

# Taiwan

## Birding and backpacking March 2009



*Taiwan Sibia*, Wushe.

While searching for air-fares for domestic flights in the Philippines, I noticed that a return flight to Taipei, Taiwan with Cebu Pacific was relatively inexpensive. I had wanted to visit the island for many years, and with the new field guide to Birds of East Asia just published, I didn't take much convincing, to spend a week birding in Taiwan.

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**Logistics** : I flew with Cebu Pacific from Cebu via Manila to Taipei on 1 March and back from Taipei to Manila on 9 March at a cost of 11.000 PHP (260 USD). In Taiwan I used public transport, which was very efficient and punctual, and also hitch-hiked in the mountains, which was very easy on week-ends.

Despite the obvious language- and sign-barrier, I had very few problems in getting around or finding accommodation, as there would often be someone speaking just a little English, or otherwise I would point out the relevant sign in my travel guide.

People were very welcoming and friendly, and excellent food could be found at small restaurants, where you could either point at a picture of the desired meal or just go into the kitchen and see what was cooking. 7-11 stores are everywhere, and here it was possible to buy beverages, biscuits and sushi-rolls, to bring along.

**Literature** : Birds of East Asia by Mark Brazil covers all the birds in Taiwan. For locations I used various trip reports on [www.surfbirds.com](http://www.surfbirds.com) and [www.travellingbirder.com](http://www.travellingbirder.com) , as well as Where to Watch Birds in Asia by Mark Wheatley, and also got much good info from BirdingASIA 2 (2004) which had a **Spotlight on Taiwan** section.

For getting around and finding accommodation I relied on The Rough Guide to Taiwan, but could as well have used the Lonely Planet guidebook.

**Money** : at the airport in Taipei I withdrew 12.000 TWD from one of the many ATMs, which was much more than needed for my one week stay.

The exchange rate at the time was 100 TWD ~ 17 DKK ~ 3.5 USD.

**Weather** : generally rather unsettled, with low clouds and showers, in the mountains more serious rain and strong wind, but also a few sunny days. Mild with 20+ C in the lowlands and 10-15 C in the mountains.

**Sites visited :**

Wulai – low-altitude forest approx. 70-85 minutes south of Taipei. I took the first metro to Xindian MRT station (6 am) and from there a bus to the hot springs at Wulai, from where I walked south along the river, seeing several endemics like **Taiwan Blue Magpie** and both **Scimitar Babblers**. Mentioned in both BirdingASIA and The Rough Guide.



*Forest at Wulai and Longluan Lake near Kenting.*

Longluan Lake - almost at the southern tip of the island, just North of Kenting, I got off the bus at the turn-off to this wetland, near a large power-plant. I walked around the southern and western side of the lake to get to the visitor center, where a number of spotting scopes were set up. Not many waterbirds present this late in Winter, but the woodland held **Taiwan Hwamei**. Also birded along the coastal road east of Kenting in the afternoon.

Sitou (Hsitou) Forest Recreation Area - mid-altitude forest in Central Taiwan, with a number of trails, and accommodation right inside the forest at the Youth Activity Center. An afternoon and one morning spent birding here. Mentioned in the Rough Guide.



*Wanda Dam below Wushe and Hwy 14 below Wuling Pass.*

Wushe - mid- and high-altitude forest along Hwy. 14 crossing Wuling Pass at Hohuanshan (3300 m). Just before entering the town of Wushe a side road leads downhill to the right, towards the dam at Wanda, passing through open forest and bamboo, with good birds like **Rusty Laughingthrush**, **Japanese Grosbeak** and **Collared Finchbill**, but the best birding areas are further uphill along the

main Highway 14.

I hitch-hiked up to Tsuifeng at KM18, and walked down the side road by the police station, and reached the entrance to Reiyenshi Reserve about 1 km downhill, where two trails lead off in opposite directions (Blue Gate to the right, and Pipeline Trail to the left). There are also a few buses going up here, but not early in the morning. Several good birds like **Swinhoe's Pheasant**, **Yellow Tit** and **Johnstone's Robin**. Further up Hwy 14 the pass at Wuling is reached at KM32, with the road passing through pine forest that opens up to extensive grasslands towards the peak. Birds that were only seen here included **Flamecrest** and **White-whiskered Laughingthrush**.

### **Itinerary :**

1 March – arrived in Taipei Int. Airport early afternoon, and just an hour later I was on a bus heading into Taipei some 50 km away (125 TWD). Low cloud, heavy traffic and lots of urban sprawl produced very few birds. Got off at Taipei Main Station and walked North a few blocks to Guest House Taiwanmex where a dorm bed was 300 TWD. Rest of the day was spent exploring Taipei and savoring genuine Chinese food.

2 March - up at 5.30 am to catch the first metro towards Xindian at 6 am (35 TWD) and from outside the MRT station here, caught a bus to Wulai (40 TWD), seeing my first **Taiwan Blue Magpies** along the way. Hot springs are big business in Wulai and there are lots of hotels and spas in the village, but on a weekday things were quiet.

I scanned the river from the bus terminus, and had a couple of **Taiwan Whistling Thrushes** flying around on the other side and a few **Chinese Bulbuls** perching on wires. After passing the bridge I kept to the left, along Tonghou River towards Wulai Spring Resort, and followed this road up to the water catchment area. Lots of forest, but even in the gardens in the village there were many birds, with calling **Taiwan Barbets** and a few more of **Taiwan Blue Magpies**.

Birds were active throughout the day, as the sky was overcast and new birds kept coming, with high lights being smart **Varied Tits**, both **Black-necklaced** and **Taiwan Scimitar Babbler** and a single **White's Thrush** along a small forest path.

Went back to Taipei late afternoon, and after dinner I picked up my backpack at the guesthouse, and went to the Taipei Inter City Bus Terminal, to catch the last bus to Kaohsiung at 10 pm (380 TWD).

3 March - arrived in Kaohsiung around 3 am and slept a few hours in the arrival hall, before jumping on a bus for the last stretch down to Kenting (285 TWD). Many fish farms in this corner of the island, with lots of herons and egrets flying around in the early morning. In Kenting I got a dorm bed at the Catholic Student Activity Center (400 TWD), before taking a bus back a few km to the turn off for Longluan Lake Nature Center.

I followed the road around the southern side of the lake, seeing many **Taiwan Bulbuls**, and finally finding **Taiwan Hwamei** in the shrub near the visitor center. The center was well stocked with mounted Kowa spotting scopes facing the lake, and on small island just offshore there were a few waterbirds. In front of the island a small group of **Bean Geese** were feeding on the grass, and among the mixed flock of duck a single **Pintail** and **Garganey** could be picked out. On the island itself two Spoonbills seemed fast asleep, only one of them showing enough 'face' to reveal the markings of a **Black-faced Spoonbill**, so I was rather surprised to find, that the other was a **Eurasian Spoonbill**, when both started preening 10 minutes later. This species is much rarer than **Black-faced Spoonbill**, at least in Taiwan.

Walked the same route back to the main Kenting road, and got a bus back to Kenting, where I had dinner, before following the main coastal road further eastwards, towards Eluanbi, trying to find interesting side-roads, but with limited luck.

4 March - caught a 5 am bus towards Kaohsiung (285 TWD) with a quick connection onwards to Taichung (170 TWD) seeing very little along the way, except lots of concrete. After a brief lunch break, a final bus journey to Sitou/Hsitou in the mountains (285 TWD) where I arrived in the middle of the afternoon. Headed into the Sitou Forest Recreation Reserve (160 TWD) and walked the final 1,5 km to the Youth Activity Center, where a nice room cost me 800 TWD.

I quickly unpacked and went out in the forest, where I walked up towards the University Gully, a little higher up. Lots of activity, with **Steere's Liocichla** being common, along with **Taiwan Wren Babbler**, **Brownish-flanked** and **Taiwan Bush Warblers**, though the latter 3 mostly heard only.

5 March - went out around 6 am to bird much the same area as yesterday afternoon, and I had very good activity the whole morning, as well as clear, blue skies. The **Taiwan Wren Babblers** were even more active than the day before, and several were glimpsed moving around in the undergrowth. A

single male **Vivid Niltava** was found high up in a pine tree, and a pair of **Black-faced Buntings** were feeding on the path..

The very helpful staff at the Youth Activity Center had arranged for a car to take me down to the bus station, where I got on a bus down to Jhushan on the plains (56 TWD), from where I caught another bus to Puli on the main highway (200 TWD). After a very brief wait here, I took a final bus ride up to Wushe (65 TWD), higher up in the mountains at around 1300 mas.

I got a room at the hotel above the 7-11 store (700 TWD), and took a walk down the road towards Wanda Dam. Once more I had plenty of activity to keep me entertained for the rest of the day, with a couple of showy **White-tailed Robins**, heard only **Bamboo Partridges**, **Collared Finchbill** and a small group of **White-bellied Green Pigeons** perching on power cables, hung across the valley.

6 March - at sunrise I walked to the end of town and tried to hitch a ride up the mountain, and only had to wait for half an hour, before getting a lift with a local tea grower up to the Tsuifeng police station at KM18.

First birds here were two fly-over **Brown Bullfinch**, before I began the descend along the side road. At the trail head one km down, I first walked the left one (Continuation Trail), finding many **Yellow-bellied Bush Warblers** in the bamboo, before going back, and trying out the other side (Blue Gate Trail), where I caught up with **Taiwan Barwing**, **Johnstone's Robin** and two **Indian Black Eagles**, that perched in a tree above the trail. Showers were becoming frequent, and while waiting out one of the longer one's under a tree, a female **Swinhoe's Pheasant** came out and fed in the open for a while. The showers became heavier, and I walked back to the highway and got another ride back to Wushe, where it rained for much of the rest of the day.

7 March - rain in the early morning until around 6.30 am, when I hitched a ride up to KM18. About halfway up the rain began again, and as I got out at Tsuifeng, it was raining hard and gale force winds were blowing, but I found shelter in one of the empty market stalls, and tried to wait out the rain. Two hours later I finally gave up without seeing a single bird, as I saw a bus going downhill, and back in Wushe it was also raining again.

In the early afternoon the rain finally stopped, and I decided to bird the road down to Wanda Dam once more. This really saved the day, as there were many birds around, with 10+ **White-tailed Robins** singing, 2 **Rusty Laughingthrushes** feeding noisily in the leaf litter, another **Brown Bullfinch** and a flock of at least 10 **Japanese Grosbeaks** moving rapidly through the canopies.

8 March - awoke on my last full day in Taiwan to nice and dry weather, and managed to get a lift up to Tsuifeng quickly, with one of the local rally drivers. Concentrated on the Blue Gate Trail where the birding picked up slowly, but after a few hours I had seen a beautiful pair of **Yellow Tits**, a singing **Taiwan Shortwing** and a **Collared Owl** being scolded by a group of **Fire-breasted Flowerpeckers**. I walked up to the highway again, and oddly enough managed to get a lift with the same guy once more, going up to the Wuling Pass at Hohuanshan at KM32. It became increasingly foggy, and at the pass itself at 3300 mas., the visibility was down to less than 50 m. Still enough to visibility to pick out the 2 **Alpine Accentors** that were feeding at the edge of the parking lot.

I began walking slowly down the road, back towards Wushe, and ended up walking all the way down to KM23.5, as the fog slowly lifted, and enjoyed a few **White-whiskered Laughingthrushes** and small groups of **Taiwan Fulvettas**, but the best birds were the 3 **Flamecrests** that appeared in the forest patches between KM25-KM24. Stunning birds.

Once more managed a ride back down to Wushe, where I picked up my things at the hotel, found a bus to Puli (68 TWD), and from there another bus the last 4 hours into Taipei (300 TWD). Once more got myself a dorm bed at Guest House Taiwanmex (300 TWD), before enjoying the local cuisine one last time.

**Species list** : names used are taken from Birds of East Asia by Mark Brazil.

**Chinese Bamboo Partridge** (*Bambusicola thoracicus*) - calling birds heard along the road towards Wanda Dam at Wushe.

**Swinhoe's Pheasant** (*Lophura swinhoii*) - a female was seen feeding in the open on Blue Gate Trail at Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Bean Goose** (*Anser fabalis*) - a small flock of 5 birds were at Longluan Lake. The birds were of the short-necked and stubby-billed *serrirostris*-race, which might be split as Tundra Bean Goose.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – 6 birds at Longluan Lake.

**Eastern Spot-billed Duck** (*Anas zonorhyncha*) – 10 birds Longluan Lake.

**Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) – 50 birds at Longluan Lake.

**Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) - a single male at Longluan Lake.

**Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) - one male at Longluan Lake.

**Eurasian Teal** (*Anas crecca*) - 25 birds at Longluan Lake.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*) - 150 bird seen on Longluan Lake.

**Little Grebe** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) - 10+ birds at Longluan Lake.



*Black-faced and Eurasian Spoonbill at Longluan Lake.*

**Eurasian Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*) - a single bird roosting on the small island in front of the visitor center at Longluan Lake together with the following. Much rarer in Taiwan than Black-faced Spoonbill.

**Black-faced Spoonbill** (*Platalea minor*) - one immature bird was roosting in front of the visitor-center at Longluan Lake.

**Striated Heron** (*Butorides strata*) - a single bird seen on the river at Wulai.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) - 50+ birds were seen in flight from the bus between Kaohsiung and Kenting at sunrise.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus coromandus*) - 8 at Longluan Lake and 4 near Kenting.

**Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*) - 10 birds at Longluan Lake.

**Great White Egret** (*Casmerodius albus*) - one at Wulai and two birds at Longluan Lake.

**Intermediate Egret** (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) - 4 birds at Longluan Lake.

**Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*) - 3 at Wulai and 5 at Longluan Lake.

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) – two birds were seen at Longluan Lake.

**Crested Serpent Eagle** (*Spilornis cheela*) - fairly common with 4-5 at Wulai, and singles at Longluan Lake, Hsitou and Wushe.  
Taiwanese birds of the race *S. c. hoya* might be split as a full species.

**Crested Goshawk** (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) - singles seen at Wulai and Longluan Lake.

**Grey-faced Buzzard** (*Butastur indicus*) - singles at Longluan Lake and Wushe.

**Indian Black Eagle** (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) - two adult birds were seen on Blue Gate Trail in Reiyenshi Reserve above Wushe.

**Common Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*) - two birds at Longluan Lake.

**Common Coot** (*Fulica atra*) - a single bird at Longluan Lake.

**Common Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*) - two birds at Longluan Lake.

**Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*) - one bird at Longluan Lake.

**Common Sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*) - one bird at Longluan Lake.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia orientalis*) - two birds seen at Longluan Lake, three at Hsitou and two at Wushe.

**Red Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) - 5+ seen at Longluan Lake.

**Spotted Dove** (*Streptopelia chinensis*) - a few seen at Longluan Lake and Kenting.

**White-bellied Green Pigeon** (*Treron sieboldii*) - near Wushe 5 birds were seen perched on overhanging power cables on the road down to Wanda Dam.

**Collared Owlet** (*Glaucidium brodei*) - a single bird was found along the Blue Gate Trail in Reiyenshi Reserve, being harassed by Flowerpeckers.

**Pacific Swift** (*Apus pacificus*) - one bird at Longluan Lake and 5 at Wushe.

**House Swift** (*Apus nipalensis*) - 10 birds at Wulai, 2 at Longluan Lake 2 and 3 at Wushe.

**Taiwan Barbet** (*Megalaima nuchalis*) - common at Wulai with two birds seen and 10+ heard, and also heard (3-4) from below Wushe.

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** (*Yungipicus canicapillus*) - one female seen along the road to Wanda Dam at Wushe.

**Grey-chinned Minivet** (*Pericrocotus solaris*) - flocks seen at Wulai (8) and Wushe (6) and also a single at Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Brown Shrike** (*Lanius cristatus*) - 6 birds at Longluan Lake and 4 at Kenting.

**Black Drongo** (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) - common in the South with 10+ at Longluan Lake and 6 at Kenting.



*Taiwan Blue Magpie, Wulai and Collared Finchbill, Wushe.*

**Bronzed Drongo** (*Dicrurus aeneus*) - 5-6 birds seen along the Wanda Dam road at Wushe.

**Black-naped Monarch** (*Hypothymis azurea*) - one male found along the Wanda Dam road at Wushe.

**Eurasian Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*) - single birds seen at Hsitou and Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Taiwan Blue Magpie** (*Urocissa caerulea*) - at Wulai at least 8 birds were found, of which 3 were seen from the bus, coming up from Xindian Station.

**Grey Treepie** (*Dendrocitta formosae*) - one bird at Wulai, 4 at Longluan Lake and one bird at Wushe.

**Common Magpie** (*Pica pica*) - one bird was seen from the bus between Kaohsiung and Kenting. Apparently the East Palearctic populations differ sufficiently in DNA from their Western counterparts, to be regarded as a separate species – **Oriental Magpie** (*Pica sericea*).

**Large-billed Crow** (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) - pairs were seen at Wulai and Hsitou, and up to 8 birds were soaring above Wushe.

**Green-backed Tit** (*Parus holsti*) - 2-3 birds seen at Hsitou, Reiyennshi Reserve and Wushe.

**Yellow Tit** (*Parus holsti*) - one of the avian high lights were finding a pair of this beautiful Taiwan endemic on my last birding morning, along the Blue Gate Trail in Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Coal Tit** (*Periparus ater*) - at least 3 birds were seen or heard in the high altitude coniferous forest along the Highway 14 below Wuling Pass.

**Varied Tit** (*Poecile varius*) - three of these colourful tits were seen at Wulai. Taiwanese birds are sometimes split as **Taiwan Varied Tit** (*Poecile castaneoventris*).

**Black-throated Tit** (*Aegithalos concinnus*) - small flocks of up to 10 birds were seen at Hsitou, Wushe and Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*) - 6 birds at Longluan Lake.

**Pacific Swallow** (*Hirundo tahitica*) - common in the South, with 10+ at Longluan Lake and a few seen in Kenting.

**Striated Swallow** (*Cecropis striolata*) - two birds seen at Longluan Lake.

**Plain Prinia** (*Prinia inornata*) - three found along Longluan Lake.

**Collared Finchbill** (*Spizixos semitorques*) - found to be common along the road down to Wanda Dam from Wushe, with at least 15 birds seen.

**Chinese Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus sinensis*) - fairly common at Wulai with 6 birds seen, and also a single at Wushe.

**Taiwan Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus taivanus*) - very common in the South, with 30+ at Longluan Lake, and 25 around Kenting.

**Himalayan Black Bulbul** (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*) - very common at Wulai (50+) and Wushe (35+) but also seen at Longluan Lake (4) and near Kenting (5).

**Brown-flanked Bush Warbler** (*Cettia fortipes*) - common at Hsitou with 10+ birds, mostly heard, and also a single bird at Reiyenshi Reserve.

The population on Taiwan is perhaps best treated as an endemic – **Strong-footed Bush Warbler** (*Cettia robustipes*).

**Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler** (*Cettia acanthizoides*) - occurring at higher elevations than the previous species, it was common at the Reiyenshi Reserve with 15+ birds, and also heard along Highway 14 below Hehoanshan.

Another potential Taiwanese endemic, if split as **Taiwan Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler** (*Cettia concolor*).

**Taiwan Bush Warbler** (*Bradypterus alishanensis*) - 6 birds were mostly heard at Hsitou and one bird was singing at Wushe.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) - a single bird was seen at Wulai.

**Rufous-faced Warbler** (*Abroscopus albogularis*) - common at most forest sites in the mountains with 5 at Hsitou, 10+ at Wushe, 6 at Reiyenshi Reserve and 2 at Hehoanshan.

**Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler** (*Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*) - 2-3 birds seen at Wulai, Hsitou and below Wushe.

**Taiwan Scimitar Babbler** (*Pomatorhinus musicus*) - fairly common at Wulai with 7-8 birds seen, and 2 birds seen along the road to Wanda Dam at Wushe.

**Taiwan Wren-Babbler** (*Pnoepyga formosana*) - common at both Hsitou and Reiyenshi Reserve with 5-10 birds at both sites, mostly heard.

**Rufous-capped Babbler** (*Stachyris ruficeps*) - small groups seen commonly at most forest sites.

**Rusty Laughingthrush** (*Garrulax poecilorhynchus*) - two birds were found feeding noisily in the undergrowth along the road towards Wanda Dam at Wushe.



*Taiwan Hwamei, Longluan Lake and Collared Owlet, Reiyenshi Reserve.*

**Taiwan Hwamei** (*Garrulax taewanus*) - at Longluan Lake a pair was seen near the Visitor Center and another two were heard singing.

**White-whiskered Laughingthrush** (*Garrulax morrisonianus*) - along the higher parts of Highway 14 pairs were found at most rest stops, where they were very confiding.

**Steere's Liocichla** (*Liocichla steeri*) - common in mid altitude forest, with 20+ at Hsitou and 10+ at Wushe.

**Taiwan Barwing** (*Actinodura morrisoniana*) - up to 8 birds seen along Blue Gate Trail in Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Taiwan Fulvetta** (*Alcippe formosana*) - found at high altitude with 2 birds in the Reiyenshi Reserve and 9-10 birds along Highway 14 below Hehoanshan.

**Dusky Fulvetta** (*Alcippe brunnea*) - a single at Wulai and a small flock of 4 at Hsitou.

**Grey-checked Fulvetta** (*Alcippe morrisonia*) - common to abundant at all forest sites.

**Taiwan Sibia** (*Heterophasia auricularis*) - commonly seen at Hsitou, Wushe and Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Taiwan Yuhina** (*Yuhina brunniceps*) - this rather attractive bird was common to abundant at Hsitou, Wushe and the Reiyenshi Reserve.

**White-bellied Erpornis** (*Erpornis zantholeuca*) - common at Wulai and also a single at Wushe.

**Japanese White-eye** (*Zosterops japonicus*) - a few seen at Wulai and Longluan Lake but common at Wushe with a few small flocks.

**Flamecrest** (*Regulus goodfellowi*) - at least 3 of these superb birds were enjoyed along Highway 14 between KM23.5 and KM 25.

**Winter Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) - a single bird was heard singing below Hehoanshan.

**Eurasian Nuthatch** (*Sitta europaea*) - one bird at Hsitou and 4 at Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Javan Myna** (*Acridotheres javanicus*) - common in and around Taipei and also at Longluan Lake – introduced.

**Taiwan Whistling Thrush** (*Myophonus insularis*) - 4 birds were seen around the river at Wulai.

**White's Thrush** (*Zoothera dauma*) - a single bird was found along a small forest track at Wulai.

**Brown-headed Thrush** (*Turdus chrysolaus*) - in the south a few birds were seen at Longluan Lake and Kenting.

**Taiwan Shortwing** (*Brachypteryx goodfellowi*) - a single bird was heard singing on Blue Gate Trail at Reiyenshi Reserve.

**White-browed Robin** (*Luscinia indica*) - at Hsitou one bird was seen very well and another was heard singing.

A good candidate for a split, being rather different from birds in the Himalayas – **Taiwan Robin** (*Luscinia formosana*).

**Johnstone's Robin** (*Luscinia johnstoniae*) - a pair was seen feeding in the open on Blue Gate Trail in Reiyenshi Reserve and two birds were heard singing along Highway 14 below Hehoanshan. Personally, I prefer the older name - **Collared Bush Robin**.

**Plumbeous Redstart** (*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*) - a single male was found along the river at Wulai.  
male

**White-tailed Robin** (*Myiomela leucura*) - a female was seen at Wulai, single singing birds were heard at Hsitou and Reiyenshi Reserve, but fairly common along the road to Wanda dam at Wushe with up to 10 birds.

**Blue Rock Thrush** (*Monticola solitarius*) - a single female at the power plant at Longluan Lake and two distant birds perching on a building in Kenting.



*Johnstone's (Collared Bush) Robin, Reiyenshi Reserve.*

**Snowy-browed Flycatcher** (*Ficedula hyperythra*) - common at Hsitou with 6 + birds, and also one bird at Reiyenshi Reserve.

**Vivid Niltava** (*Niltava vivida*) - a single male at Hsitou, 4 male and one female at Wushe and one bird heard at Reiyenshi Reserve. Sometimes split as **Taiwan Niltava**.

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** (*Dicaeum ignipectum*) - 10+ birds at Reiyenshi Reserve were in a frenzy because of a Collared Owllet.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*) - only noted at Longluan Lake, but probably overlooked.

**White-rumped Munia** (*Lonchura striata*) - 6 birds seen at Wushe.

**Alpine Accentor** (*Prunella collaris*) - two birds were found in the dense fog at the parking lot at Hehoanshan. Tame as always.

**Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*) - a few birds were noted at Wulai, Longluan Lake, Hsitou and Wushe.

**Olive-backed Pipit** (*Anthus hodgsoni*) - a single bird was heard at Hsitou.

**Brown Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula nipalensis*) - two birds were seen briefly at the police station in Tsuifeng near Reiyenshi Reserve 2, and one bird was found along the road to Wanda Dam at Wushe.

**Japanese Grosbeak** (*Eophona personata*) - a flock of at least 10 birds were feeding in the canopy of trees along the Wanda Dam road below Wushe.

**Black-faced Bunting** (*Emberiza spodocephala*) - two birds at Hsitou.