

**THE LIST of BIRDS and other WILDLIFE  
recorded on the VENT 2011 tour of  
VIETNAM**



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Hatinh Leaf Monkey, Phong Na National Park © K. David Bishop

## VIETNAM 2011

WOW! What a trip. It had been some years since I was last in Vietnam and the changes and massive improvements in so many aspects of the country were palpable to say the least. And the birding was better than ever. Our list of some 336 species was very respectable indeed, despite being essentially fogged out of Tam Dao for two days. But a list never conveys the true essence of a trip. This was one of those trips that as tour leader you dream of; to travel with such a truly lovely, wonderful group of people ranging in age from 32 to a little older and levels of experience from neophyte to the well travelled was sheer joy. Thank you one and all for a trip I shall never forget.

Vietnam is an exotic kaleidoscope of sights, sounds and smells; never mind how humble our surroundings the food just got better and better; the friendliness and outstandingly courteous service left one astonished and the natural history experiences were a joy to behold. We stayed at some exquisite accommodations not least of which was the superb new Forest Floor Lodge which greatly enhanced our time at Cat Tien National Park. Doubtless no one will ever forget the beauty and comfort of our 'hotel' in Hue or the fact that almost everywhere we went we were able to access the internet. But what of the nature of Vietnam? As mentioned above we recorded 336 species including some very special and little known endemics or near endemics. And as for the mammals well we saw some very special critters. Some of the highlights included:

- Exceptional and prolonged views of as many as eight male Siamese Firebacks including two males exhibiting their wing whirring display;
- Fine and lengthy studies of the recently described and little known Black-crowned Barwing;
- An unforgettable start to our birding with thunderous Great Hornbills and Oriental Pied Hornbills together with large numbers of barbets and Golden-crowned Mynas attending a fruiting tree;
- Three highly, globally threatened primates including superb views of the very striking Black-shanked Douc Langur, the restricted-range

Hatinh Leaf Monkey and the extremely endangered Delacour's Leaf Monkey;

- Scope views of a glowing Bar-bellied Pitta.
- Numerous encounters with the spectacular Sultan Tit

To mention but a few!

Thanks to Richard Craik and Birding Vietnam; my outstanding colleagues Minh and Zum and some of the finest drivers it has been my pleasure to work with. But most of all thanks to you: Sarah, Ann, Lucy, Nancy, Irwin, Larry and Carolyn and Linda this is one tour I will never, ever forget.



## DIARY

**15 March 2011:** AM drive from Ho Chi Minh City to Cat Tien National Park (NP). Late lunch at the lovely Forest Floor Lodge and then the remainder of the afternoon spent birding very productively from the lodge verandah. Overlooking the Dong Nai River and surrounded by forest including active fruiting trees we quickly accumulated a fine list of birds including both Great and Oriental Pied hornbills.

**16 March: 06.00 – Midday:** A fabulous morning's birding along the main vehicular track and the trail to Crocodile Lake. A morning of many highlights including sensational views of displaying male Siamese Fireback pheasants and 'scope views of the exquisite Bar-bellied Pitta. The afternoon was spent birding an area of grasslands and scrub where THE undoubted highlight was endangered Green Peafowl.

**17 March: 06.00 – Midday:** It would be very hard to compete with the exhilaration of the previous day, nevertheless we started the day with fine views of a very confiding Brown Hawk Owl followed by superb views of a male Orange-breasted Trogon. The afternoon was a major change of pace with an extended boat trip up the Dong Nai River replete with large numbers of Oriental Darters, Pied Kingfishers and a big surprise in the form of a rarely encountered (in Vietnam) Blossom-headed Parakeet. Other highlights included a glowing Black-naped Monarch and fine views of Blue-bearded Bee-eater.

**18 March: 05.30 – 08.30:** A very birdy morning along the main vehicular track during which the undoubted highlight was the fine views of the endangered and very handsome Black-shanked Douc-Langur. We then made an interesting and quite birdy drive to up onto the Da Lat Plateau and the city of Da Lat.

**19 March:** A delightful morning of birding in the woodlands above Ho Tuyen Lam, Da Lat Plateau with highlights including Annam Barbet, Vietnam Greenfinch and the distinctive endemic race of Red Crossbill. The afternoon in the Tanung Valley was a little slower but with several highlights including exceptional views of a Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker, quite brilliantly spotted by Sarah.

**20 March:** Flocks of very confiding White-cheeked Laughingthrushes got us off to a great start in the Tanung Valley followed soon thereafter by a group of very handsome Black-crowned Parrotbills. Although we garnered several good birds throughout the morning including fabulous views of a flock of Silver-eared Mesias we seemed to be completely out of luck with the specialties we were seeking. A thunder storm over Mt Langbian forced us to change our afternoon plans and we returned to Ho Tuyen Lam.

**21 March:** Utilizing the newly opened and very attractive airport just below Da Lat we flew back to Ho Chi Minh City and connected with our onward to Danang. But not before we gorged ourselves on some of the best ice-cream I have ever eaten in my life! Following a delicious lunch in Danang we birded our way to our lovely accommodations in the World Heritage township of Hoi An. The rest of the afternoon was spent wandering through this delightful site and its myriad of shops, ancient shops and trading houses. So pleasing to put our birding perambulations in the context of this fascinating Vietnamese culture.

**22 March:** A very productive birding day; firstly we drove and birded through farmland picking up a good assortment of new birds as we made our way to village of Kham Duc. After settling into our surprisingly attractive accommodations we made the ascent to Lo Xo (Pass) stopping along the way for a superb Malaysian Black Eagle that circled us at very close quarters. No sooner than we had stepped out from our bus than a pair of Black-headed Barwings appeared and proceeded to give us a wonderful prolonged study.

**23 March:** Sadly our good luck of the previous day did not hold this morning and to all intents and purposes we were rained out. Nevertheless our wonderful group persisted and as a result we dug out a handful of birds including Crested Goshawk, Jerdon's Baza and a lovely male Grey-chinned Minivet. A rather wet and disappointed group returned to Kham Duc where we packed up quickly and headed back down to the coast and our lovely accommodations on the beach at Lang Co.

**24 March:** With major low-pressure system sitting over much of Vietnam we had yet more rain to deal. But again our wonderful group came through and by using our bus judiciously we were able to enjoy a very productive morning's birding including finding two flocks of wintering/passage Red-

necked Phalaropes and sole individual of recently recognized White-faced Plover. As the rain increased we gradually made our way north the ancient capital of Hue where it was unanimously agreed to relax and enjoy the facilities of our gorgeous accommodations.

**25 March:** With the low-pressure system we drove northwards through rather grey and gloomy weather only to arrive at Phong Nha National Park in fine sunshine. Again our accommodations were markedly more attractive than we had anticipated. With a fine luncheon under our belts we began our exploration of this very attractive reserve. Driving through some increasingly good-looking woodlands and no rain we were champing at the bit to get birding. Suddenly all hell let loose and we found ourselves in the midst of a large mixed flock which included fine looks at Asian Emerald Cuckoo, and Ratchet-tailed Treepie to mention but a few. At Minh's urging we headed further into the reserve where we were soon enraptured by Sooty Babblers; a pair of these little known limestone specialists. A surprisingly charming bird that foraged on the limestone karst chattering as it went and providing fine views of a species that was virtually unknown until a couple of years ago. The rain and fog returned yet again but not before we enjoyed superb views of a troop of very noisy Stump-tailed Macaques.

**26 March:** Despite that again the low pressure system produced rain and fog persisted throughout the day our hardy group stuck to the task and we ended up with a very nice collection of birds for our efforts. Some of the highlights included: The fascinating landscapes of this lovely park; Fabulous views of Sultan Tit; a very confiding Large Scimitar-Babbler; a flock of Brown Hornbills; thanks to some great work by Minh fabulous views of two male Red-headed Trogons; and superb studies of Crested Serpent-Eagle and a Besra. As if all this wasn't enough we concluded the day with a delightful encounter with a very confiding troop of Hatinh Leaf-Monkeys.

**27 March:** The last day of our main tour was largely taken up with travel back to Hue and our flight to the capital Hanoi. Our farewell dinner at the elegant Sofitel was arguably one of the memorable of my career.

**28 March:** We commenced our North Vietnam extension with a very interesting tour of Hanoi including a visit to Ho Chi Minh's gardens where several migrants were in evidence including several Japanese Thrushes and a

superb male Hainan Blue Flycatcher. Departing after a sumptuous lunch we slowly made our way through some impressive traffic to Cuc Phuong National Park; yet another legacy of the great leader Ho Chi Minh.

**29 - 21 March:** We spent three days exploring this beautifully forested reserve which unfortunately was notably slow going - sadly illegal trapping is beginning to take a very serious toll on the park's wildlife. Nevertheless, we found some very good birds including daily encounters with a Malaysian Night-Heron; lovely views of Scaly Thrushes vying for food with large numbers of Japanese Thrushes; Pied Falconet and a very obliging pair of Streaked Wren-Babblers. One afternoon at the beautiful Van Long Marsh reserve produced fine looks at the endangered Delacour's Langur in addition to large numbers of waterbirds and some very cheeky White-browed Crakes.

**1 April:** From Cuc Phuong we drove via Hanoi to the beautifully forested hills of Tam Dao.

**2 - 3 April:** Quite simply and despite our very best efforts we were fogged and rained out. In the end we did manage to eke out a handful of birds but it was all very frustrating: a small group of Short-tailed Parrotbills scooted by; Sultan Tits gave of themselves superbly and we enjoyed good views of Golden and eventually Spot-necked babblers;



## ANNOTATED LIST

### Key:

(H) - Species which were heard but not seen.

E - Vietnam endemic.

IE - Indochinese endemic.

\* - Seen well by everyone or almost everyone.

### DENDROCYGNIDAE

1. Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*  
A group of five flushed from a small weed-covered coastal swamp in the Lang Co area of Central Vietnam represents an unusual record.

### ANATIDAE

2. \*Garganey *Anas querquedula*  
Fine views of 30 at Van Long Marsh.
3. (H) Bar-backed Partridge *Arborophila brunneopectus*  
One or two were heard in the Tanung Valley.
4. (H) Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii*  
Heard once or twice at Cuc Phuong NP.
5. Scaly-breasted Partridge *Arborophila chloropus*  
One snuck across the trail *en route* to Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien NP. permitting views for half the group.
6. \*Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*  
Moderately good numbers at Cat Tien NP. where two males put on quite a show as they challenged one another in the middle of the track to Dac Lua. Also heard in the forests leading to Loxo Pass and along the Dac Lo Road. In Cuc Phuong NP we were treated to excellent views on most morning drives of both males and females. Birds at Cat Tien belonged to the South Indochinese nominate sub-species *gallus*, with the prominent white ear-patch whilst those we saw at Cuc Phuong were of the more typical *jabouilleia* sub-species.
7. \*Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi*  
An outstanding tour for this magnificent Phasianid. On our first

morning out along the Dac Lua Road we enjoyed exceptional and prolonged views of a total of eight birds including six males, two of which regaled us with their spectacular wing-whirring display, showing off their fiery, lower back. The following morning we found a group of two males and two females and then on the last morning we were able to show Nancy (who had just caught up with the tour) two very confiding males. It is gratifying to see this striking species doing so well in this important reserve.

8. \**Germain's Peacock-pheasant* *Polyplectron germaini* **IE**  
Exceptional views of a very pugnacious male along the track to Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien NP. Several others were heard. This attractive species is endemic to southern Indo-China, where it is known only from south Annam and Cochinchina, Vietnam, and southern and eastern Mondulkiri province and Ratanakiri province, Cambodia.
9. \**Green Peafowl* *Pavo muticus*  
During the late afternoon at Cat Tien we watched a total of at least seven females, at the interface of scrubby grassland and forest, being constantly harassed by a fine male characterized by his magnificent full train. The population of this Endangered species appears to be slowly increasing at Cat Tien NP.

#### **PODICIPEDIDAE**

10. \**Little Grebe* *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Small numbers at Ho Tuyen Lam where several chicks were also seen. Also observed on Yen Quang Reservoir near Cuc Phong NP.

#### **PHALACROCORACIDAE**

11. \**Oriental Darter* *Anhinga melanogaster*  
A total of ca. 50 at dusk flying around and roosting along the Cat Tien NP. side of the Dong Nai River; one at Ho Tyuen Lam. This is an unusually large congregation for Indo-China of this Near Threatened species.

#### **ARDEIDAE**

12. *Yellow Bittern* *Ixobrychus sinensis*  
One adult flushed from the edge of Van Long Marsh.

13. \*Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
Superb close and prolonged views of an adult at the edge of a rice-field in the Lang Co area.
14. Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*  
One seen briefly by some of the clients as it dropped into the scrubby edge of a rice-field just north of Hoi An.
15. \*Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
About ten at Cat Tien NP. along the Dong Nai River; singles in the coastal lowlands around Lang Co and ca. 50+ roosting on a wooded island in the middle of Yen Quang Lake Reservoir near Cuc Phuong NP.
16. \*Great Egret (Great White E) *Ardea alba*  
Frequently seen in small numbers. The highest concentration was 100+ gathering during the late afternoon at Van Long Marsh.
17. \*Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*  
Moderately common in the woodland-lined rice-fields between Danang and Lang Co and throughout the coastal swamps of the Lang Co area.
18. \*Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Widespread and fairly common with as many as 1,500 flying into a roost at Van Long Marsh.
19. \*Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*  
Widespread and locally fairly common; ca. 50 in breeding plumage just north of Hoi An; ca 2,000 roosted together with Little Egrets at Van Long Marsh. Formerly, this form was lumped in Western Cattle Egret *B. ibis* using the name Cattle Egret for the enlarged species.
20. \*Chinese Pond-heron *Ardeola bacchus*  
Widespread and moderately common in rice-fields throughout the country. First seen in breeding plumage between Lang Co and Hue. Thereafter most birds seen were in partial or full breeding plumage. Circa. 500 were seen flying into roost somewhere in the Van Long Marsh area.

21. \*Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
At least 60 including many immature birds along the Cat Tien NP. side of the Dong Nai River.

22. \*Malayan Night-Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*  
Undoubtedly one of the highlights of our visit to Cuc Phuong NP was the sightings of a single adult flushed from the side of or walking across the forest-shaded road to Bong during the early hours of three mornings.

#### **CICONIIDAE**

23. \*Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*  
Fine views of a single adult that flew around us at Cat Tien NP.

#### **PANDIONIDAE**

24. \*Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
Two at Cat Tien NP and one in the Tanung Valley.

#### **ACCIPITRIDAE**

25. \*Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*  
Fine views a single adult that flew low around us along the Dak Lo Road. One of the few goodies we were able to extract from this site before the rain and wind and cloud forced us back to the lowlands.

26. \*Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*  
Sensational views of one soaring over our wonderful lodge one lunchtime at Cat Tien NP; another was seen briefly one afternoon as we drove out to the grasslands.

27. \*Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*  
One soaring over the lodge at Cat Tien NP; one flew low over us on our first morning at Ho Tuyen Lam and we saw a total of three as we ascended the forested hills to Lo Xo including one nicely spotted by Ann that perched and gave us all good 'scope views. Also known as Crested Honey-Buzzard.

28. \*Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
One in lightly wooded grassland at Cat Tien NP and one at Van Long

Marsh.

29. \*Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
One just south of Phong Nha NP was seen well in flight.
30. \*Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela*  
One or two seen every day at Cat Tien NP; one between Hoi An and Kham Duc and at total of three at Phong Nha NP, the latter looking decidedly damp.
31. \*Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*  
Great views of an adult female hunting over Van Long marsh.
32. \*Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*  
Several on one day at Cat Tien NP; two displaying as we ascended the hills near Di Linh; one perched in the rain along the Dak Lo Road; and then another displaying at Cuc Phuong NP - an excellent tour for this handsome species.
33. \*Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
One all too briefly seen at Cat Tien NP and two at Tuyen Lam which provided better views.
34. \*Besra *Accipiter virgatus*  
Fabulous views of an adult male dashing past as he chased a drongo at Cat Tien NP and a superb, rather damp female that sat out for us at Phong Nha NP permitting an exceptional prolonged study of this infrequently seen raptor.
35. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter virgatus*  
Two or three migrating along the coast at Lang Co.
36. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*  
A kettle of 12 or so soaring high over Cuc Phuong NP.
37. Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*  
Two at Tam Dao in mist brilliantly supported by Carolyn. A recent split from Common Buzzard *B. buteo*, along with Japanese Buzzard *B.*

*japonicus*, which is considered a Japanese resident.

38. \*Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

Several sightings of this distinctively structured inter-canopy specialist in the southern and central highlands, and at Phong Nha NP. One hunting right in front of us as we drove up to Lo Xo was memorable.

39. Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle *Lophotiochis kienerii*

One immature over Cat Tien NP. Previously placed in *Hieraaetus*.

40. \*Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciolata*

One adult and one immature gave sensational views as they soared around us at Van Long. Previously placed in *Hieraaetus*.

41. Mountain Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis*

Nice flight views of one flying overhead near Di Linh. Previously placed in *Spizaetus*.

#### **FALCONIDAE**

42. \*Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucos*

Fine 'scope views of just one this year at Bong sub-station, Cuc Phuong NP although KDB also saw one in secondary woodland at lower elevations.

43. \*Common Kestrel (Eurasian K) *Falco tinnunculus*

Singles near Cuc Phuong NP and *en route* to Tam Dao.

44. \*Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

A single wintering adult female was nicely 'scoped in farmland near Lang Co.

#### **RALLIDAE**

45. \*White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

One at Cat Tien NP; one near Danang; three near Lang Co and one near Cuc Phuong NP.

46. \*White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*  
A total of ten showed really well at Van Long Marsh including some individuals that perched on the boats.
47. \*Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*  
Seven of these handsome birds in a marshy area on the approaches to Phong Nha NP.
48. \*Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
At least six at Ho Tuyen Lam and 20 at Van Long Marsh.

#### VANELLIDAE

49. \*Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*  
Two at Cat Tien NP.

#### CHARADRIIDAE

50. \*Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
Two in fields near Lang Co.
51. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
Two distantly on the beach at Lang Co Beach Resort.
52. \*White-faced Plover *Charadrius dealbatus*  
Great views of a single bird on some waste ground behind a strip of mangroves at Lang Co.

Several pale *Charadrius* plovers associating with Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus* in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, which were presumed not to resemble any known taxon, have been recorded since 1993. These birds have been shown to be *Aegialites [Charadrius] dealbatus*, described by Robert Swinhoe in 1870 as a species distinct from Kentish Plover. Subsequent confusion resulted in this name being applied to the form of Kentish Plover that occurs in abundance in East and South-East Asia, while the true taxon *dealbatus* was overlooked by almost all subsequent taxonomists, and mistakenly described and illustrated as Kentish Plover in all studies of this taxon. This confusion arose, in part, due to misconceptions over the appearance of *dealbatus*, which resulted in many museum

specimens of Kentish Plover from East Asia being incorrectly identified and erroneously labeled as *dealbatus*. Swinhoe did not designate a type specimen when he described *dealbatus*, and this was only done in 1896, from a composite series of Swinhoe's specimens that comprised two taxa. A lectotype of *Aegialites [Charadrius] dealbatus* from Swinhoe's pre-1870 specimens has now been designated. Comparison with other small *Charadrius* plovers occurring in South-East Asia establishes the diagnosibility of *dealbatus* as a distinct taxon that differs in aspects of plumage, behaviour, habitat preference and breeding distribution from the commonly occurring Kentish Plover in East and South-East Asia. Consistent morphological differences from Kentish Plover include a larger and heavier bill with a pale base to the lower mandible, pale pinkish-grey legs, light sandy-brown upperparts and a longer and more conspicuous wing-bar, particularly across the primaries.

The breeding range remains uncertain but probably lies in coastal South China, and evidence suggests that *dealbatus* is allopatric with Kentish Plover, which breeds in northern China. An investigation to establish the phylogenetic relationship between *dealbatus* and other small *Charadrius* plovers is currently in progress. The true taxon *dealbatus* is believed to be rare but probably under-recorded

53. Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*  
Two on the beach at Lang Co.

54. \*Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus*  
Three on the beach at Lang Co.

#### **JACANIDAE**

55. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*  
At least 10 at Van Long Marsh, in non-breeding plumage.

#### **SCOLOPACIDAE**

56. \*Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
One along the Dong Nai River at Cat Tien NP and one at the Yen Quang Reservoir near Cuc Phuong NP.

57. \*Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*  
One seen very nicely in farmland *en route* to Kham Duc.
58. \*Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
One in farmland near Lang Co.
59. \*Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagantilis*  
One in farmland near Lang Co.
60. \*Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
One in farmland near Lang Co.
61. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*  
One in farmland near Lang Co. Six snipe unidentified to species flushed by the harrier at Van Long Marsh.
62. \*Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*  
Two flocks of 12 in non-breeding plumage on small pools just behind the beach at Lang Co. An unusual record and a first for KDB in Vietnam.

#### **COLUMBIDAE**

63. \*Rock Pigeon (R Dove) *Columba livia*  
Common near human habitation throughout.
64. Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
Two in Ho Chi Minh's gardens, Hanoi.
65. \*Red Collared-dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*  
Common at Cat Tien NP and four in farmland *en route* to Kham Duc.
66. \*Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
Regularly seen throughout.
67. Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall*  
2-3 in the Tanung Valley.

68. \*Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*  
Two seen nicely at Cat Tien NP and superbly at Phong Nha NP.
69. \*Ashy-headed Green-pigeon *Treron phayrei*  
One or two seen well at Cat Tien NP. This taxon was formerly lumped in Pompadour Green-pigeon *T. pompadora*, but Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) have split this single species into at least four species, with three endemic to the Indian subcontinent and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
70. \*Thick-billed Green-pigeon *Treron curvirostra*  
Common at Cat Tien NP and one or two in the Tanung Valley.
71. Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda*  
Good flight views of six birds in the Tanung Valley.
72. \*Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon *Treron sphenura*  
Fine 'scope views of three at Cuc Phuong NP.
73. \*Green Imperial-pigeon *Ducula aenea*  
Notably good numbers at Cat Tien NP, with as many as 20 seen on one day.
74. \*Mountain Imperial-pigeon *Ducula badia*  
Common, permitting excellent 'scope views at Ho Tuyen Lam and the Tanung Valley.

#### **PSITTACIDAE**

75. \*Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseate*  
Good views of a male with large numbers of Red-breasted Parakeet at dusk along the Cat Tien NP side of the Dong Nai River. This species is rarely recorded on tour in Vietnam.
76. \*Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*  
Common at Cat Tien NP where large numbers were observed feeding on the seeding bamboo.

77. Vernal Hanging-parrot *Loriculus vernalis*  
Common at Cat Tien NP but always difficult to observe in flight.

### CUCULIDAE

78. Large Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides*  
Singles seen on two days in Cat Tien NP.
79. Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor*  
Heard on two days on the Dalat Plateau.
80. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*  
Heard at Cat Tien NP and Ho Tuyen Lam.
81. \*Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*  
One seen at Cuc Phuong NP and heard at several other sites.
82. \*Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinu*  
Heard commonly in the lowlands of the south and one seen nicely at Cat Tien NP.
83. \*Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*  
A sensational male 'scoped with an exciting mixed flock at Phong Nha NP.
84. Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*  
Heard most days at Cat Tien NP where males were seen well in flight on a couple of occasions.
85. \*Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*  
Heard most days from Phong Nha NP northwards and one was finally seen superbly in Cuc Phuong NP.
86. \*Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*  
Two males and a female seen very nicely along the Dong Nai River, Cat Tien NP.
87. \*Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*  
Two on two days in Cat Tien NP.

88. \*Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*  
Regularly recorded but less frequently than might have been expected.

89. Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*  
One on our last morning in Cuc Phuong NP.

### **STRIGIFORMES**

90. Mountain Scops-owl *Otus spilocephalus*  
Singles were heard at Cuc Phuong NP.

91. Collared Scops-owl *Otus lettia*  
One flew across in front of our bus early one morning at Cuc Phuong.

92. \*Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*  
One seen nicely at dusk at the edge of Cuc Phuong NP. Also heard in the Tanung Valley, Phong Na NP and Cuc Phuong NP.

93. \*Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
Great views of one on our first morning at Cat Tien thanks to Ann. Also heard at Cuc Phuong NP.

94. \*Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata*  
Sensational views of an extremely responsive individual as it flew in, perched and then flew all around us at our wonderful lodge in Cat Tien NP. Several others were also heard. One seen at dawn along the drive into Bong sub-station, Cuc Phuong NP.

### **CAPRIMULGIDAE**

95. \*Great Eared-nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*  
Fabulous views nightly at Cat Tien NP with a maxima of six on one evening.

96. \*Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*  
Great looks at a total of three at Cat Tien NP including a very obliging male.

## APODIDAE

97. \*Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*  
See below. A flock of ten seen superbly at Cuc Phuong NP.
98. \*Brown Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*  
A goodly number of this species were observed daily from 15 - 18 March at Cat Tien NP with a maxima of ten during any one session. We enjoyed several fine views of this fabulous flier, however, upon reflection I realize that some of the birds seen on our last morning watching swifts foraging over the Dong Nai River from the Forest Floor Lodge, exhibited rather pronounced silvery mantles and were almost certainly Silver-backed Needletails.
99. Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*  
Flocks of ten and 30 observed over forest between Kham Duc and Lo Xo.
100. \*Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani*  
As many as 30 daily at Cat Tien Nat. Pk.
101. \*Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*  
Six on our first afternoon at Phong Nha NP.
102. \*House Swift *Apus nipalensis*  
Low numbers along the coast near Danang.
103. \*Asian Palm-swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*  
Just two on two days at Cat Tien NP and then a flock of ca. 50 over rice-fields in the Lang Co area.

## TROGONIDAE

104. \*Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*  
Seen superbly at Phong Na NP thanks to some exemplary work by Minh and again at Cuc Phuong thanks to some brilliant work by Carolyn and Linda.
105. \*Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskio*  
Fabulous views of a male in Cat Tien NP that just sat and sat,

permitting us the most superb study of this exquisite bird. Also heard commonly in this park.

### ALCEDINIDAE

106. \*Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
Usually a common winter visitor; we saw ca 12 along the Dong Nai River and several at Phong Na NP including fabulous close views of one thanks to some great spotting by Sarah. Common in and around Cuc Phuong NP.
107. (H) Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella*  
Heard only at Cat Tien NP.
108. \*Stork-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon capensis*  
1-2 seen superbly on three days at Cat Tien NP.
109. \*White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*  
What a bird! And so delightfully common. We saw this species most days including as many as ten on two days.
110. Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*  
One along the Dong Nai River.
111. \*Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*  
Wonderfully common along the Dong Nai River where we counted a total of ca 30, many attending a nesting colony on the Cat Tien NP side of the river.

### MEROPIDAE

112. \*Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*  
Thanks to some great spotting by Larry we all enjoyed great views of this handsome species along the Dong Nai River and again within Cat Tien NP.
113. \*Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*  
A total of 22 over farmland between Hoi An and Kham Duc.

114. \*Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*  
This gorgeous bird was the first species to greet us upon our arrival at Cat Tien NP. Thereafter we saw it daily in the park including a total of ca. 40 along the Dong Nai River. Two more were seen between Hoi An and Kham Duc.

#### **CORACIIDAE**

115. \*Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*  
A pair at a nest in a tree hollow in an isolated tree within grassland and two on the drive to Dalat were our only records this year.
116. \*Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
Frequently seen in small number at Cat Tien and Cuc Phuong NPs.

#### **BUCEROTIDAE**

117. \*Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*  
Easily seen at Cat Tien NP where daily we observed 3-4 attending a fruiting tree right in front of the verandah at the Forest Floor Lodge.
118. \*Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*  
Singles seen on two days also from the Forest Floor Lodge, Cat Tien NP.
119. \*Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus austeni*  
A flock of ten, albeit a little distant nevertheless put on a great show at Phong Na NP. This is an infrequently recorded species in Vietnam.

#### **MEGALAIMIDAE**

120. \*Red-vented Barbet *Megalaima lagrandieri* **IE**  
We enjoyed fine views of this chunky Indo-Chinese endemic at both Cat Tien and Cuc Phuong NPs.
121. Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*  
Fairly common at Cat Tien NP.
122. \*Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta*  
Exceptional and prolonged 'scope views of four at Cuc Phuong NP.

123. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*  
Seen very briefly at Lo Xo.
124. \*Annam Barbet *Megalaima annamensis*  
Common around Dalat. Part of the splitting-up of the former Black-browed Barbet *M. oorti* complex.
125. \*Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*  
Several seen and heard daily at Cat Tien NP.
126. \*Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*  
Seen beautifully in the grasslands at Cat Tien NP.

#### PICIDAE

127. White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*  
One of these wonderful little woodpeckers in bamboo at Cuc Phuong NP was sadly a little bit too quick for most folks.
128. \*Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*  
Two seen poorly at Cat Tien NP and then pairs seen nicely on two days at Cuc Phuong NP; the latter two of the distinctive northern race *kaleensis*.
129. \*Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Denrocopos macei*  
Fine 'scope views of two pairs in pine woodland above Ho Tuyen Lam.
130. \*Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus*  
Great views of one at Cat Tien NP thanks to Ann.
131. \*White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javanense*  
Fabulous views of a spectacular male on two days at Cat Tien NP.
132. \*Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*  
Thanks to some truly brilliant spotting by Sarah we all enjoyed prolonged 'scope views of this striking woodpecker in the Tanung Valley. Also seen in Cuc Phuong NP.

133. \*Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*  
One seen briefly Cat Tien NP and two very nicely in Cuc Phuong NP.
134. Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatu*  
A pair taped in at Cat Tien NP were a bit skittish.
135. \*Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*  
One of a pair seen very nicely in the Tanung Valley. Also known as Grey-faced Woodpecker.
136. \*Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*  
Thanks to some fine spotting by Lucy we all enjoyed good looks at male in Cat Tien NP.
137. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*  
Very flighty in Cat Tien NP where we heard and saw it briefly. Heard at Cuc Phuong NP.
138. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*  
Although we heard this species often on the Dalat Plateau, Cuc Phuong NP and Tam Dao NP we could not get them to show themselves.
139. Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente*  
A group of three in the high canopy at Cat Tien NP were rather frustrating.
140. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*  
A group of three on our first morning at Cat Tien NP.

#### **EURYLAIMIDAE**

141. \*Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*  
Fabulous and repeated views of as many ten on one day at Cat Tien NP.
142. (H) Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*  
Heard several times in Cuc Phong NP.

143. Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus*  
One just lucked upon by KDB but only glimpsed by the group at Cuc  
Phuong NP.

144. (H) Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*  
Heard at Cat Tien NP.

145. \*Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus*  
Great views of this amazing bird at Cat Tien NP where a group of  
three, were observed attending a nest.

#### **PITTIDAE**

146. Blue-rumped Pitta *Pitta soror*  
One flew across the road in front of our bus at Cuc Phuong NP.

147. \*Bar-bellied Pitta *Pitta ellioti* **IE**  
At least a pair and another male put on a wonderful show permitting  
us to 'scope this exquisite species in forest on the Crocodile Lake  
trail at Cat Tien NP. Heard commonly at Cuc Phuong NP.

#### **GENERA INCERTAE SEDIS**

148. \*Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*  
Small numbers seen daily at Cuc Phuong NP.

#### **ARTAMIDAE**

149. \*Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*  
Three over grassland at Cat Tien NP; ten between Hoi An and Kham  
Duc and then two on two days near Kham Duc and Lo Xo.

#### **AEGITHINIDAE**

150. \*Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*  
Four at Cat Tien NP; one at Phong Nha NP and one at Cuc Phuong NP.

151. \*Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayei*  
Moderately common in mixed flocks at Cat Tien NP and one or two at  
Cuc Phuong NP.

## CAMPEPHAGIDAE

152. \*Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*  
Just one seen but seen well in the Tanung Valley.
153. \*Indochinese Cuckooshrike *Coracina polioptera*  
Several sightings in Cat Tien NP; Phong Nha NP and Cuc Phuong NP.
154. \*Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*  
Good 'scope views of a pair in pine woodland above Ho Tuyen Lam.
155. \*Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*  
One male seen nicely Cat Tien NP; common at Phong Nha NP.
156. Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*  
We saw a female of this attractive species at Phong Nha NP
157. \*Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*  
This striking species was widespread and common and seen almost daily. NOTE the name change, following the separation of the nominate race in the Indian Subcontinent.
158. \*Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*  
One of our few successes along the Dak Lo Road; fine views of a superb male of the endemic subspecies *deignani*.
159. \*Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*  
Moderately common in Cat Tien NP - a pair were nesting over our wonderful lodge; Hanoi and Cuc Phuong NP.

## LANIIDAE

160. \*Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*  
Regular sightings throughout, mainly along roadsides, and in open areas, especially in the north.
161. \*Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*  
A total of six of the distinctive, dark endemic subspecies *nigricapillus* were seen very nicely as we ascended to the Dalat Plateau. One above Ho Tyuen Lam.

162. \*Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*  
Commonly encountered in the centre of Vietnam.
163. \*Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*  
The same bird on two days at the Bong substation, Cuc Phuong NP.

#### **ORIOLIDAE**

164. \*Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*  
Two at Cat Tien NP.
165. \*Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris*  
Fine views of two in the pine forest at Tuyen Lam. Endemic South Vietnamese subspecies *invisus*.
166. \*Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*  
One or two daily at Cat Tien NP.
167. \*Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*  
A fine male provided superb 'scope views at Lo Xo and we then enjoyed a male of the very distinctive northern subspecies at Cuc Phuong NP.

#### **DICRURIDAE**

168. \*Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*  
Widespread and common and seen on many days in open country.
169. \*Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*  
The most widespread drongo species with several being observed on most days.
170. \*Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans*  
One at Phong Nha NP. was something of a surprise.
171. \*Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*  
Seen in low numbers daily in the south north to Phong Nha NP but just one seen in Cuc Phuong NP.
172. \*Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*  
Moderately common on the Dalat Plateau and at Lo Xo.

173. \*Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*  
Just two at Cat Tien NP but fine views they were in the 'scope.
174. \*Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*  
'Sarah's Bird' was seen daily in moderate numbers at Cat Tien NP and Linda found one at Cuc Phuong NP.

#### **RHIPIDURIDAE**

175. \*White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*  
1-4 seen most days on the Dalat Plateau, Lo Xo, Dak Lo Road Phong Nha NP and Cuc Phuong NP.

#### **MONARCHIDAE**

176. \*Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*  
Fantastic views of a glowing male along the Dong Nai River; one at Phong Nha NP and 1-2 daily at Cuc Phuong and Tam Dao NPs.
177. Asian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*  
One seen in flight at Phong Nha NP on two days and heard daily at Cuc Phuong NP.

#### **CORVIDAE**

178. \*Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*  
1-2 on two days of the highly distinctive black-capped *leucotis* subspecies on the Dalat Plateau.
179. \*White-winged Magpie *Urocissa whiteheadi* **IE**  
Groups of two and four were seen on three days in Cuc Phuong NP; also heard at Phong Nha NP.
180. Indochinese Green Magpie *Cissa hypoleuca* **IE**  
Exceptionally elusive this year, heard only at Phong Nha NP and glimpsed at Cuc Phuong NP.
181. \*Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*  
Fine 'scope views of three on two days at Cat Tien NP.

182. Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus*  
One of the most frustrating species of the entire tour. We heard and glimpsed this species multiple times at Phong Nha and Cuc Phuong NPs but could never seem to get a good clear view.

183. \*Southern Jungle Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*  
Small numbers on the way to the Dalat Plateau, Kham Duc, Lo Xo and Phong Nha. Crows are rare in Vietnam, and presumably heavily persecuted. The old Large-billed Crow has now been carved-up into several species, following Rasmussen & Anderton (2005), Birds of South Asia. Although it is thought to be this taxon in Indochina, the situation is not 100% clear, and Eastern Jungle Crow *C. levaillantii* may occur.

#### **ALAUDIDAE**

184. \*Indochinese Bushlark *Mirafra erythrocephala*  
Fine views of a birds giving their song display flight over farmland between Hoi An and Kham Duc and in the Lang Co area.

#### **HIRUNDINIDAE**

185. Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*  
Two with other hirundines at dusk along the Dong Nai River
186. \*Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
A common and widespread winter visitor although not recorded at Cuc Phuong or Tam Dao NPs.
187. \*Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*  
5-10 seen well on two days at Cat Tien NP.
188. Striated Swallow *Hirundo striolata*  
Two along the route to the Dalat Plateau.

#### **STENOSTIRIDAE**

189. \*Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
Rather uncommon this year with small numbers recorded above Ho Tuyen Lam and heard at Cuc Phuong NP.

## PARIDAE

190. \*Japanese Tit *Parus minor*  
The two birds observed at Cuc Phuong NP have now been split from Great Tit *P. major*.
191. \*Great Tit *Parus major*  
Two above Ho Tuyen Lam
192. \*Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*  
Quite common in the pine forests of the Dalat Plateau; they belonged to the distinctive endemic subspecies *legendrei*, which are much blacker below.
193. \*Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus*  
One in woodland above Ho Tuyen Lam were of the South Indochinese subspecies *basileus*.
194. \*Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*  
Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the tour! We saw four of this stunner in the rain and mist at Phong Na NP where it came in from nearly a mile away to give THE most wonderful views. And again at Cuc Phuong NP where the nominate subspecies is surprisingly common. One was also seen superbly at Tam Dao.

## CETTIDAE

195. (H) Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*  
Heard in the Tanung Valley.
196. (H) Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps*  
One heard at Cuc Phuong NP.
197. \*Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*  
Fabulous views of a very confiding individual above Ho Tuyen Lam on our last afternoon. DNA research has clearly shown that this species is not a tailorbird, not that this would come as any surprise to those who know the bird.

## AEGITHALIDAE

198. \*Grey-crowned Tit *Aegithalos annamensis* E  
Good looks at this attractive Indochinese endemic in the Tanung Valley. Formerly lumped in Black-throated Tit *A. concinnus*.

## SITTIDAE

199. \*Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*  
Frequently seen in the pine forests above Ho Tuyen Lam. The southern montane isolate race *grisiventris*.
200. (H) Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*  
Sadly heard only on the Da Lat Plateau.

## PYCNONOTIDAE

201. \*Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*  
One seen very nicely at Cat Tien NP.
202. \*Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*  
Several daily on the Da Lat Plateau and common in Cuc Phuong NP.
203. \*Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*  
Widespread and regularly recorded.
204. \*Light-vented Bulbul (Chinese B) *Pycnonotus sinensis*  
Thanks to some good spotting by Linda we enjoyed fine views of a group of three near Cuc Phuong NP.
205. \*Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*  
Seen in low numbers at several locations. In the south we saw subspecies *germaini*, with yellow undertail-coverts, while in the north we encountered subspecies *resurrectus*, with red undertail-coverts.
206. \*Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*  
Common in Cat Tien NP.
207. \*Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*  
Common on the Da Lat.

208. \*Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*  
Common at Cat Tien NP.
209. Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua*  
Just one seen at Cuc Phuong NP.
210. \*Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*  
At all sites from Lang Co northwards.
211. \*Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*  
A group of four at Cat Tien NP of the endemic subspecies *hallae*  
which most closely resembles Puff-throated.
212. \*Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*  
Common on the Da Lat Plateau.
213. \*Chestnut Bulbul *Hemixos castanonotus*  
A flock of 30 seen rather well despite the fog at Tam Dao
214. Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mccllellandii*  
Two in the Tanung Valley were of the endemic subspecies  
*griseiventer*.
215. Himalayan Black Bulbul (Black B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*  
Widespread and common on the Da Lat Plateau and at Cuc Phuong NP.

#### PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

216. \*Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
One of the most frequently recorded species on the tour, and one of  
the most widespread birds in Vietnam in the winter.
217. \*Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*  
One at Cat Tien NP.
218. \*Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*  
Just one in Hanoi.

219. \*Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*  
Good views of singles at Cat Tien NP and Cuc Phuong NP.
220. \*Blyth's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*  
At least two observed singing in woodlands above Ho Tyen Lam.
221. Emei Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus emiensis*  
One seen and studied at length at Cuc Phuong NP. If accepted this may be the first record of this little known species for Vietnam.
222. \*White-tailed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*  
One in the Tanung Valley.
223. Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti*  
Several in the woodlands above Ho Tyen lam.

#### **CISTICOLIDAE**

224. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*  
One along the Dak Lo Road.
225. (H) Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*  
One heard at Cat Tien NP.
226. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*  
Small numbers recorded at several sites at lower elevations.
227. \*Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*  
Fine views of two at Cat Tien NP and at Cuc Phuong NP.
228. \*Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*  
Great views of several birds on the Da Lat Plateau. Note this taxon has been split from *atrogularis* (includes *khasiana*) of the Indian subcontinent and W Myanmar.
229. \*Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*  
Common at Cuc Phuong NP.

230. \*Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*  
Two at Cat Tien NP.
231. \*Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*  
One en route to Kham Duc.
232. \*Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*  
One en route to Kham Duc; several at Cuc Phuong NP and Tam Dao

### **SYLVIIDAE**

233. \*Black-crowned Parrotbill *Psittiparus margaritae* **IE**  
Fine views of a group of four of this attractive near-endemic parrotbill at the top of the Tanung Valley. A recent split from Grey-headed Parrotbill.
234. Short-tailed Parrotbill *Neosuthora davidianus*  
Three scooted by in the fog at Tam Dao.

### **IRENIDAE**

235. \*Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*  
Seen regularly in low numbers at Cat Tien NP and on the Da Lat Plateau. A total of ten seen in Phong Nha NP.

### **MUSCICAPIDAE**

236. Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*  
One rather briefly at Cat Tien NP.
237. \*Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris*  
Low numbers at Cat Tien NP.
238. \*Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*  
Fine views of several females in Cuc Phuong NP.
239. Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla*  
One seen briefly at Phong Na NP.
240. \*Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*  
One male at Ho Tyen Lam.

241. \*Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*  
Common on the Da Lat Plateau.
242. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*  
One female in woodland above Ho Tyen lam.
243. \*Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi*  
Great views of two gorgeous males at Cuc Phuong NP.
244. \*White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concretus*  
Great views of a superb male at Cuc Phuong NP and several others heard.
245. \*Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*  
The first was brilliantly found by Ann at Cat Tien NP. Thereafter we found it commonly at Cuc Phuong NP.
246. \*Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas*  
Great studies of a male in Cuc Phuong NP.
247. \*Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*  
Thanks to some fine work by Carolyn we all got to see this attractive species in Cat Tien NP.
248. \*Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*  
Widespread and moderately common except in the highland areas.
249. \*White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*  
Common at lowland sites.
250. \*Plumbeous Water-redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*  
A pair at the large waterfall at Lo Xo.
251. \*Eastern Stonechat (Siberian S) *Saxicola maura*  
Scattered sightings of this recently split winter visitor from Kham Duc northwards.

252. \*Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*  
Two in grassland and cultivation at Cat Tien NP.
253. \*Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*: Small numbers in the Southern Highlands, and also at Cuc Phuong NP.

#### TURDIDAE

254. \*Blue Rock-thrush *Monticola solitarius*  
Three between Hue and Phong Nha NP and one at Cuc Phuong NP.
255. \*Blue Whistling-thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*  
One nicely at Lo Xo and several at Cuc Phuong; the latter of the black-billed nominate race.
256. \*White's Thrush *Zosterops aurea*  
One or two daily at Cuc Phuong NP including some fine views in the early morning light. This, the migrant Siberian form, is now considered a distinct species from the mainly sedentary forms in the region (Scaly or Small-billed Scaly Thrush *Z. dauma*).
257. \*Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis*  
Several in Ho Ci Minh's gardens in Hanoi and thereafter several daily including at least 25 on 31 March in Cuc Phuong.
258. Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*  
One seen poorly in the grounds of our hotel at Lang Co.
259. \*Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*  
One along the coast at Lang Co and one or two daily en route to and within Phong Nha NP. This taxon is split from Eurasian or Common Blackbird *T. merula*, following Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) Birds of South Asia.
260. (H) Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*  
Regularly heard sometimes very close by on the Da Lat Plateau.

## TIMALIDAE

261. \*Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus*  
Fine views of at least two birds as they carried what appeared to be small worms (presumably they were feeding young) and calling in degraded scrub along the coast road north of Lang Co Beach Resort. A much more attractive species than the illustration in the field guide suggests.
262. \*White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*  
Commonly heard in Cat Tien NP; three seen but not very well in Phong Nha NP and then superb views of three at Cuc Phuong NP.
263. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*  
Two in Phong Nha NP.
264. Black-hooded Laughingthrush *Dryonastes milleti*  
Sadly only glimpsed in the Tanung Valley.
265. \*Black-throated Laughingthrush *Dryonastes chinensis*  
Fabulous views of one individual which we 'scoped in Phong Nha NP.
266. \*White-cheeked Laughingthrush *Dryonastes vassali* **IE**  
Fabulous views of a flock of 55 at dawn in the Tanung Valley and then a group of 40 feeding in scrubby fields during the late afternoon at Ho Tyen Lam. This southern Indochinese endemic may be increasing, following the deterioration of primary forest into more secondary formations.
267. Grey Laughingthrush *Dryonastes maesi*  
Poor views in the fog at Tam Dao NP.
268. (H) Orange-breasted Laughingthrush *Stactocichla annamensis*  
Heard only in the Ta Nung Valley.
269. \*Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli*  
One seen well at Cuc Phuong NP.

270. \*Spot-throated Babbler *Pellorneum albiventre*  
Remarkably good views of this ultra-skulker Cuc Phuong NP.
271. \*Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*  
Great views at Phong Nha NP and Cuc Phuong NP.
272. \*Large Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*  
Exceptional views of a pair at Phong Nha NP and then even better views of a single bird at Cuc Phuong NP.
273. (H) White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*  
Heard in Cuc Phuong NP.
274. (H) Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*  
Several heard in the fog at Tam Dao.
275. (H) Coral-billed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*  
Heard in the fog at Tam Dao.
276. \*Limestone Wren-babbler *Gypsophila crispifrons*  
Fine views of a very responsive pair at Cuc Phuong NP of the Indochinese subspecies *annamensis*.
277. \*Streaked Wren-babbler *Napothera brevicaudata*  
Good looks at a single bird at Phong Nha NP.
278. \*Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps*  
Frequently encountered on the Da Lat Plateau.
279. \*Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea*  
Despite the fog, we managed to enjoy good views of this handsome species on our last morning at Tam Dao NP.
280. \*Sooty Babbler *Stachyris herberti*  
Surprisingly easy to see at Phong Nha NP where we encountered several groups including a group of three which gave us superb views of this charming and poorly known Limestone karst endemic. This species is restricted to just this region of Vietnam, and adjacent

Laos.

281. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*  
Heard daily in Cuc Phuong NP.
282. \*Spot-necked Babbler *Stachyris striolata*  
Fabulous views of a pair at Tam Dao.
283. \*Pin-striped Tit-babbler (Striped T B) *Macronus gularis*  
Common throughout in the lowlands.
284. Grey-faced Tit-babbler *Macronus kelleyi* **IE**  
Several Cat Tien NP.
285. \*Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*  
Excellent views of two in scrub at Cat Tien NP and three at Ho Tyen Lam.
286. \*Silver-eared Mesia *Mesia argenteauris*  
Fine views of a group of four in the Tanung Valley.
287. Vietnamese Cutia *Cutia legalleni* **E**  
Two seen rather poorly at Tuyen Lam. This is a recent split from Himalayan Cutia *C. nipalensis*.
288. \*Black-crowned Barwing *Actinodura sodangorum* **IE**  
Fabulous and prolonged views of this restricted range Lao-Vietnamese endemic was found within minutes of alighting the bus thanks to the knowledge of our guide Minh. We then watched for twenty minutes as a pair fed in a small copse of banana palms and scrubby trees at Lo Xo. Few birders have observed this striking species which was described as recently as 1998.
289. \*Blue-winged Minla *Siva cyanouroptera*  
A total of ten at Ho Tyen of the endemic race, *orientalis*, which has no blue on the wings or head!

290. \*Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis*  
 These smart little babblers were wonderfully common, responsive and visible at Cuc Phuong NP. This taxon belongs to North Indochinese *stevensi*.
291. \*Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe peracensis*  
 The Indochinese race *annamensis* was common on the Da Lat Plateau.
292. \*Black-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe grotei* **IE**  
 One seen in the 'scope at Phong Nha NP and common at Cuc Phuong NP. This distinctive lowland species is a fairly recent split from Mountain Fulvetta.
293. \*David's Fulvetta (Schaeffer's F) *Alcippe davidi*  
 Common at Tam Dao. A recent split from Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *A. fratercula*. *A. morrisonia* is now Morrison's Fulvetta, following Zou *et al.* (2007) Molecular phylogenetic analysis of the Grey-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe morrisonia*) of China and Indochina: A case of remarkable genetic divergence in a "species". *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 44: 165-174.
294. (H) Grey-crowned Crocias *Crocias langbianis* **E**  
 Frustratingly heard only in the Tanung Valley.
295. \*Chestnut-collared Yuhina *Yuhina torqueola*  
 This recent split from Striated Yuhina *Y. castaniceps* was seen commonly at Tam Dao.
296. Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*  
 Two seen at Cuc Phuong NP and briefly in the fog at Tam Dao
297. Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonica*  
 Common around our lodge at Phong Nha NP and daily at Cuc Phuong NP. White-eyes have recently been shown to belong with the babblers.

## **PNOEPYGIDAE**

298. Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*  
Heard in the Tanung Valley.

## **VIREONIDAE**

299. Annam Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* **E**  
One seen briefly and others heard in the Tanung Valley. Recent genetic studies have clearly shown that shrike-babblers are vireos, and not remotely related to babblers. Other studies (summarized in Rheindt & Eaton 2009: Species limits in *Pteruthius* (Aves: Corvida) shrike-babblers: a comparison between the Biological and Phylogenetic Species Concepts) have clearly demonstrated the need to split-up of the former White-browed Shrike-babbler *P. flaviscapis*.
300. Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus*  
Two of these handsome birds belonging to the endemic subspecies *indochinensis* were well found by Lucy above Ho Tuyen Lam.
301. \*White-bellied Erpornis (Yuhina) *Erpornis zantholeuca*  
Heard regularly on the Da Lat Plateau and seen commonly at Cuc Phuong NP. Formerly called White-bellied Yuhina, it has recently been demonstrated that this taxon is not a Yuhina, or even a babbler, being related instead to vireos.

## **STURNIDAE**

302. \*Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus*  
Common and observed daily as they attended a fruiting tree opposite our lodge at Cat Tien NP.
303. \*Common Hill-myna *Gracula religiosa*  
Two seen nicely at Cat Tien NP and again on the Da Lat Plateau.
304. \*White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis*  
A total of eight in cultivation around Phong Nha NP.
305. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
Just one seen near Kham Duc.

306. \*Vinous-breasted Myna *Acridotheres burmannicus*  
Ten in the Lo Xo area. A very attractive starling.
307. \*Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*  
Low numbers seen en route to the Da Lat Plateau; on the Da Lat Plateau and in the Lo Xo area.
308. \*White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensis*  
Several in farmland between Hue and Phong Nha NP.
309. \*Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica*  
One in Tanung Valley

#### **CHLOROPSEIDAE**

310. \*Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*  
Fabulous views of this striking species at Phong Nha NP and Cuc Phuong.
311. \*Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*  
Excellent views of a pair in Cat Tien NP.
312. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*  
Just one female seen in Cat Tien NP.

#### **DICAEIDAE**

313. \*Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*  
Thanks to some fine spotting by Ann we all enjoyed good views of this uncommon species at Cat Tien NP.
314. \*Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*  
Small numbers at Cuc Phuong NP.
315. \*Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Buff-bellied F) *Dicaeum ignipectus*  
Small numbers of this widespread species seen on the Da Lat Plateau.
316. \*Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*  
One or two seen daily from our lovely lodge at Cat Tien NP

## NECTARINIIDAE

317. \*Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*  
Several of these distinctive and very un-sunbird-like streaky-looking birds at Phong Nha and Cuc Phuong NPs.
318. \*Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*  
Several at Cat Tien NP and a male at Lang Co Beach.
319. \*Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*  
What a stunner. The south Indochinese race *annamensis* was common on the Da Lat Plateau.
320. \*Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae*  
Frequently encountered at Cuc Phuong NP.
321. \*Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*  
We saw several of the distinctive red breasted race *johnsi* on the Da Lat Plateau.
322. \*Eastern Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*  
Small numbers of the subspecies *tonkinensis* in the Tanung Valley and common at Phong Na NP. Just one male at Cuc Phuong NP.
323. Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*  
Typically fleeting views at Cat Tien NP
324. \*Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*  
Several seen on the da Lat Plateau and in Cuc Phuong NP.

## MOTACILLIDAE

325. \*White (Pied) Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
Just two near Danang.
326. \*Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
Scattered sightings of single birds.
327. \*Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*  
One *en route* to Kham Duc.

328. \*Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*  
One in the Lang Co area.
329. \*Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*  
Regular sightings of this common winter visitor from Siberia, from Hue northwards.
330. (H) Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*  
Heard along the coast at Lang Co.

#### FRINGILLIDAE

331. \*Vietnamese Greenfinch *Chloris monguilloti* E  
Small numbers as usual in the southern pine forests of the da Lat Plateau
332. \*Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*  
Great views of at least two in the pine forest above Ho Tuyen Lam thanks to some great spotting by Lucy. This large subspecies *meridionalis* must be one of the most isolated in the world, and a good bet for a future split.

#### PASSERIDAE

333. \*Eurasian Tree-sparrow *Passer montanus*  
Frequently seen around habitation.
334. \*House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
A pair in Hoi An.

#### ESTRILDIDAE

335. \*White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*  
A flock of six feeding in bamboo in the Tanung Valley.
336. \*Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*  
At least 50 in rice-fields near Lang Co.

## MAMMALS

1. Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonina*  
Three young and a fine adult male at Cat Tien NP.
2. Stump-tailed Macaque *Macaca arctoides*  
Fabulous views of at least 20 as the fed and growled in Phong Nha NP.
3. Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating M) *Macaca fascicularis*  
Just one at Cat Tien NP and at Phong Nha NP.
4. Delacour's Leaf Monkey *Trachypithecus delacouri*  
Fabulous encounters with this striking primate at the Van Long Nature Reserve. This year we had several views of at least six individuals as they clambered about the limestone karst crags. With just an estimated 150-180 remaining in the wild, this is one of the World's rarest primates.
5. Hatinh Leaf Monkey *Trachypithecus hatinhensis*  
Another very rare primate that we were very successful with, this time near the West Gate at Phong Nha NP. A troope of 12 were watched at dusk right by the roadside.
6. Black-shanked Douc Langur *Pygathrix nigripes*  
Four of these gorgeous and endangered primates were seen very nicely at Cat Tien NP.
7. Yellow (Buff)-cheeked Gibbon *Nomascus gabriellae*  
Often heard at Cat Tien NP.
8. Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva*  
Two at Cuc Phuong NP. The largest mongoose in Asia.
9. Leopard Cat *Felis viverrinus*  
One seen very nicely at Cat Tien NP.
10. Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*  
One in Cuc Phuong NP.

11. Pallas's Squirrel (Belly-banded) *Callosciurus erythraeus*:  
Commonly seen. A very widespread and variable species. The races included *flavimanus* with pale hands and feet in the south, and chestnut-bellied *erythraeus* in the north.
12. Maritime Striped Squirrel (Indochinese S S, Eastern S S)  
*Tamiops maritimus*  
Common on the Da Lat Plateau.
13. Rudolph's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rodolphii*  
One at Cuc Phuong NP.
14. Red-cheeked Squirrel *Dremomys rufigenis*  
One at Cuc Phuong NP.
15. Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*  
Several in Phong Nha NP.

## REPTILES

1. Tockay Gecko *Gekko gekko*  
At least one of these amazing huge geckos in the restaurant at Cat Tien NP.
2. Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*  
Common at Cat Tien.
3. Garden Fence Lizard *Calotes versicolor*  
One or two around the accommodation at Cat Tien NP
4. 'Flaming Red Calotes' *Calotes* sp  
Cat Tien NP.
5. Indochinese Gliding Lizard *Draco indochinensis*  
Several at Cat Tien NP.
6. Speckled Forest Skink *Mabuya macularia*: A few along the Crocodile Lake Trail, Cat Tien.

## BUTTERFLIES

1. Common Birdwing *Troides helena*
2. Golden Birdwing *Troides aeacus*
3. Common Windmill *Byasa polyeuctes*
4. Burmese Raven *Papilio mahadeva*
5. Great Mormon *Papilio memnon*
6. Common Jay *Graphium doson*
7. Spotted Zebra *Graphium megarus*
8. Great Zebra *Graphium xenocles*
9. Four-bar Swordtail *Graphium agetes*
10. Psyche *Leptosia nina*
11. Lesser Gull *Cepora nadina*
12. Chocolate Albatross *Appias lyncida*
13. Yellow Orange Tip *Ixias pyrene*
14. Common Wanderer *Pareronia anais*
15. Common Emigrant *Catopsila Pomona*
16. Three Spot Grass Yellow *Eurema blanda*
17. Tree Yellow *Ganaca harina*
18. Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia*
19. White Tiger *Danaus melanippus*
20. Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber*
21. Magpie Crow *Euploea radamanthus*
22. Common Evening Brown *Melanitis leda*
23. Lilacine Bush-brown *Mycalesis francisca*
24. Striped Ringlelet *Ragadia crisilda*
25. Large Faun *Faunis eumeus*
26. Common Duffer *Discophora sondaica*
27. Yellow Coster *Acraea issoria*
28. Great Assyrian *Terinos atlita*
29. Little Yeoman *Cirrochroa surya*
30. Rustic *Cupha erymanthis*
31. Blue Admiral *Kaniska canace*
32. Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites*
33. Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana*
34. Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*
35. Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta*
36. Orange Oakleaf *Kalima paralekta*
37. Common Sailer *Neptis hylas*

38. Common Lascar *Pantoporia hordonia*
39. Commander *Moduza procris*
40. Knight *Lebadea Martha*
41. Clipper *Parthenos Sylvia*
42. Common Earl *Tanaecia julii*
43. Archduke *Lexias pardalis*
44. Columbine *Stiboges nymphidia*
45. Malayan *Megisba Malaya*
46. Common Hedge Blue *Acytolepis puspa*
47. Zebra Blue *Syntarucus plinius*
48. Green Awl *Hasora salanga*
49. Plain Banded Awl *Hasora vitta*
50. Silver-breast Ace *Sovia albipecta*
51. Common Wight *Iton semamora*: Cat Tien

