasant
Crossoptilon crossoptilon

Heard once in the afternoon on the slopes below the last tunnel on the Wolong to Balangshan road, Sichuan (2.200 m.), but remained lost in the fog.



11. Mikado Pheasant
Syrmaticus mikado NT

One single male feeding close to the road at Tataka, Alishan at 2610m elevation, Taiwan. Seen initially by chance as we had stopped the car to try to see Taiwan Fulvetta. The bird remained mostly obscured in vegetation, although relatively unperturbed by our car. Apparently, the birds at Alishan are more timid than those at Dasyueshan because of the higher number of tourists and trekkers. Unfortunately, the road up to the elevations they favour at Dasyueshan was closed for construction.

12. Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* NT

1 male seen, 1 female seen and around 5 males singing for hours during three visits to the Temple on the hillside above Wolong, Sichuan. We understood, that later in the spring, birds are more visible as they sit up in bushes to eat the newly emerged buds. The birds were close at times, and we spent several hours scanning the slopes and crawling as noiselessly as possible in the dense scrub. The whole experience of hearing so many males singing back and forth in this beautiful location was magical.



Golden Pheasant Habitat. Wolong Temple © Ponç Feliu



13. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae* NT

Many footprints, droppings, one probable male heard and one female briefly seen in Longcanggou, Sichuan. We were probably too early in the season, and searched hard. Longcanggou was one of the quietest areas we visited on the whole trip. We understood ahead of the trip that Dalí in Yunnan is a more reliable location, but adding a further flight west to an already crazy schedule would have been too much. A further comment on the Longcanggou site is that the private road that leads up through the forest and that is much used by birding tours may soon be closed. The reason for this is that there is a planned re-introduction of Giant Pandas onto the hillside in July 2018, and in all likelihood access will become restricted to avoid disturbance. Tang Jun had to make great efforts to have a newly erected gate opened for us, and we are indebted to his perseverance on our behalf.

14. Tundra Swan
Cygnus columbianus

Hundreds of wintering birds in Poyang area. Very photogenic in the sunset as they congregated ahead of moving out to their night-time feeding areas. One bird with a radio-collar.



Tundra Swan © Mike May

15. Swan Goose
Anser cygnoides V

Commonly seen in flocks of hundreds in Poyang area.

16. Taiga Bean Goose
Anser fabalis sibiricus

Some individuals amongst Tundra Bean Geese in Poyang Lake.



17. Tundra Bean Goose
Anser fabalis serrirostris

Common in Poyang area.

18. Greater White-fronted Goose
Anser albifrons

Several wintering flocks in Poyang Lake and surroundings.

Greater White-fronted Goose © Mike May



19. Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

2 birds feeding in a small lake, to the north of Poyang.

20. Gadwall

Anas strepera

Regularly seen in both Poyang, China, and Aogu wetlands, Taiwan.

21. Eurasian Wigeon

Anas penelope

Common in Augou wetlands, Taiwan.

22. Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Common in all wetlands and rivers, both in China and in Taiwan.

23. Chinese Spot-billed Duck
Anas poecilorhyncha

Common in all wetlands and rivers, both in China and in Taiwan.



Chinese Spot-billed Duck © Mike May

24. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A few wintering birds in Poyang Lake and abundant in Aogu wetlands, Taiwan.



25. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

1 female in Pheasant-tailed Jacana Ecological Education Park, Hulipu/ Guantien and many wintering birds in Aogu Wetland and Forest Park, Taiwan. The Jacana reserve is well set up with spacious hides, and a well-informed visitor centre that showcases the conservation efforts to preserve the Jacanas in their competition with man for their favourite food – Water Chestnuts. The Aogu reserve is even more impressive, being a vast area of lakes and reed beds inside a sea wall that clearly serves as an important stop-over on the Australo-Siberian Flyway. It is a wonderful location for leisurely photography as the birds are close to the road and confiding, presenting opportunities for photography that are difficult elsewhere.

26. Garganey
Anas querquedula

Around 20 birds at the Pheasant-tailed Jacana Ecological Education Park, Hulipu/Guantien, Taiwan.

27. Common Teal
Anas crecca

Common in Poyang and in Taiwan's wetlands.

28. Common Pochard
Aythya ferina

Common in Poyang Lake area and several at Aogu, Taiwan.

29. Baer's Pochard
***Aythya baeri* CE**

1 juvenile amongst a group of Common Pochards at Dong Hu – a satellite lake north of Poyang Lake.

30. Tufted Duck
Aythya fuligula

Small flocks observed in Aogu wetlands, Taiwan.

31. Goosander

Mergus merganser

1 bird on a frozen urban lake in Beijing on the drive to Lingshan.

32. Yellow-legged Buttonquail

Turnix tanki

1 disoriented migrant bird seen poorly crossing the expressway in central Taiwan lowlands.

33. Barred Buttonquail

Turnix suscitator rostrata

1 bird shortly seen at dusk around Maguang ,Tuku Township in Yunlin County, Taiwan.

34. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker

Dendrocopus canicapillus

A few birds heard or seen in Lingshan, Poyang and Sichuan.

35. Darjeeling Woodpecker
Dendrocopus darjellensis

1 bird seen at a very close range for 15 minutes in Wolong, Sichuan. Originally identified as Crimson-breasted, this bird was strikingly yellow on the underparts, and so created some discussion, in the end after some help decided on Darjeeling Woodpecker.



36. Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopus major

A few birds in Sichuan and also some birds in Taiwan forests above 2000m.

37. Grey-headed Woodpecker

Picus canus

Seen in Sichuan with a close bird in Longcanggaou and also in Poyang area. One of those birds that is far easier to see in China than in Europe.

38. Bay Woodpecker

Blythipicus pyrrhotis

1 bird heard at Longcanggou, Sichuan.

39. Taiwan (Black-browed) Barbet
Megalania oorti nuchalis

Heard in all forested areas in Taiwan, one seen very well at the Swinhoes Pheasant site at km 23 on the Dasyueshan road.



40. Common Kingfisher
Alcedo atthis

Regularly seen and heard in the wetlands of Poyang, Sichuan and Taiwan.

41. White-throated Kingfisher
Halcyon smyrnensis

3 birds seen in Poyang Lake area.



Pied Kingfisher © Mike May

42. Pied Kingfisher
Ceryle rudis

Several birds seen in Poyang Lake area.

43. Lesser Coucal

Centropus bengalensis lignator

1 juvenile seen in a sugar cane field in Maguang ,Tuku Township in Yunlin County, Taiwan.

44. House Swift

Apus affinis kuntzi

A few flocks, presumably of the Taiwanese sub-endemic race seen around southern Taiwan villages.

45. Mountain Scops Owl

Otus spilocephalus hambroeki

Commonly heard in the lowlands of Taiwan, where heard every night.

46. Collared Scops Owl

Otus bakkamoena glabripes

1 bird heard around during a night owling attempt from our B&B at Heping District, Taichung City on our first night in Taiwan at a site where we hoped to see Tawny Fish Owl, but were compensated with a White-faced Flying Squirrel.

47. Brown Hawk Owl (Northern Boobook)

Ninox scutulata totogo

1 bird heard in lowland forest near our hotel, the Pitta Café, at Huben village, Yunlin County, Linnei Township, Taiwan.

Long-eared Owl © Mike May



48. Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

1 bird seen for more than 10 minutes whilst it perched on the roadside barrier while driving up to Balangshan Pass, Sichuan.

49. Savannah Nightjar
Caprimulgus affinis stictomus

Commonly heard in almost all habitats in Taiwan, where heard every night. This photo was taken by driving slowly round the tracks in between the fields until one was located on the road in the car headlights. Then the photographer creeps along the ground next to the car as it rolls forward, but behind the headlights so remains invisible. Once at a suitable distance, the photo is taken using a beanbag on the ground, and the car headlights for illumination.



50. Hill Pigeon
Columba rupestris

A few birds seen while driving in the way up to Lingshan, Beijing.

51. Snow Pigeon

1 bird seen at 4500 m. at the Balangshan Pass, Sichuan.

52. Ashy Wood Pigeon
Columba pulchricollis

A flock of 13 birds seen in northwestern lowlands of Taiwan at a Temple area, Hú běn tiān shèng gōng, where we searched in vain for an overwintering Forest Wagtail – an excellent place for Malayan Night Heron though.

53. Oriental Turtle Dove
Streptopelia orientalis orii

Commonly seen in all lowland areas in mainland China, the Taiwan subspecies, *Streptopelia orientalis orii*, seen at Hú běn tiān shèng gōng Temple.

54. Spotted Dove
Streptopelia chinensis chinensis

Common around most of lowland and urban habitats of China replaced by subspecies *formosana* in Taiwan.

55. Red Collared (Turtle) Dove
Streptopelia tranquebarica

Common in Taiwan lowlands.



Red Collared (Turtle) Dove © Mike May



56. Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* EN

The star bird of the trip, and our principal target. A total of 40 birds seen in pairs or small groups in open areas of Poyang Lake, mainly in wetlands and lotus fields. We understood that during the peak of the wintering season, a flock of 600 favoured a single lotus field, and a photography hide had been set up with some amazing results. We were there right at the end of the season when the groups were setting up for the flight north. Good to see a 1cy bird – and reminisced that if all went well, and current conservation plans work, it should outlive us.

57. White-naped Crane

Grus vipio

Several flocks (>200 individuals) around Poyang Lake.

58. Common Crane

Grus grus

Several flocks (>80 individuals) around Poyang Lake.

59. Hooded Crane

Grus monacha CD

A flock of 4 birds seen in a satellite lake in the western part of Poyang Lake. Clearly most of the birds had already left. This should be the most common of the 4 species of the area, and we had to make do with very distant scope views almost at the last moment.



60. Swinhoe's Rail

Coturnicops exquisitus V

1 bird seen crossing the road in front of the car in a reed bed area, in the south-western part of Poyang Lake. Poyang is a known wintering area for this elusive species, where apparently it favours short grass in relatively dry areas. Rather a brief view, but given its tiny size, probably the only bird it could have been.



61. Brown-eared (Eastern Water) Rail

Rallus indicus

1 bird seen well in a reed bed area in the south-western part of Poyang Lake, showing the characteristic heavily marked under tail coverts and extensive side-barring. Western Water Rail should in theory also occur here. Rather a poor record shot taken in the persistent rain.

62. Brown Crake
Amaurornis akool

Several birds seen in Poyang Lake area in drainage ditches – more of a Waterhen than a Crake in size and behaviour.

63. White-breasted Waterhen
Amaurornis phoenicurus

Regularly seen in Taiwan wetlands.

64. Common Moorhen
Gallinula chloropus

Common in all visited wetlands of China and Taiwan.

65. Common Coot
Fulica atra

Common in all visited wetlands of China and Taiwan.

66. Bar-tailed Godwit
Limosa lapponica

A number of small flocks, usually mixed in with other species in Budai marshes, Taiwan

67. Eurasian Curlew

Numenius arquata

A few birds in Budai marshes and some birds heard calling at Poyang Lake.

68. Far-eastern Curlew

Numenius madagascariensis NT

Small numbers mixed in with groups of Eurasian Curlew in Budai marshes, Jiangjun Dist in Tainan City Taiwan.



69. Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Common in Poyang Lake area and also regularly seen in Taiwan wetlands.

70. Common Redshank

Tringa totanus

A few birds in Aogu wetlands, Taiwan.

71. Common Greenshank
Tringa nebularia

Regularly seen and heard in Poyang Lake and in Taiwan wetlands. This photo taken from the car at Aogu. Quite exceptional to see so many birds sleeping peacefully by the side of a road. Aogu really is a tribute to the perseverance of the conservation-conscious Taiwanese, having saved this huge area from development. Really a reserve that deserves far more global recognition given its strategic location on the Australo-Siberian Flyway.



72. Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Some birds in Poyang Lake and 1 bird in Aogu Wetlands, Taiwan.

73. Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Common in Poyang Lake, fewer seen in Taiwan wetlands.

74. Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Seen in all wetlands and rivers, both in China and in Taiwan.

75. Great Knot

Calidris tenuirostris

A flock of 40+ seen at one location, mixed in with Bar-tailed Godwits, Grey Plovers, Pacific Golden Plovers and Little Terns in Budai marshes, Jiangjun Dist in Tainan City Taiwan, Taiwan.

76. Red-necked Stint

Calidris ruficollis

Small numbers seen in Budai marshes, Taiwan.

77. Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Some small flocks in Budai marshes, Taiwan.

78. Greater Painted Snipe

Rostratula benghalensis

2 birds found in an irrigation ditch in Maguang fields, Tuku Township in Yunlin County Taiwan. Slaty-breasted Rail is also possible in these ditches, and was our other target in this area. The whole area, although it is dominated by intensive agriculture (rice, sugar cane, vegetables) is extremely rich in birdlife. One could spend a long time cruising the tracks that criss-cross the fields to see a huge number of birds. This is the place where Oriental Plover stops on migration. Given the number of pipits, wagtails and Drongos present, it seems that pesticide use is minimal.



Greater Painted Snipe © Mike May



Pheasant-tailed Jacana © Mike May

79. Pheasant-tailed Jacana ***Hydrophasianus chirurgus***

Common in Pheasant-tailed Jacana Ecological Education Park, Hulipu/Guantien, Taiwan. This group photographed in a roadside Water Chestnut field where we stopped to buy the chestnuts. This reserve is another fine example of Taiwanese persistence in conservation of critical wetlands – here, they seem to find a balance between the competing preferences of Jacanas and humans for Water Chestnuts.

80. Black-winged Stilt
Himantopus himantopus

20+ in Jacana Ecological Education Park, Hulipu/Guantien, Taiwan, and also fairly common in Aogu marshes, Taiwan, where they pose perfectly by the roadside.



81. Avocet
Recurvirostra avosetta

A single flock of 15 in Aogu marshes, Taiwan. Surprisingly, none seen at Poyang where thousands had overwintered.



82. Pacific Golden Plover
Pluvialis fulva

Commonly scattered around Budai marshes, Jiangjun Dist in Tainan City Taiwan. This bird photographed at Aogu.

83. Grey Plover
Charadrius hiaticula

A few birds in Budai marshes, Taiwan.

84. Little Ringed Plover
Charadrius dubius

7 birds in a rice field in Maguang fields, Tuku Township in Yunlin County, Taiwan. Like all the birds in this area, very confiding in the freshly planted rice.



85. Lesser Sand Plover

Charadrius mongolus

Common in Budai marshes, Taiwan. Also several birds in Aogu marshes.

86. Greater Sand Plover

Charadrius leschenaultii

Less than 10 birds in Budai marshes, Taiwan.

87. Northern Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Scattered individuals regularly observed around Poyang Lake

88. Grey-headed Lapwing

Vanellus duvaucelli

Commonly seen in Poyang Lake area, and also in all wetlands of Taiwan.

89. Heuglin's Gull

Larus heuglini

A few scattered individuals in Poyang area wetlands.

90. Vega Gull

Larus vegae

Some small flocks, at Poyang Lake and regularly seen Taiwan wetlands.

91. Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

Common in all wetlands and rivers visited, both in China and in Taiwan.



Saunders's Gull © Mike May

92. Saunders's Gull
***Larus saundersi* EN**

5 adults and two juveniles seen in Budai wetlands, feeding on crabs. A really beautiful gull, especially in flight.



Saunders's Gull © Mike May



Saunders's Gull © Mike May

93. Caspian Tern
Hydroprogne caspia

Common in Budai and Aogu wetlands, Taiwan.

94. Greater Crested Tern
Sterna bergii

1 bird flying over the sea at Aogu wetlands, Taiwan.

95. Little Tern
Sternus albifrons

Common in Budai wetlands, Taiwan.

96. Whiskered Tern
Chlidonias hybridus

Common in Poyang Lake, and also in Aogu and Budai wetlands, Taiwan.



Whiskered Tern © Mike May

Oriental Honey Buzzard © Mike May



97. Oriental Honey Buzzard
Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis

2 close birds seen in Alishan, Taiwan.

98. Black-shouldered Kite

Elanus caeruleus

Not less than 5 birds in different habitats in Taiwan lowlands.

99. Black-eared Kite

Milvus lineatus

A single bird at the Pheasant-tailed Jacana Ecological Education Wetland Reserve, Taiwan.

100. Lammergeier

Gypaetus barbatus

At least two adult birds seen several times in Balangshan, Sichuan.

Himalayan Griffon © Mike May



101. Himalayan Griffon
Gyps himalayensis

3-4 birds in Balangshan, Sichuan. Some giving nice close ups perched and in flight.

102. Cinereous Vulture
Aegypius monachus

4 birds seen in Lingshan, Beijing.





103. Crested Serpent Eagle
Spilornis cheela hoya

At least 8 birds including 1 immature seen or heard around forested areas of Dasyueshan and Alishan.

104. Eastern Marsh Harrier

Circus spilonotus

1 bird seen in Poyang Lake, and another bird in Aogu marshes, Taiwan.

105. Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

1 bird seen in Poyang Lake.



Crested Goshawk © Mike May

106. Crested Goshawk
Accipiter trivirgatus formosae

1 bird, presumably of the Taiwanese subspecies seen perched from the highway in Pingtung County, Taiwan.

107. Besra

Accipiter virgatus fuscipectus

2 birds of the local subspecies seen in some lightly forested areas of Taiwan lowlands.

108. Eurasian Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

One female seen chasing a Waxwing flock at Lingshan.

109. Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

1 bird seen on the way to Lingshan, from Beijing.

110. Black Eagle

Ictinaetus malayensis

2 individuals seen. 1 at Dasyueshan and 1 on the way to Alishan, soaring with a Crested Serpent Eagle, Taiwan.

Golden Eagle © Mike May



111. Golden Eagle
Aquila chrysaetos

1 adult bird seen close in Balangshan,
Sichuan.

112. Common Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Common in Poyang Lake area. Also some birds around Chengdu.

113. Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

1 bird seen from the highway in Pingtung County, Taiwan.

114. Little Grebe

Tachybaptus rufficollis poggei

A future split, a few white-eyed birds in Beijing rivers, and common in Poyang Lake and Taiwan wetlands.

115. Great Crested Grebe

Common in open waters of Poyang Lake.

116. Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Common in all visited wetlands, both in China and in Taiwan.

117. Little Egret
Egretta garzetta

Fairly common in all visited wetlands, both in China and in Taiwan.

118. Grey Heron
Ardea cinerea

Common in all visited wetlands, both in China and in Taiwan.

119. Great Egret
Casmerodius albus

Fairly common in all visited wetlands, both in China and in Taiwan.

120. Eastern Cattle Egret
Bulbulcus ibis

Scattered individuals seen around fields and wetlands in the western plain of Taiwan.

121. Chinese Pond Heron
Ardeola bacchus

1 bird at the Jacana Wetland Reserve, Taiwan.

122. Black-crowned Night Heron
Nycticorax nycticorax

Regularly seen at Poyang and relatively common at Aogu Wetlands, Taiwan, here within a few metres of the car in perfect lighting.



Black-crowned Night Heron © Mike May



Malayan Night Heron © Mike May

123. Malayan Night Heron
Gorsachius melanolophus

4 birds at Ren Sheng Si Di Cang Yuan or Nántóu dì cáng yuàn Temple in Nántóu county (compensation for missing the Forest Wagtail), and a several birds in Budai Wetlands, Taiwan. All visitors to Taiwan make the observation that it is far easier to see this species there than elsewhere.

124. Yellow Bittern
Ixobrychus sinensis

2 adults in Aogu Wetlands, Taiwan – here just a few metres from the car in perfect light.



125. Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

An introduced species, 3 birds seen in Budai and Aogu Wetlands, Taiwan.

126. Eurasian Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

Some flocks in Poyang Lake.

127. Black-faced Spoonbill

Platalea minor V

One of our targets in Taiwan - two flocks of 18 and around 15 birds in Budai and Aogu Wetlands, Taiwan.

128. Oriental Stork

Ciconia boyciana V

Common in Poyang area, where at least 800 birds seen in three days.

129. Brown Shrike

Lanius cristatus

Regular in Taiwan lowlands.



Brown Shrike © Mike May

130. Long-tailed Shrike

Lanius schach

Common around Poyang Lake and also several birds in Taiwan open areas, presumably of the local subspecies.

131. Chinese Grey Shrike

Lanius sphenocercus

1 single bird in western fields of Poyang Lake.

132. Eurasian Jay

Garrulus glandarius

A few birds seen in Longcanggou and Wolong, Sichuan.

133. Red-billed Blue Magpie

Urocissa erythrorhyncha

A few birds in Sichuan forests at lower elevations and on the drive down from Lingshan to Beijing.

134. Azure-winged Magpie

Cyanopica cyanus

Several birds seen from the car, on the way from Beijing to Lingshan.

135. Magpie

Pica pica

Common throughout the places visited, both China and Taiwan.

136. Grey Treepie

Dendrocitta formosae

Several birds in Huben Village, Alishan and elsewhere in the southern part of Taiwan.



137. Spotted Nutcracker
Nucifraga caryocatactes

2 birds spp. *interdicta* seen in Lingshan (photo) and 1 bird spp. *owstoni* in Dasyueshan, Taiwan – both very different to the European forms and both with very different voices. The Taiwanese birds were rather skulking, seen around 2500m in dense forest understory.

138. Red-billed Chough
Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax

Few birds in Balangshan, Sichuan.

139. Yellow-billed Chough
Pyrrhonorax graculus

Common in higher areas of Balangshan, Sichuan, especially around the monument.



Yellow-billed Chough © Mike May

140. Daurian Jackdaw

Corvus dauuricus

A single flock, mixed with Carrion Crows in the way from Beijing to Lingshan.

141. Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Common around the places visited in China.

142. Large-billed Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos mandschuricus and colonorum

Common in northern China (Lingshan) and some birds around Poyang Lake and Sichuan.

143. Maroon Oriole

Oriolus trailii ardens

2 birds at the Hú běn tiān shèng gōng Temple near Huben Village, Taiwan. Apparently this is one of the best places to see them, and they were almost the first birds we saw just after dawn. This was an exceptionally good area for lowland endemics.

144. Grey-chinned Minivet

Pericrocotus solaris griseogularis

Common in forested areas of Taiwan – local subspecies.

145. Long-tailed Minivet

Pericrocotus ethologus

4 birds in Longcanggou, Sichuan.

146. Black Drongo

Dicrurus macrocercus harterti

Common in cultivated areas of Taiwan – an indicator species for low-pesticide agriculture.

147. Bronzed Drongo

Dicrurus aenioides

One seen around the temple at Ren Sheng Si Di Cang Yuan or Nántóu dì cáng yuàn Temple in Nántóu county Taiwan.

148. Black-naped Monarch

Hypothymis azurea oberholseri

2 individuals seen in Dasyueshan and Huben, Taiwan.

149. Bohemian Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus

A couple of flocks of around 40 birds in a mixed deciduous forest at Lingshan.



Japanese Waxwing © Mike May

150. Japanese Waxwing *Bombycilla japonica*

Around 10-12 birds mixed in flocks of Bohemian Waxwing at Lingshan. This photo was taken against the evening sun after the mixed flock we had been watching were flushed by a Sparrowhawk. As the flock banked to pass under the cliff below us, the light highlighted the tail tips making it easy to see the Japanese (red tail tips) mixed in with the commoner Bohemian (yellow tail tips).

151. White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

One single bird in the river in Wolong, Sichuan. Tang Jun told us that this was the first bird he had seen on the river since the 2008 earthquake, when both this species and Brown Dipper disappeared from the area.

152. Blue Rock Thrush

Monticola solitarius philippensis

2 males in Pingtung, one seen from the highway, the other at Shuangliou Forest Recreation Area where we stopped to try for Taiwan Magpie. Shuangliou is yet another beautifully established Taiwanese nature reserve with some very nice intact subtropical lowland (190m) forest, which unfortunately we had no time to visit. This is one of the few areas outside the regular areas in the north where it is possible to see the magpie.

153. Taiwan Whistling Thrush

Myophonus insularis

Common in forested hills in Taiwan. This bird photographed at a bird photographer's stakeout (mossy log in the middle of a parking lot) behind the toll booth at Dasyueshan Visitor Centre, at 2275m. This is a good place for Island Thrush, which we missed...





Scaly Thrush © Mike May

154. Scaly Thrush
Zoothera dauma horsfieldi

One single bird seen in Alishan, Taiwan, after we had given up waiting for a Taiwan Cupwing at a photography site. Very happy to get this photo of a bird that is usually a blurry shape in the undergrowth.

155. Chinese Blackbird
Turdus merula mandarinus

Some birds in Beijing area, and common in Poyang and Sichuan.

156. Chestnut Thrush
Turdus rubrocanus gouldii

Around 6-8 birds seen in Wolong, Sichuan, whilst waiting for the Golden Pheasants. Beautiful birds in fantastic surroundings, with the calls of Golden Pheasants, Laughingthrushes and Babax all around.



157. Brown-headed Thrush

Turdus chrysolaus

One single bird seen at Poyang Lake and, again, one single bird in Budai wetlands, Taiwan.

158. Red-throated Thrush

Turdus ruficollis ruficollis

Fairly common in Lingshan forests.

159. White-browed Shortwing

Brachypteryx montana goodfellowi

2 individuals heard in Alishan, Taiwan, but remained hidden.

160. Bluethroat

Luscinia svecica

One single bird in a rice field edge at Poyang Lake.

161. White-browed Bush Robin

Tarsiger indicus

A total of 4 birds seen around Taiwan forests in Alishan area.

162. Collared (Johnston's) Bush Robin
Tarsiger johnstonii

Several birds in Taiwan forested hills,
both in Dasyueshan and Alishan.



163. Red-flanked Bluetail
Tarsiger cyanurus

Individuals seen in Lingshan, Longcanggou, Wolong and in Alishan, Taiwan.

164. Oriental Magpie Robin
Copsychus saularis

One bird heard and 1 seen in Poyang.



165. Blue-fronted Redstart
Phoenicurus frontalis

1 male seen near the temple in orchards above Wolong, Sichuan. This area was quite rich in birds including Sooty Tit, Rufous-breasted Accentor and Olive-backed Pipit.

166. Daurian Redstart
Phoenicurus aureus

Common, but in small numbers, seen in all the visited lowlands. Not seen on Taiwan.



167. White-winged Redstart

Phoenicurus erythrogaster

One male at Lingshan that proved very elusive and difficult to photograph but a really stunning bird nonetheless.

168. Plumbeous Water Redstart

Rhyacornis fuliginosus

One bird in Longcangou, two more in Wolong and one male in Alishan, Taiwan.

169. White-tailed Robin

Myiomela leucura montium

One bird seen and three more heard in Alishan, Taiwan.

170. White-crowned Forktail

Enicurus leschenaulti

Two birds in a small creek in Longcangou. Tang Jun saw a Little Forktail at Balangshan at a surprisingly high elevation. No Forktails seen in Taiwan, but no time spent really looking and waiting for them.

171. Red-billed Starling

Sturnus sericius

Common around China's lowlands.

172. White-cheeked Starling

Sturnus cineraceus

Common in lowlands such as Poyang and Chengdu area. Scarce in Taiwan.

173. Black-collared Starling

Sturnus nigricollis

Several small flocks in Poyang area.

174. Crested Myna

Acridotheres cristatellus

Common in all urban areas.

175. Javan Myna

Acridotheres javanicus

Common on Taiwan – one of five introduced species on Taiwan

176. Eurasian Nuthatch

Sitta europaea sinensis

Common in the forests of Lingshan and Sichuan mountains.

Winter Wren © Mike May



177. Winter Wren
Troglodytes troglodytes

A few birds spp. szetschuanus calling in Sichuan areas and several spp. taivanus seen (photographed) and heard in Alishan, Taiwan.

178. Chinese Penduline Tit

Remiz consobrinus

A couple of birds seen in Poyang area reed beds.

179. Willow Tit

Parus montanus

Common in Lingshan and fairly common in Sichuan forests. Given that it was about -8°C at Lingshan, remarkably hardy birds.



180. Coal Tit

Parus ater ptilosus

Several birds of the local subspecies in Alishan, Taiwan.

181. Yellow-bellied Tit

Parus venustulus

A few birds in Longcanggou and in Wolong, Sichuan.

182. Japanese Tit

Parus minor

Common in forested areas of Sichuan and in Lingshan.

183. Green-backed Tit

Parus monticolus

Several pp. yunnanensis in Sichuan and fairly common spp. insperatus in Taiwan.

184. Yellow Tit

Parus holsti

A couple of birds in Dasyueshan at the Swinhoe's Pheasant site in a mixed flock and again in Alishan, Taiwan.

185. Chestnut-bellied (Varied) Tit

Parus varius castaneiventris

One distant bird flying over in a mixed flock, picked out initially by call at the site in Alishan, where there are large posters of the bird for visitors – one of two places in Taiwan to see it.

186. Yellow-browed Tit

Sylviparus modestus

A single flock of 8-10 birds, in a mixed flock in Longcanggou, Sichuan. Very un-tit-like.

Silver-throated Tit © Mike May



187. Silver-throated Tit
Aegithalos caudatus glaucogularis

A very approachable flock of 6-8 birds in the bitter cold at Lingshan.

188. Black-throated Tit

Aegithalos concinnus

Several birds in Dasyueshan, and again in Alishan, Taiwan – the local subspecies.

189. Sooty Tit

Aegithalos fuliginosus

A flock of 5-7 birds seen near the Temple above Wolong, Sichuan.

190. Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

A few birds in Chengdu and common in Taiwan.

Pacific Swallow © Mike May



191. Pacific Swallow
Hirundo tahitica

Common in southern half of Taiwan – here at Aogu.

192. Striated Swallow

Hirundo striolata stanfordi

Fairly common in Taiwan, in lowlands but also in mid-elevation hills.

193. Asian House Martin

Delichon dasypus

Several birds in different places in Taiwan.

194. Grey Throated (Plain) Martin

Riparia paludicola chinensis

5-6 birds around a breeding colony under a bridge in Budai wetlands, Taiwan.



Flamecrest © Mike May

195. Flamecrest
Regulus goodfellowi

2 Individuals seen well at Alishan, Taiwan
– easy to pick out with its typical Regulus
call.

196. Collared Finchbill

Spizixos semitorques

Several birds spp. semitorques in Poyang and in Sichuan lowlands and spp. cinereicapillus fairly common in Taiwan lowland areas.

197. Chinese (Light-vented) Bulbul

Pycnonotus sinensis

Common spp. sinensis in China, and also spp. formosae common in urban and rural areas in Taiwan.



Styan's (Taiwan) Bulbul © Mike May



198. Styan's (Taiwan) Bulbul
Pycnonotus taivanus

10-12 birds in Pingtung, southern Taiwan in low scrubby hillside areas. This habitat is also reliable for Taiwan Hwamei, which we heard. It was a long way to drive for this, and on such a short trip, questionable whether it was worthwhile....

199. Black Bulbul

Hypsipetes leucocephalus

Fairly common in all visited places in Taiwan (endemic subspecies *niggerimus*), 1 bird heard at Poyang of the white-headed subspecies.



200. Zitting Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

One bird heard in Poyang Lake, and several birds seen and heard in Taiwan lowlands and agricultural fields.



Bright-headed Cisticola © Mike May

201. Bright-headed Cisticola
Cisticola exilis curtoisi

One bird seen after it responded immediately to playback at a fallow rice area in Gou-ba in Douliu City. Out of the breeding season, these birds look very similar to Zitting, but are distinguishable by a buff eye stripe and the warm buff nape.

202. Beijing Babbler
Ropophilus pekinensis

4-5 birds seen in the sea buckthorns at Lingshan

203. Yellow-bellied Prinia
Prinia flaviventris

One single bird at Gou-ba in Douliu City
Taiwan.



204. Plain Prinia

Prinia inornata

Common in wetlands and open areas in both Poyang Lake and Taiwan.



205. Japanese White-eye

Zosterops japonicus simplex

Common in different habitats throughout Taiwan (local subspecies without rusty flanks).

206. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler

Cettia fortipes dividiana

heard and seen at Poyang, Longcanggou and Wolong and at least one bird of subspecies robustipes heard at km 23 on the road to Dasyueshan, Taiwan.

207. Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler

Cettia acanthizoides

Commonly heard in Taiwan forests, mainly in high altitude areas such as Alishan.



208. Marsh Grassbird
***Locustella pryeri* NT**

2 birds in a tiny reed island surrounded by burnt reeds, in the western part of Poyang Lake. This was our target on the last morning, arriving in thick fog at the lakeside at a known site to find most of the reeds burnt. We trudged through the mud and rain getting cold and wet and finally Steven tried playback at an impossibly small patch of grass, and 3 birds popped up. There aren't many pictures of this Near Threatened and declining bird, so we are happy with the result.

209. Rufous-faced Warbler
Abroscopus albogularis fulvifacies

Commonly seen and heard in mountain forests in Taiwan.

210. Masked Laughingthrush
Garrulax perspicillatus

4-5 birds in Poyang Lake area.

211. Plain Laughingthrush
Garrulax davidi

2-3 birds in the Sea Buckthorn at Lingshan.

212. Barred Laughingthrush
Garrulax lunulatus

A few birds heard in the forests around the temple on the hillside above Wolong, Sichuan.

213. Giant Laughingthrush

Garrulax maximus

A couple of birds heard in Wolong, Sichuan.

214. Spotted Laughingthrush

Garrulax ocellatus

4 birds seen in Longcanggou, Sichuan.

215. Rusty Laughingthrush

Garrulax poecilorhynchus

One bird seen well in Dasyueshan, Taiwan

216. White-browed Laughingthrush

Garrulax sannio

Several birds seen around villages in Poyang Lake.



217. Elliot's Laughingthrush
Garrulax elliotii

Common in forests around Wolong, Sichuan. Some confiding birds seen feeding next to roadside restaurants.



Elliot's Laughingthrush © Mike May

White-whiskered Laughingthrush © Mike May



**218. White-whiskered
Laughingthrush
*Garrulax morrisonianus***

A few birds seen in high altitude forests
in Alishan, Taiwan.

219. Red-winged Laughingthrush
Garrulax formosus

2-3 birds in Longcangou, Sichuan.

220. Black-faced Laughingthrush
Garrulax affinis

Fairly common in Wolong forests and foothills, Sichuan.





221. Steere's Liocichla

Liocichla steerii

Several confiding birds seen in Dasyueshan and in Alishan, Taiwan. This bird photographed at the same location as the Taiwan Whistling Thrush. No Emei Shan Liocichla seen or heard at Longcanggou.

222. Taiwan Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus musicus

Seen in lush lowland forest with bamboo at Hú běn tiān shèng gōng (Maroon Oriole site) and again in Alishan, Taiwan.



223. Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus ruficollis

A single bird in a mixed flock with Fulvetas and tits in Longcanggou, Sichuan.

224. Taiwan Cupwing

Pnoepyga pusilla formosana

A single bird heard in Alishan, Taiwan.

225. Rufous-capped Babbler

Stachyris ruficeps praecognita

Several birds seen in Taiwan forests, mainly in Alishan, commonly seen in mixed flocks, heard regularly in most forests of Taiwan.

226. Chinese Babax

Babax lanceolatus

Heard at the temple on the hillside above Wolong and again, a group of birds seen well just behind the hotel in Wolong, Sichuan.

227. Red-billed Leiothrix

Leiothrix lutea

A few birds seen in Sichuan, especially in Longcanggou.

228. Chinese Hwamei

Garrulax canorus

Seen at Longcanggou and Poyang.

229. Taiwan Hwamei
Garrulax taewanus

Seen at Dasyueshan and heard in Pingtung.

230. Taiwan Barwing
Actinodura morrisoniana

Several birds seen in Dasyueshan and again, in Alishan, Taiwan.



231. Golden-breasted Fulvetta
Alcippe chrysotis

2 birds in Longcanggou, Sichuan in a mixed feeding flock, with tits and Green Shrike Babbler.



Grey-hooded (Streak-throated) Fulvetta © Mike May

**232. Grey-hooded
(Streak-throated) Fulvetta**
Alcippe cinereiceps

A group of 8-9 birds seen close-by at Longcanggou in bamboo. IOC taxonomy split Streak-throated into Grey-hooded, Manipur and Taiwan.

233. Dusky Fulvetta
Alcippe brunnea

One bird seen and photographed at the Hú běn tiān shèng gōng temple near Huben, Taiwan.

234. Taiwan Fulvetta

One distant bird heard in Alishan

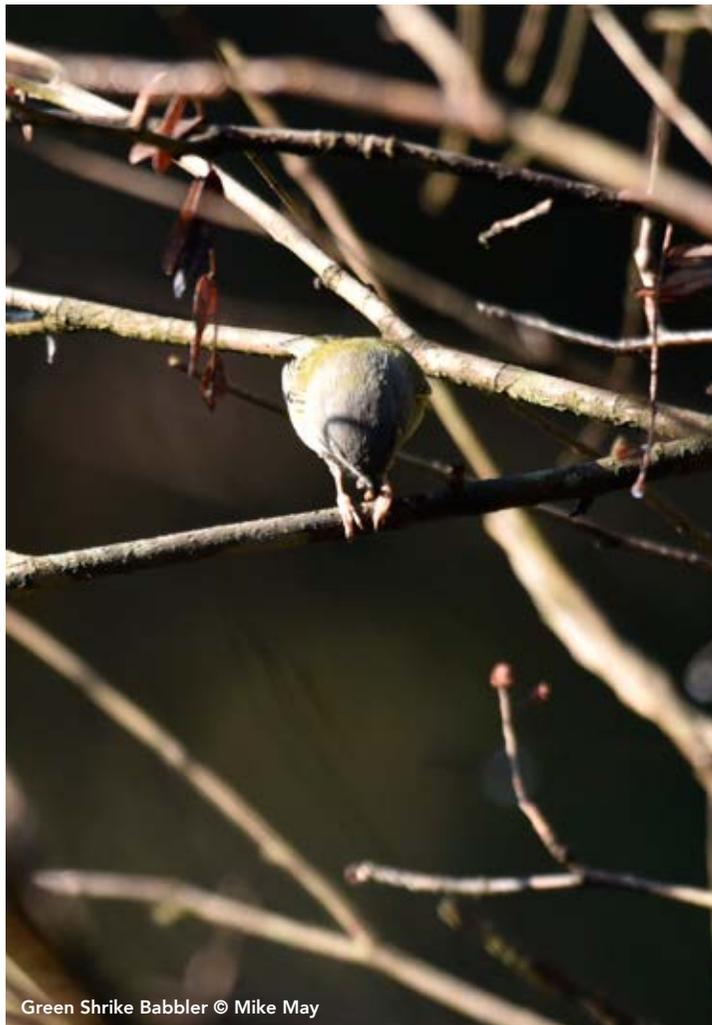
235. Grey-cheeked (Morrison's) Fulvetta
Alcippe morrisonia

Several birds spp. morrisonia seen in most of the visited forests in Taiwan. The IOC taxonomy split Grey-cheeked into David's (Yunnan), Huet's (SE China) and Morrison's (Taiwan).





Green Shrike Babbler © Mike May



Green Shrike Babbler © Mike May

236. Green Shrike Babbler
Pteruthius xanthoclorus

Poor record shots helped identify a mystery bird in the feeding flock seen at Longcanggou. These, apart from a Green-backed Tit, were the only pictures of the flock possible, it appeared and moved on quickly.

237. White-eared (Taiwan) Sibia
Heterophasia auricularis

Fairly common in all forests visited in Taiwan. Charismatic and photogenic birds.



White-eared (Taiwan) Sibia © Mike May



Taiwan Yuhina © Mike May

238. Taiwan Yuhina
Yuhina brunneiceps

Commonly seen in all forests visited in Taiwan.

239. Three-toed Parrotbill

Paradoxornis paradoxus

A single bird heard and briefly seen in the bamboo at the top of the drive at Longcanggou.

240. Vinous-throated Parrotbill

Paradoxornis webbianus

Seen on several occasions in Poyang Lake area and again in Aogu wetlands.

241. Ashy-throated Parrotbill

Paradoxornis alphonsianus

A confiding flock of 30-40 birds in a bamboo forest in Longcanggou town.



242. Golden Parrotbill
Paradoxornis verreauxi

A flock of 15-20 birds seen in Longcanggou, Sichuan, around the hotel at a much lower elevation than normal.



Oriental Skylark © Mike May

243. Oriental Skylark
Alauda gulgula

Some birds spp. gulgula in Poyang Lake area and spp. wattersi common in all agricultural and wetlands in Taiwan.

244. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker

Dicaeium ignipectus formosum

Common in forests, hills and lowlands in Taiwan.

245. Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Common in all urban and agricultural land both in China and Taiwan.

246. White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Common in all urban and agricultural land both in China and Taiwan. Also some birds in quite high altitude in Sichuan.

247. Eastern Yellow (Green-headed) Wagtail
Motacilla flava taivana

4 birds in lettuce fields in Maguang, Taiwan.



Eastern Yellow (Green-headed) Wagtail © Mike May

248. Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Fairly common in mountain streams in Sichuan and common in rivers and streams in Taiwan.

249. Olive-backed Pipit

Anthus hodgsoni

Several flocks seen in Wolong foothills, and again some birds seen and heard in Taiwan wetlands.

250. Red-throated Pipit

Anthus cervinus

One bird seen in Augou wetlands, Taiwan.

251. Buff-bellied Pipit

Anthus rubescens

Common in all wetlands around Poyang Lake.

252. Richard's Pipit

Anthus richardi

One bird heard and seen at Poyang Lake.

253. Rufous-breasted Accentor

Prunella strophiate

At least 8 birds in orchards in Wolong foothills, Sichuan.

254. Siberian Accentor

Prunella montanella

Around 4 birds seen and heard in Lingshan – one of our targets for that site.

255. Scaly-breasted Munia

Lonchura punctulata

Several flocks in Poyang Lake.

256. Black-headed Munia

Lonchura malacca formosana

A few birds in Taiwan wetlands and lowland.

257. Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Nice mixed flocks with Rosefinches in Lingshan forests.

258. Grey-capped Greenfinch

Carduelis sinica

Common in agricultural, forest edges and urban areas in China.

259. Eurasian Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Several wintering flocks heard and seen in Dasyueshan, and also a few more in Alishan, Taiwan.

260. Plain Mountain Finch

Leucosticte nemoricola

A few birds flying by, in Balangshan, around 3800m. (flock was about 20-30)

261. Brandt's Mountain Finch

Leucosticte brandti

A flock briefly seen in Balangshan, around 4000 m.

262. Long-tailed Rosefinch

Uragus sibiricus ussuriensis and sibiricus

Both spp. seen in continental China, at Lingshan unidentified ssp at Longcanggou, Sichuan.



Pallas's Rosefinch © Ponç Feliu

263. Pallas's Rosefinch
Carpodacus roseus

Nice flocks seen in Lingshan forests, this photo by Ponç Feliu.

264. Red Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

A few birds seen and heard in Longcanggou, Sichuan.

265. Brown Bullfinch

Pyrrhula nipalensis

One single bird seen amongst a flock of siskins in Dasyueshan, Taiwan.

266. Beavan's Bullfinch

Pyrrhula erythaca

One bird heard in Alishan, Taiwan.

267. Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

One single bird seen in Lingshan.



268. Chinese Grosbeak
Eophona migratoria

A flock of around 12 birds seen in Poyang Lake and, again, some single birds in Sichuan area.

269. White-winged Grosbeak

Mycerobas carnipes

A flock seen in Balangshan, at around 2.200 m. high, at the last tunnel (Monal site) on the Wolong to Balangshan road.

270. Godlewski's Bunting

Emberiza godlewskii

At least 6 birds in Lingshan.

271. Meadow Bunting

Emberiza cioides

A few birds in Lingshan.

272. Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

At least 2 birds, presumably this species and not Pallas's, seen at Poyang.



Little Bunting © Mike May

273. Little Bunting
Emberiza pusilla

Several birds in Poyang Lake and 3 birds in Longcanggou, Sichuan.

274. Black-faced Bunting
Emberiza spodocephala

Common in Lake Poyang, and also a few birds seen in Sichuan foothills.

MAMMALS:

Pallas's Squirrel

Red and White Giant Flying Squirrel:
seen whilst out owling on Taiwan

Formosan Rock Macaque: seen at
Alishan, Taiwan

Chinese Goral: one seen at the Monal
site on the road to Balangshan

Taiwan Barking Deer: one disturbed
in undergrowth whilst watching Rusty

Laughingthrush, Dasyueshan, Taiwan



Chinese Goral © Mike May



