



## TOUR INFORMATION FOR TAIWAN

*These notes are designed to help you prepare fully for the tour. Please read carefully.*

**ENTERING TAIWAN:** United Kingdom citizens will need a passport which is valid for six months beyond the intended length of stay but a visa is not required to enter Taiwan (the Republic of China) for stays of less than 30 days.

It is always a good idea to take a photocopy of your passport and air ticket with you when travelling abroad. They can prove invaluable in helping you get replacements if your originals are lost or stolen. Obviously, you should keep the photocopies in a separate bag to the originals.

**As soon as you book on the tour, please email the Sunbird office a colour scan of your passport – the page(s) with your photograph and passport details. This is needed by our ground agent to obtain permits to two birding sites.**

**TIME DIFFERENCE:** Taiwan is eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time e.g. when it is 12:00 in the UK it will be 20:00 in Taiwan. As the tour runs during British Summer Time the actual difference is only seven hours.

**CURRENCY:** The Taiwanese currency, called the Taiwan New Dollar (\$NT), is not an internationally traded currency and it is probably not possible to purchase any of the latter before our arrival in Taiwan. It is possible to change US dollars and Sterling cash on arrival at Taipei airport and again, with a slightly poorer rate, at our hotel in the city. Neither cash nor travellers' cheques can be changed anywhere else on the tour. Most guidebooks, including the Lonely Planet guide that we recommend, tell you that these ATM machines do accept credit cards issued by western banks. In our experience this is NOT the case – Taiwanese ATM machines rarely accept foreign credit cards. As the tour price includes all travel, hotel and main meal costs, you need only bring enough money to cover items of a personal nature.

**LANGUAGE:** Putonghua, the primary language of mainland China is the national language in Taiwan. An increasing number of people, especially in the larger towns and cities, also speak English. Our Taiwanese guide will, of course, speak good English and we anticipate using at least one Taiwanese local bird watching guide who also speaks good English though two others do not.

**CLIMATE:** In Taipei and the lowland coastal areas that we will visit it is likely to be warm, with temperatures ranging from 20-32°C during the days and cooler, perhaps down to 18°C, at night. It will be slightly hotter and definitely more humid on Lanyu, an island that we visit for parts of two days and one night. In the mountains it will be noticeably cooler with temperatures possibly dropping almost as low as 8°C at night. Several of our early mornings here might also be chilly and on one day we'll go up and over the Hehuan Shan Pass. It can be cold at the summit of this road pass – with temperatures possibly being as low as 3°C and we will spend some time searching for Alpine Accentor here. Gloves and a warm hat are recommended for this morning. Rain is typically rather scarce throughout the tour but is still a distinct possibility – it rained at least once every day of the 2012 tour, and occasionally rained very hard. That was exceptional. Rain is perhaps most likely in the hills at Da Syue Shan, near Cingjing or at Alishan but cannot be discounted anywhere.

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**ALTITUDE:** Taipei is at low altitude as are many of the birding sites that we will visit on this tour. However, near the start of the tour we will venture into the high mountains that form the north-south oriented back bone of Taiwan. The highest accommodation that we will stay in is at Da Syue Shan and is at 2200 metres. It is extremely unlikely that this is high enough for anyone to experience even mild altitudinal problems such as breathlessness and mild head aches.

However, on certainly one, probably two days, we will venture higher at Da Syue Shan, probably going up as far as 2560. We will go even higher than this during our time at Cingjing and will venture up the Wuling Pass on Heshan Mountain in the spectacular Taroko National Park. At 3275 metres (10,740 feet) the pass, the highest road pass in East Asia, will be the highest elevation that we will visit. We anticipate stopping and birding at the pass, and at a couple of sites not much below this altitude. Here our birding will be fairly leisurely – we expect to stay almost exclusively on the road and to walk slowly.

Particularly when we are at these two sites we will limit our activities, try to avoid excessively walking up hill and will move at a slow pace so as to avoid altitudinal headaches and breathlessness etc. Most altitudinal problems can be overcome by sitting quietly in or near the vehicle and drinking plenty of fluids.

**PACE OF TOUR AND DAILY ROUTINE:** This is a moderately easy tour. There is a reasonable amount of travelling but the days are not unduly long or overly tiring. Nevertheless, a modest degree of fitness is recommended. Nearly all the forest trails that we will walk on are fairly flat – most are in fact rather wide, un-surfaced, old logging roads and none are particularly steep. Due to the early morning bird activity in many of the areas we will want to be out in the field early each day. This is particularly important in our quest to see both of Taiwan's endemic pheasants. This might mean that on two or three days we will leave our hotel at about 04:30 in order to be in a good area shortly after dawn. We anticipate that a more typical departure time will be about 05:00. Unlike sit-down lunches and dinners Chinese/Taiwanese breakfasts are not particularly appealing to most western palates and on most days we will have picnic-style breakfasts of more western items in the field. These will normally consist of cereals and milk, yoghurt, fresh fruit, bread and jam, juice, tea and coffee. These will usually be eaten close to the vehicle 'out in the field' but on a couple of occasions, perhaps especially if it is raining, will be eaten in our hotel lobby.

We might go off road onto short, rougher tracks on a couple of occasions at Da Syue Shan and once or twice on Lanyu. We do not expect these walks to be long and we will go slowly. Nevertheless, occasional participants have taken a walking stick or trekking pole with them and have been grateful to have had it.

We try to make as many of our birding excursions as possible optional, so that if you find the pace too tiring it is occasionally possible to take some time off and relax. However please note that on this tour we are frequently moving on and only spend more than one night at one hotel – the one at Da Syue Shan. Essentially, we aim to provide dawn to dusk birding for those who want it and as many opportunities as possible to opt out for those who wish to pursue other interests or simply relax.

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**HEALTH:** It is essential that you contact your own doctor to obtain the latest information on the region you are visiting. Please contact your doctor well in advance of your tour's departure as some medication must be initiated weeks before the period of possible exposure.

There is no recognised risk of malaria in Taiwan. You may want to check that you are adequately protected against typhoid and polio. Some doctors also suggest inoculation against Japanese B-encephalitis and tetanus and strongly recommend gammoglobulin against hepatitis.

Biting insects are not numerous but can occur locally. Mosquitoes can be locally common especially in the plains of Taiwan around Taitung and on Lanyu Island. They do not carry malaria and can of spray repellent should provide adequate protection. We recommend bringing antihistamine if you are sensitive to insect bites. Tap water is not safe to drink but bottled water and soft drinks are readily available, and hot, boiled water (for coffee or tea) is available in some of our hotel rooms. We suggest bringing anti-diarrhoea medicine such as Imodium in case of an upset stomach. Be sure to bring adequate supplies of all personal medication, as it may be difficult to obtain them during the trip

For further information on health advice refer to the Medical Advisory Services for Travellers Abroad website [www.masta-travel-health.com](http://www.masta-travel-health.com)

**ACCOMMODATION:** Our hotel in Taipei is of a good international standard with en suite bathrooms, proper restaurants and other facilities that you would normally expect such as a business centre, wifi internet access in the rooms (currently free) and in-room facilities for making international phone calls, tea and coffee etc.

Leaving Taipei, we'll spend three nights at Da Syue Shan – one night just outside the forest park, two inside. The accommodation here is OK and has been recently significantly improved. All the rooms here, as everywhere on this tour, are clean and each has an en suite bathroom with a western toilet and shower. However, the hotel inside the park no-longer provides towels & we recommend that you bring a large bath towel with you from home.

After our three nights at Da Syue Shan we will move on and spend one night in the best hotel at Cingjing. This hotel is also decent and again all the rooms are clean and each has an en suite bathroom with a western toilet and shower. The hotel has its own restaurant and we expect to have dinner in it.

Our next hotel is another good one – this time in Taitung. It is of a decent 4-star standard with en suite bathrooms and facilities for making international phone calls from the room etc. There is also wifi internet access in the rooms here (again currently free) as well as a business centre on the ground floor.

Our next hotel is on Lanyu Island and the accommodation here is perhaps the poorest that we use on the entire tour. Once again, all the rooms are clean, and all have en suite facilities with a bath, shower and a western toilet. However, the hotel is a bit shabby and run down. We will spend just one night here.

Please note that as at Da Syue Shan the towels that are provided in the hotel bathrooms on Lanyu Island are small, tea-towel sized ones. We would recommend that you bring a large bath towel with you from home.

Back on the mainland we will stay back in the same hotel we used before visiting Lanyu.

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Moving on from Taitung we will spend the following night in a decent hotel near Budai followed by another night in a reasonable hotel near Alishan and one at Douliou before we return to the same hotel we used at the start of the tour in Taipei.

**LAUNDRY:** Since we are frequently on the move getting laundry done can be a bit of a problem on this tour. Laundry facilities are available at only one place – the hotel that we will use at Taitung. We will be able to leave laundry items at the hotel there before we fly to Lanyu Island and will be able to reclaim these items when we return to Taitung the following evening. Some people feel that it is probably more convenient to hand-wash their own clothes.

**ELECTRICITY:** The Taiwanese current is 110 volts, 60 cycles – the same as the USA and Canada. Most 110V plug sockets have two vertical slots, closely resembling the system used in the USA, except that there is no third, earth prong. Note that most British electrical equipment will operate on 110 volts, 60 cycles but you should check your operating instructions. It is advisable to bring a plug adapter if you intend to take any electrical equipment. You may find the following website helpful: <http://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>.

**FOOD:** Everyday food in Taiwan is mostly very similar to that on mainland China and is what most westerners would regard as 'Chinese food'. The cuisine is well-known and widely appreciated. Beer, soft drinks and green tea will be served with the food. Unlike in mainland China and Hong Kong the Taiwanese rarely drink hard liquor, bai-jiu, with their food. Western brands of alcohol are not always easily obtainable (and where they are available, they are usually expensive), so you may wish to consider bringing your own supply.

Coffee and 'English' tea are both fairly common even away from the main cities in Taiwan, and hot water, or a kettle, is available in most hotel rooms and many restaurants. Packets of tea and sachets of instant coffee (usually with powdered milk and sugar already added) are usually also provided in hotel rooms. Cups are usually also provided but you may wish to bring your own instant coffee, drinking chocolate, cocoa or tea-bags (and powdered milk and sugar, if you like). Some people also take packets of soup, oxo cubes or other items that only need to be rehydrated with water.

The mainland Chinese and Taiwanese way of eating differs from that in the west in that a selection of different dishes are shared by those sitting at the table. Food is almost always plentiful. Few of the restaurants we will visit provide knives and forks. Instead chopsticks, often disposable wooden ones, are used. If you are not used to eating with chopsticks, we suggest you start practising right away or bring your own cutlery.

A variety of sweets can be bought in or very near some of our larger hotels, and in shops in towns. Chocolate is widely available, but few other western sweets are so again you may wish to bring a supply of goodies to enliven your diet.

Sunbird tours are all-inclusive and no refunds can be issued for any tour meals participants choose to miss. While we will try to do all we can to accommodate the requirements of all participants, please note that we cannot guarantee all causes of food allergies can be avoided at every destination. Many restaurants offer set menus and are unable to accommodate all special requests within a group. Thus, participants with significant food allergies or special dietary needs should bring appropriate foods with them for those times when their needs can, regrettably, not be accommodated. Our tours are carefully scheduled to insure the best possible birding experience and although the leaders will do all they can to make sure the group eats at a reasonable time, sometimes early or late lunches and/or evening meals cannot be avoided. Any participants who need to eat at specific times may need to bring supplemental food with them.

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**DRINKS:** Bottled water, a soft drink or a beer (or wine if appropriate) are provided at meals, as is coffee or tea. In addition, we keep a supply of bottled water on the tour vehicles. Bottled or filtered water may also be provided in some rooms where we stay.

**INTERNET ACCESS AND MOBILE PHONES:** Taiwan has excellent internet coverage and there is free wifi-internet access in all the rooms in our hotel in Taipei; there is also internet access in the lobby and dining room at Cingjing; in the rooms in the hotel that we will use in Taitung, Tainan and Douliou. There is also internet access in many of the convenience stores that we will visit on this tour as well as in several restaurants and caf  s on Lanyu Island. The only accommodation where there is currently no internet access is at Da Syue Shan.

The hotels in Taipei, Taitung, Tainan and Douliou also have free-to-use computers with internet access in either their lobby or business centre.

Taiwan also has excellent mobile phone coverage and an increasing number of foreign mobile phone companies now have agreements with one or another of the Taiwanese mobile phone networks and many people have been able to use their own mobile phones from most, but not all, of the places we will visit on this tour. If this is important to you, you should check with your mobile phone operator before the trip.

**FIELD CLOTHING:** Informal throughout the tour. Warm, waterproof clothing, possibly including a hat and gloves, will be needed when we visit the mountains in central Taiwan. These items may also be useful in other areas, particularly in the mornings and evenings. However, in the middle of the day lighter, cotton clothing will be more comfortable even here. It will be hot on much of the tour and the leader anticipates wearing shorts and a t-shirt on most days. Although many people prefer an umbrella, and while these might well be sufficient, we strongly recommend bringing a rain jacket and rainproof over-trousers. As to footwear, trainers will often be adequate, but boots will be preferable for the rockier conditions in the mountain and for the wetter trails near our base at Cingjing. Our local guide usually wears short Wellington or rubber boots on several of the trails at Da Syue Shan and near Cingjing. However, the Sunbird leader will not do this but expects to be OK wearing his hiking boots. As we will spend a considerable amount of time in the lowlands where it will be warm lighter weight clothing and a broad rimmed hat for protection from the sun will be important. Please note that birds are typically rather shy in East Asia than elsewhere, so good field craft (including cryptically-coloured clothing) will increase your enjoyment.

**MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT:** Please bring the following.

Notebook and pencil	Alarm Clock
Rucksack/small day pack	Laundry soap
Torch (with spare batteries)	Universal sink plug
Sun hat and/or umbrella	Plastic cup and set of cutlery
Insect repellent	Sun screen and lip salve
Personal medication	Plastic bags to leave laundry.

Motion or sea-sickness pills for the 3-hour ferry crossing between Lanyu Island and Taitung.

Small bag to take small amounts of luggage to Lanyu where we'll spent two days and one night. (See section on luggage below).

A large towel since only very small, tea towel-sized towels are available in a couple of our hotels and none are available at all at Da Syue Shan.

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**Optional:** Telescope and tripod, camera and film/memory cards, spare binoculars and spare spectacles (in case of loss or damage), field guide. Telescopes are a distinct advantage on this tour and are particularly useful when we are searching through waterfowl, shorebirds and terns in coastal Taiwan.

**Note:** The most effective insect repellents are those containing at least 35% of the active ingredient diethyltoluamide (DEET). The higher the percentage, the greater the effectiveness. However, care must be taken to avoid getting the repellent on to optical equipment as it dissolves rubber and plastic and can damage coated lenses. A reasonably effective alternative, which isn't corrosive, is Mosi-guard, produced by MASTA, and we recommend this. It is available in most high street chemist (including those at the airport).

Camping supply stores sell a product containing permethrin 0.5%, which must be applied directly to clothing in advance of wearing and allowed to dry. This non-staining, odourless chemical is non-toxic to humans and protective on clothing through several launderings. Please make sure you never to spray insect repellent inside the vehicle or when you are standing close to other participants – it may drift on to their optical equipment.

**LEADER'S EQUIPMENT:** The leader will provide the following:

Telescope and tripod

Field guides and reference books

Laser pointer

Small first-aid kit

Playback equipment

**LUGGAGE:** Our Final Information document, which will be sent to you approximately three weeks before departure, will give details about baggage weight and size restrictions imposed by the airline used for this tour.

If possible, please bring your luggage in soft-sided bags or cases (rather than large hard 'Samsonite'-type suitcases) as these pack more easily into our vehicles during the tour. Please note that on many tours there are no porters to carry your luggage so please ensure that **no bag is so heavy that you are unable to lift and carry it yourself**. As a general rule, in addition to using your luggage labels, it is a good idea to fix identification to the *inside* of each piece of luggage.

Please note that on this tour porters are rarely available to carry your luggage to the room and that at one site, Da Syue Shan Forest Recreation Area, we may have to carry our own luggage up to 30 metres from the coach to our room.

On the day we take the ferry to Lanyu Island you will be able to leave any luggage you will not need for that one night in the hotel in Taitung. We stay at the same hotel on the way back. The only vehicles available on the island have limited space, so leaving the bulk of your luggage behind in Taitung will help. You may want to make sure you have a small (lockable) day sack or small holdall for this. Paul Holt will be able to advise you one what you need to take to Taitung.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** In a number of places there will be good opportunities for photos. Camera equipment should be packed in moisture and dust-proof bags as a precaution. If you wish to 'digiscope' please ensure that you bring your own telescope.

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Please note that this is essentially a birdwatching tour. There will be plenty of opportunities to take photos of birds, mammals and scenery and the leaders will do all they can to accommodate anyone wishing to take photographs. However, if you are a serious photographer please bear in mind that this is first and foremost a birdwatching tour. Please do not allow your photographic desires to conflict with other participants' birdwatching activities.

**TRANSPORT:** Transportation throughout most of the tour is by either a small mini-bus or a larger coach. Early in our second week we will have 2½ hour boat trip from Taitung to Lanyu Island. The following day we will take this same boat back to Taitung. There's a daily passenger ferry service to and from the island and they use a large, stable ship that can hold 250 passengers. At Alishan we will have a short, ten-minute, drive in a small 4-wheel drive van owned and driven by the proprietor of the guest house that we will stay at. This vehicle is small but perfectly acceptable for a journey as short as the one we will go on.

Some of the bus rides may last for up to seven hours, but we will, of course, make regular stops along the way to stretch and to bird watch. The leader will arrange a seating rotation. Participants should be able to ride in any seat in tour vehicles.

**SMOKING:** Smoking is not allowed in the vehicle, or at meal times or when the group is gathered together for the checklist. If you are sharing a room with a non-smoker, please don't smoke in the room. If you smoke in the field, please stand down wind of the group so that smoke doesn't drift into their faces.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel insurance is essential, and we insist that you take out suitable cover as soon as your tour is booked. If you are bringing expensive optical equipment or other valuable items, please make sure they are also adequately insured on your home contents policy, as most travel insurance policies do not cover very expensive individual items. You may wish to consult your insurance broker regarding coverage.

Please also ensure that your policy covers you in the event of a medical emergency, cancellation of a trip or severe delays. Medical costs abroad can often be extremely expensive. Please note that Sunbird is not liable for any medical or repatriation costs resulting from injury or illness during a tour or for covering any costs resulting from a flight delay such as extra hotel accommodation.

If you wish, insurance can be arranged by Helen Fisher, Bullerwell Independent Insurance Brokers, 13 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3JY. Tel: 01234-866964. Please contact Helen for a quote and she will send the schedule directly to you.

**TIPPING:** All tour-based tips are included in the tour price. These include tips to local guides, drivers, hotel porters, and waiters and waitresses when we have group meals together in restaurants. You only need to pay tips for personal services such as room service or drinks from the bar.

**SOUVENIRS:** There is a wide supply of wood and stone carvings, pottery, laquerware and silk paintings available in Taiwan. These are widely available, often even in some of our hotels. The prices are usually fixed; except in small private shops where you may bargain.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

### Birds:

*Birding Asia* 2: December 2004. *Birding Asia* is the Bulletin of the Oriental Bird Club and issue 2 is largely devoted to Taiwan and contains a number of interesting and stimulating articles many of which are directly relevant to our tour. There's an excellent photo feature with images of all of Taiwan's endemic birds, an article on bird watching sites on the island and another on Taiwan's endemic bird taxa. Two of these short articles are –

Woei-Horng Fang and Brian Sykes. *Birdwatching in Taiwan*. BirdingASIA 2, December 2004. This simple introductory article can be accessed at:

<http://www.orientalbirdclub.org/publications/basiafeats/taiwan.html>

Collar, N. J. BirdingASIA 2, December 2004. *Endemic Subspecies of Taiwan birds - first impressions*. This article can be accessed at:

<http://www.birdingintaiwan.org/spotlightontaiwan.htm>

Brazil, Mark. 2009. Field Guide to the Birds of East Asia. Christopher Helm. (ISBN-13: 0713670401). Covering Eastern China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Eastern Russia this excellent book contains up to date text, some excellent colour plates and useful distributional maps on a large number of species we expect to see on this tour.

Chi Hsiao & Cheng-Lin Li. 2017 A Field Guide to the Birds of Taiwan. . Forestry Bureau & Wild Bird Society of Taipei. (ISBN-13: 9789860550191). An excellent English language guide covering over 670 species found in Taiwan and surrounding islets & including 27 endemic species and 56 endemic subspecies. Excellent artwork in approximately 190 plates, updated distribution maps, and concise informative text. **Recommended.**

Bushan, B. et al. (1993). A Field Guide to the Waterbirds of Asia. Covers all the shorebirds, ducks, herons, egrets and others that we are likely to see on the tour. Excellent illustrations and something of a companion book to the 'Field Guide to the Birds of Japan'.

Carey, G.J., Chalmers, M.L., Diskin, D. A., Kennerley, P. et al. (2001). The Avifauna of Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong. Containing 563 pages, 31 colour plates, 412 figs, 20 tables and 139 maps this very comprehensive book describes the status and distribution of all of the species of bird recorded in Hong Kong. As such it's an essential reference to the status and distribution of the birds of Hong Kong and south China. It's also very useful for Taiwan as no such similar book exists for there.

Cheng Tso-Hsin. (1987). A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China. Science Press, Hamburg. (ISBN 3 490 12518 5). A monumental work on the systematics and distribution of China's and Taiwan's (!) birds. It is on sale in Britain for the equally monumental price of £115!. Not recommended to anyone other than the most avid collector.

Clements, J. F. (2000). Birds of the World - A Checklist. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Pica Press. This totally revised edition attempts to list all the subspecies of birds in the world and is therefore useful when researching taxonomic issues.

Harris, A., H. Shirihi and D. Christie. (1996). The MacMillan Birder's Guide to European and Middle Eastern Birds. Macmillan, London. (ISBN 0 333 58940 8). An excellent guide with detailed identification information on a couple of the difficult groups that we are likely to see.



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Inskipp, T., Lindsey, N. and Duckworth, W. (1996). An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region. Oriental Bird Club. (ISBN 0-9529545-0-8). An excellent and authoritative list of all the birds of the Oriental region giving preferred English and scientific names, pseudonyms and a wealth of information on recent, not so recent and even some potential taxonomic changes.

Lee, Cin-ty and Noam Shany. Birding Taiwan. Birding, the quarterly publication of the American Birding Association, December 1998: 493-503. A well-written article that covers many birding locations visited by the authors and information about Taiwan in general. Interesting.

Lewington, I. et al. (1991). A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe. This book deals at length with some of the migrant species we will see.

MacKinnon, John and Phillipps, K. (2000). A Field Guide to the Birds of China. Oxford University Press, Oxford. A reasonable and widely available regional field guide. Although this guide only briefly covers the Taiwan endemics, and many of the endemic subspecies are not illustrated, this book is entirely in English. A very good book but it is now largely superseded by Brazil (2009).

Rasmussen, P. C. et al. (2000). A new Bush-Warbler (Sylviidae, *Bradypterus*) from Taiwan. The Auk 117(2):279-289. A comprehensive, detailed review of the taxonomic status of *Bradypterus alishanensis* - the endemic Alishan Bush Warbler.

Robson, C. (2000). A Guide to the Birds of Southeast Asia. Arguably the best and one of the most recent field guides to birds of Southeast Asia. Does not specifically include Taiwan in the region that it covers, but it does illustrate and describe quite a few species found there.

Sargeant, D. (1998). A Birders Guide to Taiwan. A privately published spiral bound bird finding guide with 48 pages and 9 clearly drawn maps. Useful but perhaps only for the independent traveller.

Sonobe, K. (ed.). (1982). A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan. This book covers several of the species we will encounter and the artist is the same as that for the recommended Taiwan field guide.

Viney, C. et al. (1994). The Birds of Hong Kong and South China. 6th edn. A completely revised edition with good illustrations and text for several of the species we will see on this tour. Good.

Author unknown. (1998) (Wetland Birds of Taiwan). In Chinese. Wild Bird Society of Taipei. (ISBN 957-98751-1-1). An excellent photographic guide to 360 of Taiwan's birds. Entirely in traditional Chinese except for English and scientific names to all the photographs. Difficult to obtain in the west, we might be able to purchase copies in Taiwan.

Wheatley, N. (1997) Where to Watch Birds in Asia. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1997. Has a brief, but helpful, section about birding in several locations in Taiwan.

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Wu, Sen-Hsiung, et al. (1992). (*A Field Guide to the Birds of Taiwan*). In traditional Chinese. Wild Bird Society of Taipei, Taiwan. (ISBN: 957-9578-00-1) Although almost entirely in traditional Chinese there are English names (although frequently these are not in common use), scientific names and indices to both of these. The illustrations are mostly very good, and better than those in MacKinnon and Phillipps (see above) and importantly many of the endemic subspecies are illustrated accurately. The field guide is now somewhat outdated, uses old taxonomy and a good number of unfamiliar English and scientific names. The book can be difficult to obtain outside of Taiwan.

This book is the most comprehensive and best illustrated field guide currently available to birds of Taiwan. Available through NHBS for the monumental price of £77 it is easily obtained in Taiwan for about £18 or US\$27. If anyone cannot purchase copies of this field guide before the tour or would wish to buy one and save some money it should be possible to buy copies on our arrival in Taiwan. Please contact the Sunbird office with your request as soon as possible so that they can pass this on to the ground agents who will attempt to purchase a book for you. They would prefer payment in \$NT and the books currently cost \$950NT.

Xiang, Zhang Cizu Zhu, and Pang Bing Zhag. (1997). Birds of China. Beijing: China Forestry Publishing House. Colour photos of many birds found in China, some of which are also found in Taiwan. Many of the photos are of captive birds.

Xiao-like, Dingzong Su, Fang Weihong, Lin Wen-hung. (2010). The Avifauna of Taiwan. A three volume handbook running to 700 pages sumptuously illustrated with some stunning photographs. (ISBN: 9860226547)

### Mammals:

Qi, Wei-lian and Xu, Wei. (1998). (Taiwan Mammals) (Entirely in traditional Chinese except for English and scientific names). (ISBN 957-8792-46-8) A well illustrated guide to all the mammals of Taiwan.

### Audio Guides: Tapes and CDs:

Tsuruhiko Kabaya and Michio Matsuda. The Songs and Calls of 420 Birds in Japan. (2003). Expensive.

Hideo Ueda. 2001. Wild Bird Songs of Japan. A 3 CD set containing recordings of 283 Japanese birds many of which we expect to see on our tour to Taiwan. Expensive.

**OBTAINING BOOKS:** Most of the field guides and the major ornithological references in print are available by mail order from booksellers specialising in natural history titles.

Natural History Book Service Ltd  
Tel: 01803 865913  
[www.nhbs.co.uk](http://www.nhbs.co.uk)

Subbuteo Books  
Tel: 0870 010 9700  
[www.wildlifebooks.com](http://www.wildlifebooks.com)

WildSounds  
Tel: 01263 741100  
[www.wildsounds.co.uk](http://www.wildsounds.co.uk)

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Another very useful source of bird sound recordings is –

Bird Songs International

[www.birdsongs.com](http://www.birdsongs.com)

[info@birdsongs.com](mailto:info@birdsongs.com)

Tel: 00 31 595 528679. Fax: 00 31 595 528629

Wierengastraat 42, NL-9969 PD Westernieland, The Netherlands.

**MAPS:** Nelles Map for Taiwan/Republic of China. Scale: 1:400,000.

The Map Shop

Tel: 01684 593146

[www.themapshop.co.uk](http://www.themapshop.co.uk)

Stanfords

Tel: 020 7836 1321

[www.stanfords.co.uk](http://www.stanfords.co.uk)

**ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB:** Please support this charity which aims to raise money to support conservation projects, encourages an interest in the conservation of birds, and liaises with and promotes the work of existing societies within the region. You will find their contact details and further information about the Club at [www.orientalbirdclub.org](http://www.orientalbirdclub.org)

**FINAL INFORMATION:** A Final Information sheet with instructions for meeting the group, hotel addresses, etc. and your flight tickets will be sent to you about three weeks before departure. If you have any questions about the tour please contact us.