

# Taiwan

**1<sup>th</sup> March - 23<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**TAIPEI ■ DASYUESHAN FOREST RESERVE ■ TAROKO NP**

**REN'AI ■ YUSHAN NP ■ ALISHAN FOREST RESERVE**

**AOGU WETLANDS ■ KENTING NP**



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# Introduction

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Ever since learning about Taiwan—its rich history and vibrant culture—I’ve felt a strong desire to visit. Despite being roughly the same size as the Netherlands, Taiwan boasts mountain ranges that soar over 3,500 meters. Its compact size makes it ideal for a three-week holiday. Renting a car is straightforward, the food is outstanding, the people are incredibly friendly and polite, and accommodations can be easily booked in advance. As an island, Taiwan is home to a remarkable level of biodiversity, including over 30 endemic bird species. During my trip, I recorded 158 bird species, 12 mammal species, and 36 butterfly species across the island. Compared to my more fast-paced trip to Thailand in 2022, this journey was a bit more relaxed, allowing me to explore several cultural and tourist highlights along the way. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Taiwan and highly recommend visiting—it’s a destination not to be missed!

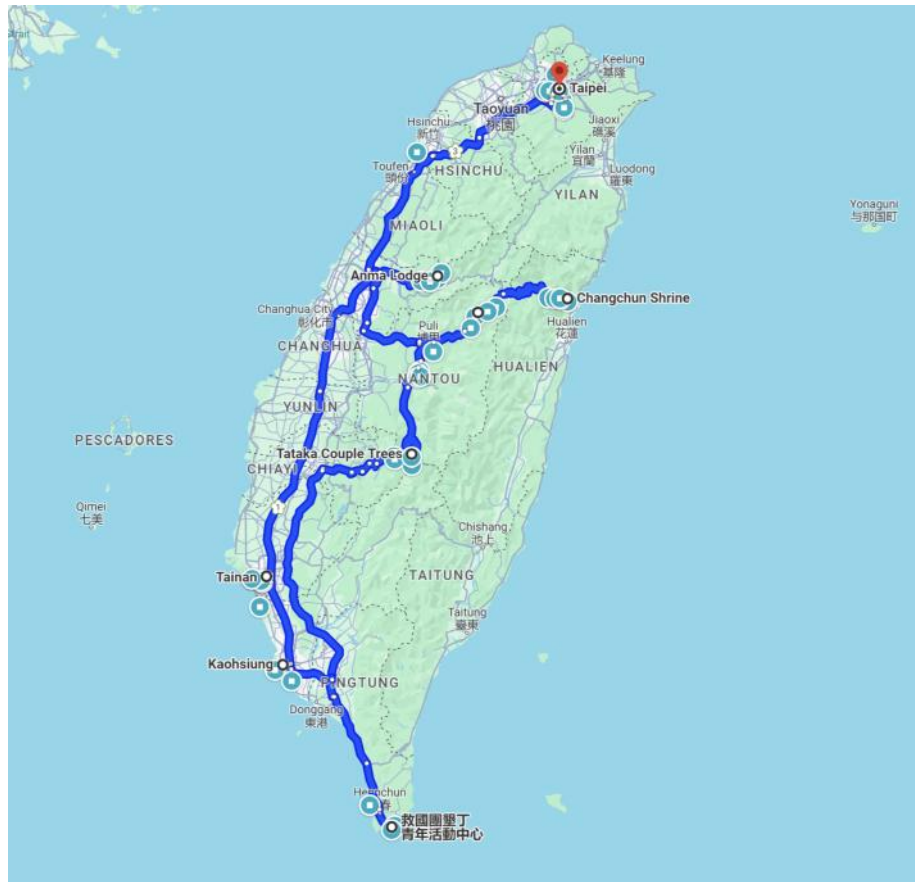
## Itinerary

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My itinerary was shaped by several trip reports from Mammalwatching and Cloudbirders. Two must-visit locations for naturalists are Dasyueshan Forest Reserve and Yushan National Park, both offering incredible opportunities to see Taiwan’s endemic wildlife. For lowland species, the Taipei Botanical Gardens, Maokong, and Erbazi Botanical Garden are excellent spots. If you're targeting nocturnal species, Fuyang Eco Park and Dasyueshan are essential stops. Taroko Gorge is an absolute must—not just for wildlife, but for its breathtaking natural beauty. The rest of the itinerary was built around a mix of cultural and touristic highlights throughout the island. Although Lanyu Island is known for its biodiversity, it didn’t fit into this trip’s schedule and was therefore left out. Traveling with a rental car made it possible to reach more remote and rewarding locations. In fact, having your own vehicle is essential for accessing places like Dasyueshan Forest Reserve.

1 Mar	Arrival at Taoyuan Airport from Amsterdam (21:45) - Night at Taipei Hotel B
2 - 4 Mar	Taipei (various touristic and natural spots)
5 Mar	Pick-up car - Xiangshan Wetland - Dasyueshan Forest Reserve - Night at Daxueshan Hotel
6-7 Mar	Dasyueshan Forest Reserve
8 Mar	Travel to Xincheng via Taroko NP - Night at Taroko Inn
9 Mar	Taroko NP - Travel to Ren'ai - Night at Tian Hsiang Tea B&B
10 Mar	Qingjing Skywalk - Sun Moon Lake - Night at Sun Moon Lake Tai Hu Hotel
11 Mar	Yusan NP - Night at Daba Kai Garden Bed and Breakfast
12 Mar	Yusan NP - Alishan Forest Reserve - Night at Daba Kai Garden Bed and Breakfast
13 Mar	Aogu Wetlands - Travel to Hengchun - Night at The Riverside Hotel Hengchun
14 - 15 Mar	Kenting NP
16 Mar	Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum - Travel to Kaohsiung and return car - Night at Centre Hotel Kaohsiung
17 Mar	Travel to Tainan - Night at Cambridge Hotel
18 - 19 Mar	Tainan (Visiting touristic spots)
20 Mar	Travel to Taipei - Erbazi Botanical Garden - Night at Cloud Hotel Arena
21 Mar	Beitou Hot Springs - Night at Cloud Hotel Arena
22 Mar	Travel to Zhongli - Visit Xpark - Night at XinsheHotel Chungli
23 Mar	Departure from Taoyuan Airport to Amsterdam (08:05)



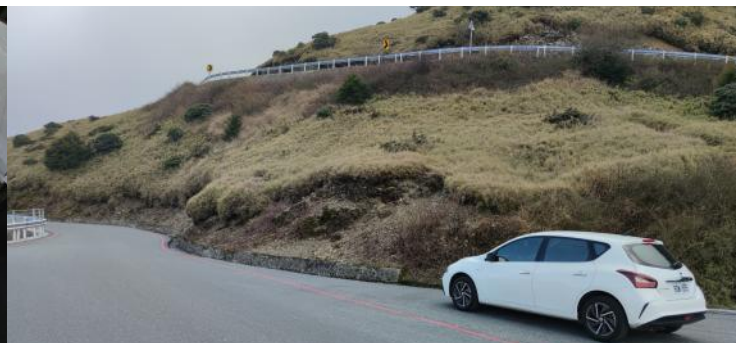


## Car Hire and Driving

I booked my rental car through Qeeq, a website that aggregates options from multiple rental companies. I chose IWS for its competitive rates. The pickup process was smooth and efficient—located conveniently near Yuanshan metro station in Taipei. The staff was very helpful, and I had no issues collecting the car. A quick note: an International Driver's License is required to rent a car in Taiwan, so make sure you have one before booking. For 12 days, including insurance, I paid €667.43. The car I received was a shiny new Nissan with automatic transmission, and it came with a low-gear mode that made driving through the mountains enjoyable. This feature was especially useful; during my previous trip to Thailand, my rental didn't have it, and I had some trouble with overheated brakes when descending mountain roads. Driving in Taiwan was relatively easy, but you do need to keep an eye on the scooters swarming around you. I found Taiwanese scooter drivers to be much more courteous compared to those in Thailand. Outside the larger cities, traffic was sparse, making for a peaceful drive. However, driving at night should be avoided, as many bikes don't have lights, which can be hazardous.



Rental car at pickup



The car at the highest pass in Taiwan.

## Weather

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March marks the start of spring, typically a great time to visit Taiwan as it's usually dry. However, during my trip, the lowlands experienced a lot of rain, which led to dense mist and clouds in the mountains. The weather at night could get quite chilly, especially at higher elevations. At Wuling, the highest point I drove past, temperatures dropped below freezing, and it was lightly snowing. Luckily, most hotels in the mountain areas are equipped with heated mattresses or blankets, which made staying warm very comfortable. If you're planning to visit higher-altitude campsites early in the season, be sure to pack warm clothing to stay cozy at night.

## Food

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The food in Taiwan is incredible and incredibly affordable. Most meals, including a drink, typically cost no more than 300 TWD at most local eateries. One experience you definitely shouldn't miss is visiting a night market—they're a local favorite and offer a wide variety of delicious snacks. The energy is lively, and you'll find everything from savory bites to sweet treats. For quick snacks or drinks on the go, I found the countless 7-Elevens scattered across the island to be a convenient option, offering everything from fresh foods to snacks.

## Costs and Money

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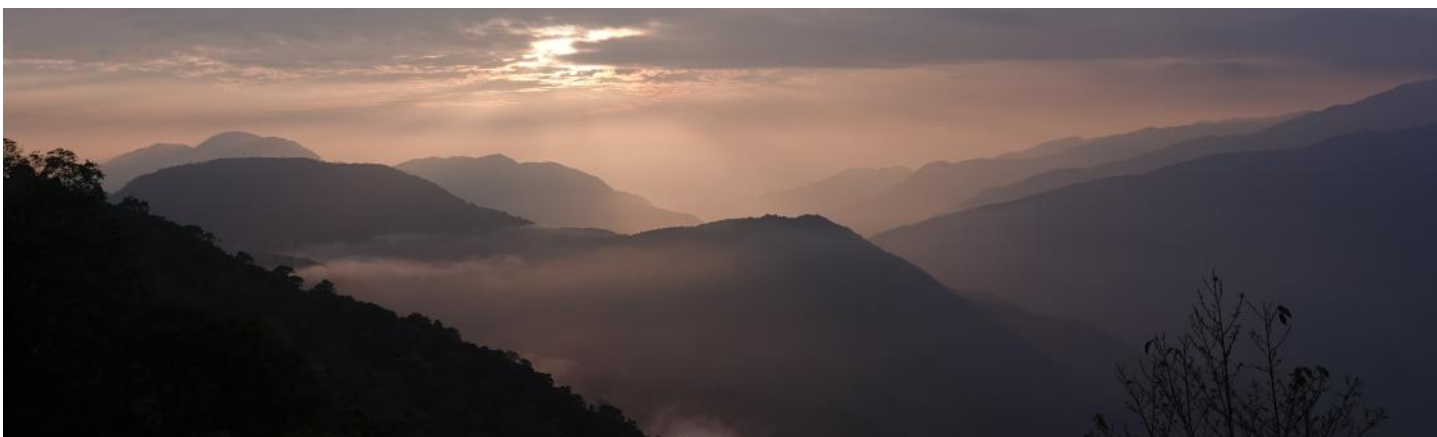
I booked my flight through Skyscanner, opting for a direct flight from Schiphol, Amsterdam to Taipei with EVA Air for €1,070. Gasoline in Taiwan was about €1 per litre, which is relatively cheap compared to the Netherlands. For unlimited internet, I went with Chunghwa Telecom, paying 1,000 TWD for 30 days of service. In total, I spent around €3,000 for the 3-week trip, which covered the cost of the car rental, flight tickets, entrance fees, food, drinks, and lodging. At the Taipei airport, I found plenty of ATMs for withdrawing cash, and most towns had them too—although some of the smaller ones didn't. Many 7-Elevens also have ATMs, so I used Google Maps to find the nearest one. While cards are accepted in many places, cash is still necessary, especially in smaller shops, restaurants, and hotels.

## This report

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This trip and report were largely based on the invaluable insights from Cloudbirders and Mammalwatching—a huge thank you to all the authors for their detailed contributions.

All the photographs in this report were taken by me. If anyone would like to get in touch or needs more information for planning their own trip to Taiwan, feel free to email me. You can also find my eBird trip report here: [Taiwan 2024 - eBird Trip Report](#)



Sunset at Ren'ai



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# Taipei

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## General Info

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This sprawling metropolis has lush parks scattered throughout the city and green hills on its outskirts. Getting around Taipei is a breeze, thanks to the excellent and efficient public transport. Google Maps offers accurate information for navigating the city. As for food, there's no shortage of delicious options, especially at the night markets.

## Taipei Botanic Gardens

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The Botanic Gardens are right in the city center, easily accessible via metro, and entry is free. With various themed gardens, it's a popular spot for photographers capturing birds, flowers, and butterflies. Early mornings are peaceful, the gardens still quiet and the air is filled with the unmistakable calls of barbets.

The lotus pond in the southeastern end of the garden is good for waterbound birdspecies, like **White-breasted Water-hen**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Little Egret** and **Common Kingfisher**. On small rocky island in the pond, **Chinese Striped-necked Turtle** were seen sunbathing.



Light-vented Bulbul



Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler

Along the densely planted path east of the lotus pond, heading towards the Ginger Garden, the first endemic appeared: a **Taiwan Barbet** singing high in the treetops. Here I also spotted **Black Bulbul**, **Light-vented Bulbul**, **Swinhoe's White-eye** and **White-rumped Shama**. The second endemic, a **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**, was seen scurrying through the undergrowth in the Fern Garden. This area also hosted **Oriental Magpie**, **Black Drongo** and **Red Collared-Dove** were seen. The sunny spots in the succulent garden attracted several butterflies, including **Common Beak**, **Plain Tiger**, **Indian fritillary** and **Common Map**. Above, an **Osprey** with flew by with a large fish in its talons. In the Botanist Memorial Garden, I saw **Black-naped Monarch**, **Gray Treepie**, **Oriental Turtle-Dove**, **Arctic Warbler** and **Pallas's Squirrel** were seen. Normally, the gardens are known for great views of the Malayan Night-Heron, but sadly, I didn't spot one this time (though one appeared later in my trip!).



Osprey with prey



Common Beak

## Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park IBA

Though the Aogu Wetlands weren't originally in my itinerary, I decided to visit in hopes of spotting the Black-faced Spoonbill, which had been reported in the area recently. The park is a 15-minute walk from Longshan Temple MRT and offers a pleasant stroll along the river. While the birdlife wasn't spectacular, I did spot **Northern Shoveler**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Black-winged Kite**, **Brown Shrike**, **Crested Myna** and **Chestnut Munia**. I'd recommend visiting only if you have extra time to spare.



Eurasian Spoonbill



Brown Shrike

## Taipei Zoo and surroundings

Before heading into the Taipei Zoo, I took a walk along the river leading towards National Chengchi University (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L5569828>). The riverbank here is densely overgrown with reeds. The riverbank is thick with reeds, and the well-kept park makes for a relaxing stroll. Birds spotted here included **Little Grebe**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Cinnamon Bittern**, **Chinese Pond-Heron**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia** and **Crested Myna**. I also saw many **Chinese Striped-necked Turtles** sunning themselves along the river, while **Common Maps**, **Three-spot Grass Yellow's** and **Long-tailed Blue's** butterflies flitted through the weeds.



Yellow-bellied Prinia



Common Kingfisher with a snack

The Taipei Zoo is great for both birds and butterflies, with its well-kept lawns and planted areas. **Taiwan Barbets** were abundant, and I had excellent views of **Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** and **Rufous-capped Babbler**. The first endemic butterflies of the trip, **Formosan Ringlet** and **Formosan Swallowtail**, were spotted near the giraffes. Other butterflies seen included **Dark Palm Dart**, **Chocolate Pansy**, **Dark Evening Brown** and **Blue tiger**.



Formosan Swallowtail



## Maokong

The Maokong Gondola station is just a short walk from the Taipei Zoo MRT. This 4.3 km cable car ride takes you to Maokong, a small town in the hills above the city. After getting off, I hiked to Yinhe Cave via several trails—don't miss grabbing a matcha ice cream in town before setting off! The green hills here are home to different bird species than the city's lowlands, including **Crested Serpent-Eagle**, **Taiwan Barbet**, **Taiwan Blue-Magpie**, **Gray Treepie**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**, **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler**, **Morrison's Fulvetta**, **Black-throated Laughingthrush** and **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush**. Butterflies observed included **Staff sergeant**, **Restricted Purple Sapphire** and **Yellow Jester**.



Taiwan Barbet



Rufous-capped Babbler

## Erbazi Botanical Garden

Towards the end of the trip, I still hadn't captured any good photos of the **Taiwan Blue Magpie**. Searching eBird for reliable spots around Taipei, I found the Erbazi Botanical Garden. It turned out to be a great choice—not only did I finally find the Taiwan Blue Magpie, but I was also treated to large numbers of **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush**. After checking in to my hotel, I took the MRT to the Ankeng LRT, then transferred to Rose China Town station. From there, it's about a 15-minute walk to the entrance of the trail leading up to the gardens, which begins with a large staircase at the end of Jixiang Street. The walk up the hill, through lush, green forest, took another 20 minutes. It didn't take long to spot both the Taiwan Blue Magpie and the Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush. The birdlife didn't stop there, though—I also saw a **Maroon Oriole**, **Manchurian Bush Warbler**, **Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler**, **Morrison's Fulvetta**, **Pale Thrush**, and **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush**. Butterflies such as **Lilacine Bush-brown**, **Ypthima Multistriata** and **Straight-banded Treebrown** were also in good supply.



Three Taiwan Blue-Magpies



Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush



Maroon Oriole



## Fuyang Eco Park & Fuzhou Shan Park

Nighttime wildlife spotting in the city can be a tricky endeavor, but Fuyang Eco Park in Taipei turned out to be a great spot for this type of adventure. Located just a 5-minute walk from Linguang MRT station, the park is easily accessible and surprisingly quiet in the evenings. Although a few locals were enjoying the cool air near the entrance, the rest of the park was mostly empty, allowing for unobstructed spotlighting without any disturbances. I quietly wandered along the park's trails, listening to the rustling leaves, a sure sign of nocturnal activity in the trees. The park's many steep paths also provided excellent vantage points to spot wildlife in the treetops. Over the course of 2.5 hours, I was fortunate to spot 5 **Formosan giant flying squirrels**. One of the most memorable sightings occurred in an open area about 100 meters from the entrance (25°00'57.4"N 121°33'28.5"E), where a squirrel landed on a dead tree right in front of me and stayed perched there for a solid five minutes before gliding away into the night. In the same area, I had a close encounter with a **Formosan Ferret-Badger**, which crossed the trail just in front of me. Startled by my presence, it quickly retreated into the dense underbrush, offering only a fleeting glimpse of its eyeshine. I made my way to the viewing point in Fuzhou Shan Park. The view over the city here is spectacular, even in misty weather! In this park there seemed to be plenty **Masked palm civets** around, some of which were quite tame. The ditches along the trails are good for reptiles and amphibians. **LaTouche's Frog**, **Taiwan Common Toad** and **Chinese Green Tree Viper** were found here.



Formosan Giant Flying Squirrel



Taiwan Common Toad



Masked palm civet



Chinese Green Tree Viper



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# Dayueshan Forest Reserve

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## General Info

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After the vibrant energy of Taipei, it was time to head into the rugged mountains at the heart of Taiwan. From the Yuanshan MRT station, I picked up my car and embarked on a 3-hour drive to the entrance of Dayueshan Forest Reserve. The traffic was manageable once I left the city, and much of the journey was along elevated highways, making the drive smooth and easy. I made a couple of small detours, including a stop at Xiangshan Wetlands and picking up some supplies at a 7-11 in Dongshi.

Dayueshan Forest Reserve is one of the must-visit locations for any naturalist in Taiwan. Spanning a range of ecosystems from lowland rainforests to high-altitude pine forests, this park offers access to a variety of habitats and species. In fact, it's home to all but one of Taiwan's endemic bird species, as well as being a prime location for spotting Taiwan Serow and the elusive Taiwan Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel, especially during nighttime spotlighting sessions. Given the diversity of wildlife and the area's incredible beauty, I recommend staying at least 3 nights in the reserve. This duration provides enough time to spot most of the key species, take in the stunning views, and leave some leeway for potential bad weather, which I certainly needed during my stay. It was mostly cold, misty, and rainy, but the 3 days gave me ample time to see what I had hoped for.

I stayed at the Dayueshan Guest House, which is located right within the reserve. This simple but comfortable accommodation is managed by the reserve, and foreign tourists can book rooms by emailing [tsfs@forest.gov.tw](mailto:tsfs@forest.gov.tw). I found the booking process to be smooth and efficient; I received a confirmation email just one day after submitting my request. Check-in is done at the Visitor Center, between 15:00 and 17:00, where the staff were friendly and helpful, using a bit of English and Google Translate to assist me. The cost for a 3-night stay was 7,200 TWD, including both breakfast and dinner. Meals are served buffet-style, with breakfast from 07:00 to 08:30 and dinner from 17:30 to 19:00. The restaurant remains open until 21:00 for additional food options, which was a nice touch after a day of hiking. The rooms are fairly basic, with few amenities, and guests are expected to bring their own blankets. There's no Wi-Fi, but you can get a good cellular connection. The beds have electric blankets, which are much-needed during the chilly nights, especially when temperatures dropped as low as 4°C early one morning.

To explore the Dayueshan Forest Reserve, a rental car is essential. The reserve is accessible via a single road that stretches from the lowlands to the Xiaoxueshan Station, located at an elevation of 2,560 meters. The first 35 km of the road are open to the public and can be accessed freely, but after that, there's an entrance gate where you'll need to pay an entrance fee: 200 TWD per person and 100 TWD for a car. The entrance is open from 06:30 to 17:00, and the fee must be paid every time you enter the park. If you're staying overnight, though, you'll only need to pay once. On weekdays, the park is relatively quiet, but it can get quite busy on weekends, which may reduce your chances of encountering rare wildlife.



View of the pavilion near the sky pond



## Xiangshan Wetland

This location was a last-minute addition to the itinerary, driven by the sighting of a Spoon-billed Sandpiper that had been wintering here. The mudflats are easily accessible via a boardwalk. Unfortunately, my visit coincided with low tide, so the birds were dispersed further out into the bay. Though I didn't spot spoony, the trip was still rewarding. Among the other species present were Black-bellied Plover, Siberian Sand-Plover, Greater Sand-Plover, Eurasian Curlew, Sanderling, Dunlin, and an Osprey. Furthermore, watching the different species of crab crawling around on the mudflats was a delight, especially the marching groups of **Mictyris Brevidactylus**.



Dunlin



A group of Mictyris Brevidactylus

## Henglui Creek (15 Km)

The lower part of the road leads through a blend of tropical forest and agricultural land. At around 15 km, you can turn off the main road onto a smaller path that crosses a bridge over Henglui Creek. From the bridge, I spotted **Pacific Swallows** darting over the water and a **Plumbeous Redstart** perched along the creek. From here, I continued along the road until I reached a small trail leading up the mountains, located at 24.23931, 120.91116. Along this trail, I observed a variety of birds, including **Taiwan Partridge**, **Swinhoe's Pheasant**, **Taiwan Barbet**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Rufous-capped Babbler**, **Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler**, **Morrison's Fulvetta**, and **Steere's Liocichla**. As it had been raining most of the morning, there weren't too many butterflies around. Only **Dark Evening Brown** and **Jorō Spider** were seen.



Record shot of Chestnut-bellied Tit



Taiwan Yuhina

Near the houses and fields, I spotted **Taiwan Bamboo Partridge**, **Malayan Night Heron**, **White-rumped Shama**, and **White-tailed Robin**. A particularly productive spot at 24.23694, 120.91032 hosted a mixed flock, including **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Maroon Oriole**, **Chestnut-bellied Tit**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, and **Black-necked Scimitar-Babbler**, which lingered in the area for quite some time.



Malayan Night Heron



## Swinhoe's Pheasant Feeding spot (23.5 Km)

A well-known spot along the road features a parking area and a small elevated wooden viewing platform. Just behind a sign full of “no feeding” warnings, there’s a slope where birds are regularly fed. **Swinhoe's Pheasant** is almost always seen here, particularly in the early morning or late afternoon during the breeding season when males display their extended facial wattles—quite a sight! This location isn't the only spot for the species; I also saw at least five males along the road during a misty morning drive. While Taiwan Partridge can occasionally be spotted here, they seem more elusive. On one visit, a **White's Thrush** was digging up the soil at this feeding spot.

The area is surrounded by fruiting trees, drawing in numerous fruit-eating birds. In just 40 minutes one morning, I observed **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **Swinhoe's White-eye**, **White-eared Sibia**, **Taiwan Thrush**, **Brown-headed Thrush**, **Taiwan Vivid Niltava**, **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush** and **Brown Bullfinch** feeding in flocks in the trees. Walking up and down the road from the feeding spot revealed **Taiwan Barbet**, **Maroon Oriole**, **Gray Treepie** and **Steere's Liocichla**. There were also some mammals around. **Maritime Striped Squirrels** were busy feeding from the berries and **Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel** were running along the edges of the parking space.



Male Swinhoe's Pheasant with erect wattles



Swinhoe's Pheasant



White's Thrush



Taiwan Thrush, a damn hard endemic to spot.



White-eared Sibia



Maritime Striped Squirrel eating upside down



## Entrance area (30 Km)

The trees near the parking area, just past the entrance gate, were in bloom during my visit, attracting a variety of birds including **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Black-throated Tit**, **Taiwan Yellow Tit**, **Taiwan Yuhina** and **White-eared Sibia**. A quiet path leads left of the shrine, just past the car barrier, along Forest Road 210. Both times I walked this path, I had it to myself. During a misty afternoon, it provided close encounters with a **Mikado Pheasant**, while a sunny morning walk revealed (very good views of) **Taiwan Partridge**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Taiwan Barwing**, **Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush**, **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush** and a group of **Formosan Rock Macaques**.



Taiwan Partridge



Taiwan Yellow Tit (Damn that branch!)

## Visitor center and Dayueshan hotel area (43 Km)

Along the road between the entrance and the visitor center, I had two noteworthy sightings. A large group of **Rusty Laughingthrushes** was spotted near 24.266288, 121.003161. Though they were distant, some climbing allowed for better views and a few poor photos. Further down, near a waterfall at 24.264582, 121.005459, I glimpsed a **Little Forktail** on the road, but it flew off as soon as it saw the car.

Around the visitor center, large trees and blooming cherry trees attracted numerous birds, but most numerous were **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Taiwan Yuhina** and **White-eared Sibia**. Furthermore, **Maritime Striped Squirrels** and **Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel** were also active around the cabins.

One afternoon, I walked the Sacred Tree Trail, which starts at the 41 km sign and ends at the visitor center. The trail, though quiet due to poor weather, yielded sightings of common birds like **Morrison's Fulvetta**, **Black-throated Tit**, **Taiwan Yellow Tit**, **Taiwan Yuhina** and **White-eared Sibia**. Due to bad weather activity was quite low. It's a great trail for botanists, with many large cypress trees, including **Taiwan red cypress**, **Taiwan Spruce**, **Chinese Hemlock**, **Taiwan Red Maple** and **Viola formosana** were seen along this trail.



White-eared Sibia in Sakura



Viola formosana

At higher altitudes, the wildlife at night differs from the lowlands. The visitor center organizes guided night walks, and the friendly staff member invited me along, translating for the guide via her phone. The night walk revealed **Taiwan Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrels** in nearly every tree. During the Sakura season, the squirrels fed on blossoms and young leaves. The guide expertly mimicked their whistling calls, getting a response each time.

Afterward, I asked about the best spot to see **Taiwan Serow**. The guide mentioned one that frequents the grass by the parking lot near the visitor center. We searched but couldn't find it in the thick mist. He suggested I try again around 10 PM. When I returned later, in cold and misty conditions, and after spotting several flying squirrels, I found the Serow right where he'd said. This island endemic was much smaller and cuter than the mainland cousins I had seen in Thailand. Unfazed by my presence, it allowed me to approach as close as 2.5 meters—perhaps the mist helped mask me. This parking lot wasn't the only place to spot the species; the next night, I saw another in the undergrowth across from the restaurant.



Taiwan Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel in Sakura



Taiwan Serow

## **Xiaoxueshan station and surroundings (50 Km)**

Driving up to Xiaoxueshan Station at the mountain's summit, you'll find a parking lot, a small visitor center with a free hot water dispenser, toilets, and ranger accommodations. On my first morning, I hiked Forest Road 230 (starting at 24.278700, 121.025272). Despite the cold, misty conditions, I was hopeful. After just 300 meters, I spotted several tame **Mikado Pheasants** feeding along the road. The male's striking tail feathers were a standout, with vibrant red contrasting beautifully against dark plumage. Continuing further, I encountered **Eurasian Nutcracker**, **Coal Tit**, **Black-throated Tit**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Taiwan Barwing**, **Collared Bush-Robin**, and **White-browed Bush-Robin**. In dense spruce, I found **Flamecrests** darting about, and a small **Red-flanked Bluetail** caught my eye—a rare migrant in these parts. While this trail is known for sightings of Taiwan Cupwing and Taiwan Bush-Warbler, I didn't spot either. On the way back, I was lucky enough to see a **Taiwan Serow** just above the restroom. This individual, identifiable by a piece of its ear hanging loose, was calmly browsing at dawn. It seemed quite habituated to humans, as I got close without disturbing it. From images online, this particular serow often frequents the parking area.



A male Mikado Pheasant



Red-flanked Bluetail



That same morning, I spotted a small flock of **Taiwan Bullfinch** feeding in a berry-laden tree near the parking lot—another elusive endemic checked off the list. After breakfast, I walked from the upper parking area to Heaven’s Lake (Tianchih). The **Mikado Pheasants** were again visible around the lawns near the toilet building. The dense undergrowth and young spruce along the road made birding much easier. In a short stretch, I encountered **Gray-headed Woodpecker**, **Southern Nutcracker**, **Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler**, **Taiwan Fulvetta**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, **Taiwan Barwing**, **Flamecrest**, and **Collared Bush-Robin**. At the Rueisyue Pavilion, two female **Taiwan Rosefinch** were foraging on the lawns, offering great views of this often difficult-to-spot endemic. The area around Heaven’s Lake is also known for its Taiwan Red Pines, endemic to the high-altitude forests of Taiwan. During both dawn and dusk, the lake’s shores were particularly good for seeing **Reeves’s Muntjac**, a small deer that hides in the reeds, only emerging when the area was quiet. Along the same path, I also spotted a **Taiwan Common Toad**. The Siasyueshan Shenmu Trail offered sightings of **Large-billed Crow**, **Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler**, and **Taiwan Bush-Robin**.



Taiwan Bullfinch



Taiwan Rosefinch



Collared Bush-Robin



Reeves's Muntjac



Heaven's Lake



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# Taroko National Park

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## General Info

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After three days spent fully immersed in the search for wildlife at Dayueshan Forest Reserve, I decided it was time for a change of pace and to take a break from the constant focus on animals. I wanted to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of Taroko National Park, which is renowned for its rugged mountains, dramatic cliffs, and crystal-clear rivers. It was exactly what I needed after such an intense wildlife-focused stretch. The park certainly did not disappoint—its beauty is awe-inspiring!

However, my journey to the park wasn't without its challenges. Highway 8, which would usually take me directly into the park, was partly closed during my visit due to roadwork. As a result, I took a longer route through the central mountains. Passing Puli, I turned onto Highway 14, which immediately began to climb, taking me deep into the heart of Taiwan's mountainous highlands. True to form during my trip, thick clouds blanketed the peaks, and I found myself driving through mist for much of the way. The air was cool and crisp, adding to the mystical atmosphere of the mountains. Once I crossed Hehuanshan and turned onto Highway 8, the road began to descend into the breathtaking gorge. The views along the way were nothing short of spectacular, with towering cliffs on either side and steep ravines below. The drive down to Xincheng, a small town nestled at the foot of the mountains, took about three hours. Xincheng is an ideal base for exploring Taroko National Park. I decided to stay here for a single night since my itinerary was quite packed and I had other areas to explore.

The next day, I set out early to make the most of my time in the park. I hiked the Shakadang Trail, a beautiful path that winds along the river, offering stunning views of turquoise waters and lush forest. The trail is known for its crystal-clear streams, and I took my time wandering through its twists and turns. After that, I visited the famous Changchun Shrine, a peaceful and scenic spot that sits right beside the river. I also made sure to take in the sweeping vistas from two of the park's most iconic viewpoints—the Buluowan Suspension Bridge and the Liufang Observation Deck. Both spots offer panoramic views of the gorge and surrounding mountains.

Before leaving the park, I decided to walk a small section of the Xiaoqilai Trail, a more challenging hike that would take me even higher into the mountains. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to complete the trail, but I enjoyed the brief walk I did take, with its lush vegetation and peaceful atmosphere.



The Eternal Spring Shrine

## Wuling and Xiaoqilai Trail

Wuling is well-known for its local subspecies of Alpine Accentor, but during both of my visits—on the way down and up—the thick mist made it nearly impossible to see further than 20 meters at the parking area. The moisture in the clouds had frozen on the vegetation, creating a stunning icy landscape. Unfortunately, the birds were nowhere to be found. A bit farther down is the Songsyue Lodge and the Xiaoqilai Trail, where I hiked for the first 1.5 kilometers. The thick mist combined with the dense bamboo underbrush made for a strikingly atmospheric scene. At the trailhead, I spotted a group of **Taiwan Rosefinches** quietly feeding. The sight of a male, with its brilliant red plumage, was a real highlight, even in the fog. Along the trail, I also saw **Taiwan Fulvetta**, **Morrison's Fulvetta**, and **Taiwan Bush-Robin**.



Taiwan Rosefinch in the mist



Taiwan Bush-Robin

## Buluowan Visitor Center and Suspension Bridge

As I continued driving down the gorge, I made a quick stop at the Tianxiang Recreation Area to grab some supplies from the 7-Eleven. The area is home to a group of **Formosan Rock Macaques**, who seem to be expert food thieves—anyone leaving the store with snacks quickly found their goods being swiped. The cashier even suggested I hide my purchases in my pockets to avoid losing them! Not far from there, the Buluowan Visitor Center serves as the main hub in the lower part of the national park, with plenty of parking spots. From here, visitors can check out the suspension bridge. In winter, this area is known to be a good spot for spotting Chestnut-bellied Tits and Taiwan Yellow Tits, although I was a bit too late in the season to catch a glimpse of them. A small set of stairs leads from the bridge to the road, winding through a damp forest. It was here that I spotted a variety of species, including **Taiwan Barbet**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Black-naped Monarch**, and **Taiwan Vivid Niltava**.



Taiwan Vivid Niltava



Formosan Rock Macaques guarding the entrance of the 7-11



White-bellied Erpornis



## Shakadang Trail

In the early morning, I visited both the Eternal Spring Shrine and the Shakadang Trail, which turned out to be a great call. By the time I got back to the car park, the crowds had started rolling in. The Shakadang Trail runs alongside the Shakadang Stream, leading upriver through a beautiful riverine gorge. The water here is an incredible turquoise blue, thanks to the minerals flowing through it. Along the trail, I managed to spot a nice variety of birds: **House Swift**, **Little Egret**, **Striated Heron**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Taiwan Barbet**, **Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Large-billed Crow**, **Black Bulbul**, **Plumbeous Redstart**, and **White Wagtail**. I also saw a **Common Windmill** butterfly fluttering around, which was a pleasant surprise. Just past the hotel, I spotted a pair of **Taiwan Hwamei** singing in the undergrowth (24.124754, 121.643535). Just as they came into view through my camera's viewfinder, they took off, much to my frustration! In the surrounding fields, I also saw **Styan's Bulbul** and **White-rumped Munia**.



Striated Heron



Common Windmill



Plumbeous Redstart



White-rumped Munia



Shakadang Trail

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# Ren'ai & Qingjing

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## General Info

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I spent one night in this small town after driving up Taroko Gorge, and had a relaxed morning there. The town is pretty touristy, with a lot of hotels and homestays to choose from. I stayed at the cozy Tian Hsiang Tea B&B, which I'd highly recommend. Many of the restaurants in the area were a bit pricey (especially compared to other parts of Taiwan) and catered mostly to families, so I kept it simple with a light dinner and some fantastic matcha ice cream at the food court at Mist Plaza. The next morning, I took a walk from the B&B to the skywalk and then onto Qingjing Farm to observe a sheep-shaving show. Afterward, I drove to Sun Moon Lake for a bit of sightseeing. While not typically a birding hotspot, I still had a few nice sightings of different species during my time there, which was a pleasant surprise!

## Agricultural land behind Tian Hsiang Tea B&B

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I woke up early in the morning to the unmistakable calls of the **Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge** coming from the hill behind the B&B. After heading out, I managed to spot three individuals crossing the road, but they quickly disappeared into the thick brush before I could snap a picture. The small road winds through a mix of agricultural land and dense undergrowth, making it a great place for birding. Along the way, I spotted **Taiwan Barbet**, **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Gray Treepie**, **Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler**, and **Black-throated Tit**. The highlight, though, was a large flock of **White-**

## Qingjing Skywalk

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The skywalk itself is incredibly affordable, just 50 TWD, and offers some of the best views in all of Taiwan. It's a real gem for birdwatchers, too, giving you the chance to see birds up close, almost at eye level. The most memorable sighting was the local subspecies of **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, which seemed to be everywhere. From the boardwalk, I also spotted a variety of other species, including **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Taiwan Yellow Tit**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, **Taiwan Vivid Niltava**, **Plain Flowerpecker**, and **Brown Bullfinch**. The skywalk's unique vantage point made it feel like everything was just within reach!



Fire-breasted Flowerpecker



Brown Bullfinch



Plain Flowerpecker



Green-backed Tit



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# Yushan NP & Alishan Forest Reserve

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## General Info

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After a day of sightseeing around Puli (I highly recommend staying in Yuchi and visiting the Ita Thao night market), it was time to head back into the mountains. Since all the hotels in Alishan were fully booked, I based myself in Xinyi Township and made day trips from there. From Sun Moon Lake, I drove to Daba Kai Garden Bed and Breakfast, where I stayed for two nights. The rooms were modern and comfortable, the owner welcoming, and the balconies offered stunning views of Taiwan's highest peak, Yushan (Jade Mountain).

From Xinyi, it takes about an hour to reach the Tataka Visitor Center. Parking and entry are free, and there are plenty of trails to explore—though many of them are quite steep, so proper footwear and preparation are recommended.

The Alishan Forest Recreation Area lies about 30 minutes further down the same road. Entry to the park costs NT\$300, and it can get very crowded, particularly during cherry blossom season. Despite the throngs of visitors, the area is well worth exploring. The boardwalk among the giant cypress trees is especially impressive, and there are several scenic viewpoints overlooking the surrounding mountains. Smaller attractions, such as the Ecocenter and the Salamander exhibit, add further interest, and in spring the final cherry blossoms can still be seen scattered among the trees.

Wildlife viewing here can be difficult due to the heavy tourist presence, but the scenery, towering old-growth trees, and cultural atmosphere of Alishan make it a memorable stop on any trip through Taiwan's central mountains. If I hadn't already seen the Formosan Serow and Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel at Dasyueshan, I might have tried staying at one of the hotels near the Alishan entrance. Reviews of these accommodations are mixed, but they do offer the advantage of easy access to the park's boardwalks at night.



Yushan National Park



## Yushan NP-Tataka Visitor Center

On my first visit to Yushan, I drove directly to the parking lot at the Tataka Visitor Center. After a quick look around the visitor center—where the exhibition was quite interesting, though mostly in Mandarin—I set out on the Dongpu Prairie Trail. The path climbs along a mountain ridge through dense bamboo undergrowth, and along the way I spotted **Coal Tit**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler**, **Taiwan Yuhina**, and **Taiwan Bush-Robin**. From there, I continued along the road toward the Yushan Trailhead. As clouds rolled in, the weather began to deteriorate, but I still managed to get good views of **Southern Nutcracker**, **Large-billed Crow**, **Taiwan Fulvetta**, **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**, and **Taiwan Barwing**. At the trailhead, I took the path over the ridge toward the Tatajia Viewing Platform and the Giant Taiwan Hemlock. Unfortunately, visibility dropped significantly in the thick mist, and bird activity was low. Since the weather showed no signs of improving, I returned to the visitor center, enjoyed a very satisfying hot pot for lunch, and then drove back down the mountain. Later, from the balcony of my hotel, I heard the distinctive calls of a **Savanna Nightjar**.



Green-Backed Tit



Taiwan Fulvetta

The next morning, the weather had cleared, and from my balcony I finally had a clear view of Yushan's summit. On the drive back up the mountain, I was thrilled to see a **Mikado Pheasant** casually walking along the roadside just before the Tataka Visitor Center parking lot. That morning, I left my car at the Shangdongpu parking area, where a few tame **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** were milling about. From there, I retraced my previous route, covering the Dongpu Prairie Trail, the Giant Taiwan Hemlock, and the Tatajia Viewing Platform. Along the Dongpu Prairie Trail I encountered **Coal Tit**, **Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler**, **Black-throated Tit**, **Morrison's Fulvetta**, **Eurasian Wren**, and **Brown-headed Thrush**. On the trail toward the viewing platform, the highlights included **Southern Nutcracker**, **Taiwan Fulvetta**, **Taiwan Barwing**, **Flamecrest**, and the local subspecies of the **Eurasian Nuthatch**.



Mikado Pheasant



Southern Nutcracker



White-whiskered Laughingthrush



## Alishan Forest Reserve

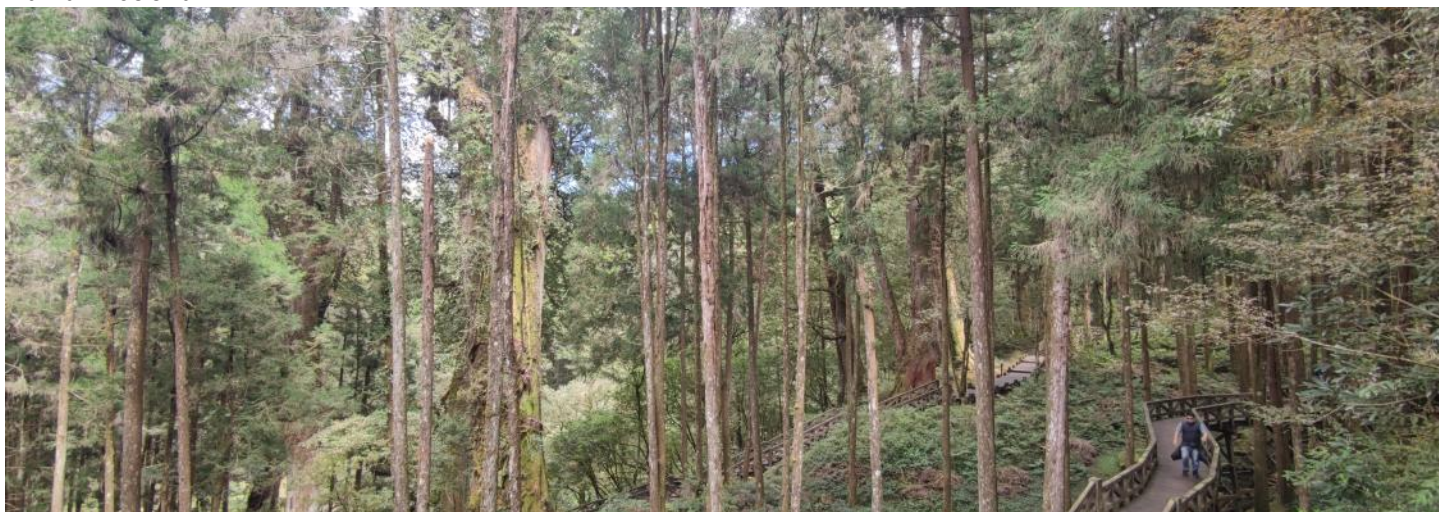
After a short morning stroll, I set out to visit Alishan. Since the main parking lot inside the park was full, I had to leave the car along the roadside on the way up to Yushan. This meant a 25-minute walk just to reach the entrance. The last cherry blossoms were still hanging on, and the park was absolutely packed with visitors. With so many people around, it wasn't the best opportunity for wildlife watching, so I focused instead on enjoying the scenery. The boardwalk through the giant trees was particularly impressive, and I also spent some time at the small Ecocenter and the Salamander Exhibit. One highlight was the abundance of **Taiwan Pleione** blooming along the wall just past the entrance—a beautiful sight.



Taiwan Liocichla



Wild Taiwan Pleione



Shakadang Trail



Shakadang Trail



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# Aogu wetlands & Kenting National Park

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## General Info

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From Xinyi Township, my plan was to drive all the way south to reach Kenting National Park at the southern tip of Taiwan. Before heading there, however, I decided to make a detour to the Aogu Wetlands, as I still hadn't seen the Black-faced Spoonbill. The drive from Xinyi took about two hours.

Aogu Wetlands and Forest Park is vast, stretching across reclaimed farmland, lagoons, and coastal mudflats. It is one of Taiwan's premier birding sites, especially in winter, when large flocks of waders and waterfowl gather. The area is free to enter, easy to navigate, and most birdwatching is done from the seawall, where several hides provide shelter and good viewing angles.

After birding at Aogu, I continued the drive—about three more hours—to southern Taiwan. Rather than staying directly in Kenting, which can feel crowded and overly touristy, I based myself in Hengchun. This town offers cheaper accommodation, plenty of local food stalls and restaurants, and a quieter atmosphere. Hengchun also has a bit of history: large portions of its old Qing Dynasty city wall still stand, with several gates intact, making it one of Taiwan's best-preserved walled towns. I stayed at the Riverside Hotel Hengchun, which was comfortable, reasonably priced, and included free parking.

From Hengchun, it was only a 20-minute drive into the Kenting National Forest Recreation Area. Entry costs about NT\$100, and the park is crisscrossed with trails leading through ravines, caves, and coral-limestone formations. Outside of the forest reserve, much of Kenting National Park is free to access. The coastline is spectacular, with dramatic headlands, coral reefs, and stretches of white-sand beaches. At Taiwan's southernmost point lies Eluanbi, marked by its historic lighthouse built during the Qing Dynasty with the assistance of foreign engineers. A short walk leads to a viewing platform where the Pacific Ocean and the Taiwan Strait meet—an iconic spot that feels like standing at the end of the island.



The tropical south coast of Taiwan



## Aogu wetlands

I only had about two hours to spend at this site, since I needed to travel from Yushan National Park to Hengchun in a single day. My first attempt was to enter the park via the main gate at 23.507600, 120.147727. The roads in this area were in poor condition, and not wanting to risk a flat tire, I didn't drive very far. Around the parking area itself, I noted **Red Collared-Dove**, **Black Drongo**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, and **Chestnut-tailed Starling** in the surrounding trees. From there I drove toward the seawall at 23.494493, 120.154965. Birding here is essentially done by slowly driving along the road beside the seawall and stopping wherever looks promising. At the very first body of water, I was lucky to find a pair of **Black-faced Spoonbills** feeding right beside the road. The nearby pools also held **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Pied Avocet**, **Pacific Swallow**, and **Light-vented Bulbul**.

Further down the road, larger flocks of **Black-faced Spoonbills** appeared, with some groups numbering up to 50 individuals. Continuing along the seawall, I recorded **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Pacific Golden-Plover**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Eurasian Curlew**, **Caspian Tern**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Osprey**, **Common Kingfisher**, and **Javan Myna**. Although I had only a short time to explore, it was clear that one could easily spend a full day birding here.



Chestnut-tailed Starling



Eurasian Curlews and Caspian Terns



Black-faced Spoonbill



Black-winged Stilt



A flock of Black-faced Spoonbills



Typical view at Aogu Wetlands

## Longluan Lake Northern Farmlands en Wetlands

This site lies just southwest of Hengchun and is essentially a single road running alongside a channel, surrounded by farmland and wetlands. In the morning, I drove the stretch twice, from 21.989787, 120.738634 to Hengxi Road. In the roadside ponds, I observed **Northern Shoveler**, **Eastern Spot-billed Duck**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **Little Grebe**, and **Little Egret** actively foraging. The surrounding brush and fields held **Black Drongo**, **Lesser Coucal**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Styan's Bulbul**, **Indian Silverbill**, and **Scaly-breasted Munia**. Adding to the scene, **Chinese Striped-necked Turtles** were basking on the pond edges.



Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Chinese Striped-necked Turtle



Eastern Spot-billed Ducks

## Coastline

From the viewing deck behind the National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium, there is a stretch of rocky coastline that makes for pleasant birding. Here I recorded **Pacific Golden-Plover**, **Pacific Reef-Heron**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Styan's Bulbul** and **Blue Rock-Thrush**. After visiting the aquarium, I visited the Houbi intertidal zone (21.938100, 120.745511). **Purple-clawed Shore Crab** and **Mottled Lightfoot Crab** were crawling on the rocks. Fish could be found in the tidal pools. I could identify **Indo-Pacific Sergeant**, **Sombre Damselfish**, **Drab Damselfish**, **Lined Rockskipper** and **Combtooth Blenny**. **Brittle Stars** and **Black Sea Cucumber** were also visible, slowly moving along the pool bottoms.



Styan's Bulbul, a Taiwan endemic



Blue Rock-Thrush

The following day, before heading into Kenting National Park, I made a stop at Banana Bay (21.925221, 120.831938). This small port is known as a good spot to see Green Sea Turtles, and it didn't disappoint. Almost immediately after my arrival, a local began pointing excitedly at the water, and sure enough, two turtles were swimming gracefully in the clear blue harbor. A **Hound Needlefish** was also patrolling the shallows, while a **Blue Rock-Thrush** perched quietly in a nearby tree.



Green Sea Turtle at close range



## Kenting National Park

In the morning, I explored the Kenting National Park Forest Recreation Area, a landscape of coral-rock valleys, caves, and ravines. Near the entrance, the park maps were curiously covered with **Clearwing Moths**. Within the botanical garden section, a **Formosan Sika Deer** darted away as I approached, while the surrounding trees held **Black-naped Oriole**, **Black Bulbul**, **Taiwan Barbet** and **Brown-Headed Thrush**. Butterflies especially abundant here, with **Three-spot Grass Yellow**, **Common Palmfly**, **Common Mormon**, **Common Sailer** and **Lemon Pansy** flying in great numbers. At the aquatic garden, **Neurothemis taiwanensis** and **Chalky Percher** were seen. Later, in the first rocky ravine, I came across my first endemic **Taiwan Japalure**. The males were striking, with white throat spots and a bold yellow stripe running down the back.

In the first cave, a lone **Formosan Woolly Horseshoe Bat** was roosting on the ceiling, seemingly unbothered by the atmospheric lighting installed for visitors. Further north, in the more natural forested part of the park, I recorded **Red Collared-Dove**, **Black Drongo**, **Gray Treepie**, **Styan's Bulbul**, **Morrison's Fulvetta**, **Taiwan Whistling-Thrush** and **Blue Rock-Thrush**. The shaded trails were alive with butterflies, including **Rustic**, **Chocolate Albatross**, **Common Bluebottle**, **Malayan**, **White Albatross** and **Common Tiger**. On the forest floor, **Longtail Mabuya** and **Brown Forest Skink** could be seen darting quickly across the leaf litter. .



Taiwan Whistling-Thrush



Morrison's Fulvetta



Brown Forest Skink



Taiwan Japalure



Formosan Woolly Horseshoe Bat



Malayan

# Species List

This section contains a list of bird, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and butterfly species seen during the trip. Abbreviations used are as follows: TP (Taipei), HS (Hsinchu), DFR (Dayueshan Forest Reserve), TG (Taroko George), REN (Renái/Qinjing), YNP (Yushan National Park), AO (Aogu Wetlands), LL (Longluan Lake) KNP (Kenting National Park), TA (Tainan).

## Birds

English Name	Latin Name	Where seen	Comment
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	AO, LL	
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	AO	
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	LL	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	TP	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	AO	
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	AO	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	AO	
Taiwan Partridge (E)	<i>Arborophila crudigularis</i>	DFR	
Mikado Pheasant (E)	<i>Syrnaticus mikado</i>	DFR, YNP	
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	TA	
Swinhoe's Pheasant (E)	<i>Lophura swinhoii</i>	DFR	
Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge (E)	<i>Bambusicola sonorivox</i>	DFR, REN	
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	TP, TA	
Oriental Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	TP, DFR, REN, LL	
Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	TP, AO, LL, KNP, TA	
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	TP, AO, LL, KNP, TA	
White-bellied Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>	TP	
Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	LL	
Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	YNP	
House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	TP	
Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	TP, AO, LL	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	TP, AO, LL	
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	TP	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	AO	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	AO	
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	HS, AO	
Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	AO	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>	HS	
Siberian Sand-Plover	<i>Anarhynchus mongolus</i>	HS	
Greater Sand-Plover	<i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>	HS	
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	HS, AO	



English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus	LL	
Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata	HS, AO	
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	HS, AO	
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	TP	
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis	AO	
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus	HS, AO	
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	TP, HS, AO, LL	
Sanderling	Calidris alba	HS	
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	HS	
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	AO	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	TP, AO, LL	
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	HS, AO	
Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	TP	
Black-faced Spoonbill	Platalea minor	AO	
Cinnamon Bittern	Botaurus cinnamomeus	TP	
Yellow Bittern	Botaurus sinensis	TP	
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	TP, AO	
Malayan Night Heron	Gorsachius melanolophus	DFR	
Pacific Reef-Heron	Egretta sacra	KNP	
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	TP, DFR, AO, LL, TA	
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	TG	
Chinese Pond-Heron	Ardeola bacchus	TP	
Eastern Cattle-Egret	Ardea coromanda	TP, AO, LL, TA	
Great Egret	Ardea alba	TP, AO	
Medium Egret	Ardea intermedia	AO	
Gray Heron	Ardea cinerea	TP, AO, LL	
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	TP, HS, AO	
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus	TP	
Crested Serpent-Eagle	Spilornis cheela	TP, DFR	
Crested Goshawk	Lophospiza trivirgata	YNP	
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	TP	
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	TP, TG, AO, TA	
Taiwan Barbet (E)	Psilopogon nuchalis	TP, DFR, TG, REN, KNP	
Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus canicapillus	TP, TG	
Gray-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus	DFR, YNP	
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	TP	From Tapei 101
Gray-chinned Minivet	Pericrocotus solaris	DFR, TG, REN	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	DFR, TG, REN	
Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	KNP	
Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	DFR, TP	
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	TP, AO, LL, KNP	
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	TP, DFR, TG	
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	TP, AO, TA	
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	AO	
Taiwan Blue-Magpie (E)	<i>Urocissa caerulea</i>	TP	
Gray Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	TP, DFR, REN, KNP	
Oriental Magpie	<i>Pica serica</i>	TP	
Southern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga hemispila</i>	DFR, YNP	
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	TO, DFR, TG, REN, YNP	
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	DFR, YNP	
Chestnut-bellied Tit (E)	<i>Sittiparus castaneiventris</i>	DFR	
Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	DFR, REN, YNP	
Taiwan Yellow Tit (E)	<i>Machlolophus holsti</i>	DFR, REN	
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	KNP	
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	TP, AO	
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	TP, DFR, AO, LL	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	LL	
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo javanica</i>	DFR, AO	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	TP, LL	
Asian House-Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	TP	
Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	AO, LL, TA	
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	TP, DFR, TG, REN, KNP, TA	
Light-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	TP, AO, TA	
Styan's Bulbul (E)	<i>Pycnonotus taivanus</i>	TG, KNP	
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	TP	
Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	TP	
Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	DFR	
Manchurian Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis canturians</i>	TP	
Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis fortipes</i>	REN	
Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis acanthizoides</i>	DFR, YNP	
Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	DFR, REN, YNP	
Taiwan Fulvetta (E)	<i>Fulvetta formosana</i>	DFR, YNP	
Vinous-throated Parrotbill	<i>Suthora webbiana</i>	TA	
Taiwan Yuhina (E)	<i>Yuhina brunneiceps</i>	DFR, REN, YNP	
Swinhoe's White-eye	<i>Zosterops simplex</i>	TP, DFR	



English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma ruficeps</i>	TP, DFR	
Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler (E)	<i>Pomatorhinus musicus</i>	TP, DFR	
Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler (E)	<i>Erythrogonys erythrocnemis</i>	TP, DFR	
Morrison's Fulvetta (E)	<i>Alcippe morrisonia</i>	TP, DFR, YNP, KNP	
White-whiskered Laughingthrush (E)	<i>Trochalopteron morrisonianum</i>	DFR, YNP	
White-eared Sibia (E)	<i>Heterophasia auricularis</i>	DFR, REN	
Taiwan Barwing (E)	<i>Actinodura morrisoniana</i>	DFR, YNP	
Taiwan Liocichla (E)	<i>Liocichla steerii</i>	DFR, YNP	
Taiwan Hwamei (E)	<i>Garrulax taewanus</i>	TG	
Black-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Pterorhinus chinensis</i>	TP	
Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush (E)	<i>Pterorhinus ruficeps</i>	TP, DFR	
Rusty Laughingthrush (E)	<i>Pterorhinus poecilorhynchus</i>	DFR	
Flamecrest (E)	<i>Regulus goodfellowi</i>	DFR, YNP	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	YNP	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	YNP	
Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	TA	
Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>	TP	
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	TP, AO	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	TP, LL, TA	
Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	TP	
Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	TP	
White's Thrush	<i>Zoothera aurea</i>	DFR	
Taiwan Thrush (E)	<i>Turdus niveiceps</i>	DFR	
Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	TP	
Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>	DFR, YNP, KNP	
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	TP, AO	
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	TP, DFR	
Taiwan Vivid Niltava (E)	<i>Niltava vivida</i>	DFR, TG, REN	
Taiwan Whistling-Thrush (E)	<i>Myophonus insularis</i>	TP, DFR, KNP	
Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>	DFR	
White-tailed Robin	<i>Myiomela leucura</i>	DFR, YNP	
Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	DFR	
Taiwan Bush-Robin (E)	<i>Tarsiger formosanus</i>	DFR, TG, YNP	
Collared Bush-Robin (E)	<i>Tarsiger johnstoniae</i>	DFR, YNP	
Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>	DFR	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	TP	
Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	KNP	
Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i>	REN	
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	REN	
Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	LL	
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	TP, LL	
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	TG	
Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	TP	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	TP, HS, AO, LL, KNP	
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	YNP	
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>	TP	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	TP, LL, TG	
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	DFR	
Taiwan Rosefinch (E)	<i>Carpodacus formosanus</i>	DFR, TG	
Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>	DFR, REN	
Taiwan Bullfinch (E)	<i>Pyrrhula owstoni</i>	DFR	



Taiwan Giant Flying Squirrel



Taiwan Barwing



View from Kenting National Park



## Mammals

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	TP	
Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi</i>	DFR, YNP	
Taiwan Giant Flying Squirrel (E)	<i>Petaurista lena</i>	TP	
Formosan Giant Flying Squirrel (E)	<i>Petaurista grandis</i>	DFR	
Maritime Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops maritimus</i>	DFR	
Formosan Woolly Horseshoe Bat (E)	<i>Rhinolophus formosae</i>	KNP	
Eastern Bent-winged Bat	<i>Miniopterus fuliginosus</i>	DFR	
Masked Palm Civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>	TP, DFR	
Formosan Ferret Badger (E)	<i>Melogale subaurantiaca</i>	TP	
Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	KNP	
Reeves's Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	DFR, YNP	
Formosan Serow (E)	<i>Capricornis swinhoei</i>	DFR	
Taiwanese Macaque (E)	<i>Macaca cyclopis</i>	DFR, YNP	



## Butterflies

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Dark Palm-Dart	<i>Telicota bambusae</i>	TP	
Restricted Purple Sapphire	<i>Heliophorus ila</i>	TP	
Malayan	<i>Megisba malaya</i>	TP, KNP	
Common Hedge Blue	<i>Acytolepis puspa</i>	TP	
Pea Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	TP	
Common Bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	TP, KNP	
Common Windmill	<i>Byasa polyeuctes</i>	TG	
Great Mormon Swallowtail	<i>Papilio memnon</i>	TP	
Common Mormon Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	KNP	
Formosan swallowtail (E)	<i>Papilio thaiwanus</i>	TP	
Three-spotted Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema blanda</i>	KNP	
Common Albatross	<i>Appias albina</i>	KNP	
Chocolate Albatross	<i>Appias lyncida</i>	KNP	
Indian Cabbage White	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	TP	
Tropical Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>	TP	
Rustic	<i>Cupha erymanthis</i>	KNP	
Purple Crow Butterfly	<i>Euploea tulliolus</i>	TP	
Ceylon Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Ideopsis similis</i>	TP, KNP	
Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>	TP	
Plain Tiger Butterfly	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	TP	
Common Tiger Butterfly	<i>Danaus genutia</i>	KNP	
Common Beak	<i>Libythea lepita</i>	TP	
Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i>	TP	
Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	KNP	
Yellow Jester	<i>Symbrenthia brabira</i>	TP	
Common Palmfly	<i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i>	KNP	
Dark Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis phedima</i>	DFR	
Straight-banded Treebrown	<i>Lethe verma</i>	TP	
Black-spotted Labyrinth	<i>Neope muirheadii</i>	TP	
Lilacine Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis francisca</i>	TP	
Formosan Ringlet (E)	<i>Ypthima formosana</i>	TP	
Striated Ringlet	<i>Ypthima multistriata</i>	TP	
White-edged Blue Baron	<i>Euthalia phemius</i>	TP	
Common Sailer	<i>Neptis hylas</i>	KNP	
Staff Sergeant	<i>Athyma selenophora</i>	TP	
Common Mapwing	<i>Cyrestis thyodamas</i>	TP	



## Reptiles & Amphibians

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Chinese Striped-necked Turtle	<i>Mauremys sinensis</i>	TP, LL	
Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	KNP	
Taiwan Japalure (E)	<i>Diploderma swinhonis</i>	KNP	
Longtail Mabuya	<i>Eutropis longicaudata</i>	KNP	
Brown Forest Skink	<i>Sphenomorphus incognitus</i>	KNP	
Chinese Green Tree Viper	<i>Trimeresurus stejnegeri</i>	TP	
Taiwan Common Toad (E)	<i>Bufo bankorensis</i>	DFR	
LaTouche's Frog	<i>Hylarana latouchii</i>	TP	



Taiwan Bullfinch



Grey Treepie



LaTouche's Frog



Taiwan Whistling-Thrush



View from Erbazi Botanical Garden