



**TOUR REPORT
THAILAND
3RD – 21ST FEBRUARY 2025**

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MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

It was a rather misty morning at Heathrow, down to zero overnight with the temperature up to a heady 5C by the time we arrived. Very different from the sort of temperatures we would be enjoying for the next few days! We met up at the Thai Airways counter in Terminal 2 at 8.50am before checking in. Our flight to Bangkok departed pretty much on the scheduled time of 11.50am. With a +7 hour time difference and a scheduled 11 hour flight time, we settled in for the rest of the day on the plane.

TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY – *Misty start, hazy sunshine, max 32C*

Our flight landed on schedule in Bangkok at 6.15am local time. We had a bit of a walk through the terminal to get to the desks for connecting flights to Chiang Mai and passport control, but we were quickly through and we then had three hours to wait for our onward flight. Sitting in the terminal by the gate, we started to add our first birds for the trip. There were several **House** and **Tree Sparrows** inside the terminal building, the ubiquitous **Feral Pigeons** on the outside of the windows, and our first **Common** and **Great Mynas** were feeding around one of the skybridges. A **Painted Stork** flapped slowly across one of the taxiways and a **Grey Heron** flew past. There are several drainage channels between the taxiways and runways with small pools of water in the bottom. A **Common Sandpiper** appeared on the back edge of one we could see close to the terminal, followed by a non-breeding **Pond Heron** of indeterminate species, an **Eastern Yellow** and a **White Wagtail** (the latter of the subspecies *leucopsis*). A **Medium (formerly Intermediate) Egret** was just visible on another pool much further back. Quite a decent list already and we hadn't even left the terminal!

Eventually our flight to Chiang Mai was ready for boarding. We pushed back pretty much on time at 10.15am and arrived as scheduled at 11.30am. Having cleared immigration in Bangkok, there was no need to here and in the time it took us to walk into the terminal and through to the international baggage reclaim area all our bags were already waiting for us on the carousel. Remarkable efficiency which puts most of our UK airports to shame! Nick Upton, who would be guiding us for the northern leg of the tour, was waiting for us just outside. We had to locate one of the group, who had travelled separately to Bangkok the day before and joined us for the flight to Chiang Mai today, so come through domestic baggage reclaim which was conveniently located right at the far end of the terminal. Then we walked out to where the minibus was waiting for us, along with a separate truck for our luggage and Chatree, the driver. Outside, it was a very pleasant 29C, a bit of a shock after the cold of the UK! It was just a short drive from the airport to our hotel for the night. We were a bit early for check-in time of 2pm, but most of the rooms were already available and it was just a short wait for the remaining ones to be cleaned. We had a little bit of time to get sorted out before we met again in the lobby for our first proper birding excursion.

Outside the hotel, while we waited for everyone to arrive, a pair of **Wire-tailed Swallows** were swooping around the neighbouring buildings. Several **Ashy Woodswallows** circled over and a couple landed on the wires. A **Streak-eared Bulbul** flew in to a small palm right in front of the hotel and a **Spotted Dove** landed on the wires above. The hotel is very conveniently located for the nearby Mae Hia Agricultural College. As it was a bit warm still, we headed first for the more wooded area at the back. The first bird we heard was an **Asian Koel** calling in the trees. Parking on the edge of the road, we got out and were quickly onto a couple of **Ashy Drongos** nearby. Several **Racket-tailed Treepies** were in the top of one of the trees at the back of the field, along with a couple of **Hair-crested Drongos** and more **Streak-eared Buleuls**. The male **Asian Koel** now started to chase one of the Buleuls through the branches and a couple of times landed in full view where we could get it in the scopes. A **Grey Bushchat** posed nicely on the wires nearby and an **Asian Brown Flycatcher** flew out and landed on them too.

Walking slowly down the road, we found a noisy group of **White-crested Laughingthrushes** the other side. We could see them moving through the bushes at the back of another field with a couple of **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes** with them briefly. A pair of **White-crested Laughingthrushes** did work their way through to the trees by the road where they called in duet but generally remained half hidden in the leaves as they like to do. The group were keen to get a better look at them and reluctant to move on, but had to be reassured that we would see them very well later in the trip. A little further on, several **Red-whiskered Buleuls** appeared in one of the trees above the road and were then joined by a **Coppersmith Barbet**. An **Olive-backed (Ornate) Sunbird** flicked through and landed briefly and a young **Himalayan Striped Squirrel** ran through the branches.

There are some pools under the trees a bit further on where a couple of **Water Buffalos** were tied up, which had attracted two **Eastern Cattle Egrets**. As we approached, a **White-breasted Waterhen** ran across the road in front of us and another three scattered from the edge of the water and several **Red-wattled Lapwings** flew up noisily. A **Yellow-browed Warbler** called from somewhere in the trees and a **Black-naped Monarch** and a couple of **Pin-striped Tit-Babblers** were lurking in a particularly dense, dark bush just beyond the fence. One or two **White Wagtails** were by the pools and a **Grey Wagtail** picked its way along the back edge. Scanning the tops of the dead trees, another **Coppersmith Barbet** flew in to the top of one and posed nicely, at first calling with a large fruit in its bill before it ate it. Our first **Red Collared Doves** were in the trees further back.

The temperature had dropped a bit so we drove back the very short distance to the more open ricefields. As we got out of the minibus again, there were flocks of **Scaly-breasted** and a few **White-rumped Munias** flying in and out of the crops. Several **Asian Green Bee-eaters** were hawking from a nearby fence, a **Brown Shrike** was hunting from the top of an old Stevenson screen just behind and a couple of **Oriental Magpie Robins** were displaying. Two **Striated Swallows** (now strangely lumped with **Asian Red-rumped Swallow** – surely a decision which will be reversed at some point) flew over and landed on the support wires for a nearby transmission tower. Further back, a **White-throated Kingfisher** was perched on a post in the fields and a **Rufous-winged Buzzard** was in the top of a tree behind. A **Chinese Pond Heron** flew across, flashing its white wings – easy to identify here, as there are no other species present.



Grey Bushchat & Brown Shrike – at Mae Hia

Lots of swiftlets were coming down to drink at a nearby pool but we were looking into the light from here – never ideal conditions for identifying the tricky swiftlets! – so we walked down the road to the other side for a better view. They looked like mainly **Himalayan Swiftlets** but with one or two paler **Germain's Swiftlets** in with them. There were several Barn Swallows hawking round over the water too. Three **Alexandrine Parakeets** flew over calling, followed by a couple of singles. Some flocks of **Great Mynas** flew up into the trees at the back and were joined by two **Black-collared Starlings** and a couple of **Siamese Pied Starlings**. A **Lineated Barbet** appeared in the top of another tree further back. A couple of **Hoopoes** flew across and landed on some wires next to a **Pied Bushchat**. **Red-billed Blue Magpie** called from somewhere in the trees the other side of the road and in the reeds behind us, we could hear **Chestnut-capped Babblers** now too. They refused to show themselves other than a few glimpses through the vegetation, not helped by a constant stream of joggers running past, a couple of cars and several dogs walking in front of us. A smart male **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** was feeding in a small tree in the edge of the reeds, a **Brown Shrike** and several some flocks of **Scaly-breasted Munias** posed nicely on the wires. Several larger flocks of smaller **Ring-necked Parakeets** flew in over our heads and into the trees behind the reeds now, presumably heading in to roost.

A nice, gentle introduction to Thai birding after our long journey, the sun was starting to set as we walked back to the minibus. After a quick break back at the hotel to drop off our birding gear, we drove the very short

distance to a nearby Thai restaurant for a delicious dinner. The northern Thai pork curry, Gaeng Hung Lay, was particularly popular. After dinner, everyone was pretty tired following two long days travelling so it was time for an early night.

WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY – *Misty start, hazy sunshine, max 33C but cooler higher up*

We checked out and left early this morning. It was just starting to get light as we arrived at Mae Taeng and parked by the river. Scanning the lake opposite, we found a few **Little Grebes**, **Common Moorhen**, **Grey Heron** and **Chinese Pond Heron** and a fairly large group of **Black-winged Stilts** roosting out in the middle. Nick had brought pastries, ricecakes and fruit and Chatree brewed up coffee for us on his gas burner, so we ate our breakfast overlooking the river bank. As the light started to improve, birds started to appear in the bushes, perching up in the tops. First several **Red-whiskered Bulbuls**, then quickly followed by a **Wryneck** which stayed on view for some time, accompanied in the same scope view first by a **Purple Sunbird** and then a **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**. A couple of **Malaysian Pied Fantails**, two **Taiga Flycatchers**, **Grey-breasted Prinia** and a **Common Tailorbird** flicked around below us. Both **Yellow-browed** and **Dusky Warblers** were calling and showed occasionally and a **Swinhoe's White-eye** appeared briefly. A succession of flocks of **Baya Weavers** flew in and soon the tops of the bushes were alive with them.

We walked down the track a little further and across the wide verge which had been cultivated. It was now covered with low spiny mimosa regrowth, but we cut over to a gap in the taller bushes beyond from where we could look back down across the trees on the bank towards the river. As we did so, a male **Black-faced Bunting** flew out past us and dropped down into the low thorny vegetation. There was no way we could see it in there, so we walked slowly towards it, getting rather scratched in the process, hoping it might flick up into the top. After a couple of brief views as it flicked up and back in, it flew out, up over the taller bushes and back down towards the river. We walked back to the gap. It had obviously wanted to come out of the thicker trees and we figured it might perch up in the tops now, before it had another go. We had better views of some of the birds we had seen earlier from here, like **Baya Weavers**, **Yellow-browed Warblers** and **Streak-eared Bulbuls**. A couple of **Rusty-capped Babblers** called but wouldn't show themselves but a **Yellow-bellied Prinia** was more obliging and perched in the top of the bushes. We didn't have to wait too long before the **Black-faced Bunting** appeared in the tops now too. The first time, it didn't stay up for very long but when it came up the second time it perched in full view for several minutes so we could all get a good look at it through the scope.



Black-faced Bunting & Asian Palm Swift – at Mae Taeng

As we walked back down past the minibus, a **Greater Coucal** flew up from the verge and a **Lesser Coucal** flew out of the reeds. There have been some wintering Long-billed Plovers here again this year so we continued on down to the dam to see if we could find them. When we got to the top of the bank above, we could see a fisherman wading in the water just beyond the shallow pools where the plovers had been and no sign of them

now. There were just a single **Little Ringed Plover**, a **Green Sandpiper** and two **Common Sandpipers**. Last year we had seen one a little further downstream, so we thought we should try there next. Crossing the more open verge here we flushed a couple of **Paddyfield Pipits** but then as we approached the river again we could see a farmer down on the far side checking on his irrigation pump and no waders. A little further down still, we did flush a male **Painted Snipe** and a **Common Snipe** from a muddy pool on the bank. Checking the river again down to the bend beyond, the bed was muddier here, not really ideal for the plovers, and all we could see were a couple of **Black-winged Stilts** and two **Green Sandpipers**.

We made our way back up the verge to the minibus. Several **Small Pratincoles** flew high overhead, we picked up a small flock of **House Swifts** across the other side of the river and then some **Himalayan Swiftlets** followed by four **Asian Palm Swifts**. We stopped to look at a couple of flowering trees which were full of **Great Mynas** and a large flock of **Chestnut-tailed Starlings** flew in too. It was just a short drive, further up the track, to a large muddy pool. It didn't take long to locate our main target here, getting nice views of a couple of **Small Pratincoles** on the ground now. Further back, we found a much larger flock of **Black-winged Stilts** here than we had seen earlier, plus three **Common Snipe** and a few more **Little Ringed Plover**. There were a several **White Wagtails** around the muddy edges, including a single *ocularis* amongst the commoner *leucopsis* subspecies. An **Amur Stonechat** flicked around in the low vegetation on the bank.

On our way back, we had a quick stop to scan the river from the bridge, but even though the bed looked better here for a Long-billed Plover, all we could find were a couple more **Green Sandpipers** and another **Little Ringed Plover**. We stopped again briefly to check the dam from the other side, but two more fishermen had appeared now and perhaps unsurprisingly the plovers had not returned. With a long drive ahead of us, we had to admit defeat – it was just too disturbed here today.

The journey to Fang took a couple of hours and thankfully there were not too many lorries today on the twisty climbs to slow us down. When we got to the town, it was time for lunch so we headed straight round to a local restaurant. The food was delicious, a small bowl of soup with fried rice or boiled rice with crispy pork and kale in oyster sauce, topped with a fried egg, all cooked to order in front of us with the freshest ingredients. After lunch, we had a quick pit stop at the hotel. Our rooms were not ready yet, but we dropped the larger luggage off and then set off to drive up to Doi Lang West. We hadn't gone too far out of town when Nick spotted several **Crested Treeswifts** on the wires above the road, so we pulled over for a look. Stunning birds with their spiky crests and orange faces on the adults, we had fantastic close views now of a species which we more often see just in flight. An **Oriental Honey Buzzard** circled high overhead above them. Driving on up the hillside, we could see several **Oriental Turtle Doves** feeding on the verge where seed is put out for the pheasants in the mornings, so we pulled up briefly for a look.



Crested Treeswift & Oriental Turtle Dove – on the way up Doi Lang West

At the top, we stopped again under the trees and got out. It was a very pleasant temperature up here for birding, despite it being mid afternoon. Two **Bronzed Drongos** were flycatching from a tree above the road as we walked on. There are a series of feeding stations along here where photographers put out meal worms for birds. Stopping on the road by one, a **Grey Treepie** flew out of the trees as Nick walked in to restock it. A female **Hill Blue Flycatcher** flew straight in, followed by several **Sooty-headed Bulbuls**. A brief male **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** was only seen by one of group who was standing in just the right place, but this was quickly followed by a gorgeous male **Rufous-bellied Niltava** which showed well for all of us when not chased off by the bulbuls. A flock of **Large Woodshrikes** flew over the road and landed briefly in the tops of the trees above us and a female **Ultramarine Flycatcher** was flicking around feeding high in a pine tree the other side of the road.

Nick had walked back to the minibus and heard a mixed flock in the trees back by where we had parked, so we followed. When we arrived, there were several **Yunnan Fulvettas**, plus **Golden Babbler** and **Grey-throated Babbler** in the low vegetation on the bank right above the road. A **Pallas's Warbler** flitted through the bushes above flashing its yellow rump, and we could hear several **Hume's Warblers** calling. The Fulvettas moved quickly through and were clearly looking for food at another nearby stake-out, so Nick put out more mealworms and they immediately came in to feed right in front of us. A **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** and a female **Rufous-bellied Niltava** both waited patiently until the greedy Fulvettas had finished and moved away. A **Hume's Treecreeper** flew in and climbed up a tree trunk in front of us and a 1st winter male **Gould's Sunbird** flicked around high above.



Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher & female Rufous-bellied Niltava – at Doi Lang West

When the flock had moved on again, we walked back down the road past where we had been earlier. The **Cook's Swifts** were starting to descend and from time to time a small group would flash past over the trees. At another feeding area just beyond, we found a female **Grey Bushchat** waiting patiently. Once the mealworms were out, it didn't take long before the male **Siberian Rubythroat** appeared out of the undergrowth behind – stunning close views now of what can otherwise be a very skulking species and a most-wanted bird for several members of the group. A female **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** came in and out too and a couple of **Buff-throated Warblers** were feeding in the bushes on the verge a little further on. There had been a Hodgson's Frogmouth on the nest here last February, right by the road above the path to one of the feeding stations, but despite checking the trees all around we couldn't find any sign of it here this year sadly.

We were heading back to the minibus for coffee, but Nick heard **Long-tailed Broadbills** calling beyond so we quickly followed the sound to see if we could catch them. Unfortunately we were just too late and they disappeared down the slope before we could get to them. Walking back to try for our coffee again, at the back of the group we picked up some movement in the trees, a large mixed flock. They were deep in and up the slope above but we stopped to scan. First we picked up some **Grey-chinned Minivets** and then we had a

glimpse of a **Himalayan Cutia**. Shouting to the others, they came hurrying back. The flock were moving quickly through the trees but the **Cutias** stopped to bathe where there must have been a small pool in a fork high in a tree above us up the slope. We could at least get everyone on to them now, even if we were looking through all the branches in front. The **Cutias** were joined by several **Rufous-backed Sibias** too, just to confuse matters at one point. The flock moved on and started to come down towards the road. We could see **Scarlet Minivets** in with them too now, plus **Grey-capped** and **Stripe-breasted Woodpeckers**, **Grey Treepie**, **European (White-faced) Jay** and **White-browed Shrike-Babbler**. A **Giant Nuthatch** called but we couldn't see it, and we were concentrating on the **Cutias**. The flock crossed over the road and both the **Cutias** and **Sibias** stopped to feed in some trees the other side. Downslope now, we were not having to look so high up and they were significantly closer so we had much better views. **Himalayan Cutia** can be a hard bird to find, so we were very pleased to catch up with this already on our first afternoon up here. Eventually the **Cutias** moved away down through the trees away from us and we turned our attention to a couple of **Chestnut-vented Nuthatches** and a small group of **Velvet-fronted Nuthatches** which were still in the trees.



Siberian Rubythroat & Himalayan Cutia – at Doi Lang West

Back to the minibus, we finally got our coffee and ricecakes. Before we could actually drink it though, we noticed some Thai photographers moving into position further along the road. We hurried down and found they were watching a small group of **Mountain Bamboo-Partridge** which had come out to feed on the edge of the tarmac. We managed to catch them ourselves before they crept back into the vegetation. As we turned to head back, a couple of **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babblers** had come in to one of the feeding stations.

It was time to head back to the hotel now and it was starting to get dark by the time we arrived. Check-in was very quick and we had time for a short break to freshen up before dinner in the restaurant. Nick picked a selection of different Thai dishes for everyone to try, non-spicy as well as spicy. Afterwards, we finally got a chance to go through the bird list for the last two days before turning in for the night.

THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY – *Misty start, then sunny, max 33C but cooler higher up*

It was still dark as we left the hotel after breakfast, and the **Asian Koel** was already calling, but it was getting light when we got to the top of Doi Ang Khang about 45 minutes later. As we got out of the minibus opposite the campground, a **Grey Bushchat** was singing from the wires above. Two **Olive-backed Pipits** flew in calling and landed in the tops of a tree in front of us where we watched them moving around in the branches. We thought they might drop down onto the grass below but a couple of minutes later they flew off again. There were a few people in the campsite itself so we walked a short distance up the road and in through the pines to view the hillside below. The sun was just starting to catch the trees here now. Looking down the slope, a **Grey-backed Shrike** was perched on a branch, a small flock of **Dark-backed Sibias** moved through above it and we

saw our first **Flavescent Bulbuls**. We were hoping to find **Giant Nuthatch** here, but we couldn't hear one at this stage.

It was a bit too steep to walk up further through the trees so we cut back out onto the road. A **Davison's Leaf Warbler** was singing across the other side and we could see it flicking around in the leaves. Stopping again and walking back into the pines, there were several **Hume's Warblers** calling above us now and a **Chinese Leaf Warbler** low down in the bushes in front. An **Indochinese Roller** flew off through the trees before we could find an angle to get on it. We could see both **Grey-chinned** and **Short-billed Minivets**, a male of the latter posing nicely in the top of the bushes right in front of us at one point. An **Asian (formerly Japanese) Tit** was singing right at the top of a nearby pine, looking like a monochrome Great Tit, and a **Stripe-breasted Woodpecker** landed on a branch high above us. We could see a **Golden-throated Barbet** in a fruit tree behind the tops of two pines but it was very well camouflaged in the green leaves and hard to see until you looked through the scope. After a while, it was joined by a second and then a third. A flock of **Striated Bulbuls** seemed to come out of the same tree, moving through the tops quickly, dropping down into another fruiting tree the other side of the road. We walked across for a closer look and had great views now of them feeding right in front of us. The **Golden-throated Barbets** dropped across into the same tree too, a **Blue-throated Barbet** following them now, but they all disappeared deeper in. A couple of **Blue-winged Minias** came out to feed on the edge, above the tarmac.



Striated Bulbul & Giant Nuthatch – at Doi Ang Khang

Walking back down the road, we stopped to watch a flock moving through the trees. The **Yunnan Fulvetts** and **Flavescent Bulbuls** came out to feed in the vegetation on the verge, but the **Silver-eared Mesias** kept a little deeper in and were harder to see. We were then distracted as a **Giant Nuthatch** called in the pines above the campsite behind us, on the other side of road. The sound seemed to be moving downhill towards the campsite, so we walked down to view from there where we wouldn't be looking into the sun. It didn't take long to locate the **Giant Nuthatches**, and we had good views of them feeding in the pines above the campground, following them for a while before they disappeared back out of view.

Back out onto the road, some **Dark-backed Sibias** were feeding around the fence and a smart male **Black-breasted Thush** appeared above them. The flock of **Yunnan Fulvetts** was still in the trees the other side so we stopped to see what we could find with them. A **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** swooped around through the trunks and landed briefly a couple of times. Nick whistled the call of Collared Owlet and a female **Asian Emerald Cuckoo** flew out and landed above us. It was followed shortly after by a male, which went across the road into the trees the other side. While we were looking at it, we noticed a pair of **Chestnut-vented Nuthatches** in the branches above. They were chasing round after a striking darker nuthatch with deep chestnut on the breast and belly. There is not supposed to be anything like that here, but we managed to get some photos of it and eventually confirmed it was a **Burmese Nuthatch**. They are mainly a lowland species,

occurring up to 800m according to the field guides (and we were at 1750m!) but apparently there are some small isolated populations in these montane pine forests.

Moving on, we drove round to a nearby temple. We stood to watch under the trees where some rice had already been scattered on the ground and Nick added some mealworms. It seemed rather quiet initially, but then first a couple of **Olive-backed Pipits** dropped down to feed in the leaves and gradually more and more birds appeared. After a while there were several **Black-breasted** and **Eye-browed Thrushes** feeding on the ground, some of the former coming right up to the edge of the buildings below us. A couple of **Mountain Bulbuls** flew in, followed by several **Blue-winged Minlas** which seemed to particularly like the low bushes right in front of us. A **Pallas's Squirrel** came down to grab some rice and a **Blue Whistling Thrush** (of the migratory black-billed form) landed by some dog bowls behind us where the monks had put more food out. We could hear **Large Niltava** singing in the trees nearby but it never came into view. Eventually the large flock of **Silver-eared Mesia** came in and proceeded to drop down onto the ground, some right in front of us giving us fantastic close-up views of what is one of the most colourful of species.

Our next stop was at the King's Project. Through the entrance gate, we drove in past the beautifully manicured ornamental gardens and parked by the main buildings. Immediately, Nick could hear **Spot-winged Grosbeaks** calling and we quickly found them in some fruiting trees by the back of the restaurant. They were not feeding but we had what we thought were good views of several males and females up in the branches. We could see a distant Bombax tree on the hillside beyond was in flower, so we set up the scopes to scan and as well as lots of **Red-whiskered Bulbuls**, we found a female **Maroon Oriole**, **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and another **Blue-throated Barbet** all feeding on the flowers.



Silver-eared Mesia & Spot-winged Grosbeak – at Doi Ang Khang

There were some closer flowering Bombax trees the other side of the buildings, so we walked round to check them out now. Another female **Maroon Oriole** flew out as we walked up but the same or a third reappeared in one of the trees a little later and we had better views of it high above us. We stood a while underneath to watch. Another **Orange-bellied Leafbird** was feeding on the flowers and several **Indian White-eyes** came in. We could hear more **Blue-throated Barbets** and saw one fly out. A **Banded Bay Cuckoo** landed in the branches briefly too and a couple of **Asian Red-rumped Swallows** circled high overhead. Then we found some more **Spot-billed Grosbeaks** in another fruiting tree here, which showed even better than the ones we had seen earlier. Amazing!

It was getting hot now, so we walked back to the restaurant to use the facilities. Nick went to the minibus to get the mealworms while the rest of the group walked up towards a nearby stake-out, but when Nick joined us there he didn't have any mealworms with him, just a ricecake. We had left the mealworms back at the temple! We tried to con the birds in with some sprinkles of broken ricecake but nothing was tempted. The fact that

nothing even came in to investigate suggested maybe it was too late in the morning now, and nothing was feeding. Walking back down through the shady bamboo garden, two **Yellow-bellied Warblers** flicked around above us.

Driving out of the King's Project, we made a quick diversion to collect the bag of mealworms back at the temple, but when we got there we couldn't find it where it had been left. One of the monks outside, who we had seen earlier, denied any knowledge of it but then we noticed the plastic bag on the compost heap below the building. The monks had clearly thrown them away and taken the nice paper shopping bag Nick had carried them in. We rescued what we could, then drove back to the village below the King's Project for lunch. Again, Nick ordered a selection of dishes for everyone to try, including a delicious Yunnanese pork curry. Afterwards, we stopped at a local shop to try some of the dried fruits which are grown here and several of the group bought bags to take home (though most seemed to get eaten over the following days!). We walked round past the stalls and looked at all the different local vegetables but sadly the one selling ginger tea wasn't open today.

It was early afternoon now and the heat of the day, but we decided to try a nearby site for **Black-headed Greenfinch**. As we got out of the minibus, we saw three or four fly off through the tops of the trees but thankfully we could still hear some calling high in the pines above. It wasn't long before several dropped down onto some lower branches where we could set them in the scopes. A scarce species which we don't often see here. Walking on a short distance along the road we stopped to admire the views, first one side back into Thailand, then the other side looking across over into Myanmar.

We drove round to the army checkpoint on the Burmese border next, which is a bit of a tourist attraction. On our way in through the gate, we passed all the stalls selling scarves, hats and other souvenirs made by the local hill tribes and parked in the car park. A **Burmese Shrike** was singing in the garden beyond and we quickly located it in a nearby conifer. Walking in past the bunkers and lookout posts, we stood and looked down beyond the razor wire. Two **Long-tailed Shrikes** and another **Burmese Shrike** were making good use of the overgrown scrubby no man's land. The **Burmese Shrike** flew up and landed on the razor wire in front of us, as if standing guard – somehow, it seemed a strangely appropriate place to see a species with this name! We had a quick look in the grounds behind the toilet block but unsurprisingly at this time of day there was no sign of the Daurian Redstart which had been seen here recently. Several **Cook's Swifts** zoomed back and forth overhead. Driving back to the other side of Doi Ang Khang, we had a quick stop at the Chinese Cemetery. Several bulbuls were feeding in a fruiting tree above the road, including at least three **Brown-breasted Bulbuls**. Otherwise, the trees here seemed fairly quiet still. Having spent most of the day up here, we decided to do something different for the remainder of the afternoon, and head back down to the ricefields.



Black-headed Greenfinch & Burmese Shrike – at Doi Ang Khang

It took just under an hour to drive back down to Fang and out into the ricefields beyond. As we got out of the minibus, a **Brown Shrike** was perched in the stubble in front of us, a **Medium (Intermediate) Egret**, several **Eastern Cattle Egrets** and **Chinese Pond Herons** were in the growing paddies beyond, and we could see lots of **Black-winged Stilts** over the far side. Walking in across the stubble, there were several **Amur Stonechats** and we noticed a **Citrine Wagtail** on a nearby bund. A couple of **Chestnut-eared Buntings** flew up ahead of us but quickly dropped back down out of view into the rice stubble. We stopped and waited to see if they would reappear. One came up and perched in the top feeding briefly but dropped down before everyone could get onto it. Thankfully, a second then appeared in line of taller vegetation of the edge of one of the bunds in front of us and stayed up a little longer. Good views now in the scopes.

We could hear an **Oriental Skylark** singing but it was doing so from the ground and we couldn't see it in the stubble. After a while it flew up in front of us and circled round still singing, before it dropped back down. Watching where it landed, we could see it on the ground now. It was singing from the top of the bund in front of us and even though it was covered in vegetation, the **Oriental Skylark** was visible looking down the path along the top. We could even get it in the scopes now. A Bluethroat flashed across but too quick and not seen by the rest of the group, landing in a wet area where we couldn't get to it. A ringtail harrier flew in low over the stubble, a juvenile **Pied Harrier**. It flew past quite close in front of us, then landed in the stubble where we managed to get it in the scopes too before it flew off again. A very distant **Shikra** flew up over the fields beyond.



Oriental Skylark & juvenile Pied Harrier – in the ricefields

Walking on over to the far side, we flushed at least three **Oriental Skylarks** now and two **Chestnut-eared Buntings**. Several **Zitting Cisticolas** flew up ahead of us and one landed in the taller vegetation on the bund. Looking across into the wet paddies at the back, we could see several more **Citrine Wagtails**, and lots of **White Wagtails**, including some of the both the regular *leucopsis* subspecies and several *ocularis*. There were at least a couple of **Wood Sandpipers** and **Common Sandpipers** that we could see and probably more out of view feeding in the growing rice. A distant **Black Bushchat** was perched on a post and a **White-throated Kingfisher** on another post nearby. A very distant **Richard's Pipit** was running down one of the bunds. It was time to start heading back. We got back to the hotel with plenty of time for a rest and a chance to freshen up before dinner tonight.

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY – Mostly sunny, hazy cloud at times, max 34C but cooler higher up

It was an early breakfast this morning, as we were heading back up Doi Lang to try to see Mrs Hume's Pheasant. We drove up in the dark, getting stuck behind another minibus obviously heading up to the same place, and it was just starting to get light as we arrived at the stake-out. There were only two cars there ahead of us and we got into position behind the other minibus. Just a single pop-up photography hide had been

erected on the verge opposite this morning, but too close to where the pheasants come out to feed for our liking, as often seems to be the case. Two **Oriental Turtle Doves** were already in, feeding on the side of the road. A couple of **Grey Bushchats**, plus **Slaty-backed** and **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers** flicked in and out of the trees above and an **Olive-backed Pipit** was feeding on the ground in front of the hide.

There seemed to be a lot of noise today, which is the opposite of what is needed when trying for the pheasants. The person in the hide was fidgeting, then the man from the second car back got out and walked up to talk to the photographer's guides who were standing behind their vehicle at the front. Two more cars pulled up behind us, with people getting in and out noisily. Just getting to the best time for the pheasants, a moped drove through along the road, which certainly wouldn't help. To compound matters, the occupants of one of the cars which had just arrived decided to leave, slamming the car doors as they got in and driving straight through the crowd past the verge. The minibus which had arrived in front of us then went too. All at just the wrong time, and it was perhaps no surprise that the time for the pheasants to emerge came and went. Very frustrating! A **Radde's Warbler** worked its way through the vegetation on the verge calling and a couple of **Black-throated Tits** were feeding high in the pines opposite. We heard a **Slender-billed Oriole** calling, and just got sight of it in the top of a tree through a gap as it dropped down out of view. The photographers started packing up their tent, so it was definitely all over now.

Moving on, we drove further along the road and parked. We were looking for Spot-breasted Parrotbill here, but there was no sign at the first place we tried. There were a couple of **Scarlet Minivets** in the trees and a **Common Rosefinch** which flew off calling. As we walked on along the road, a pair of **Rufescent Prinias** were in the vegetation on the verge and the first **Cook's Swifts** started to circle up overhead. When we heard a distant **Collared Owlet** calling, Nick mimicked its whistle and it seemed to be coming in a bit closer. With a bit of luck, we found it looking through a small gap in the closer trees and got it in the scopes. We would have settled for those views, but without prompting it took off and flew straight towards us, landing again above our heads. It was followed by a noisy mob of small birds, **Scarlet Minivets**, **Asian Tits** and a brief female **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**. We could still hear it calling, and now we could see its throat moving as it did so.



Spot-breasted Parrotbill & Crested Finchbill – at Doi Lang West

Walking on, a male **Siberian Rubythroat** appeared on the edge of the road ahead of us, with a female in the bushes on the verge directly opposite. A **Long-tailed Shrike** was perched in some bamboo beyond. We could hear **Spot-breasted Parrotbill** calling now, possibly two, but it took a while to work out where the sound was coming from. Then we realised one was very near to the road, so we positioned ourselves opposite and it eventually came up into the tops of the dense vegetation where we could see it. We could hear **Maroon Orioles** calling and a couple of **Long-tailed Sibias** flew over without stopping. Through the trees on the verge to the edge of the ridge, we had a lovely view out across the valley beyond. A **Brown-breasted Bulbul** was perched in the top of a tall tree below, enjoying the morning sun. Back out along the road, a **Golden-throated**

Barbet flew over. When we stopped to look at two **Grey Treepies**, Nick noticed a very well camouflaged **Crested Finchbill** perched in a fruiting bush really close on the verge opposite.

Walking on up the hill, we came to the army checkpoint and the end of the road (or at least as far as we could go). There were several **Flavescent Bulbuls** here, one waiting patiently by the stake-out but no one had put any mealworms down this morning. A flock of **Silver-eared Mesias** and a couple of **Black-crested Bulbuls** were feeding on a fruiting bush in the trees the other side. Nick whistled Collared Owlet again, and lots of birds appeared to investigate – several **Gould’s Sunbirds**, **Indian White-eye**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**. An **Asian Emerald Cuckoo** called, but didn’t come out. We watched a **Claudia’s Leaf Warbler** feeding like a nuthatch on the boughs of a tree further back. Chatree had brought the van up and put the water on for coffee and ricecakes.

After our coffee break, Chatree took Nick back for the minibus and he came up to collect us. As we drove back along the road, a large **Wild Boar** ran across the tarmac ahead of us. It was warming up, so we stopped in the shady spot under the thicker trees. A **Blue Whistling Thrush** came in to check out the stakeout opposite while Nick was getting the mealworms, while a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** and a female **Rufous-bellied Niltava** waited patiently above. There were a few birds in the trees, including a rather dark **Cuckooshrike** which reviewing the photos confirmed was **Indochinese**, plus **Hume’s Treecreeper**, **Rufous-backed Sibia** and **White-browed Shrike-Babbler**. Nick could hear Grey-headed Parrotbills, but they were too far down the slope to see and didn’t seem to be moving. We had brought a packed lunch today, and after our early start we were hungry now. Fried rice with lime and, for those who wanted it, chilli sauce (as some was left over, double helpings were available for the really keen!).

After lunch, we walked up and down slowly a short way along the road for a bit. It is cooler here and there are usually a few birds to see here, even in the middle of the day. A pair of **Pale Blue Flycatchers** were in the trees, and the **Rufous-backed Sibias** were a bit closer now. A **Marten’s Warbler** was helpfully vocal in the vegetation on the verge (impossible to separate from similar species unless it calls), along with **Chinese Leaf Warbler**, and a **Pallas’s Warbler** above. A **Davison’s Leaf Warbler** was singing and showed off the very white underside to its tail. Nick heard a distant **Rusty-naped Pitta** down the hillside, but it went quiet instead of answering. A few birds deeper in the trees turned out to be a group of **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrikes** and two **Blue-bearded Bee-eaters**. The usual flock of **Yunnan Fulvettas** worked their way through along the verge, together with a couple of **Golden Babblers**. We continued on a little further to the stake-out in the drier, more open trees where we found a mixed group of both **Rusty-cheeked** and **White-browed Scimitar-Babblers**.



Rusty-cheeked & White-browed Scimitar Babblers – at Doi Lang West

A change of scene for the rest of the afternoon, once it started to cool down a little we drove back down to Fang and out into the ricefields beyond. There were lots of egrets in the wetter fields, as we turned off the

road and onto a track along the top of a bank. We hadn't gone far before we found a couple of lorries laden with dirt ahead of us. They were working on the irrigation channel below the track, clearing it and reinforcing the banks. The trucks saw us and quickly moved out of the way, and the way ahead looked clear, so we drove past. We could see **Grey-headed Lapwings** in the distance, but as the bank curves round, we knew we would get closer further up. Then, as we drove round the corner, we found a large digger on the side of the road ahead. It still looked like we could probably get through at first, but we stopped first and got out to look at the Lapwings. Scanning the fields, we could see more egrets and a single **Common Snipe** dropped in. They seemed to be working right where we wanted to park and then one of the trucks drove past us and dumped its load of earth right in the middle of the track. We definitely couldn't go on now, so we decided to turn around, drive over to the other side of the river and try our luck there instead.

It was a lot less disturbed round on the other side. We were hoping to find Yellow-breasted Buntings here, but at first saw were lots of **Baya Weavers** in the reeds. A **Striated Grassbird** flew up and started singing from the top of a tree nearby, as a **Black-crowned Night Heron** landed below. We just had time for a quick look through the scopes, before the **Night Heron** flew off again and flushed the **Grassbird**. It was still singing further up, but we couldn't see it again. While we were scanning, we picked up four **Yellow-breasted Buntings** as they flew up out of the reeds, but they disappeared off high without us getting a good look. There were still more **Yellow-breasted Buntings** calling on and off now and after some brief views of a couple in the reeds and more flying out, eventually a male posed beautifully on the top of a reed stem. In the last twenty years it has become clear that the population has crashed due to heavy hunting pressure in China, and it is now considered to be Critically Endangered, so it is always good to see some flocks still wintering here.



Yellow-breasted Bunting & male Pied Harrier – in the ricefields

There was a small group of bare muddy paddies, out in the middle of the others full of growing rice, the other side of the track. Scanning across, we could just see several pipits and wagtails feeding on the mud behind the bunds. Thankfully, from time to time, they came into view or perched up on the banks. At first, we found several **Red-throated Pipits**, some with developing red throats. Then we noticed a couple of **Rosy Pipits** too, one starting to go pink on the breast. At one point, we had one **Rosy** and two **Red-throated Pipits** preening together on a bund, a really good opportunity for comparison. There were a few **Paddyfield Pipits** as well, and the wagtails were mostly *leucopsis* **White Wagtails** and **Citrine Wagtails**, with one or two **Eastern Yellow Wagtails** with them.

There were a few waders in the paddies too, feeding in the rice. We found **Common, Green** and several **Wood Sandpipers**, a small group of three or four **Pacific Golden Plovers** and several **Little Ringed Plovers**. A **White-throated Kingfisher** was perched on a distant post. Two **Glossy Ibis** flew over and a very large flock of **Asian Openbills** circled up out of the trees in the distance. To round it all off, one of the group turned round to see a cracking male **Pied Harrier** flying in behind us which carried on straight past and off over the fields beyond.

Back to the hotel, we just had half an hour to freshen up quickly before dinner. Nick ordered the usual selection of dishes for us all to sample, including a delicious panang red curry tonight, watched over by the **House Geckos** on the wall beyond. We would be checking out in the morning, so after going through the day's list we settled up our bar bills at reception before turning in.

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY – *Sunny am, clouding over pm, max 31C*

The **Asian Koel** was calling outside again as we loaded our bags into the truck after breakfast. It was still dark as we drove over to Fang Hot Springs but just getting light as we arrived. We stopped in the parking area and stood scanning the trees. A **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** swooped around and landed high in one of the trees above us, then was joined by a **Lineated Barbet** next to it, so we turned scopes onto each of those. We found a couple of **Eurasian (White-faced) Jays** feeding the trees here too. A noisy flock of **Black-crested Bulbuls** descended on a fruiting bush next to us with one or two **Black-headed Bulbuls** in tow and a **Coppersmith Barbet** perched on the top of a dead tree calling. Then an **Asian Barred Owlet** flew through the trees above us with a crowd of mobbing birds in pursuit. It landed high in one tree, where it was not such a good view, then flew back into another tree where it was much clearer, perched looking down at us.

As we walked across the campground, we could hear **Great Barbets** calling but we couldn't find them at first. Scanning the tops of the trees on the surrounding ridge, we could see lots of **Hair-crested Drongos** gathering in the early morning sun which was just starting to break through. From the bridge, we found a very distant **Oriental Honey Buzzard** on a dead tree on the top of the ridge the other side. Another **Great Barbet** started calling and this one sounded closer, so we walked on further and found two of them perched nicely in the open where we could get a good look at them. There were several **Lineated Barbets** which posed nicely in the trees here too. This proved a good spot to scan from as lots of birds started to appear in the trees as the sun started to rise. A flock of **Chestnut-tailed Starlings** whirled round and landed above us, two **Black Bulbuls** then appeared on a tree behind, a **Thick-billed Pigeon** flew in briefly and we picked up a **Black-hooded Oriole** which landed in a bush high on the ridge in the distance. Then an **Asian Koel** started singing from a bare tree very close to us where we could watch it in the scopes, joined by a **Great Barbet** and two **Lineated Barbets**.



Lineated & Great Barbets – at Fang Hot Springs

We decided to head round to the hot springs now. There were several **Long-tailed Minivets** which had been feeding in the low trees behind us and they were joined by an **Orange-bellied Leafbird**. A **Common Kingfisher** perched on a tree stump in the corner of one of the small lakes. The **Eurasian Jays** were still in the trees by the car park as we stopped to use the facilities. Walking along the road to the springs, three **Olive-backed Pipits** flew up from the grass and two **Taiga Flycatchers** flitted in and out of the trees above us. We stopped to admire the view out across the open grass with the channels and pools of steaming water, the artificial 'geyser' spouting high into the sky behind. A male **Blue Rock Thrush** hopped up onto a rock on the near edge

of the grass and we could see a female over the far side, on the platform. A **Black-naped Oriole** worked its way through one of the trees in front of us, looking for food. A **Grey Wagtail** flew ahead of us and landed again on the path, wagging its tail up and down. We were hoping to find more green pigeons along here, but all we came across were several **Feral Pigeons** flying round.

From the platform, we had a good view out across the hot springs and to the hillsides all around. Lots of **Barn Swallows** were hawking low, back and forth over the grass, and hundreds of Swiftlets were in the sky over the ridge behind. Hard to identify to species against the light but the one we had a bit lower in front of the trees at one point was a **Himalayan Swiftlet**. The **Spot-winged Grosbeaks** had already departed up into the mountains when we were here last year. Ironically, having enjoyed fantastic close views of them the other day at Doi Ang Khang, we now found two Grosbeaks perched in the trees behind us. A little later, when they had dropped into a nearby fruit tree to feed, we counted five of them in total, still here. The **Black-naped Oriole** had continued to work its way through the trees around the grass and now arrived at the ones closest to the platform. This tree was a bit more open, and the Oriole was even closer than earlier, so we had some wonderful views of that now as it hopped up and down through the branches.

We took the path out across the grass between the steaming hot pools now. Several **Black Drongos** were hawking from the trees around the edges, two **White Wagtails** were hopping around on the rocks and two close **Black-collared Starlings** were feeding on the short grass. Looking back to the ridge behind the 'geyser' from out in the middle, Nick picked up a young **Crested Serpent-Eagle** perched half way up, sunning itself, and then we found a very distant **Blue-eared Barbet** right on the top too. Several small **Lesser Grass Blue** butterflies were fluttering round in the grass. We made our way back to the minibus now for coffee and to use the rest rooms. A **Black Bulbul** was perched on the bushes beyond the health centre, a little closer than the ones we had seen earlier and in lovely light now.



Black-naped Oriole & Black-collared Starling – at Fang Hot Springs

It was a little over two hours drive to Chiang Saen, with a break to refuel at a filling station where loads of **Asian Palm Swifts** were zooming round and round a small palm tree. The skies clouded over, high and hazy, as we got into Chiang Rai province but the temperature was still in the lows 30s °C. We started to see lots more **Asian Openbills** in the ricefields as we passed. When we got to the local restaurant on the bank of the Mekong which Nick normally uses for lunch, we found it was closed for refurbishment. Nick asked the proprietors where else they could recommend instead and they told him the name of a couple of tourist restaurants further up the river. Apparently they aren't very good! So Chatree asked and was told about a local restaurant back towards the village. It was still by the river, but on the other side of the road. As we got out, there were lots of birds feeding in the trees on the riverbank. Most of the group went straight in for lunch, but for those who lingered as we stopped to photograph a **Coppersmith Barbet** over the pavement, we found a small group of **Swinhoe's White-eyes** and a **Common Iora**. The restaurant was a good recommendation and the food was

delicious. As usual, a variety of different dishes to suit all palates was available, but the Moo Nam Tok (grilled Thai pork salad) was very good indeed and one of the group tried the Tom Yum (spicy soup) which arrived in a huge bowl and was apparently really delicious too. After lunch, we checked the trees and found the **White-eyes** still there for the rest of the group, plus a **Pallas's Squirrel**. We checked into our nearby hotel now and had a little bit of time to settle in and get sorted out before we met again in the lobby.

The main Chiang Saen Lake doesn't have much out on it the middle of it these days, it is too often disturbed by fishermen, but there can be good birds around the edges. As we drove down along one side, we could already see lots of **Grey-headed Swampheens** on the marshy area between the road and the water and when we stopped and got out we had good views of them. There were **Lesser Whistling Ducks** and a **Glossy Ibis** here too, a **Purple Heron** in the shallows, a **Citrine Wagtail** and a **Grey-headed Lapwing** flew off calling. Four **Oriental Darters** were perched in the trees on an island at the back. We scanned the open water but all we could see were several **Coots**, **Moorhens**, **Little Grebes** and some more distant **Little Cormorants**. Just as we got back into the minibus, another **Little Cormorant** flew in and landed in a small dead tree in the middle of the marshy area at the front. We drove on a little further and stopped again. There had been a Baer's Pochard here last month, but there had been no report of it since 26th so we presumed it had been disturbed. We couldn't find anything different out on the lake, no ducks at all, so we decided to move on.



Grey-headed Swampheena & Lesser Whistling Ducks – at Chiang Saen Lake

Last winter, lots of the ducks were found on some newly dug pits which have been Nick-named (literally!) Hellscape Water Pits, including a couple of Baer's Pochard, so we decided to check that out now. Apparently, it used to be a huge area of marsh, one of the last remaining but for some reason in the last couple of years it has been turned into a vast area of huge, sculpted lakes. What they are meant to be used for, nobody seems to know but all in the name of economic development probably. The drive in was down a maze of tracks through the fields. We stopped to look at some close **Asian Openbills** and found a dozen or so **Eastern Yellow Wagtails** in the wet grass, along with a **Paddyfield Pipit**. As we drove on, a male **Pied Harrier** was quartering the fields just beyond.

The pits are aptly named, a hellscape indeed. Large areas of open water separated by huge earth banks, with little in the way of vegetation either on the ground or in the water yet. Surprisingly, the ducks seem to like them though. We stopped on a large area of bare earth between several of the pits where some workers seemed to be erecting some solar panels – out in the middle of nowhere! With the sun behind us, we scanned the water one side and found hundreds of **Indian Spot-billed Ducks**, a few **Garganey** in with them too. We were looking into the sun on the other side but there were a couple more pits there. The smaller one held just more **Indian Spot-bills** but the bigger one was covered in large rafts of ducks. Despite the light, we managed to pick out hundreds of **Pintail**, **Teal**, **Shoveler**, **Wigeon** and **Lesser Whistling Ducks**, and more **Garganey** and **Indian Spot-bills** among the closer birds. Scanning through some more further back, we spotted a small group

of four ducks in close association just as they swam behind an island. Moving further over, we could see them again. They were just silhouetted, but one had the distinctive shape of a male **Falcated Duck**, probably the other three were females. We could see the drake's uniquely-shaped, big head and its long sickle-shaped ('falcate') tertials hanging over its rear end. It was not a great view though, by any stretch of the imagination and a couple of members of the group were not entirely convinced! Surprisingly, we couldn't see any diving ducks at all though, given that there had been quite a few here last winter. A **Black Kite** drifted over the open area behind us, and then a **Peregrine** flew low over the pits and disappeared over the bank at the back.

We were heading back to Chiang Saen Lake to watch the harriers coming in to roost this evening, so we had to leave. On the drive out, we stopped briefly to watch a male **Pied Harrier** quartering over a small area of ricefields. It was flying away from us, then turned and started to come back, circling up to get over the trees around the edge. Another raptor drifted over, a dark morph **Booted Eagle**, and then came back the other way to join the harrier on its thermal. The harrier swooped at it several times before the two of them disappeared back over the trees. Further on, a **Black-winged Kite** was hovering over some rice stubble next to the road. It was staring intently down, obviously onto something, and as we watched it dropped down and came up with a small rodent in its talons.



Indian Spot-billed Ducks & Bronze-winged Jacana – around Chiang Saen

Stopping on the track overlooking the harrier roost, we could see several **Bronze-winged Jacanas** out on the marshy area in front, along with another **Purple Heron** and a **White-throated Kingfisher**. A brief **Yellow Bittern** flew up but dropped straight down again before anyone could get onto it. A **Plaintive Cuckoo** flew in low and dropped down several times into the vegetation, and a **Lesser Coucal** in non-breeding plumage was hopping around in the grass on the bank along one side. A **Striated Grassbird** perched up briefly on the bushes in the distance just as we were distracted by an **Eastern Marsh Harrier** coming in overhead. In the fifty minutes or so we stood and watched, at least a half dozen **Eastern Marsh Harriers** flew in, plus four or five **Pied Harriers** including another adult male. It was still light and the pace of arrival seemed to be accelerating still, but unfortunately we had to leave as we had dinner booked at the hotel tonight. It was about twenty minutes' drive back and we only had a short time to freshen up before dinner.

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY – *Mostly cloudy, hazy with bright intervals, max 27C*

A slightly more leisurely start today, we met for breakfast at 6.30am in the hotel restaurant overlooking the Mekong. We were hoping to watch the sun rise over the river but it dawned cloudy. Still, it is a mighty fine view to start the morning. After breakfast, we headed back over to Hellscape Water Pits first. On the way, we finally managed to get everyone onto a couple of **Zebra Doves** which were feeding on the verge – they may be common, but it was surprising we had not run into any other than when driving past so far. We were hoping to get better views of the **Falcated Ducks** and we quickly located them a bit closer this morning. The light was

behind us too, making for much better views. There was a single smart drake accompanied by four rather drab looking females today. The falcate tertials on this male looked shorter and less striking than the one we had seen yesterday, but probably it was just the way the feathers were arranged. **Falcated Duck** is a rare bird even here, so a good one to catch up with. A single **Ferruginous Duck** was one up on yesterday but was the only diving duck we managed to locate and a pair of **Gadwall** on the lake the other side with the **Spot-billed Ducks** were also new for the trip. Like yesterday, there were some large rafts with a good selection of other ducks – **Pintail, Garganey, Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler** and **Lesser Whistling Ducks**.

There were a few other birds here too. Several **Paddyfield Pipits** flew round calling and landed on the bare ground. Their sharper calls alerted us to a pair of **Plain-backed Sparrows** which were perched in a dead tree further back behind the minibus, long enough for us to get a good look through the scopes before they flew off. An **Eastern Buzzard** flew low over the scrub beyond the pit and landed in the top of a small tree. We were about to leave when we spotted four **Ruddy Shelducks** fly up in the distance, followed by another six. They dropped down again, in the direction of another pit out of view behind the banks at the back. It wasn't possible to get over there directly from where we were but Nick had a quick look at Google Maps and decided there was a possible way round and in through a 'State Park' area the far side. We decided to give it a quick go.



Falcated Duck & Ruddy Shelducks – at 'Hellscape Water Pits'

Following the directions, we came out into an area of older, smaller pits which were more overgrown with trees around and lily pads. All we could see were several **Black-winged Stilts** at the back of one and a single **Moorhen** on the next one. Then the track came out into another open area of vast newly created pits with more large, embanked areas in between of almost completely bare earth. Another part of the same 'Hellscape' complex. There was nothing at all out on the pool by the track but two **Common Greenshanks** flew up from the edge and off calling low over the water as we drove past. We could see from the map that there should be yet another pit just over the large bank next to us. It was a bit of a climb up over the bare earth but we managed to get to the top. Sure enough, there was the pit and this one had a lot of **Spot-billed Ducks** on it. We were far enough away not to spook them but the ducks were close to the front edge and started to swim back away from us. More emerged from out of view below the bank in front of us, which were followed by several small groups of **Ruddy Shelducks**. We had found them – and we eventually counted seventeen of them in total. But there was nothing else – the only other ducks we could see this side were a couple of **Garganey** and a **Shoveler**.

Walking on to the far end of the large new earth bank, we found ourselves looking down on a small area of ricefields below. There were the usual **Asian Openbills**, herons and egrets, plus a couple of **Black Bushchats** and **Asian Pied Starlings** on the bunds. The bushes along the edge held some **Plain Prinias**, two or three **Dusky Warblers**, **Brown Shrike** and **Streak-eared Bulbul**. Looking over to some more ricefields beyond, we could see lots of wagtails lined up on a bund, about half and half **White** and **Citrine Wagtails**. Another **Paddyfield Pipit**

started singing from the bare earth behind us. A couple of **Oriental Darters** flew over. As we started to walk back, a **Peregrine** flew over low, possibly the same one we had seen the other side yesterday. Back to the minibus, we made our way back out to the main road.

We were heading back to Chiang Saen Lake now, but the other side from where we tried yesterday. Prompted by Google Maps, we took a wrong turn and ended up at a dead end, so we had to turn round and head back out to the main road. After a bit of Thai driving (the wrong way down the edge of the dual carriageway) we took the next turn in a little further on, the way Nick knew. Getting out of the minibus, a **Coppersmith Barbet** was singing nearby and we found it perched in the top of a bare tree just above the road behind us, looking particularly smart in the sunshine. In the area of short grassy marshland beyond, lots of **Grey-headed Swamphens** were feeding and chasing each other round. A couple of **Indian Spot-billed Ducks** were dozing a little further back, with a single **Bronze-winged Jacana** just behind. We walked along the track round the temple the other way, finding a couple more **Bronze-winged Jacanas**, **Common** and **White-throated Kingfishers** on the marshland that side. A little further on, we got the scopes on a distant **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**. Out onto the floating platform on the far side of the temple, we could see more ducks out on the larger pool. They were mostly more **Spot-bills** but then we found three **Gadwall** and a single female **Falcated Duck** with them. The latter had been found earlier in January but had not been reported since 2nd February, so we were a little surprised to find it still here. A female **Eastern Marsh Harrier** was hunting out over the islands of floating vegetation and a **Black Kite** drifted over. Back on the path, we carried on round, stopping to look at another **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** slightly closer. We walked round past the **Swamphens** we had seen earlier and ran the gauntlet of some annoying dogs barking at us from the front of the temple.



Coppersmith Barbet & Grey-throated Martin – around Chiang Saen

We hadn't checked out of the hotel this morning, so we drove back to Chiang Saen now to do it. A small group of **Long-tailed Minivets** were feeding in the trees outside when we arrived. That done, it was time for lunch, so we went back to the same restaurant we had visited yesterday. Several people had the Moo Nam Tok again, and more were tempted by the enormous bowl of Tom Yum soup. Once again, a variety of different dishes were available though. After lunch, we had time for a bit of local culture. We visited Wat Chedi Luang, a temple believed to date back to the 13th century in the ancient walled city of Chiang Saen. A **Taiga Flycatcher** flew across the car park and over the wall beyond as we pulled up in the car park. It is still a working temple today but was ruined – a newer wooden structure was built over the remains of the impressively thick walls which are now only half standing. Inside, the large gold buddha statue was apparently found in the forest and regilded. Walking round the outside, we stopped to look at the remains of several other buildings and then admire the tall, moss-covered chedi (stupa) from which the temple gets its name.

Back to birding, we drove out of town to a nearby, smaller river. Scanning from the minibus on the main road bridge which crosses it, we could see what looked like martins in the distance, swooping over an area of bare

sandy bank. We turned off main road, down onto a small track which runs along the side of the river, where we parked and got out. We could see holes in the bank opposite and a couple of **Grey-throated Martins** flying in and out of them. A little further on, we found several more Martins hawking low over the top of a maize field with a couple of **Barn Swallows**. A couple of **Asian Green Bee-eaters** were flying out from the trees on the bank over the river. It was the heat of the day now, so perhaps unsurprisingly there was not much more activity. With a long journey ahead, we decided to head off, but as the road crossed another large bridge we pulled up quickly to check the river below. We could see lots of **Black-winged Stilt** on the bank, so we parked and got out to scan. There were several more **Grey-throated Martins** here, swooping low over the water in the distance. Another **Green** and **Common Sandpiper** were on the mud. Scanning round the reed island in the middle, we couldn't see anything else so we decided to press on.



Wat Chedi Luang – in Chiang Saen

We were heading back to Fang tonight but had enough time for a quick stop on the way at Thaton. Nick had spotted a new area of open sand on the edge of the river just before the village on the way up, deposited in last rainy season's floods, so we wanted to check it out. We found a small road which led us down towards the river and a track through an orange grove to the riverbank. A couple of **Common Sandpipers** flew off from an island in the middle as we walked up and a **Common Kingfisher** was perched on a nearby snag. Looking downstream, four **Ruddy Shelducks** were standing on another island further down. They took off and flew towards us, into the sun, then turned and headed off back the other way. Further down still, we could see a couple more **Common Sandpipers** and a **Green Sandpiper**, two **Little Ringed Plovers** and a single **Small Pratincole**. Several **Great Mynas** and **Chestnut-tailed Starlings** flew down to the shore to bathe. Two **Rufous-winged Buzzards** circled up over the hillside behind us.

It was time to head on to Fang and check back into the hotel. There was a party in the restaurant tonight, so we had our own private room to one side. As usual, Nick ordered a selection of Thai dishes for everyone to try. The new dish of the day was the Pad Pong Garee – a stir-fried prawn curry. Afterwards, we went out through the main restaurant and the party was in full swing with the karaoke machines set up, but none of the group fancied joining in. We went across to the hotel, where it was quieter, to sit in reception to go through the day's list, then it was time to turn in.

MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY – *Cloudy start, quickly burnt back to sunshine, max 33C*

Having not seen them last time, we needed to have another go for **Mrs Hume's Pheasants**, which meant another early breakfast again this morning. They had apparently been seen the previous two mornings so we were hoping we might be in luck today. When we arrived on site, we found the photographers were out in numbers today, with seven portable hides set up, three on one side of the road and four the other. They were not quite as far forward as the one last time though, which at least was a positive. We had to park behind

several other vehicles, but we were able to walk up and stand behind the one in front. The usual flycatchers, **Sooty-headed Bulbuls** and **Grey Bushchats** were already coming in to feed and an **Olive-backed Pipit** was creeping around on the grass but there was no sign of any Oriental Turtle Doves this morning. There was no door slamming and walking around and no people decided to drive off early, so it settled down and everyone was quiet.

After a nervous wait, the **Mrs Hume's Pheasants** appeared, a male and two females. They approached down the road and were hidden from our view by the hides at first, but as they walked down towards the usual feeding area we could see them by leaning out from behind the cars. When they came closer, we all had a clear view. The females were much bolder, one coming right up in front of the hides and the other walking out into the road, but the male was much more nervous, staying further back and keeping not so far away from the vegetation. The sun was coming up now and as it shone through a gap in the clouds it reflected off the fiery orange of the male's back. At one point, some noise from one of the hides must have disturbed them because all three froze and stood stock still without moving. You could see how nervous and easily spooked they are. They resumed feeding but did not look so settled now and, after being on show for about half an hour, first one of the females then the male crept slowly back into the vegetation. The second female stayed out feeding longer before it too walked in out of view. Relief all round, having missed them the other day.



Mrs Hume's Pheasant – second time lucky!

We drove up to the top now and parked where we normally do. We had a look under the trees and found both **White-browed** and **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babblers** coming in to check out one of the feeding stations, followed by the male **Rufous-bellied Niltava** again. There were no mealworms put out for them yet this morning, so they quickly moved on. The usual female flycatchers, **Hill Blue** and **Ultramarine Flycatcher**, were waiting in the trees nearby. The sun was now on the open area beyond, so we walked on to see what it brought out. There were several **Grey Treepies** in the trees and Nick heard a couple of **Spectacled Barwings** which eventually showed very well in the vegetation by the side of the road.

Back to the minibus, we drove on a bit further and parked again at the top of a steep slope. There was more activity here, a couple more **Grey Treepies** were in the trees and one showed well in the back of a small quarry. A **Giant Nuthatch** flew out and over our heads, landing in a dead tree the other side of the road very close to us where it posed nicely. A **Mountain Imperial Pigeon** was calling from somewhere high in the tree above our heads and another flew over. We could hear a **Collared Owlet** way off in the distance and Nick whistled the call now. Lots of birds appeared in the trees. A flock of **Long-tailed Sibias** came in, took a look and quickly shot off out again. There were several warblers including better views of **Claudia's Leaf Warbler** now and a young male **Sapphire Flycatcher** in the trees above. A pair of **White-browed Shrike-Babblers** appeared

in a tangle just above the road and while we were watching them Nick heard **Grey-headed Parrotbills** calling. They were feeding in the trees just past the Shrike-Babblers and we had good if brief views of a pair of them before they moved quickly higher up the slope away from us. As the activity died down a little here, we walked further down a short way. Nick heard a **Little Cuckoo Dove** and managed to get it to come in briefly by imitating its call. We watched a pair of **Black-throated Tits** feeding in the tops of the trees but a **Hill Prinia** remained out of view in the thick vegetation by the verge below. Another **Mountain Imperial Pigeon** was calling in a tree close to the road but it was very thick with leaves at the top and despite trying from different angles we couldn't find it. It went quiet and we had been looking at other things but then it called again, taunting us. After another scan of the tree, we did manage to find where it was hiding now but as soon as it realised it had been rumbled it helpfully flew off. Typical!

Walking on down the slope, a mixed group of bulbuls worked their way up and over the road, including three **Ashy Bulbuls**, a couple of **Mountain Bulbuls** and a single **Striated Bulbul**. At the bottom of the hill, Nick walked back to get the minibus and Chatree drove down to get the hot water on for coffee. The **Collared Owlet** was still calling in the distance and then suddenly we heard it in the pines right above us. It was hard to see in all the branches, but eventually we found it, looking down at us. While we were enjoying our morning coffee and ricecakes, an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** circled up over the hill behind us. It wasn't a great view, silhouetted against the bright sky, and the bird was tatty with a large gap in its left wing.



Spectacled Barwing & Collared Owlet – on Doi Lang West

After coffee, we drove on again and stopped in the area where we had seen the Crested Finchbill and lots of other birds a couple of days ago. It was much quieter today, just another **Grey Treepie**, a couple of **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrikes** and a very distant **Long-tailed Shrike**, so we continued on to the checkpoint at the end. A large flowering tree by the road was chock full of **Mrs Gould's Sunbirds** and a couple of **Black Bulbuls** flew in to the top of another tree beyond the barrier. There were lots of **Flavescent Bulbuls** feeding in the fruiting bushes by the fence and a **Bay Woodpecker** called from somewhere deep in the trees further back. We were just about to leave when a **Crested Goshawk** circled up behind the trees and eventually out into the open above. We could see its puffed-out undertail coverts and it started to display above our heads too.

We drove back to the shadier area of trees again for lunch, fried rice and optional chilli sauce again, which we had brought with us from the hotel. The female **Rufous-bellied Niltava** and the **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** were both waiting patiently for mealworms above the log on the edge of the road opposite. An **Ashy Drongo** and a **Bronzed Drongo** were making occasional sallies out from the branches of a large tree further back. A small moth fluttered across and landed in the middle of the tarmac (genus *Bocula*, but struggling to identify it to species at the time of writing). After lunch, we had a short walk along the road. There were lots of birds feeding quietly here in the trees, **Scarlet**, **Grey-chinned** and **Short-billed Minivets**, **Blue-winged Minlas**, **Grey-capped Woodpecker**, and both **Chestnut-vented** and **Velvet-fronted Nuthatches**. A **Hume's Treecreeper** and a

Pale Blue Flycatcher were both singing. Chatree put the water on for coffee. Everyone was tired after the early start and the plan for the afternoon would involve a later finish, so after coffee we drove back down to Fang and round to the hotel. There was then the option of meeting again after an hour's break for the late excursion or taking the rest of the afternoon off.

For those who wanted to come out, we met again outside at 3.30pm. After a quick stop for fuel on the way, we drove back up to Thaton and out through the fields beyond. We had checked out one area by the river briefly on our way back from Chiang Saen yesterday, but now we were heading to a larger area slightly further downstream and approached from the opposite side. Parking on the edge of the fields, we made our way down and out across the sand. A **Long-tailed Shrike** was perched on a telegraph post and several **Pied Bushchats** and small flocks of **Scaly-breasted Munias** flew off ahead of us. We stopped to watch an **Asian Green Bee-eater** perched on one of the tree stumps which had washed up on the sand.

From the edge of the river beyond, we looked across to a more muddy area on the opposite bank. There were lots of **Small Pratincoles** out on here and a nice variety of other waders – several **Kentish** and **Little Ringed Plovers**, **Green** and **Common Sandpipers**, seventeen **Pacific Golden Plovers**, at least six **Common Snipe** and two **Temminck's Stints**. Lots of **Barn Swallows** were starting to gather on a line of dead bushes a little further up. Two **Siberian House Martins** flew high over the river and three **Sand Martins** hawked up and down. There were more **Small Pratincoles** on our side of the river a little downstream, so we walked over for a closer look. Some looked like they might be nesting already, hunkered down on the bare gravel, while others were paired and displaying. Lovely birds to watch.

An island of reeds on the sand nearby held lots of **Baya Weavers** and **Scaly-breasted Munias**, plus two **Plain** and three **Yellow-bellied Prinias**. We had to walk round the reeds to view the river further down and as we rounded the corner we found even more waders on here. They were hard to count as many were out of view down in the channels behind the mud banks or hidden by the huge piles of detritus which had been washed up. There were at least 50 more **Pacific Golden Plovers** and two large flocks of (mostly) **Common Snipe** flew round totaling in excess of 170 birds, as well as more of many of the other species we had seen earlier. Two **Grey-headed Lapwings** flew off calling and a couple of **Red-wattled Lapwings** were lurking on the drier sand higher up. Great numbers of waders but unfortunately no sign of anything different.



Asian Green Bee-eater & Small Pratincole – at Thaton

Unfortunately, we didn't have time to walk all the way down to check out the larger stand of reeds along the edge of the cultivations in the distance more closely. Scanning from here, all we could see were lots more **Baya Weavers** and a single **Amur Stonechat**. The **Small Pratincoles** started to get more active now, flying up from the open mud and over our heads, probably heading off to feed. Back round the reed island, presumably the

same four **Ruddy Shelduck** we had seen yesterday were now on the mud bank the other side of the river which we had been looking at earlier.

A couple of farmers were spraying the field of onions right next to the minibus when we got back to it. Nick covered his face and brought it down the track to pick us up. The sun was already setting as we drove back. When we got to Fang, we needed a quick stop to buy more ricecakes (caramel this time, rather than mixed nuts and seeds). The group was now addicted to them, and we were getting through the stocks in the minibus fast! Pulling up in front of one of the shops on the main street, hundreds of birds flew out from the wires across the front, **Barn Swallows**. Looking up, we could see thousands and thousands more rowed up wing to wing three, four or five rows deep. Amazing! When we got back to the hotel, we only had ten minutes before dinner, so just enough time for a shower if you were quick. The new dish of the day in Nick's selection was Yum Sam Grob, Thai crispy pork skin salad. Delicious!

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY – *Bright & sunny, max 34C but cooler higher up*

Mainly a travel day today, so we had our bags packed before breakfast. We had some time for birding first this morning so we drove back up to Doi Ang Khang. The sun was just starting to rise over the hills so we stopped at a small campsite where the light was already on the trees. There were a few birds behind the toilet block by the entrance, including another **Grey Bushchat**. **Grey-crowned Warbler** was new for the list, flicking round in the undergrowth below us, and a **Grey-backed Shrike** was perched in the bushes beyond (not quite as 'grey' as it all sounds!). A pair of **White-browed Shrike-Babblers** worked their way through the trees behind us. Nick heard a **Barred Cuckoo-Dove** in the distance but it wouldn't come in to show itself. At the far end of the car park, a small flock of **Long-tailed Minivets** flew in and landed briefly. Nick whistled the call of Collared Owlet and it immediately attracted several **Blue-winged Minlas**, **Hume's Warblers** and **Indian White-eyes**. A pair of **Common Rosefinches** landed in the trees behind us but flew off as we turned round, then a more obliging but plain female was a little more obliging, which just meant that everyone really wanted to see a nice pink male now.



Female **Common Rosefinch** & **Brown-breasted Bulbul** – at Doi Ang Khang

Walking down the road, we stopped by a gap in the trees where the locals had been dumping bags of rubbish. Not the best foreground to what was quite a nice view out over the valley beyond. We could hear **Great Barbets** calling and a pair appeared in one of the trees and showed nicely in the scopes. Three **Common Rosefinches** landed in some bare branches, all pink males this time, which made up for views of just the female earlier. Further on, a couple of local residents were picking over the small rubbish tip down the path we had planned to check, so we carried on to check out the overgrown fields beyond. They were still mostly in shade and largely birdless. The people from the rubbish dump drove off past us so we figured it would be quieter there now. As we walked in down the track, a **Grey Wagtail** was perched on top of all the rubbish and

a pair of **Grey Bushchats** were in the undergrowth behind. Several **Brown-breasted Bulbuls** were enjoying the sunshine in the top of the bushes behind. From the far edge of the path, right on the edge of the rubbish, we could just see a fruiting bush and more bulbuls were feeding in that, including a couple of **Crested Finchbills**, but they moved on before everyone could see them in the scope. Nick found a way through the trees round the rubbish to where we could all get a better view of the bush. There had been four **Eye-browed Thrushes** in there too apparently, but by the time we had all got in through the trees there were only **Brown-breasted Bulbuls** left. We stood and watched for a while and they were joined by a single **Grey-eyed Bulbul** but nothing else.

Back out onto the road, we walked down to have a look at the field again. The four **Eye-browed Thrushes** were now in the top of the fruiting tree further down by the road but three photographers were standing underneath and they wouldn't settle. Despite the sun being on it now, there was still little in the way of activity in the field, so we decided to walk back. On the way, we could hear a croaking call in the trees and Nick whistled in a female **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** along with several **Gould's Sunbirds** and both **Hume's** and **Davison's Leaf Warblers**.

We drove further on now and parked at the start of a track by some houses. Some workmen were building a wall and mixing concrete on the side of the track and we had to wait for their small tipper truck to deliver a load of stones before we could walk past. A couple of **Maroon Orioles** were singing, one male in the trees above us, but it flew out before we could get a good look at it. Further on, there were lots of bulbuls and an **Ashy Drongo** in the trees and down at the bottom a couple of **Dark-backed Sibias** were feeding on some bright purple flowers in the sunshine – very photogenic. We were doing well for **Spot-winged Grosbeaks** already this trip and at least another four were feeding in the trees here, one male showing particularly well feeding at eye level in the leaves. Another perched up in the purple flowers but unfortunately its head was hidden behind a branch.



Dark-backed Sibia & White-capped Water Redstart – on Doi Ang Khang

One of our main targets here was **White-capped Water Redstart** and as we walked quietly round the side of the house it was apparently perched on the top of the rubbish bin. Only those at the front of the steps saw it though before it dropped down to the stream beyond out of view. We were all edging slowly forward to look down at the stream when the owner of the house walked through the garden in front of us and it was no surprise that there was no sign of the Redstart now. Nick knows him and as he stopped to chat we scanned up along the stream. A male **White-tailed Robin** flicked in and out from the shady bushes on one side and one of the group spotted a female **Large Niltava** perched on a low stump in the shade of a small plot of banana palms the other. There were flowering trees next to us and more **Dark-backed Sibias** came in to feed along with a couple of **Swinhoe's White-eyes** and a **Streaked Spiderhunter** which landed above our heads briefly. There was no sign of the Redstart coming back to the stream, so Nick walked up through the garden and found it

feeding on the path in front of the chalets above. It was very nervous and as everyone walked on it dropped again, thankfully just to a nearby picnic table where we were finally able to find somewhere to view it preening and then feeding on the path again further down. Mission accomplished, as we walked back round through the garden a **Taiga Flycatcher** flew across the path ahead of us.

Back up to the minibus, we drove back to the temple where we had been the other day for coffee. While Chatree heated the water on his gas stove, we stood and scanned the trees. There were many of the same birds as we had seen before, like the **Mountain Bulbuls**, **Silver-eared Mesias**, the dark-billed **Blue Whistling Thrush** and a couple of **Olive-backed Pipits**. But this morning a **Grey-sided Thrush** dropped in to feed with the **Eye-browed Thrushes** and **Black-breasted Thrushes**. The water had boiled and several of the group had gone to get coffee already when a male **Large Niltava** appeared. It dropped down into the leaves right in front of us a couple of times in quick succession, the brighter blue parts of its plumage shining as it caught the sun, then flew back up into the trees. We walked over to the minibus to get the others and thankfully it quickly reappeared and posed nicely in the branches in front of us. A very smart bird indeed. The caramel ricecakes were pretty good too – everyone agreed, better than the healthy seeded ones!



Black-breasted Thrush & Large Niltava – at the temple

With a long drive ahead of us now, we drove round to the main campground to use the facilities first. They were selling ginger and honey tea in front of the stalls next to the car park so Nick bought a cup for anyone who wanted one. It was just over an hour and a half in the minibus to Chiang Dao, with a single **Indochinese Roller** on the wires the main highlight of the journey. We stopped for lunch in a local restaurant then a nearby garage to refuel where most of the group bought an ice cream for pudding. After the monks had thrown away most of Nick's mealworms the other day, we had to take a short diversion in to Chiang Mai to restock. Unfortunately, we were running a little later than planned and hit traffic which held us up a little. One of the group had missed the **Ashy Woodswallows** in front of the hotel on our first afternoon here, so in the slow moving traffic we were able to point out some more now. After our bus tour of Chiang Mai, it was then a relatively easy journey on to Doi Inthanon. We checked into the hotel and had some time to get settled in and have a rest before we met again for dinner. As usual, Nick ordered a different selection of things for us to try, and like everywhere else we have stayed the food was really good. After a quick run through the bird list for the day, we were then all ready for bed.

WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY – *Bright & sunny, max 34C lower down, low 8C & max 16C at summit*

After breakfast, we headed up into the park just as it was getting light. Nick got our entry tickets from the ticket office just before the entrance gate and we drove on a few kilometres before stopping on a small side road. This is a regular spot for **Black-backed Forktail** and we could hear one calling as we got out of the minibus. They are very shy, so we walked very quietly up to the bridge. One of the **Forktails** flew off upstream

before we could see where it was but thankfully landed again on some boulders on the edge of the river just a short distance away. It then flew again, and landed on some larger rocks in midstream where we could get it in the scopes. With our first target in the bag, we drove on a bit higher and stopped again at the start of another side road. The sun was just starting to hit the tops of the trees here and we could hear birds calling. As we walked up to look we came around a corner and found another couple with cameras pointed up in the trees. They were photographing a couple of raptors perched there, but unfortunately they flew off through the trees just as we all arrived. One then came round again and we had a quick view of it as it flew back into the branches, a young **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**. Looking up into the trees, we couldn't find it anywhere though, so presumably it had flown straight through.

We were then distracted by a large mixed flock in the lower trees opposite. A **Clicking Shrike-Babbler** was calling and eventually both the male and female appeared. In the same tree, a female **Large Vivid Niltava** was sallying out from the tops, a male **Asian Emerald Cuckoo** flew in and was joined by a **Verditer Flycatcher**. A **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** landed above our heads just as a load of White-Eyes flew in, including one or two **Chestnut-flanked White-eyes**. Two or three **Rufous-backed Sibias** worked their way through the branches and a **Spectacled Barwing** appeared briefly in the top. The flock moved away into the trees and it went quiet, but then came back up to the side of the road again. We watched a pair of **Grey-chinned Minivets** courtship feeding, a male **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** flew in and out of the branches and a **Sulphur-bellied Warbler** was flitting around in with several **Davison's Leaf Warblers** and a **Claudia's Leaf Warbler**, but hard to get onto. A **Striated Bulbul** perched up briefly in the trees above us and a **Speckled Piculet** was drumming but we couldn't see where it was through a large clump of bamboo. Eventually, the flock moved off again and we were able to walk on along the track. The trees were much quieter here until we found another flock, this time mainly **Silver-eared Mesias** and **Yunnan Fulvettas**. Nick could hear Long-tailed Broadbills deep in the trees and we hoped they would come towards the track, but they moved off away from us. A little further on, an **Asian Barred Owlet** was being mobbed in the trees but flew off as we approached. Into some pines, we could hear a **Stripe-breasted Woodpecker** calling and then drumming.



Small Niltava & White-gorgeted Flycatcher – on Doi Inthanon

We took a small side track into the trees and not very far in we found a **White-gorgeted Flycatcher** perched in a small tree ahead of us. Nick put some mealworms on a log nearby and two Flycatchers quickly came down to feed in front of us. In the undergrowth nearby we could see two impressive flowers of the parasitic plant **Sapria himalayana**, like a small *Rafflesia*, plus another which had already gone over. A little further down, we came to an open muddy area. Nick scattered some more mealworms and quickly birds appeared from all directions. A male **Small Niltava** was first in, followed by a male and then later a female **Large Niltava**. Both a male **Himalayan Shortwing** and a **Lesser Shortwing** tried to feed on the ground below them, but the male **Large Niltava** now started to try to chase everything away. By the time the **Pygmy Cupwing** came in, it was particularly aggressive and the Cupwing was afforded little chance to feed. A **Slaty-bellied Tesia** was singing

and we could see it above us in the undergrowth, though it was constantly on the move. Back out onto the main track, a **Speckled Piculet** was drumming and this time we found it working its way through a tree above us. A flock moved quickly through over the track and a **Little Pied Flycatcher** lingered briefly, flycatching from one of the trees in the sunshine. It was time for coffee and caramel ricecakes, so we walked back to the minibus where Chatree was waiting for us with the water already boiling.

Our next stop was at a regular site for **Slaty-backed Forktail**. There was no sign on the stream behind the restaurant, so most of the group went to check upstream while Nick went downstream. All we managed to find was a male **Hill Blue Flycatcher** perched in some bamboo but Nick located the Forktails his side. They were very flighty though and in an area which was impossible for us all to get into without them just flying off, so we hatched a plan. We all stood looking down along a straight section of the stream from a discreet distance above, while Nick swung round below onto the other side. It didn't work at first, the birds lingering in an area we couldn't see. We thought we might be able to get onto them from our side, and as we walked down through the grass four **Olive-backed Pipits** flew up into the trees. We could hear one of the Forktails calling as it flew off just into the area we had just been looking at! Quickly, we walked back and Nick stayed below and this time the plan worked. We could see one of the **Slaty-backed Forktails** from time to time when it flicked up onto one of the rocks or walked out on a small weir.



Slaty-backed Forktail & Siberian Blue Robin – on Doi Inthanon

It was time for lunch, so we drove round now to a new restaurant which had only opened earlier this year. It has a great view, looking down the valley over the ricefields. Sadly, it might not last long though – despite being very large, over two floors, we were just about the only customers in there and the food still took forever to arrive. It is also very conveniently located for the hide which we visited after lunch, just a short drive down the track beyond. Settled in to the hide, the owner appeared and topped up the pool with water and filled the feeders. Birds were already around his feet, including a male **Siberian Blue Robin**, a couple of **Buff-breasted Babblers** and a female **White-tailed Robin**. Once he retreated, more came in – lots of **Brown-cheeked Fulvettas**, several **Puff-throated** and one or two **Grey-eyed Bulbuls**, a **Grey-throated Babbler**, a **Little Spiderhunter** and a male **Rufous-bellied Niltava**. A **White-rumped Shama** was rather nervously lurking in the background and only came in once the activity had died down a little. After a while, there didn't seem to be anything new arriving and we wanted to allow ourselves enough time for a visit to the summit, so we decided to move on.

As we got out of the minibus at the top, a **Rufous-throated Partridge** was calling below the café so we hurried up and round to the back, but by the time we arrived it had gone quiet. There were a few birds in the fruiting tree in front of the café, **Chestnut-tailed Minlas**, **Dark-backed Sibias** and **Black-crested Bulbuls**. We stopped to watch and a male **Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker** appeared, followed by a second. They chased each other through the branches and when they settled down, one of the two put on a great display, feeding on the ripe

fruit on a branch above us. The Minlas had moved off but we found them again in another fruiting bush in front of the main park building. A **Grey-sided Thrush** posed nicely, feeding on the berries, but a **Silver-eared Laughingthrush** disappeared through the undergrowth.

Across the road, we walked down the steps to the summit marsh boardwalk. A yellow-billed **Blue Whistling Thrush** was lurking in the bushes and when we got out into the sunshine in the middle, two **Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantails** were flycatching from the trees. A couple of **Silver-eared Laughingthrushes** were down in the thick vegetation below us but one of them came up a couple of times so we could get a proper look at it now. Back into the shade, we walked very slowly and quietly along the boardwalk. A pair of **Rufous-throated Partridges** were feeding below. We could hear the noise as they kicked up the leaves and then had very good views as one walked up and down through the shallow water. As we walked up and down, scanning the undergrowth, an **Eye-browed Thrush** and a **Grey-sided Thrush** were feeding down here too, a **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** flitted round the small trees and a female **Himalayan Bluetail** put in a brief appearance. We walked back round the way we had come and found a couple of **Blyth's Leaf Warblers** on the edge of the boardwalk. An **Ashy-throated Leaf Warbler** flashed through and then came back up and perched preening, wet after a bathe.



Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker & Chestnut-tailed Minla – at the summit

We could have stayed longer on the boardwalk, and there were a couple of things we had hoped to see still, but we had one last appointment on our way back down. Stopping on the side of the road, we got out and set up the scopes. Several **Speckled Woodpigeons** were perched in the sunshine in the top of a large tree on the opposite side further down. We stood and watched them for a bit, before they dropped back down. **Long-tailed Broadbills** were calling behind us and one flew across the road but disappeared straight into the trees the other side while most of the group were watching the pigeons. Several **Chestnut-tailed Minlas** appeared in the bushes beside us along with another **Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail**. Then it was time to head back to the hotel. There is an opportunity to get laundry done at most of the hotels and this correspondent's was waiting back in his room, all neatly folded, having handed it in at reception last night. Great service.

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY – *Bright & sunny, max 35C lower down, 14C at summit*

As we had seen the Speckled Woodpigeons last night, we didn't need an extra early start today. We set off at 6.30am as usual and drove up towards the summit. The sun was just catching the trees higher up beside the road, so knowing that the summit would still be cold, we stopped short to see what the early warmth had brought out. There were a couple of distant minivets further and higher up and several bulbuls flew across the road. A **Collared Owlet** was calling in the distance and Nick whistled something similar here. Various small birds came in to investigate, female **Slaty-backed** and immature **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers**, **Gould's Sunbird**

and several **Davison's Leaf Warblers**. There was nothing we hadn't seen before though, so we decided to press on to the top.

At the summit, the sun was just catching the tops of some of the trees. At least four **Grey-sided Thrushes** were feeding in a fruiting bush by the side of the road and several **Chesnut-tailed Minlas** came in to join them. Both **Buff-barred** and **Ashy-throated Leaf Warblers** flitted around in the bushes too and a male **Green-tailed (Doi Inthanon) Sunbird** posed nicely in the sunshine briefly. A couple of **Rufous-winged Fulvettas** worked their way through the moss covered trunks and then dropped down into the lower vegetation on the verge. One of the group spotted a **Yellow-throated Marten** running across the road behind us. It was already quite busy here despite the early time, with vehicles up and down the road and sightseers coming to watch the sunrise and then explore the summit.

At the top of the steps down to the summit marsh, a **Davison's Leaf Warbler** was collecting nest material from the mossy branches and a couple of **Rufous-winged Fulvettas** picked around on the boughs of the trees above our heads. Half way down, the **Blue Whistling Thrush** was singing quietly in the trees. Along the boardwalk, there was a steady succession of people walking round. We walked up and down along the shady section over the marsh a couple of times and there seemed to be fewer birds than yesterday. There was no sign of the Partridges and no thrushes, but we did see the usual **Himalayan Bluetail**, **Himalayan Shortwing** and **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, and a **Pygmy Cupwing** was feeding in the shallow water at one point too. A flock of birds moved through the trees, with a pair of **Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantails** and several **Blyth's Leaf Warblers**. It was interesting to watch the latter doing their distinctive flicking of alternate wings. With the amount of disturbance here now, it was clear we would struggle to see some of the shyer species.



Grey-sided Thrush & Blyth's Leaf Warbler – at the summit

Back out on the road, we scanned the trees to see if we could find an **Ashy Woodpigeon**. There was no sign on the outside, so we walked up the steps to the toilet block and tried from behind there. It didn't take too long before we found one half hidden in the branches. It was still chilly up here (down to about 8C), particularly down on the boardwalk, so we had earned a warming hot drink. Sadly, the coffee shop at the top no longer stocks the delicious chocolate brownies we had enjoyed here in previous years and the replacement chocolate cake thing they have now was a bit disappointing. The hot chocolate was as delicious as ever though, or for those who needed caffeine, Chatree boiled some water for coffee and ricecakes in the car park. The fruiting tree by the café hadn't really warmed up yet.

We made our way lower down now, into the warmth of the slightly lower slopes. Turning onto a small side road, an **Oriental Turtle Dove** flew up from the tarmac as we drove along and then stopped on the verge. A small flock of nine **Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters** landed in a bare tree opposite where we had parked and spent several minutes hawking for bees and wasps from the bare branches over the grassy clearing beside, so

we stopped to watch them. When they flew off, we started to walk down the road. Two female **Short-billed Minivets** were in the pines above. Nick whistled the call of Collared Owlet again but there was not much response at first. However a little further on, we found a nice mixed flock on a warm slope above a stream. A male **Clicking Shrike-Babbler** showed very nicely in a dead tree and both **Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher** and a male **Black-throated Sunbird** were new birds for the trip for most of the group. There were several **Indian White-Eyes** and the usual selection of Leaf Warblers and a **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** flew out and over our heads.

Walking on, an **Olive-backed Pipit** was standing on the tarmac in the middle of the road. We could hear **Yellow-cheeked Tit** calling from a narrow belt of pines but it remained stubbornly on the far side and it took a bit of time before we managed to find it. It had food in its bill and looked like it was trying to take it to its nest, so we retreated. A male **White-tailed Robin** was lurking in the bamboo beside the road and we could hear a **Chinese Leaf Warbler** calling. We continued walking along the road to the viewpoint at the far end, while Nick went back to get the minibus. There was a good view from here, looking back across to the summit. A pair of **Asian (Japanese) Tits** were flying in and out from a hole under the roof of the viewpoint, bringing in food for their young which we could hear calling. A **Red Lacewing** butterfly landed on the bushes to sun itself.



Chestnut-headed Bee-eater & Clicking Shrike-Babbler – on Doi Inthanon

It was time for lunch now, so we drove round to Mr Daeng's restaurant. In the car park, several people were staring at the flowers in the garden and we were called over to look at an **Orchid Mantis** which someone had found on a leaf. A really incredible looking small insect. Inside, we had time to admire the photos of all the birds on the walls while our food was prepared. Most of the group opted for the Thai green curry which, as ever with the food we have had, was excellent.

Some photos had been circulating of a **Hodgson's Frogmouth** on the nest on Doi Inthanon taken in the last couple of days. Nick had asked around and no one seemed to know exactly where it was, but he had been told that another was unusually back in the same tree where it had nested last year. It was on one of the tracks we had walked yesterday, though further down than we had gone. If we had known, we would have gone to see it then but we went straight back round there now. Sure enough, there it was, in a small tree right over the side of the track. So well camouflaged, looking like a moss-covered branch, it would be very easy just to walk straight past it if you didn't know it was there. It shifted on its nest and opened its eyes as we walked up but then settled back down. Like many well-camouflaged birds, they rely on the fact that they probably can't be seen and will sit tight. After photos from various angles, we left it in peace. There were a few **White-browed Shrike-Babblers** calling in the trees, but otherwise it was quiet now in the middle of the afternoon.

Several of the group wanted to visit the hill tribe market so we drove down there next. All the stalls seemed to be offering pretty much the same products at the same prices, so it was a slightly random process choosing

where to shop. There was a good selection of dried fruits and nuts again, which were the most popular, but no takers for the homemade fruit liqueurs or the woolly hats in various animal shapes. We still had time to squeeze in one more quick stop now, so we went to try a different site to see if we could find any laughingthrushes. It was warm and there was very little activity though and we could not hear any sound of them. We did get some nice views of a **Hill Prinia** which eventually perched up nicely in the bushes in an overgrown field. There were a few butterflies fluttering round, including **Cream-spotted Sailor** and **Common Fivering**, and a **Metaperania ductaria** moth which landed on the trunk of a tree.

Having not seen a couple of the shyer species up on the summit this morning, we decided to head back up for another go this afternoon, when it would be quieter. There were still a few people coming and going from the boardwalk, so we went up to the fruit tree by the café first. A couple of **Black-crested Bulbuls** were in the branches and then we spotted two **Golden-throated Barbets**, which were well camouflaged amongst the leaves but eventually gave great views. The **Dark-backed Sibias** and a couple of **Chestnut-tailed Minlas** came down to get the crumbs from around the picnic table right in front of us but the pair of **Silver-eared Laughingthrushes** were a little more shy and remained around the tables further over, in the shade, where there weren't any people now.

Down the steps, the **Blue Whistling Thrush** was now feeding under the bushes by the 'sacred water source' and another **Silver-eared Laughingthrush** was in the undergrowth at the start of the boardwalk. A couple of **Rufous-winged Fulvettas** were feeding in the moss-covered trees and the two **Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantails** were back flycatching in the open sunny area in the middle. Round on the shady part of the boardwalk over the wet marsh it still felt a bit quieter than yesterday at first. As we walked round slowly and quietly, we could just see the usual small birds initially. At the far end, the **Rufous-throated Partridges** appeared, walking up over the remains of the old boardwalk from the valley below. They showed well before disappearing into the thicker undergrowth today. Just beyond, an **Eye-browed Thrush** was digging around in the wet leaves.



Golden-throated Barbet & Rufous-throated Partridge – at the summit

A **White-crowned Forktail** called behind us, back the way we had come, so we crept very slowly back. It was feeding down in the damp ground below and we could see it looking through the trees, but it was very flighty. It moved on ahead of us and we managed to follow it for a bit, but when we lost sight of it, it turned out it was behind a large tree and when it came back out it saw us and flew deeper in. We walked slowly back to the corner, then it called again behind us. This time we were able to creep back up to it and watch it feeding out in a more open area. It had been quiet here for a few minutes but now two late sightseers came round on the boardwalk and it flew in again out of view. We waited a few minutes to see if it would come back again, but it didn't look like it was going to and we couldn't find anything else. We drove back down and it was already getting dark by the time we got back to the hotel. Dinner was pushed back by half an hour and we all had to settle up our bills with the hotel reception tonight as we were checking out in the morning.

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY – *Bright & sunny, max 35C in Bangkok*

Today we would be leaving the north and flying back down to Bangkok. We had time for some birding first thing though, so we left after breakfast with our bags packed and loaded onto Chatree's truck. It was only a short drive before we parked at the top of a track. We walked down to a tower and climbed up the steps to look out over the surrounding trees. It was just getting light and we could see at least four **Green Peafowl** perched up in the trees. We got them in the scope and gradually the light improved before they flew down out of sight. Our other main target here was **Blossom-headed Parakeet**, and we didn't have to wait too long before one landed in the top of a nearby tree. It was a female, with a grey head, but it was silhouetted against the sky. There were a couple of **Hair-crested Drongos** perched in the tops and a **Purple Sunbird** singing from the trees in front. After a while, the **Green Peafowl** reappeared on the ground under the trees. Much better views now, the light was getting better all the time, as we watched them feeding. They were joined by a pair of **Red Junglefowl**, our first wild ones of the trip. A pair of **White-crested Laughingthrushes** came out too, along with several **Red Collared Doves**.

The tower is surrounded by several flowering trees and as the sun came up, more birds came out to feed in them. The bulbuls were first, initially lots of **Streak-eared** and a couple of **Black-crested Bulbuls**, followed by **Red-whiskered**, **Sooty-headed** and a single **Stripe-throated Bulbul**. They were joined by **Ashy** and **Black Drongos** and a couple of **Greater Racket-tailed Drongos** flew through behind. A **Shikra** was perched in the top of a tree in the distance, which we got in the scopes. We could hear a **Common Koel** calling nearby and found it perched in one of the trees behind us and we picked up both an **Ashy-necked Tailorbird** and a brief **Two-barred Warbler** in the bushes below. A pair of **Black-hooded Orioles** came out to feed on the flowers and looked stunning in the morning sun, followed by a **Black-naped Oriole** too, which was not quite so obliging. There was a pair of **Lineated Barbets** in the top too now. A male **Brown-throated Sunbird** flew in to the tree where the **Purple Sunbird** had been singing earlier. Another female **Blossom-headed Parakeet** flew in and landed in the flowering tree in the sunshine now, much better views than the one earlier. All the birds were so close and in such good morning light. Gradually, as it warmed up, activity levels started to drop. It was time for us to move on. After thanking the tower's owner and posing for a quick group photo with him, we walked back to the minibus.



Green Peafowl & female Blossom-headed Parakeet – at Doi Inthanon

The drive to Chiang Mai airport was uneventful. We saw a few birds along the way, with a flock of **Asian Openbills** circling over the fields, egrets in the rice paddies, and **Ashy Woodswallows** on the wires. When we stopped to fill up at a service station and use the facilities, a pair of **Zebra Doves** were walking round on the forecourt nearby. At the airport, we said our goodbyes and thanks to Nick and Chatree. Checking in was easy and we had some time to get a coffee before we boarded. The flight took off pretty much on time and landed in Bangkok on schedule and it was only a short wait until our bags appeared on the reclaim carousel.

Finally, we were underway. We had been hoping to get a little birding in this afternoon, but the drive to Pak Thale took just under two hours and forty minutes which meant we arrived with less than an hour of light left. We met Games, who would be guiding us in the south, at the 7-Eleven and she told us that we had just missed a Spoon-billed Sandpiper. They had located it out on the nearby salt pans earlier but it had just been flushed by a Brahminy Kite. Still, we drove out into the salt pans and had a short introduction to the site's waders. A flock flew in and landed on one of the compartments in front of us, mainly **Tibetan (Lesser)** and a few **Greater Sandplovers**. Scanning through, we found at least seven **Great Knot** and a couple of **Red Knot**, **Grey** and **Pacific Golden Plovers**, **Broad-billed Sandpipers**, **Curlew Sandpipers** and **Red-necked Stints**. A single **Red-necked Stint** was feeding closer the other side, with three **Kentish Plovers** and another **Tibetan Sandplover**. Further back, we could see a few **Little** and **Common Terns** on the bunds and a large roost of **Caspian Terns** in a more distant compartment with a couple of **Brown-headed Gulls**. Several large flocks of **Whimbrel** came up off the mud out on the Gulf of Thailand beyond and some landed on the seawall in the distance.



Waders – at Pak Thale

The sun was setting now, looking very dramatic over the salt pans. We drove the short distance to our hotel and quickly checked in. After half an hour to settle in and freshen up, we drove to a nearby restaurant for dinner. There was live music playing and you felt for the singer because tonight's crowd, which was just us, was not particularly engaged! After we had eaten – green curry, fried fish, chicken with cashew nuts and stir-fried morning glory – Games asked if we could have a break in the music and we ran through the day's list quickly. Then it was back to the hotel.

SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY – *Bright & sunny, hazy at times, max 37C in Bangkok*

An early start this morning, as we wanted to get out into the salt pans before dawn. On the way, we stopped to get a coffee in the 7-Eleven in Pak Thale and Games picked up some breakfast. Then we drove to the edge of the village and out on the same track to where we had parked late yesterday afternoon. There were several sandplovers roosting on the track which scattered ahead of us in the headlights. As it started to get light, there were not many waders at first. The sandplovers, mainly **Tibetan Sandplovers** were all roosting on the bunds between the pools now and flew out to the shallow water. A small group of **Broad-billed Sandpipers** was on one of the compartments nearest to us and there were lots more on the next one back. More waders flew in and joined them, including several small parties of **Red-necked Stints**. We ate our breakfast as the sun rose over the salt pans and we had a great view of the sunspots before it got too high and bright. Several **Germain's Swiftlets** fluttered past overhead and a couple of **Pacific Swallows** flew round low over the pools. Some **Indian Cormorants** and **Painted Storks** came up in the distance and a **Black-crowned Night Heron** flew over the mangroves beyond the pools. Both **Gull-billed Tern** and one or two **Whiskered Terns** flew past in front of us. We could hear lots of **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** calling and looked up to see them flying over very high above us.

There was no sign of any Spoon-billed Sandpiper here and then all the waders were spooked by something and flew off, landing again much further back, over towards the road. We could see other large flocks whirling round out in that direction, so we decided to make our way over there. As we walked up the main track, we

scanned all the pools. There were several **Black-winged Stilts** on one and in with them were a few **Marsh Sandpipers**. More of the latter were on the next compartment over, along with **Common Redshanks** and a **Spotted Redshank**. Lots of **Black-tailed Godwits** flew up and whirled round over the back and we could see a group of **Asian Dowitchers** with them. When they landed again, they were hidden from view though. One to look for later. Further up, towards the sea, all the **Terek Sandpipers** were roosting on a bund but they were distant and asleep and we were looking into the sun. We would come back round that way so hopefully get better views of them later. A **Painted Stork** flew across behind us in the low morning light.

For now, our main target was to find a Spoon-billed Sandpiper. We turned right and walked down one of the smaller bunds towards where we had seen all the waders landing earlier. The large group of **Caspian Terns** was still roosting in much the same place as yesterday afternoon as we walked round and we had great views as birds flew past us now, presumably heading out to feed. In with the ones on the ground were a couple of **Brown-headed Gulls** and on the bank beyond were lots of **Little** and a few **Common Terns**. A small roost of waders on a low rocky bank (where we had seen Spoon-billed Sandpiper last year) included a few **Turnstones** and **Sanderling**, but nothing more interesting this time. We picked up a single **Long-toed Stint** in with the waders on another compartment, but it flew off before everyone could see it in the scope. Over on the far side, the larger flocks of waders were feeding out on the mud. Games had been struggling with a cough and a fever all morning and had a rather nasty looking bite on her leg, so she took a break while we scanned through. In with all the sandpipers, **Broad-billed Sandpipers**, **Curlew Sandpipers** and **Red-necked Stints**, we found a couple of **Dunlin** and several **Ruff**.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper & Red-necked Phalaropes – at Pak Thale

It was gradually warming up now and some of the birds were starting to gather to roost on the bunds, others sleeping on the pools. Checking through the smaller waders, we came across one asleep on the edge of the massed flock which caught our eye. It was slightly paler headed than the nearby **Red-necked Stints**, with a more distinct dark bandit mask, but we couldn't see its bill as it was tucked in. We watched and waited and after a couple of minutes it lifted its head briefly – a **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**, as we suspected! Everyone had a quick look at it asleep and then we made sure all the scopes were trained on it. After a while, it duly obliged, woke up and started preening – now everyone had a good look at its distinctive spoon-shaped bill. Critically Endangered, with a declining population currently thought to number only around 400 mature individuals or less, it is sadly a case of catch up with it while you still can. Thankfully, we had the chance to watch it for a while before all the waders spooked and flew up. Most circled round and landed again, but there was no sign of the **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** now. The roosting waders were more tightly bunched than they had been and it would be impossible to see a smaller one if it was in the throng. We did find several **Red-necked Phalaropes** in there though.

We decided to walk back. On the way, the **Red-necked Phalaropes** had moved and were feeding on another compartment much closer to the path. We could see six of them now, all swimming round in formation, much better views than earlier. Cutting across to try to get a better look at the **Terek Sandpipers**, there was no sign of them on the bund where they had been. We found them perched on the line of posts out in the sea – not much closer than earlier, but in slightly better light and some were awake now so we could see their distinctive upturned bills. Games had walked round this far with us but needed to go back to sit down in the shade, so she went off down the main track and we continued on to see if we could find the **Asian Dowitchers**. An **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** posed on one of the bunds, a couple of **Little Cormorants** were drying their wings on the posts by one of the ditches and a **Striated Heron** flew across and dropped down over by the beach, where we could just see the top of its head. An adult **Brahminy Kite** circled overhead. In the far compartment, there were lots of **Black-tailed Godwits** feeding and in with a roosting group we could see around 50 **Asian Dowitchers**. We walked down the bund alongside until we were opposite them and had a look through the scopes. They were mostly asleep but from time to time one would wake up and flash its long bill. **Asian Dowitcher** is another rare wader, classified as Near Threatened with a declining population last estimated at just 23,000, so good to see a decent sized group here.

Continuing on, there were several **Pacific Golden Plovers** loafing on a nearby bund, some of which flew across in front of us showing off their dark underwings. We found a single **Great Knot** in a large roost of **Grey Plovers**, which we got in the scope. A second **Great Knot** was on the bund ahead of us, helpfully with a **Red Knot** beside it at one point for comparison. This **Great Knot** appeared to have a damaged leg, which was perhaps why it allowed us to get closer than many of the other waders. Just beyond was the birding shelter and the minibus was waiting for us there, so we walked the short distance back. Games had had a rest and recovered enough to carry on for the time being, but was planning to go to the hospital in Phetchaburi to get checked out at lunchtime. Driving out of the salt pans, we had a quick loo stop at the large boat-shaped temple nearby, then back to the 7-Eleven for a cold drink and a late morning snack.



Asian Dowitchers with the Black-tailed Godwits & Great Knot – at Pak Thale

Surprisingly, Nordmann's Greenshank was absent this morning and we had only seen two **Great Knot**, so we decided to try a couple of nearby sites to see if we could find more waders there. As we turned off the road and down a track through the salt pans, there were a few **Kentish Plovers** and **Marsh Sandpipers** on the pools here, with more **Black-winged Stilts**. Round on the far side, we could see more waders on a large compartment in the distance, but we couldn't get round there in the minibus. There didn't appear to be any obvious greenshanks though. Back to the road, we tried another track the other side. Games stopped briefly to speak to another guide who was walking back to his truck with two people. They had apparently seen just one Nordmann's Greenshank, but it had flown off. We checked the pools in the direction they said it had gone, but the water was deeper here and there were few waders. The one suitable area held just more of the same birds we had seen earlier. As we drove back to the road again, a **Temminck's Stint** was feeding on the edge of the

bund right below the track. Games headed off to hospital to get checked out now, while we drove back to the restaurant in Phetchaburi.

After lunch, it was too hot to go out looking for waders and we had a boat trip to the sandspit at Laem Pak Bia this afternoon, so we went back to the hotel for a break. The minibus picked us up again at 3.15pm and we drove the short distance round to Mr Daeng's. Two boats were waiting for us, Mr Daeng piloting one and his son in law the other, with his daughter along to translate. As we motored up along the channel through the mangroves, a couple of **Collared Kingfishers** perched up along the remains of the boardwalk and **Pied Fantail** and **Common Kingfisher** were in amongst the roots of the trees. Out at the sandspit beyond, another large group of birders was just disembarking from their boats, a US tour group. We waited for them to finish and then climbed out onto the sand ourselves. Three **Malaysian Plovers** were higher up the beach, hiding on the edge of the mangroves in the shade. Just offshore, a few birds were gathered on the low sandy islands. On one, we could see several **Little** and **Common Terns** plus a few **Sanderling**. On another, at first there were just a couple of **Brown-headed Gulls** and two **Caspian Terns** but then a **Crested Tern** landed with them, followed by a **Lesser Crested Tern** giving a good comparison alongside, and then two more **Crested Terns**. The terns were bathing where the water was lapping up over the end of the island.

We all walked together on along the beach, led by Mr Daeng. Two **Kentish Plovers** ran ahead of us beside the edge of the water, we could see their plainer brown mantles now compared to the **Malaysian Plovers**. Round the corner, another **Malaysian Plover** scuttled up into the edge of the mangroves beyond. We were hoping to find White-faced Plover too, but there was no sign. A couple of motorbikes with sidecars drove past along the shore, fishermen heading back to the village. There was just too much disturbance out on the sand today, and the waders had retreated to the mangroves or the offshore rocks. Scanning the sea defences from here, we picked up both dark morph and pale morph **Eastern Reef Herons** and a **Common Sandpiper**.



Collared Kingfisher & Malaysian Plover – at Laem Pak Bia

Walking back up to the point, we scanned the rocks offshore there too. There were several **Sanderling** and **Malaysian Plovers** roosting on top, along with three **Tibetan Sandplovers**, but we couldn't see anything else with them. Another dark morph **Eastern Reef Heron** caught a fish and flew up to a nearby light tower. We could see it had a nest in the top, with three well grown juveniles. Several young **Brahminy Kites** were catching fish and, back at the boats, two more **Collared Kingfisher** were calling loudly in the mangroves. We motored out to check the far side of the furthest rocks, but all we found were more **Malaysian Plovers**, a single **Tibetan Sandplover** in with them now and the **Sanderlings** still on top.

It was starting to get dark already and time to head back. On the way, a **Greater Coucal** was feeding in the roots of the mangroves, but hard to see. The **Lyle's Flying Foxes** which roost in the trees here were starting to get active already, a few flying round briefly. A **Long-tailed Macaque** looked out of place on the roof of an

abandoned building, but it was not clear from Mr Daeng's daughter if it was a wild one or not. Back on dry land, we said our farewells to Mr Daeng and family and Nai took us in the minibus straight over to the restaurant for dinner. Games had been admitted to hospital, so we met her nephew, Beckham, there who would be driving the other vehicle and translating for us because Nai didn't speak English. After dinner, we hadn't brought out lists with us, so we had to go through those when we got back to the hotel.

SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY – *Bright & sunny, max 36C in Bangkok but cooler inland*

We would be heading up to Kaeng Krachan this afternoon, but we wanted to spend some time exploring the ricefields around Phetchaburi this morning. In the absence of Games, Nick had given us some different sites to visit. We had planned to stop at a 7-Eleven for breakfast but the plan got lost in translation. Instead, Nai drove us straight out to our first stop, while Beckham went off to get us something to eat. It meant we were on site to watch the sun coming up. Lots of birds were flying over in the half-light, impressive numbers of **Oriental Darters**, herons and egrets, a large flock of **Glossy Ibis** and lots of **Whiskered Terns** heading out to feed in the ricefields. There were warblers calling in the reeds, and a **Black-browed Reed Warbler** came out a couple of times but only briefly. The **Oriental Reed Warblers** were even more difficult to see at first, but we walked up the road a little and as it started to warm up several came up to feed in the top of the reeds.



Oriental Reed Warbler & Ashy Woodswallow – in the ricefields

Beckham arrived with the coffees and we stood and scanned the wires along the side of the road. Lots of **Red Collared Doves** flew in but despite it apparently being a good site for Pink-necked Pigeon, none of those appeared here this morning. There were several **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**, **Ashy Woodswallows**, lots of **Yellow-vented Bulbuls** and a few **Pied Fantails** which came up onto the wires in the early morning sunshine. A **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker** flew in and landed briefly on a concrete pylon. Lots of **Germain's Swiftlets** were hawking over the ricefields beyond. On the other side of the road, a pair of **Plain Prinias** were on the edge of the reeds and a couple of **Bronze-winged Jacanas** flew out. Beckham found an **Oriental Whip Snake** sunning itself in the top of a bush.

Moving on further up the road, we tried another small pool down a side track but arrived to find the site being excavated by diggers. A **White-breasted Waterhen** was standing in the middle of the track further up as we turned around. We drove back past where we had started and turned onto a quieter side road. The pools here are good for Cotton Pygmy Goose, but there was no sign of any here at first, just a couple of **Purple Herons** and a **Moorhen**. One of the group had photographed some pigeons in the trees the other side of the road, and when he showed someone else the photos it turned out they were a pair of **Pink-necked Pigeons**. Thankfully they were still there and we eventually had some nice views of them. A **Greater Coucal** was perched up on the top of a bush beyond a dried out fish pond and a **Brown Shrike** was on the old netting strung across. A few

Germain's Swiftlets were swooping low through the reeds by the road and the tops of the trees right above us, with several **Asian Palm Swifts** too. A challenge for the photographers!

Turning our attention back to the pools, we found a couple of **Grey-headed Swampheens** now and a **Wood Sandpiper**. One of the group found a **Chestnut Munia** in the reeds but it flew off past us before we could get all the scopes on it. Two **Indochinese Rollers** were perched on a tall palm stump at the back and hundreds and hundreds of **Whiskered Terns** were loafing on the net lines and poles over another pool beyond. From a different angle, we finally found the **Cotton Pygmy Geese**. We were looking straight into the sun, down one edge of the nearer pools, but we could see at least ten of them through the scopes.

A couple of large flocks of **Lesser Whistling Ducks** had flown up further along the road and dropped back down again, so we walked up in that direction now to investigate. A **White-breasted Waterhen** in the middle of the road scuttled off into the verge as a motorbike drove by. There were several **Asian Koels** here, including two males in a low tree right by the road, and we stopped to watch an **Oriental Reed Warbler** climbing around a gatepost. At the large open pool beyond, we found the flocks of **Lesser Whistling Ducks**. Two **Garganey** were loafing on the island in the middle too, along with a couple of **Glossy Ibis** and another very large flock of **Whiskered Terns**. Several **Little Grebes** and **Coot** were out on the water. A single **Grey-headed Lapwing** and two or three pairs of **Red-wattled Lapwing** were on the bunds around the edge.



Pink-necked Pigeon & Black-winged Kite – in the ricefields

Back to the minibus, we moved on again. There were lots of **Asian Openbills**, Pond Herons and egrets in the ricefields as we passed. We stopped to try for Stork-billed Kingfisher but all we could see were two **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** hawking from a post and a **White-throated Kingfisher** by the road just beyond. It was starting to warm up now and at our next stop we found a **Booted Eagle** circling up, being mobbed by crow. A little further on, a **Black-winged Kite** was on the wires and posed nicely, even allowing us to get out before it eventually flew off. Two **Greater Spotted Eagles** were circling here, joining a thermal with a larger group of **Openbills**. A larger flock of weavers disappeared into the reeds, but wouldn't come out. We could hear them calling but the only ones we could see were two **Baya Weavers** which landed in the bushes on the other side of road. A **Yellow-bellied Prinia** perched up briefly.

As we drove on, two **Yellow Bitterns** flew round over a ditch, chasing each other. They dropped down but by the time we had stopped and got out they had disappeared into the thick vegetation. We were still staring down into the ditch when what were presumably two more **Yellow Bitterns** flew in from the other direction. They gave us a nice long flypast, circling back and landing in the ditch, where they stood with their heads up for a few seconds before disappearing in. We hadn't seen the first two go out.

We had one last area to check and as we drove along a **Plaintive Cuckoo** flew out of a bush by the road. A **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker** landed in a small banana palm and as we pulled up we could see it feeding on a banana flower. There were lots of **Asian Openbills**, egrets and pond herons in the wet paddies, plus **Wood Sandpipers** and a **Red-throated Pipit**. We stopped and got out to scan, finding several **Eastern Yellow Wagtails** now, including a grey-headed male (probably of the subspecies *macronyx*). A pair of **Paddyfield Pipits** on the bank the other side were panting in the heat of the day. Two **Indochinese Rollers** were perched in a tree, distant but a better view than the ones we had seen earlier. Two **Pied Harriers** flew round further back, a male and an immature, and several **Black Kites** were circling up in the thermals with the **Openbills**.



Yellow Bittern & Freckle-breasted Woodpecker – in the ricefields

It was about an hour's drive to Kaeng Krachan from here, and we had an appointment at Baan Maka for lunch, so we had to move on. The journey was uneventful and as we settled in the restaurant we watched the birds coming to water and bananas as we waited for the food to arrive. As well as all the usual bulbuls, a **Racket-tailed Treepie** was clambering around in a tangle of vegetation above the start of the nature trail and **Puff-throated Babbler** had just had a bath, and was looking very wet. Thankfully our lunch was served as our view was then rather blocked by the big US tour group who had just arrived and rather excitedly then stood right in front of us while they ordered.

After lunch, we climbed into two 4x4s for the drive over to Mr Bird's Hide. There was already lots of food put out, seeds, fruit and mealworms, and lots of squirrels in to eat it – **Grey-bellied**, **Indochinese (Berdmore's)** and **Himalayan Striped** – and a couple of feisty **Northern Treeshrews**. The birds came thick and fast too. Small groups of **Greater** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes** were in and out all the time, along with lots of **Streak-eared** and a couple each of **Black-crested** and **Stripe-throated Bulbuls**. Three **White-crested Laughingthrushes** came in regularly too, great close up views. We reminded the group how much they were worried about getting on to the first ones we had seen, deep in the trees on the first afternoon in Chiang Mai! A **Taiga Flycatcher**, a pair of **White-rumped Shamias** and a female **Siberian Blue Robin** were almost ever present. Several times, a smart male **Orange-headed Thrush** hopped out of the trees on one side and came down on to one of the logs to feed. Some of the birds were ridiculously tame and when a woman started feeding them mealworms from one of the viewing holes, a pair of **Puff-throated Babblers** flew up and took them directly from the pot. They then stayed right in front of the hide feeding throughout and when she threw the remaining mealworms out later, a female **Siberian Blue Robin**, the **Orange-headed Thrush** and the male **Shama** came right in too.



Orange-headed Thrush & White-crested Laughingthrush – from Mr Bird's hide

More mealworms had been pushed into some tree trunks out in front and they are great for woodpeckers – both **Greater Yellowname** and **Common Flameback** came several times to feed on them. We had good views of **Racket-tailed Treepie** and several **Pin-striped Tit-Babblers**, which came in to drink or bathe in the small pool. An **Oriental Pied Hornbill** appeared in the trees at the back and when it flew down to one of the logs, everything else scattered. We watched it delicately picking bits of fruit out with its amazing bill. It was not just birds. A **Red-necked Keelback** snake slithered through the leaves in front of hide and almost tried to come in at one point. Two **Yellow-throated Martens** appeared in the trees at the back. It looked like they might come in to the food but they were nervous and after starting to walk out, changed their minds at the last minute. Late on, several **Lesser Mouse Deer** came in to drink, one pair then mating in the bushes off to one side.

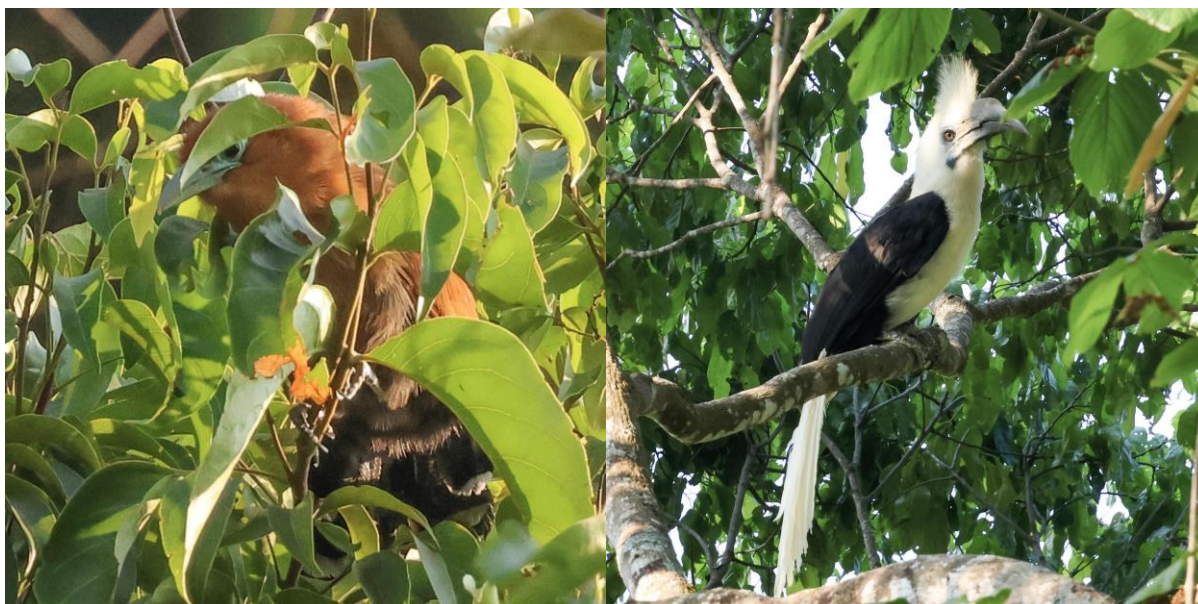
A **Common Green Magpie** lurked in the trees at the back, but wouldn't come in. We hoped it might change its mind later. An **Oriental Paradise Flycatcher** appeared briefly too. A male **Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** hung around for some time, joined later on by a male **Hainan Blue Flycatcher** and a **Black-naped Monarch**. The **Hainan** and **Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** spent some time chasing round after each other, arguing over who could come down to bathe. The galliformes were obliging here too. At least three male and three female **Red Junglefowl** came in to feed, along with a selection of partridges. A pair of **Bar-backed Partridges** came out several times but the pair of **Scaly-breasted Partridges** were more nervous and mostly lurked along one edge before disappearing. As a grand finale, a pair of **Ferruginous Partridges** walked out of the bushes and out into the middle right in front of the hide.

We had to go back to Baan Maka to pick up the minibus, and then Nai drove us up to Samarn Nature Lodge on the edge of the Park. For some reason, we found we were not all booked in the same place this year (it was very busy and everywhere was full). Three of us were staying in the neighbouring accommodation and we arrived to find several problems with the rooms there. We had no real chance to sort anything out tonight, as it was already too late, so we were rather preoccupied over dinner. Everyone was tired after another long day, so after a quick run through the list, we turned in.

MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY – *Partly cloudy am, clouding over more pm, max 35C in Bangkok but cooler inland*

With Games still in hospital, her husband Ian had arranged for us to go out with a local guide, Mr Biak today, accompanied by Beckham. After breakfast at 5.30am, it was still dark as we drove up into the National Park in two 4x4s. Several **Large-tailed Nightjars** flew up from the road ahead of us. We were heading for the top today, but on the way we had a quick stop at km 9 as it was just starting to get light. Mr Biak had seen a **Great Hornbill** in a distant fruiting tree and as we watched, lots of **Oriental Pied Hornbills** flew in too, at least a dozen. We got the scopes on it and found there were already, two **Tickell's Brown Hornbills** in there as well. Quite a sight, a tree full of hornbills!

We drove on, straight through the campsite and on uphill. There are timed slots on the road for driving up or down, and we needed to make the most of the uphill slot before 9am, when it switched to downhill traffic only. We did have a quick stop at a regular stake-out for **Blue Pitta** along the road. We could hear it calling deep in the forest, but it was showing no inclination to come out onto the side of the track. Mr Biak was keen to try to show us a couple of scarcer birds higher up in the Park, White-crowned Hornbill and Olive-backed Woodpecker, so we pressed on. At our next stop, there was no sign of either of our targets but we could hear a **Raffle's Malkoha** calling. Eventually the male appeared, feeding in tangle vegetation just up the slope above us. When it eventually flew across the road, it was followed by a female. A **Dark-necked Tailorbird** appeared in the tangle too. There were several birds in the fruiting trees above the track here too, including a smart male **Asian Fairy Bluebird**, and both **Blue-winged** and **Greater Green Leafbirds**. A **Greater Flameback** flew in and landed briefly on a tree – not the woodpecker we were hoping for. A couple of **Vernal Hanging Parrots** typically shot through calling. We could hear the haunting calls of **Lar Gibbons** above us (sounding not a little unlike The Clangers!). A little further up, we stopped again. Here, Mr Biak finally heard the **White-crowned Hornbills** and managed to call them in. The male landed in the trees above us – great views, impressive birds. At the northern edge of their range here, this pair have only been around this year, so a nice one to catch up with.



Raffle's Malkoha & White-crowned Hornbill – on our way up through Kaeng Krachan

We pressed on higher and started to listen out for Ratchet-tailed Treepie. At the first place we tried, we could just hear a **Common Green Magpie**, rather similar to the Treepie but not quite. More **Lar Gibbons** were calling above the road below us and we could see one in the trees now. It swung off through the branches using its improbably long arms – a funky Gibbon indeed. We stopped again a little further up still and we hadn't walked far before we heard a **Ratchet-tailed Treepie** calling. Unfortunately it disappeared in quickly through the trees before we could get onto it and went quiet. Walking up the road now, we found some **Olive Bulbuls** in the trees (the bulbul formerly known variously as Baker's, Cinnamon-vented or considered a race of Grey-eyed, just to really confuse people!). A small group of **Collared Babblers** came up through the bushes and flew quickly across the road ahead of us. It was quiet further on, it can be here unless you find a big mixed flock of birds, so Mr Biak and Beckham went down to get the trucks. We were surprised to see Mr Biak drive up alone and start to turn around, but he called for us to get in quickly. The Treepie had reappeared, but even though Beckham had stayed with it, by the time we got back it was frustratingly lost. Something flew across the road over our heads, but only a few of the group were in the right place to see it and no one was sure whether it was the Treepie or not. Then it went quiet again.

There has been a Silver Oriole here this winter, a very scarce winter visitor here. Mr Biak had seen it in a fruiting tree by the road yesterday afternoon, so we drove up to that spot next. A couple of local photographers were waiting nearby, but apparently there had been no sign of it this morning. We walked up

the road a short way, listening. A male **Black-throated Sunbird** was in the bushes, a **Blue-throated Barbet** was singing high in a tall tree up the slope. We could hear **Great Hornbills** calling above and when they took off we could hear their wings whooshing before we saw them, flying over the trees. Back to the oriole tree, we could see a couple of **Blue-throated Barbets** and **Mountain Bulbuls** in here now, but no oriole. A **Plain Flowerpecker** made a very brief appearance before flying off. We tried walking on down the road a short way now. There were lots of birds in the trees here, a nice mixed flock – several **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** and a **Claudia's Warbler**, **Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher**, one or two **Pin-striped Tit-Babblers** and a couple of **Scarlet Minivets**. Two **Black Bazas** circled over high.

We drove on, with a brief stop when Mr Biak heard an **Orange-breasted Trogon**. We could see movement in the trees up the slope above us, but it just wouldn't come out. It was slightly before midday when we finally got to the summit. Lunch was ordered, while we waited looked at trees behind restaurant. There were several **Flavescent Bulbuls**, a **Dark-sided Flycatcher** making sallies out from top of dead bamboo and an **Arctic Warbler** in the bushes below us. Mr Biak heard it from back out by the car park, but the Red-bearded Bee-eater which has been seen here regularly recently refused to put in an appearance for us. It seemed likely the photographers which had been feeding it crickets had finished with it, and the bees' nest it had been feeding on was eaten out too. After lunch, a small group of **Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters** landed in the trees by the parking area briefly. A **Great Hornbill** flew in and gave ridiculously close views in the trees around the restaurant terrace, perched right above our heads, looking down presumably for food on the tables. As we drove out past the entrance gate, a **Dusky Langur** posed nicely in a tree.

We drove back down a short way and stopped. There was what Mr Biak told us was a freshly excavated Red-bearded Bee-eater hole in the bank, but no sign of the birds unfortunately. As we walked past and down the hill, an **Alström's Warbler** was flitting around in the bushes on the verge and a troop of **Robinson's Banded Langurs** was in the trees high above. We walked down as far as the Oriole tree again but there was nothing in there now. Continuing past, we heard the **Silver Oriole** call just beyond. It was quite close and as we looked around it flew out from behind us and across the road. It landed in a tree above our heads where we had a good view of it now. Another good one to see here, it breeds in southern China but appears to have declined substantially there in recent years, such that it is now classed as Endangered. Records of wintering birds in Thailand have dropped significantly since the 1990s and are now few and far between.



Great Hornbill & Silver Oriole – on our way up through Kaeng Krachan

Next we drove down to where we had heard the Treepie earlier. The small pool by the road had several dark brown frogs in it, but the path beyond was quiet. Walking up the road, Mr Biak heard a distant Red-headed Trogon calling, but again it wouldn't come in. We did find the mixed flock here, presumably the same one we had seen more briefly earlier. Now we had more time to stop and watch it. A group of **Ochraceous Bulbuls** moved through the trees. There were several **Sulphur-bellied** and the **Claudia's Warbler** still and **Grey-chinned Minivets** with the **Scarlet Minivets** now. We managed to get good views of a **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** and **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**, but the **Black-naped Monarch** and female **Oriental Paradise Flycatcher** were much harder to see in all the branches and leaves.

We drove back up to the summit again, to see if any more birds had appeared than there had been in the heat of midday. It was slightly cooler now, having also clouded over. A **Green-billed Malkoha** showed well in the bushes opposite the entrance gate and there were lots of **Pale-rumped Munias** in the seeding bamboo. Mr Biak walked round to the restaurant with Beckham, who came back to say there were two **Striated Yuhinas** there. When we arrived, they seemed to have disappeared but thankfully they came back through the trees above our heads.

As we walked back to where we had parked, we could hear something tapping in a tree and eventually found a **Blue-eared Barbet** excavating a nesthole on the underside of a dead branch. One of the group spotted a **Vernal Hanging Parrot** in the bamboo and we eventually had good views of a pair. Nice to see them perched, rather than just flying over at high speed. A couple of **Yellow-browed Warblers** showed well in here too and a **Yellow-bellied Warbler** moved through. We were just about to leave and most of the group were climbing into the trucks when a couple of **Rufous-fronted Babblers** appeared in the bamboo, so everyone disembarked again. While we were looking at those, Mr Biak noticed a **Pin-tailed Parrotfinch** feeding in with the munias higher up. Sadly it was a rather dull female, possibly an immature, and the views were not great, looking into the light through all the branches. It then flew out when all the munias spooked and didn't come back in.

Mr Biak was very keen to leave, as we had to be out beyond the campsite by 6pm. We made it back down by 5.45pm. Driving through the lower reaches of the park, we stopped to check an area for **Black-thighed Falconet**. There was no sign of any in the tops of the trees, so we checked a tree hole they have been using and found the face of one looking out. It flew out but landed in the top of a nearby tree, where we were able to get it in the scopes from a little further back along the road. A second **Black-thighed Falconet** flew in and landed with it, the pair together. A nice way to end the day, we headed back to Samarn Bird Camp. After a break to freshen up, and some time to try to sort out some of the problems with the rooms and showers next door, we met for dinner again.



Vernal Hanging Parrot & Black-thighed Falconets – at Kaeng Krachan

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY – *Partly cloudy am, clouding over pm with some rain, max 33C in Bangkok but cooler inland*

None of the local guides were available today, so Ian kindly agreed to come out with us, along with Beckham and Nai again. Games was still in hospital. It was still dark as we got up into the Park, and several **Large-tailed Nightjars** flushed from the road ahead of us again. When we got to km 9, it was only just starting to get light. As we got out, two **Brown Boobooks** were in a nearby tree, flying up and back in repeatedly, silhouetted against the first light. The hornbills were just making their way to the same tree as we had seen them in yesterday. We counted at least 25 **Oriental Pied Hornbills** fly in and then looking through the scopes, we found a single **Tickell's Brown Hornbill** in the tree already. A **Great Hornbill** flew into another fruiting tree much closer. A pair of **Common Hill Mynas** were nest building in a tree above the road and several **Hair-crested Drongos** flew in to the tops again.

Km 9 is a well-known place to watch the comings and goings of the early morning in the lower reaches of the Park, but it can get busy at first thing. After a while several more groups arrived, including Mr Biak who was guiding someone else today. Beckham had walked back along the road and now called to us, to say he had heard a **Black-and-Red Broadbill**. We all walked over and, despite there being quite a few people there now, several of whom were trying to tempt it out with calls, eventually we got good views of a pair in the trees. By this time, Beckham had walked back to the corner, where we had been waiting earlier, and now he heard a Great Slaty Woodpecker. Mr Biak had walked ahead, and shouted for everyone to hurry, presumably as the bird was in a tree. But by the time anyone else arrived it seemed to have gone. Scanning the trees, a Green Pigeon was in the top of one, which we got in the scope. It was back on and one of the other guides called **Wedge-tailed Pigeon**, but when it turned round it was clearly a **Thick-billed Pigeon**. We looked round and realised there was a **Wedge-tailed Pigeon** in the same tree too, which was quickly joined by a second. After they had flown off, a **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** appeared in the same tree. Then quickly the other groups moved on further into the Park and we were left largely to ourselves.



Black-and-Red Broadbill & Radde's Warbler – in Kaeng Krachan

Now we had a brief view of a **Sultan Tit** in the trees the other side of the road, a bit further up. Before we could get to it, a pair flew up into view and then across the road. We could see them feeding in the tops of the bare trees now, a little distant but good views in the scopes. Ian had got two **Asian Barred Owlets** in his scope too, so once we had done with the **Sultan Tits** we walked back for a better look at them now too. As we hurried along the road to look for the woodpecker earlier, we had heard a **Radde's Warbler** calling in the overgrown vegetation by a small dry pool on the verge. We walked back now and quickly found it again, flicking around in the low vegetation nearby. Eventually, it came out into the open and we had some nice views of what is usually a very skulking species.

A pair of **Oriental Dollarbirds** appeared in the top of a tall tree the other side of road now. While we were watching them, we could hear **Green-eared Barbets** calling, and four flew up into the top of another bare tree nearby. Several different bulbuls were feeding in the tangled vegetation behind us, and two or three **Black-headed Bulbuls** flew in, the first we have had proper looks at. A pair of **Great loras** worked their way through the same bushes, then flew across the road to a tree the other side and disappeared in. While we waited for them to come back out, a **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** appeared in the same tree briefly. When the loras didn't emerge, we looked round the back of the tree from the other side and found them again along with a **Dark-necked Tailorbird** too. A tall flowering tree nearby had attracted a pair of **Blue-winged Leafbirds** and an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** circled distantly over the hillside beyond.

Things seemed to be quietening down a little so we decided to move on. As we drove further into the Park, a **Crested Serpent Eagle** was perched in a tree by the road, exactly the same place we had seen one last year. Presumably it had moved since! We stopped next at a site where Beckham had seen Banded Broadbill recently. We scanned the trees and found an **Asian Brown Flycatcher** and a couple of **Black Giant Squirrels** feeding in the tops above the road. When we spotted some movement lower down, we realised that the **Banded Broadbill** had come in silently and was now feeding quietly close by. It was hard to see at first, in all the tangled vegetation, but we followed it and eventually got great views.

On to the campsite, we had a quick stop to use the facilities. There were lots of bulbuls in the low tree behind the toilet block, calling loudly. Lots of other birds appeared and joined it, a male **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**, a pair of **Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds** and a male **Olive-backed Sunbird**, even an **Arctic Warbler** and another **Radde's Warbler**. They were clearly mobbing something but despite staring into the tree from all different angles below, we couldn't see what it was. When everyone was ready, we walked down into the campsite and round by the stream behind the tents. It was surprisingly quiet here this morning, so after a quick circuit we decided to move on to the stream crossings.

A large troop of **Stump-tailed Macaques** walked across the road in front of us. We stopped and got out, but not for the Macaques which had disappeared in. Beckham walked into the bamboo beside the pull-in and pointed up, where two **White-fronted Scops Owls** were looking back down at us. Beckham also knew where a **Heart-spotted Woodpecker** had been excavating a nest site in a tree directly above, so we trained the scopes on the hole. A **Coppersmith Barbet** had made its nest hole in the same branch just a few inches away, and we could see its head sticking out. Then we saw the female **Heart-spotted Woodpecker's** head appear at the entrance to her hole too, though she showed no inclination to come out.



Banded Broadbill & White-fronted Scops Owls – in Kaeng Krachan

We drove on a little further, across the first stream crossing, and parked just the other side by the start of the Nature Trail. **Spot-bellied Eagle Owls** had bred here this year, somewhere in the trees above. Scanning from different places, moving round, Ian quickly found the juvenile in the same tree it has been in recently, but moving higher up now. Patterned white, we could make it out lying on a bough above us. Then Beckham found the female nearby. She was very hard to see at first, through the leaves and branches, but we tried at least three different angles and eventually got a good composite view. From one side, we could see most of her head and bill, one eye and one ear tuft visible through leaves. As we walked back down towards the road, an **Orange-breasted Trogon** started calling. Nai went down into the edge of the stream bed and could see it in the bamboo. As we followed, we realised there was a pair there.

Four species of owls in the morning, not a bad return. It was time for lunch now so we drove back to the campsite. The car park was full of minibuses and we found a large children's activity group gathered outside the café. Thankfully, they were being served separately outside and we could still get served inside. After lunch, we drove back across the first stream and walked along the track. Several **Ochraecous Bulbuls** came through the bamboo, better views than we had yesterday. We could hear **Silver-breasted Broadbills** calling, and one eventually came out in the branches high above us. A little further on, Beckham heard **Great Slaty Woodpecker** and found it through a gap high in a tree behind. We got it in the scopes – an impressive beast, the largest extant woodpecker in the world. Nice to see here, after we had just missed the one earlier this morning. We could hear **Lar Gibbons** calling on and off all morning and now we found a couple in the trees close to track. We stopped to watch and one put on a good display, hanging star-shaped on a branch looking down at us before swinging off through the trees.



Spot-bellied Eagle Owl & Lar Gibbon – in Kaeng Krachan

We managed to walk across the second stream, where a cloud of butterflies was coming down to drink on the other side. An impressive sight, we could see why there were signs by the road telling drivers to slow down for butterflies. Still one or two were squashed. Several **Common Forest Skinks** scuttled around in the leaves on the verge. Ian and Beckham brought the vehicles over and parked again. As we walked on, we could hear the sound of wings beating, approaching large hornbills. Unfortunately it was hard to see them through the branches above, two **Wreathed Hornbills**. We stopped by a gap in the trees to scan hillside beyond but there was no sign. A **Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo** popped up briefly, but dropped down again before anyone could get onto it. A **Verditer Flycatcher** perched in the top of the tallest bamboo on the skyline. It had clouded over this afternoon and now started to spit with rain. Only light and quite refreshing, taking the humidity down a notch. We came across a mixed flock in the bamboo now – **Pin-striped Tit-Babblers**, **Rufous-fronted Babblers**, **Ochraceous Bulbuls** and a **Dark-necked Tailorbird** – although it quickly moved deeper in.

Further on, we found another **Orange-breasted Trogon**, then another **Wreathed Hornbill** flew back the other way, more glimpses looking up through the trees. Scanning the hillside beyond again, through a gap, we

noticed a couple of **Brown-backed Needleetails** which shot round low over the trees at the top, then five or six came back the other way. They seemed to gain height, along with lots of **Swiftlets** and a few **Barn Swallows**, presumably all brought down by the rain.

As we crossed the last stream, yet another **Orange-breasted Trogon** was in the bamboo here. A bit like buses now! A little further on, there were more **Silver-breasted Broadbills** calling, so we stopped to see if they would come in. We could hear the rain starting to fall more heavily in the trees behind us now, and Beckham and Nai arrived in the trucks just in time. Everyone was tired after several very early starts the last few days, so we decided to finish a little early. The rain had stopped as we drove out of the Park, back to Samarn Bird Camp for tea and cake, biscuits and bananas. Then we had a chance to sort through photos, catch up on emails or just have a siesta before dinner. We could hear a **Tokay Gecko** and a **Large-tailed Nightjar** calling outside as got dark.

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY – *Sunny am, clouding over pm, max 33C in Bangkok but cooler inland*

Ian met us again after breakfast and, with Nai driving the other 4x4, we headed into the park. Once past the entrance gate, there were several **Large-tailed Nightjars** in the road as before, a couple of which almost required evasive action. Our destination was the top again, and we would only have the morning here, so we motored straight on past the campsite and the streams and up the hill.

Half way up, Ian saw a **Grey Peacock-Pheasant** on the side of the track just as he rounded a sharp bend. Sadly only one of the group in his vehicle saw it before it dropped down into the trees. We parked both the trucks in the pull-in and got out. A **Blue Pitta** was calling not far below us but as is typical, showed no inclination to come out. There were various Bulbuls, several **Hair-crested Drongos** and at least three **Greater Green Leafbirds** in and out of a large flowering tree above the road. A **Raffle's Malkoha** called in the trees, as did a **Banded Kingfisher**. The latter, a female, eventually showed itself right above our heads. Another **Grey Peacock-Pheasant** was still calling from the trees above us, very close now. We thought it might just come out, crossing the road lower down, as it had last year, but as we got ourselves in position we must have spooked it and it went quiet.



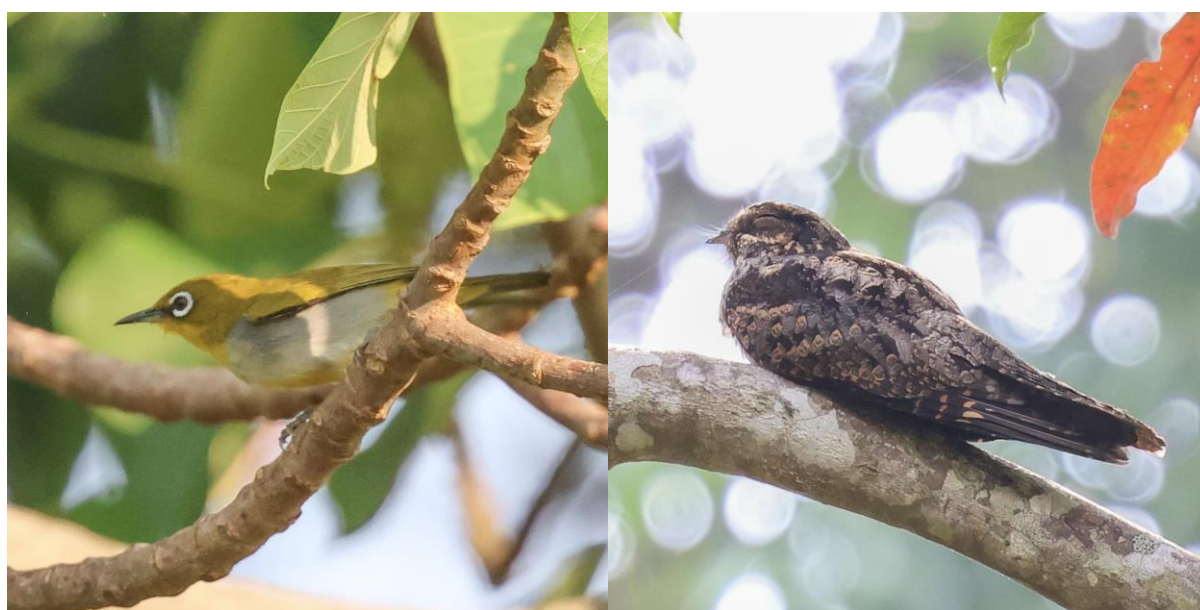
Banded Kingfisher & Blue-throated Barbet – on Kaeng Krachan

Moving on, we headed straight on up to the summit. Some fruiting trees by the campsite car park were surrounded by photographers, so we walked over to see what was there. Two **Blue-throated Barbets** were feeding in some fruiting trees, not what we would have expected to draw such a crowd. Nice views though, before they flew off. Walking down to the edge of the campground itself, there were lots of small birds in the trees around the edge, in the early sunshine. Most of the ones we saw were either **Yellow-browed Warblers**

or White-eyes, and looking at the latter they were all **Hume's White-eyes**. With a bit of perseverance, we could all see the yellow line on the belly which runs between the yellow vent and throat. The hillside behind the restaurant kitchen was quiet this morning, apart from a brief **Radde's Warbler**. Two **Pacific Swifts** shot over. There was surprisingly little activity in the trees opposite either and the seeding bamboo by the entrance gate was yet to warm up. Lots of **Germain's Swiftlets** were hawking low back and forth over the trees above the road, accompanied by one or two **Asian House Martins**. We walked back down to the terrace and ordered a coffee. There were a few birds flitting around in the trees here, more **Yellow-browed Warblers** plus a couple of sunbirds, including a smart male **Black-throated Sunbird**. Looking over towards the hillside opposite, six distant **Eye-browed Thrushes** flew across and disappeared into the trees. There were lots of swiftlets above, mostly fluttering back and forth. One or two **Pacific Swifts** were seen with the swiftlets too, but six bulkier birds circling together without a single flap of their wings stood out. Through the scope, we could see they were **Brown-backed Needleetails**, possibly the same birds as we had seen yesterday. As they turned, you could see the slightly paler patches on their backs catching the sun and just make out the white 'v' on the flanks and undertail. There were a few swiftlets and **Asian House Martins** closer on our side of the valley too. We picked up a couple of **Asian Red-rumped Swallows** with them and then a House Martin flew across below us with a much more obvious, longer white rump, rectangular rather than square, a **Siberian House Martin**. It seems to be a good winter for them here.

At 9am, the top of the road switched to downhill traffic and after the initial rush from the campsite had subsided, we set off down ourselves. We stopped after a couple of kilometres and walked down the next stretch. There were a few Barbets calling overhead and a couple of times we heard the whoosh of hornbill wings but couldn't get more than a brief glimpse through the dense canopy. Some noisy **Ochraceous Bulbuls** were in the undergrowth but we couldn't see anything else with them and we didn't run into a mixed flock. There were several people waiting by the tree where the Silver Oriole has been showing, but having seen it well two days ago we continued on past.

Further down, there were more vehicles along the road again. A Red-bearded Bee-eater had apparently been feeding here earlier. One of the people there pointed up into a tree as we arrived but we couldn't see anything there. A **Grey Nightjar** was roosting on a branch high over the road a little further up, so we set the scope up on that for a closer look, while we waited. There was still no sign of the Bee-eater but as we scanned the tree it had been in again, the **Ratchet-tailed Treepie** now hopped up into view. It disappeared back into a dense tangle of branches, then came out again into full view in the sunshine, so we could get a clear view of its ratchet tail. Unfortunately, it was only there for a couple of seconds. Several photographers were sat on camp chairs by their vehicles a little further down and had left a speaker playing Ratchet-tailed Treepie calls loudly on a loop on the roof of one of the trucks. Whether that had attracted the bird in or not was unclear, but when the speaker gave a particularly loud burst of calls, the Treepie dropped down out of view and disappeared.



Hume's White-eye & Grey Nightjar – at Kaeng Krachan

Down at the small pool by the road a little lower down, the rain yesterday had brought out several bright green **White-lipped Treefrogs**. We walked down for a look. Ian then got a lift back up to pick up our vehicles and we returned to scan the trees. There was no further sign of either the Treepie or the Bee-eater by the time he returned and we then had to start descending so we could get out through the bottom gate before the road switched to uphill traffic only again.

We hadn't gone far when a bird flashed out between the two trucks and landed on a bunch of dead leaves at the bottom of string of creeper which was dangling right over the middle of the road. The canopy of the second vehicle would have hit it but we looked and saw it was a **Long-tailed Broadbill** and Nai managed to stop quickly. The bird flew back into the trees on the verge when it saw us but didn't seem to have gone far. We got out very quietly and could see it perched in the shade in the bamboo. It then flew back out landed on the dead leaves again just a couple of metres from us. It was collecting nest material. We watched it fly off with some into the trees, then come straight back out with nothing in its bill now. It seemed to have seen us now and didn't want to come back out. We had to be moving on as we had very little time to get down the hill now, so we left it in peace.

Out of the park, we headed straight over to Baan Maka for lunch. Ian led us round to a stand of bamboo by the offices where two **Brown Boobooks** were staring back down at us from their roost site. Apparently we were very lucky and they were much more out in the open than they had been before. A much better view than the two we had seen in the half light yesterday morning. Eating lunch in the restaurant, the bunch of bananas put out for the birds to feed on looked to have pretty much run out, so there were fewer birds coming in and out. However, there was a **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** feeding down characteristically on the ground, in the dry leaves, for most of the time we were eating. The fish with cracked black pepper was particularly delicious and the fresh mango shakes were a very popular accompaniment (head freeze risk notwithstanding!).



Long-tailed Broadbill – in Kaeng Krachan; **Brown Boobooks** – at Baan Maka

After lunch, we had some time to relax before we left at 2pm to drive over to Lung Sin hide. It was hot in the hide when we arrived and a **Racket-tailed Treepie** came down to drink. A **White-rumped Shama** was perched on one of the branches behind and the usual **Greater** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes**, bulbuls, squirrels and **Northern Treeshrews** appeared. All seemed to be progressing as we might have expected. Two **White-bellied Erpornis** flew in to bathe, an **Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** came in for a drink, followed by a female **Black-naped Monarch**. A female **Siberian Blue Robin** was hopping around in the leaves, as was a **Puff-throated Babbler**. Then it all seemed to go rather quiet.

Watching and waiting, a large snake appeared out of the trees on the right hand side. It slithered through the leaves right towards us, closer and closer, until it was less than a metre from the front of the hide. If it

continued the way it was heading, it looked like it would come straight in under the mesh on the front. We tapped the camera lens on the bottom of the opening and moved it up and down so it would be clearly seen. The snake stopped and looked straight at us, tasting the air with its tongue. Then it started shaking its tail as it switched to reverse gear. Having backed off a short distance still watching us, it turned and slithered off into the trees. Reviewing the photos later, Ian confirmed it was a **Monocled Cobra**. We were now very happy it hadn't come into the hide! The Laughingthrushes and bulbuls quickly resumed business as usual but nothing else was coming in now. The Cobra must have gone round behind the hide because after about fifteen minutes, it slithered off back down away from us under the trees on the left.



White-bellied Erpornis & Monocled Cobra – from Lung Sin hide

Whether it was the effect of the Cobra or not, nothing was doing now, so we decided to leave. When we got back out to the road, there was no sign of Nai or the minibus and we didn't have a phone signal either. We walked a short distance down the road and round the corner to see if there was any birding to be done there, but all we could see were a few **Bronzed Drongos** on the wires and distant **Oriental Pied Hornbill** in the trees beyond. Turning round, we figured we would at least be heading in the direction Nai should be coming from so we walked back up the road and up to the top of the next hill to see if we could get a phone signal. We could, but of course no sooner had we messaged Ian to see if he could ask Nai to return, the minibus appeared driving towards us. It was about 5.30pm when we got back to Samarn, perfect time for a cup of tea and biscuits again. Then we had a chance for a break and freshen up before our last dinner here.

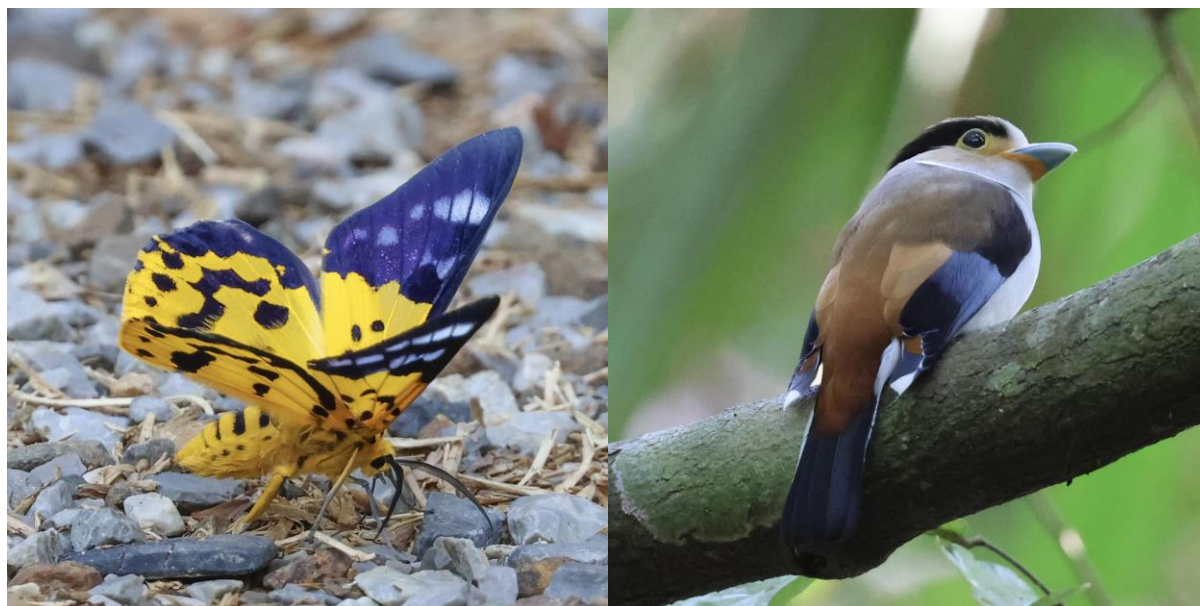
THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY – *Bright, hazy sunshine, max 34C*

Ian met us again this morning after breakfast and he drove one of the 4x4s and we rode in the minibus with Nai up into the park. We left 15 minutes later as we would be starting lower down again and there were no nightjars on the road this morning, although Ian did almost run over an **Asian Palm Civet**, which stopped in the middle of the road, but he pulled up in time and it scuttled off into the undergrowth.

There were already quite a few people waiting at km 9, but we continued on past and stopped by the small pools just beyond first today. A **Collared Owlet** was calling in the trees – at least, we assume it was actually a Collared Owlet rather than Nick come south to whistle like one! There were a few birds around the pools, including a pair of **Red-wattled Lapwings**, an **Asian Emerald Dove** on the ground behind and two **White-breasted Waterhens** which walked out of the undergrowth. A small flock of **Little Egrets** headed up into the park and two dropped down onto the pool behind us, then a **Chinese Pond Heron** flew out. A **Taiga Flycatcher** flicked in and out of a fallen tree and two **Dark-necked Tailorbirds** made their way through the tangled branches. The sun was slow to show itself today, with some hazy cloud on the horizon, and there was no real sign of anything perching up in the trees apart from a few **Hair-crested Drongos** and a couple of **Greater Flamebacks** which flew in and out.

Walking along the road, we quickly came upon a group of **Pin-striped Tit-Babblers** feeding in the bushes, so we stopped to see if anything was with them. We did pick up the usual bulbuls, plus two **Great Ioras** and a family of **Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds** which showed very well on the side of the road. Just beyond is a fruiting tree, and at first it looked quite quiet. We could see one **Wedge-tailed Pigeon** in there at first, then a second, then several more flew out and landed in the bare tree behind. Two **Green-eared Barbets** flew in and posed nicely in the top as the sun started to come through. A succession of **Black-naped Orioles** arrived too, we lost count. As we set off again, first a **Plain Flowerpecker** appeared and then a **Besra** landed in a big bare tree just beyond briefly. It was starting to warm up and there were more bulbuls feeding by the road now, including a couple of **Ochraceous**, a few **Black-headed** and an **Olive Bulbul**. A troop of **Stump-tailed Macaques** was loafing in the limbs of a large tree in the morning sun, with several grooming each other. We could see a **Blue-winged Leafbird** and an **Asian Brown Flycatcher** in there too. Just beyond, we found a sunbird nest hanging from a branch and a male **Olive-backed Sunbird** singing nearby. Ian went back to get the truck and Nai appeared with the minibus and we drove on to the campsite.

After a stop to use the facilities, we all climbed into the 4x4 and Ian drove us across the stream crossings. Two **Grey Wagtails** were by the road, one by the campsite and the second by one of the streams. We stopped at the turning area by the dam, where lots of butterflies were coming down to the ground. A rather spectacular **False Tiger Moth** was with them. Several locals had stopped to photograph the butterflies and one Thai woman in particular had come out in her best clothes, and more surprisingly her best Crocs, to be snapped in the middle of them. We walked over to the dam and scanned the seeding bamboo on the hillside beyond but there was nothing in there yet this morning. An **Asian Fairy Bluebird** perched up in the top of a tree briefly. Then we set off to walk back slowly along the road. It had been quiet along here in the afternoon the other day, but almost immediately we came across a large mixed flock this morning. So many birds, we didn't know where to look, particularly as a **Black Eagle** circled up with a young **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** over the hillside behind just at that moment too. We could just see them through the canopy of the trees above us.



False Tiger Moth & Silver-breasted Broadbill – in Kaeng Krachan

The flock was full of birds, a **Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo**, a pair each of **Scarlet** and **Rosy Minivets**, a female **Asian Fairy Bluebird** and a **Green-billed Malkoha** all higher up in the trees, along with both **Greater Green** and **Blue-winged Leafbirds**. Several **Pin-striped Tit-Babblers** were picking around in the tangled vegetation lower down where there were also lots of leaf warblers, notably a good number of **Sulphur-breasted Warblers** again and several **Eastern Crowned Warblers** (where had they all been hiding up until now?!). We watched an **Oriental Paradise Flycatcher**, a **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** and a couple of **Grey-headed Canary Flycatchers** flycatching from the branches. A **Great Hornbill** arrived with a whoosh of wings and landed high above our heads. But the highlight here was the flock of at least a dozen **Silver-breasted Broadbills**. They came closer and closer until they were feeding from the trees right by the road, almost directly above us at times, several to a

branch. We followed them back along the road and the rest of the flock seemed to be roughly moving with them. Almost back to where we had parked, we found a **Large Woodshrike** high up in the trees too.

It was so good here now, we could have stayed all morning but sadly we were out of time. We still had to check out. As Ian drove us back towards the campsite, a **Red Junglefowl** was calling in the bushes. Nai was waiting there and we transferred into the minibus for the journey on the road. We got back to Samarn Bird Camp just before 11am and packed our bags before the car arrived to take them to the airport hotel in Bangkok. Nai then drove us over to Baan Maka for lunch. As usual several birds were coming in and out from the water to drink and bathe, most notably today a female **Orange-headed Thrush** and a **Verditer Flycatcher**.

After lunch, we said goodbye to Ian and thanked him for all his help. We also sent our best wishes to Games who was still recovering in hospital. Setting off just after 1pm, we had time for a couple of stops on the way. Not far down the road, a **Greater Coucal** lolloped across the tarmac in front of us. The first we had seen for a few days, now we were heading back into the lowlands and cultivations. After about half an hour, we pulled up on the side of the road by a small lake. Looking at cross to the island in the middle, we could immediately see at least four **Indian Thick-knees** sheltering from the sun under the bushes. Looking more closely, we could see there were several more under another bush nearby and by the time had scanned properly with the scopes we had counted a total of 19. An **Asian Green Bee-eater** was making sallies out from the top of one of the trees and a **Pied Fantail** was feeding in the shady vegetation on the bank nearby.



Indian Thick-knees & Black-headed Ibis – on our way back to Bangkok

It took about fifty minutes to get from there to the lake at Bang Tabun Ok, our last stop. As we drove down through the small patch of mangroves, several **Black-headed Ibis** were feeding on the mud in between the trees, along with the **Little Egrets** and Pond Herons. Scanning the lake beyond, we could see lots of gulls, terns, waders and ducks on the islands beyond the first bank and a **Spot-billed Pelican** on a concrete wall with several **Little Cormorants** way off in the distance. It was little more than a shimmering, dirty grey lump though at this range in the heat haze. From up on the bridge we had just driven over, we had a clearer view of the birds beyond the bank. There were lots of **Pintail**, mostly asleep on the island along with smaller numbers of **Garganey**, **Shoveler** and **Wigeon**. The waders included lots of **Black-winged Stilts**, several feeding groups of **Black-tailed Godwits**, a scattering of **Marsh Sandpiper** and **Greenshank**, a single **Wood Sandpiper** and a couple of **Pacific Golden Plover**. The gulls loafing on the island were all **Brown-headed** and there were several **Caspian Terns** with them. A couple of **Whiskered Terns** and **Little Terns** flew round over the water. We had a look in the mangroves, but the Ibis had all flown off as we drove in. Several **Olive-backed Sunbirds** were calling in the trees. As we walked back, we heard a kingfisher and looked across to see a large flash of electric blue disappearing through the trees away from us. Unfortunately, it kept on going and we couldn't find it again. We would have liked a better look as it was a **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, but unfortunately we were running out of time again. Back in the minibus, we drove round for a quick look from the other side of the lake. The views of

the **Spot-billed Pelican** were much better from this side – you could actually see it was a Pelican! There were several **Painted Storks** feeding in the water. A **Brown Shrike** was perched on a concrete post the other side of the road and two **Scaly-breasted Munias** landed on the wires.

It was about two and a half hours from here to our hotel by the airport in Bangkok. Nai drove us there as smoothly and efficiently as he had done for the last few days. When he had a phone call from the hotel for us, it was only to check our booking reference number as our bags had just been delivered there. We had time to have a shower, change out of the birding clothes and get sorted out before we met for our last dinner in the hotel restaurant. The food was not bad for an airport hotel, though perhaps not quite to the standard of some of the excellent Thai food we had enjoyed over the last couple of weeks. Then with everyone pretty tired after some long days in the last week or so, we headed to bed.

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY – *Hazy sunshine & hot in Bangkok, cold & raining in London!*

We had the opportunity for a lie in this morning, as our shuttle to the airport wasn't leaving until 10am. Most of the group still came down to breakfast early, probably a hard habit to break after all those early starts. One was leaving early, heading back separately to Manchester via Paris on a different flight, so we bid farewell to him over breakfast. Some of the group went out to explore, or visit the market out on the main street. There were the usual sparrows, mynas and doves around the hotel and a **Coppersmith Barbet** called for a couple of minutes from the top of a tree right outside our accommodation block. Then we gathered in the foyer to head to the airport. On the way, a couple of **House Swifts** were swooping round outside the terminal.

All went smoothly, we checked in (making sure our bags made it down the conveyor, which seemed to be having problems), breezed through security and then had time to kill in the airport. Walking past all the luxury goods outlets, we eventually found somewhere to sit down at the far end. It was similar to where we had sat on our first morning, waiting for the flight to Chiang Mai, looking out across the taxiways and runway, trying to see the first birds for the trip list. It seemed like an age ago now. Unsurprisingly, there was not quite the same level of interest this time.

Our flight to London Heathrow left on time at 1.20pm and we settled in for the long haul. We were somewhere over India when the pilot put out a call for any doctor's on board. Then a short while later, he announced that we were going to have to divert to Delhi for a medical emergency. We had to wait a while dumping fuel so the plane was light enough to land, but after half an hour or so we were on the ground. Full marks to Thai Air who were very efficient. The patient's bag was taken off, we were quickly refueled without having to disembark and back in the air in just over 1h10. By the time we made it on to London Heathrow, we were only around 1h45 behind schedule. Our bags all made it to the carousel quickly and we said our goodbyes there before heading out into the wet and chilly London night.

ORIOLE BIRDING																					
THAILAND - FORKTAILS, FLYCATHCERS AND SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER																					
3RD TO 21ST FEBRUARY 2025																					
Species order, names and taxonomy follows - Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2018. The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: v2018. Downloaded from																					
#	Common Name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Anatidae - Ducks and Geese																					
1	Lesser Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna javanica						✓	✓						✓						
2	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea							✓	✓											
3	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	Nettapus coromandelianus													✓						
4	Garganey	Spatula querquedula						✓	✓						✓				✓		
5	Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata						✓	✓										✓		
6	Falcated Duck	Mareca falcata						✓	✓												
7	Gadwall	Mareca strepera							✓												
8	Eurasian Wigeon	Mareca penelope						✓	✓										✓		
9	Indian Spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha						✓	✓												
10	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca						✓	✓												
11	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta						✓	✓										✓		
12	Ferruginous Duck	Aythya nyroca							✓												
Phasianidae - Pheasants and allies																					
13	Ferruginous Partridge	Caloperdix oculus													✓						
14	Rufous-throated Partridge	Arborophila rufogularis										✓	✓								
15	Bar-backed Partridge	Arborophila brunneopectus													✓						
16	Scaly-breasted Partridge	Arborophila chloropus													✓						
17	Green Peafowl	Pavo muticus													✓						
18	Grey Peacock-Pheasant	Polyplectron bicalcaratum																	✓		
19	Mountain Bamboo Partridge	Bambusicola fytchii		✓																	
20	Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus											✓		✓	✓	h		h		
21	Hume's Pheasant	Syrnaticus humiae							✓												
PODICIPEDIFORMES - Grebes																					
22	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis		✓				✓	✓						✓						
COLUMBIFORMES - Pigeons and Doves																					
23	Rock Dove	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Speckled Wood-Pigeon	Columba hodgsonii										✓									
25	Ashy Wood-Pigeon	Columba pulchricollis											✓								
26	Rufous Turtle Dove	Streptopelia orientalis		✓		✓							✓								
27	Red Collared Dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
28	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
29	Barred Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia unchall									h										
30	Little Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia ruficeps								✓											
31	Asian Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
32	Zebra Dove	Geopelia striata	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
33	Pink-necked Pigeon	Treron vernans													✓						
34	Thick-billed Pigeon	Treron curvirostra						✓									✓		✓		
35	Wedge-tailed Pigeon	Treron sphenurus															✓		✓		
36	Mountain Imperial-Pigeon	Ducula badia							✓									✓			
CUCULIFORMES - Cuckoos and allies																					
37	Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓				✓	
38	Lesser Coucal	Centropus bengalensis		✓			✓														
39	Raffle's Malkoha	Rhinorhiza chlorophaea															✓				
40	Green-billed Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus tristis															✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	Asian Koel	Eudynamys scolopaceus	✓	✓	h	h	✓	h	✓	h	h	h	h	✓	✓	✓		h	h	h	
42	Asian Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx maculatus			✓	h						✓	✓								
43	Banded Bay Cuckoo	Cacomantis sonneratii			✓																
44	Plaintive Cuckoo	Cacomantis merulinus						✓							✓						
45	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	Surniculus lugubris																		✓	
CAPRIMULGIFORMES - Nightjars																					
46	Hodgson's Frogmouth	Batrachostomus hodgsoni											✓								
47	Grey Nightjar	Caprimulgus jotaka																	✓		
48	Large-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus macrurus															✓	✓	✓		
49	Indian Nightjar	Caprimulgus asiaticus														h					
APODIFORMES - Swifts																					
50	Brown-backed Needletail	Hirundapus giganteus																	✓	✓	
51	Himalayan Swiftlet	Aerodramus brevirostris	✓	✓			✓														
52	Germain's Swiftlet	Aerodramus germani	✓			✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	Pacific Swift	Apus pacificus																	✓		

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54	Cook's Swift	<i>Apus cooki</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓										
55	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>		✓																✓
56	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balaisensis</i>		✓			✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
HEMIPROCNIDAE - Treeswifts																				
57	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>		✓																
GRUIFORMES - Rails and Crakes																				
58	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓			✓	✓							✓			✓		
59	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓	✓							✓					
60	Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>					✓	✓							✓					
61	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓				✓	
CHARADRIIFORMES - Buttonquails and Waders																				
62	Indian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>																		✓
63	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				✓	
64	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>											✓	✓						
65	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>				✓			✓				✓	✓					✓	
66	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						✓					
67	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	h	h				✓	h	h	h	✓	
68	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>											✓	✓						
69	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>											✓	✓						
70	Malaysian Plover	<i>Charadrius peronii</i>												✓						
71	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>							✓				✓	✓						
72	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓											
73	Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		✓																
74	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>						✓												
75	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>					✓	✓							✓					
76	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>											✓	✓						
77	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>												✓					✓	
78	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>											✓	✓						
79	Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>											✓	✓						
80	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>											✓	✓						
81	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>												✓						
82	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>											✓	✓						
83	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>											✓	✓						
84	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>												✓						
85	Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>												✓						
86	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pygmaea</i>												✓						
87	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>											✓	✓						
88	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>												✓						
89	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>												✓						
90	Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>												✓						
91	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓		✓			✓										✓	
92	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>												✓						
93	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓						
94	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓											
95	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>											h	✓						
96	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							✓					✓					✓	
97	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>												✓					✓	
98	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓	✓								✓				✓	
99	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>												✓					✓	
100	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>												✓						
101	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>		✓					✓											
CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae - Gulls and Terns																				
102	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>											✓	✓					✓	
103	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>											✓	✓					✓	
104	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>												✓						
105	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>											✓	✓					✓	
106	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>												✓	✓				✓	
107	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>											✓	✓						
108	Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>												✓						
109	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>												✓						
CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae - Storks																				
110	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>				✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
111	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	✓											✓	✓				✓	
SULIFORMES: Anhingidae - Darters																				
112	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>					✓	✓						✓	✓					

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SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae - Cormorants and Shags																				
113	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>					✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
114	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>												✓	✓					
PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae - Pelicans																				
115	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippenses</i>																		✓
SULIFORMES: Ardeidae - Bitterns and Herons																				
116	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>					✓								✓					
117	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				✓	
118	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓	✓						✓					✓	
119	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				✓	
120	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
121	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
122	Pacific Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>												✓						
123	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
124	Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
125	Javan Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i>												✓						
126	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>												✓						
127	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓								✓						
SULIFORMES: Threskiornithidae - Ibises																				
128	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>																		✓
129	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓	✓								✓					
ACCIPITRIFORMES - Vultures, Eagles, Kites and Hawks																				
130	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					✓								✓					
131	Crested Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		✓			✓		✓				✓		✓		✓		✓	
132	Black Baza	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>														✓				
133	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>					✓										✓			
134	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus limnaeetus</i>									✓								✓	
135	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>																	✓	
136	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>													✓					
137	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>					✓								✓					
138	Rufous-winged Buzzard	<i>Butastur liventer</i>	✓					✓												
139	Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>					✓	✓							✓					
140	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>			✓	✓	✓								✓					
141	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>							✓											
142	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			✓								✓							
143	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>																	✓	
144	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					✓	✓					✓		✓				✓	
145	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>											✓	✓	✓				✓	
146	Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>						✓												
STRIGIFORMES - Owls																				
147	White-fronted Scops Owl	<i>Otus sagittatus</i>															✓			
148	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>					✓		✓									✓	h	
149	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>					✓				✓						✓			
150	Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>															✓	✓		
151	Spot-bellied Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>															✓			
TROGONIFORMES - Trogons																				
152	Orange-breasted Trogon	<i>Harpactes oreskios</i>															✓			
BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae - Hoopoes																				
153	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓										h							
BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae - Hornbills																				
154	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>														✓	✓		✓	
155	Rusty-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus tickelli</i>														✓	✓			
156	White-crowned Hornbill	<i>Berenicornis comatus</i>														✓		✓		
157	Oriental Pied-Hornbill	<i>Anthraceros albirostris</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
158	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>															✓			
CORACIIFORMES - Kingfishers																				
159	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	✓	✓						✓	✓				
160	Banded Kingfisher	<i>Lacedo pulchella</i>																	✓	
161	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>																	✓	
162	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				✓	
163	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>													✓					
CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae - Bee-eaters																				
164	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>					✓													
165	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓						✓	
166	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>													✓					✓
167	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>									✓		✓			✓				

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CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae - Rollers																				
168	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>			✓					✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
169	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>															✓			
PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae - Asian Barbets																				
170	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		h			✓				✓			✓
171	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i>														✓	✓		✓	
172	Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>					✓													
173	Green-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon faiostrictus</i>															✓		✓	
174	Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>	✓				✓				h		✓							
175	Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon franklinii</i>			✓	✓						✓								
176	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>			✓	h	✓									✓		✓		
PICIFORMES: Picidae - Woodpeckers																				
177	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		✓	✓															
178	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>										✓								
179	White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i>																	✓	
180	Heart-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus canente</i>															✓			
181	Grey-capped Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>		✓	✓				✓											
182	Freckle-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos analis</i>													✓					
183	Stripe-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos atratus</i>		✓	✓	✓					h				✓					
184	Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>							h											
185	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>														✓	✓		✓	
186	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>													✓					
187	Greater Yellownappe	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>													✓		✓			
188	Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>															✓			
FALCONIFORMES - Falcons																				
189	Black-thighed Falconet	<i>Microhierax fringillarius</i>														✓				
190	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					✓	✓												
PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae - Old World Parrots																				
191	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>											✓							
192	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓																	
193	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓																	
194	Vernal Hanging-Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>															✓			
PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae - Broadbills																				
195	Black-and-red Broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus</i>															✓			
196	Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>		h							✓							✓		
197	Silver-breasted Broadbill	<i>Serilophus lunatus</i>															✓		✓	
198	Banded Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus javanicus</i>															✓			
PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae - Pittas																				
199	Rusty-naped Pitta	<i>Hydrornis oatesi</i>				h														
200	Blue Pitta	<i>Hydrornis cyaneus</i>														h		h		
PASSERIFORMES: Tephrodornithidae - Woodshrikes and allies																				
201	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>		✓															✓	
202	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>				✓			✓			✓							✓	
PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae - Woodswallows																				
203	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓		✓	
PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae - Loras																				
204	Common lora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>					✓	✓					✓							
205	Great lora	<i>Aegithina lafresnayei</i>															✓		✓	
PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae - Cuckooshrikes																				
206	Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓					✓				
207	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>			✓				✓		✓									
208	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>					✓	✓		✓			✓							
209	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>		✓					✓							✓			✓	
210	Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>																	✓	
211	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melaschistos</i>														✓	✓			
212	Indochinese Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage polioptera</i>				✓														
PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae - Shrikes																				
213	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓				✓	
214	Burmese Shrike	<i>Lanius collurioides</i>			✓															
215	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓										
216	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>			✓															
PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae - Shrike-babblers																				
217	Blyth's Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
218	Clicking Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius intermedius</i>									✓	✓								
219	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>										✓						✓		

#	Common Name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae - Orioles																				
220	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>					✓						✓				✓	✓	✓	
221	Slender-billed Oriole	<i>Oriolus tenuirostris</i>				h														
222	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>					✓						✓							
223	Silver Oriole	<i>Oriolus mellianus</i>														✓				
224	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>			✓	h			h	✓		h								
PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae - Drongos																				
225	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓					
226	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		
227	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓							✓		
228	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>			✓						✓						✓			
229	Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	✓	✓			✓						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
230	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>					✓			✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae - Fantails																				
231	Malaysian Pied-Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>		✓											✓	✓				✓
PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae - Monarchs																				
232	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	✓													✓	✓		✓	
233	Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone affinis</i>														✓				✓
PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae - Crows and Jays																				
234	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓			✓													
235	Red-billed Blue-Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>									✓									
236	Common Green-Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>													✓	h				
237	Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓										
238	Racket-tailed Treepie	<i>Crypsirina temia</i>	✓										✓		✓			✓		
239	Ratchet-tailed Treepie	<i>Temnurus temnurus</i>														h		✓		
240	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae - Larks																				
241	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>			✓															
PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae - Swallows and Martins																				
242	Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>						✓												
243	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>							✓											
244	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>												✓						
245	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
246	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	✓	✓						✓										
247	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			✓													✓		
248	Striated Swallow	<i>Cecropis striolata</i>	✓		✓					✓										
249	Siberian House-Martin	<i>Delichon lagopodum</i>							✓									✓		
250	Asian House-Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>																✓		
PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae - Fantails																				
251	Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail	<i>Chelidorrhinus hypoxanthus</i>									✓	✓								
PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae - Fairy Flycatchers																				
252	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>							h			✓				✓	✓		✓	
PASSERIFORMES: Paridae - Tits																				
253	Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>															✓			
254	Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>			✓	✓				✓		✓								
255	Yellow-cheeked Tit	<i>Machlolophus spilonotus</i>									✓	✓								
256	Black-throated Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>				✓			✓											
PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae - Nuthatches																				
257	Burmese Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neglecta</i>			✓															
258	Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	<i>Sitta nagaensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓											
259	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>		✓	✓				✓											
260	Giant Nuthatch	<i>Sitta magna</i>		h	✓				✓											
PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae - Treecreepers																				
261	Hume's Treecreeper	<i>Certhia manipurensis</i>		✓		✓			✓											
PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae - Bulbuls																				
262	Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Brachypodius atriceps</i>					✓											✓		✓
263	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
264	Crested Finchbill	<i>Spizixos canifrons</i>				✓					✓									
265	Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>			✓					✓		✓								
266	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
267	Brown-breasted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>			✓	✓				✓										
268	Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓					
269	Stripe-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus finlaysoni</i>											✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
270	Flavescent Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flavescent</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		
271	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>														✓				
272	Streak-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus conradi</i>	✓	✓				✓					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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273	Puff-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus pallidus</i>									✓									
274	Ochraceous Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus ochraceus</i>														✓	✓	✓	✓	
275	Olive Bulbul	<i>Iole viridescens</i>														✓			✓	
276	Grey-eyed Bulbul	<i>Iole propinqua</i>								✓	✓									
277	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>					✓		✓			✓								
278	White-headed Bulbul	<i>Cerasophila thompsoni</i>				✓														
279	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flava</i>							✓							✓				
280	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mccllellandii</i>			✓				✓	✓		✓				✓		✓		
PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae - Wren-babblers																				
281	Pygmy Cupwing	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>									✓	✓								
PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae - Cettia Bush Warblers																				
282	Slaty-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia olivacea</i>									✓									
283	Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliosus</i>			✓											✓			✓	
PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae - Leaf Warblers																				
284	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	h	✓	✓		h	✓							h	✓	h	✓	✓	
285	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>		h	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	h								
286	Chinese Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus yunnanensis</i>			✓	✓						h								
287	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>		✓	✓															
288	Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>			✓												✓	✓		
289	Orange-barred Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>										✓								
290	Ashy-throated Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>									✓	✓								
291	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>		✓		h	h	✓												
292	Buff-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus subaffinis</i>		✓																
293	Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>																	✓	
294	Grey-crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tephrocephalus</i>								✓										
295	Martens's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus omeiensis</i>				✓						✓								
296	Alström's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus soror</i>														✓				
297	Two-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus</i>											✓					h		
298	Pale-legged Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i>																✓		
299	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>														✓	✓			
300	Sulphur-breasted Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ricketti</i>														✓			✓	
301	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>									✓	✓								
302	Claudia's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus claudiae</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓					✓				
303	Davison's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus intensior</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓								
PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae - Reed Warblers and allies																				
304	Black-browed Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>													✓					
305	Oriental Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>													✓					
PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae - Grassbirds and allies																				
306	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>				✓	✓													
PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae - Cisticolas and allies																				
307	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓			✓													
308	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>										✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
309	Hill Prinia	<i>Prinia superciliosus</i>							h			✓								
310	Rufescent Prinia	<i>Prinia rufescens</i>				✓														
311	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>		✓																
312	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>		✓					✓						✓					
313	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓						✓					
314	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			✓															
PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae - Sylviid Babblers																				
315	Grey-headed Parrotbill	<i>Psittiparus gularis</i>							✓											
316	Spot-breasted Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis guttaticollis</i>				✓														
PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae - White-eyes																				
317	Striated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina castaniceps</i>														✓				
318	Chestnut-flanked White-eye	<i>Zosterops erythropleurus</i>									✓									
319	Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓									
320	Swinhoe's White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>		✓			✓			✓	✓									
321	Hume's White-eye	<i>Zosterops wetmorei</i>																✓		
PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae - Fairy-bluebirds																				
322	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>														✓	✓		✓	
PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae - Babblers																				
323	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>	✓	h																
324	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Mixornis gularis</i>	✓												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
325	Golden Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma chrysaeum</i>			✓		✓													
326	Rufous-fronted Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma rufifrons</i>														✓	✓			
327	White-browed Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>				✓			✓											
328	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys</i>	✓		✓				✓											

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329	Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>		✓					✓		✓									
330	Collared Babbler	<i>Gampsorhynchus torquatus</i>														✓		h		
331	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Schoeniparus castaneiceps</i>										✓								
332	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>													✓			✓		
333	Buff-breasted Babbler	<i>Pellorneum tickelli</i>									✓									
PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae - Fulvetta and Ground-babblers																				
334	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>									✓				✓			✓		
335	Yunnan Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe fratercula</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓									
PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae - Laughingthrushes and allies																				
336	Himalayan Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>		✓																
337	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	✓										✓		✓					
338	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	✓												✓			✓		
339	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocincla pectoralis</i>													✓			✓		
340	Silver-eared Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron melanostigma</i>									✓	✓								
341	Black-backed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia melanoleuca</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓								
342	Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>			✓				✓											
343	Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentea</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓									
344	Rufous-backed Sibia	<i>Minla annectens</i>		✓		✓					✓									
345	Spectacled Barwing	<i>Actinodura ramsayi</i>							✓		✓									
346	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Actinodura cyanoptera</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓									
347	Chestnut-tailed Minla	<i>Actinodura strigula</i>									✓	✓								
PASSERIFORMES: Muscipidae - Chats and Old World Flycatchers																				
348	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>														✓		✓		
349	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	✓														✓		✓	
350	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
351	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>									✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	
352	White-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Anthipes monileger</i>																		
353	Hainan Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis hainanus</i>													✓					
354	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>			✓				✓											
355	Hill Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis banyumas</i>		✓		✓					✓	✓								
356	Indochinese Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>													✓		✓	✓		
357	Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>									✓	✓								
358	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>										✓								
359	Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>		✓		✓			✓		✓									
360	Vivid Niltava	<i>Niltava vivida</i>									✓									
361	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>			✓						✓	✓					✓		✓	
362	Lesser Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx leucophris</i>										✓								
363	White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>										✓	✓							
364	Siberian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora cyane</i>										✓			✓			✓		
365	White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>										✓								
366	Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>										✓								
367	Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>										✓								
368	Blue Whistlingthrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓							
369	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>		✓		✓														
370	White-tailed Robin	<i>Myiomela leucura</i>									✓	✓	✓							
371	Himalayan Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>										✓	✓							
372	Slaty-backed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula sordida</i>		✓		✓					✓	✓	✓							
373	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>										✓								
374	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophliata</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓								
375	Sapphire Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula sapphira</i>									✓									
376	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>				✓					✓	✓								
377	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>		✓							✓									
378	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
379	White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>									✓									
380	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					✓													
381	Amur Stonechat	<i>Saxicola stejnegeri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓					
382	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓									
383	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓										
PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae - Thrushes																				
384	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>													✓				✓	
385	Black-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus dissimilis</i>			✓						✓									
386	Grey-sided Thrush	<i>Turdus feae</i>									✓	✓	✓							
387	Eyebrowed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>			✓						✓	✓	✓					✓		

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PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae - Starlings																				
388	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>																		
389	Great Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
390	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	✓	✓				✓												
391	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
392	Black-collared Myna	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
393	Asian Pied Myna	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓				✓
PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae - Leafbirds																				
394	Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>														✓		✓	✓	
395	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>															✓	✓		✓
396	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>					✓						✓							
397	Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>		✓	✓															
PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae - Flowerpeckers																				
398	Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum melanoxanthum</i>										✓	✓							
399	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i>															✓			✓
400	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>				✓														
401	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	✓	✓														✓		
PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae - Sunbirds																				
402	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>																✓		✓
403	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>											✓							
404	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓			✓						✓						✓	
405	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>	✓															✓		✓
406	Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>										✓					✓		✓	
407	Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓								
408	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>										✓								
409	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>									✓									
410	Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>							✓	✓										
PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae - Pipits and Wagtails																				
411	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓										✓
412	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									
413	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>	✓			✓	✓						✓		✓					
414	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓												
415	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>			✓				✓											
416	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓					
417	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓								
418	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>				✓									✓					
419	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>				✓														
#	Common Name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae - Finches																				
420	Spot-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>			✓		✓			✓										
421	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>			✓				✓											
422	Black-headed Greenfinch	<i>Chloris ambigua</i>			✓															
PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae - Buntings																				
423	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>			✓															
424	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>			✓															
425	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>		✓																
PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae - Old World Sparrows																				
426	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
427	Plain-backed Sparrow	<i>Passer flaveolus</i>						✓												
428	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓
PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae - Weavers																				
429	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓					
PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae - Waxbills, Munias and allies																				
430	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	✓												✓					
431	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓										✓	
432	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>												✓						
433	Pin-tailed Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura prasina</i>														✓				

#	Other wildlife		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
MAMMALIA: Mammals																				
1	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>				✓														
2	Lesser Mouse Deer	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>													✓					
3	Asian Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>																	✓	
4	Yellow-throated Marten	<i>Martes flavigula</i>										✓			✓					
5	Lyle's Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus lylei</i>													✓					
6	Stump-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca arctoides</i>															✓		✓	
7	Crab-eating (Long-tailed) Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>													✓					
8	Dusky Langur	<i>Trachypitecus obscurus</i>														✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Robinson's Banded Langur	<i>Presbytis robinsoni</i>														✓				
10	Lar (White-handed) Gibbon	<i>Hylobates lar</i>														✓	✓	h	h	
11	Grey-bellied Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus caniceps</i>														✓		✓	✓	
12	Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓							
13	Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>															✓			
14	Berdmore's (Indochinese) Ground Squirrel	<i>Menetes berdmorei</i>														✓				
15	Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamias mcclllandii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
16	Northern Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia belangeri</i>														✓			✓	✓
REPTILIA: Reptiles																				
1	Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Flat-tailed House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus platyurus</i>																		✓
3	Common Tokay Gecko	<i>Gekko gekko</i>															✓	h	h	
4	Barred Flying Dragon	<i>Draco taeniopterus</i>															✓			
5	Common Forest Skink	<i>Sphenomorphus maculatus</i>															✓			
6	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>														✓				
7	Monocled Cobra	<i>Naja kaouthia</i>																✓		
8	Oriental Whip Snake	<i>Ahaetulla prasina</i>																		
9	Red-necked Keelback	<i>Rhabdophis subminiatus</i>														✓				
AMPHIBIA: Amphibians																				
1	White-lipped Treefrog	<i>Zhangixalus pachyproctus</i>																	✓	
LEPIDOPTERA: Butterflies & Moths																				
1	Yellow Helen	<i>Papilio chaon</i>																		✓
2	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes romulus</i>															✓			
3	Paris Peacock	<i>Papilio paris paris</i>					✓													
4	Spotted Zebra	<i>Graphium megarus megapenthes</i>															✓			
5	The Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina nina</i>															✓			
6	Red-spot Jezebel	<i>Delias descombesi descombesi</i>										✓								
7	Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa dapha</i>															✓			
8	Lesser Gull	<i>Cepora nadina nadina</i>															✓			
9	Orange Gull	<i>Cepora iudith lea</i>															✓			
10	Indian Cabbage White	<i>Pieris canidia canidia</i>			✓				✓											
11	Yellow Orange Tip	<i>Ixias pyrene yunnanensis</i>																	✓	
12	Three-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema blanda silhetana</i>						✓				✓								
13	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus chrysippus</i>														✓				
14	Dark Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala septentrionis septentrionis</i>																	✓	
15	Chocolate Tiger	<i>Parantica melaneus</i>															✓	✓		
16	Plain Blue Crow	<i>Euploea modesta modesta</i>																✓		
17	Common Indian Crow	<i>Euploea core godartii</i>																✓		
18	Striped Blue Crow	<i>Euploea mulciber mulciber</i>				✓														
19	Blue-spotted Crow	<i>Euploea midamus chloe</i>																✓		
20	Common Fivering	<i>Ypthima baldus baldus</i>	✓									✓								
21	Common Cruiser	<i>Vindula erota erota</i>				✓														
22	Red Lacewing	<i>Cethosia biblis biblis</i>										✓								
23	Cream-spotted Sailor	<i>Neptis soma shania</i>										✓								
24	Small Yellow Sailor	<i>Neptis miah nolana</i>																	✓	
25	Plain Sailor	<i>Neptis cartica cartica</i>				✓														
26	Common Earl	<i>Tanaecia julii xiphones</i>														✓				
27	Black-tip Archduke	<i>Lexias dirtea merguia</i>																✓		
28	Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita iphita</i>																✓		
29	Grey Pansy	<i>Junonia atlites atlites</i>						✓												
30	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias lemonias</i>																	✓	
31	Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis otis</i>					✓													
32	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha maha</i>			✓															
33	Peablue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>						✓												
34	Tropical Swallowtail Moth	<i>Lyssa zampa</i>			d															
35	Grey-bordered Yellow Looper	<i>Celerena signata</i>														✓			✓	
36	Handmaiden Moth	<i>Syntomoides imaon</i>																	✓	

#	Other wildlife		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
37	Moth sp	<i>Cyana interrogationis</i>									✓									
38	False Tiger Moth	<i>Dysphania militaris</i>																	✓	
39	Magpie Moth	<i>Abraxas lugubris</i>														✓				
40	Moth sp	<i>Bocula sp</i>							✓											
41	Moth sp	<i>Metaperania ductaria</i>										✓								
42	Moth sp	<i>Psichotoe duvaucelii</i>		✓																
ODONATA: Dragonflies & Damselflies																				
1	Anderson's Greenwing	<i>Mnais andersoni</i>									✓									
2	Ground Skimmer	<i>Diplacodes trivialis</i>	✓																	
3	Fulvous Forest Skimmer	<i>Neurothemis fulvia</i>	✓																	
HYMENOPTERA: Bees																				
1	Broad-handed Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa latipes</i>																	✓	
HEMIPTERA: Bugs																				
1	Kapok Bug	<i>Probergrothius nigricornis</i>																✓	✓	
MANTODEA: Mantises																				
1	Orchid Mantis	<i>Hymenopus coronatus</i>										✓								
MALPIGHIALES: Rafflesiaceae																				
1	Hermit's Spittoon	<i>Sapria himalayana</i>									✓									



Orchid Mantis & Yellow-throated Marten