

BUCKBIRD JOURNEYS LTD

BURMA THE GOLDEN LAND

A cultural and wildlife adventure in the most fascinating country in South East Asia

Thursday 10 – Thursday 22 February 2012

Participants

Hugh Buck (HB), Robin Atherton (RA), Betty Power (BP), Marilyn Browne (MB), Ken Cole (KC), Raymond Jeffers (RJ), Gloria Shrubsall (GS)

Agent and Organiser

Tony Htin Hla
Thiri Htin Hla

Wild Adventure Travels and Tours (WATT), Yangon
www.wild-myanmar.com

Burma has been much in the news in recent times and the country is much changed since my last visit in 1999. The new pro-democracy movement does this time seem real, many of the irksome restrictions have been removed, new shops and hotels are opening and visitor numbers are increasing. The next round of elections in April will to some extent show how real all this is – one hopes it will continue but not to the detriment of what remains a totally unique Asian experience

In the end we were still too early to be allowed to undertake our original and ambitious full tour route and had to be content with the now classic circle of Yangon, Bagan, Mt Victoria, Kalaw and Lake Inle – a route only pioneered in the 1980's and 1990's. But a classic it remains – in the warm dry weather of Burma's late "winter" it provided a spectacular and bird filled extravaganza whilst simultaneously taking in some of the greatest man made sights on earth, in particular the glittering Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and the extraordinary 4000 + temples on the plains of Bagan. Mt Victoria is still little visited and allows an insight into the lives of the minority Chin people whilst Lake Inle, in the shadow of the temple dotted Shan Hills, dazzles under the morning and evening sun.

There are, with the recent "splitting" (by some) of Jerdon's Minivet and Burmese Tit, now 6 birds endemic to Burma but, by my estimate, there are at least another 10 species which are, for a variety of reasons, difficult or next to impossible to see outside of Burma at this time. These are highlighted in the bird list and we were able to score a clean sweep of these endemic or near endemic species as well as a mouth watering range of others

Our task was made that much easier by the immaculate organisation and expertise of Tony Htin Hla and his delightful daughter Thiri of Wild Adventure Travels and Tours who, accompanying us throughout, made light of the formidable logistics, had comprehensive play back of the “big” birds, provided enlightened and relaxed company and a series of Burmese and other meals to die for. Your writer is both deeply indebted to them for a marvellous experience and also extremely proud of their development into forces in both tourism and conservation in this extraordinary country. Let us hope that other areas of this varied land will open up again to give us the opportunity to return

Day by Day

Friday 10 February

Thai international and Bangkok Airways have us all at Yangon’s (Y) immaculate new terminal by mid morning, immigration and customs are relaxed and efficient and Thiri is there to greet us all, book us into our modern hotel and take us to the first of a series of memorable local meals. A relaxed afternoon sees us down at the old Yangon Sailing Club, exploring the environs of the Inya Lake Hotel and having a look at old downtown Yangon, still with a lot of impressive, if sometimes fading, old colonial style buildings. Evening at the glittering Shwedagon Pagoda is nothing if not memorable. First we witness the extraordinary evening exodus of literally millions of Wrinkle-lipped Bats from the pagoda’s northern entrance then, in the evening dark, we walk round the upper stupa with the extraordinary floodlit (and scaffolding free) dome stretching up into the night sky above us. Beyond any doubt one of the great cultural sights of the world

Saturday 11 February

Our gentle introduction to the bird life of Lower Burma effectively starts with morning and late afternoon visits to Hlawaga Park (HP), a rare patch of protected dry forest and lakes close to Yangon. A steady flow of birds includes both Lesser and a few Fulvous Whistling Ducks, a few lovely Cotton Pygmy Geese, flocks of White-crested Laughingthrushes, calling Puff-throated Babblers and, in the evening, a cock Green Peafowl in full, glittering display. A few mammals are native or have been re-introduced here including Sambar and the neat little Hog Deer, Rhesus Macaque and Wild Boar.

Sunday 12 February

O600 sees us back at the airport and Air Bagan has us efficiently at Bagan (B) itself by early morning, our first (of many) endemic White-throated Babblers are in the airport parking lot and the Kaday Aung Hotel is nice and shaded. The rest of the morning is spent in the fields and scrub around the nearby Sitsana Pagoda where the endemic Burmese Bushlark is common, the first of several endemic Jerdon’s Minivets are easily located and a pair Spotted Owlets frequents the temple itself. The cute “bat girl” Thida joins us today for the Bagan and Mt Victoria legs. She is a little overawed at first but, once she loses her initial shyness, is a welcome and useful addition

After lunch and a siesta the later afternoon and evening sees us on the Irrawaddy River itself where the list climbs again with Indian Spot-billed Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, River Lapwing, dozens of evening Small Pratincoles, a circling Laggar Falcon with prey, Grey-throated Martin and a few ghostly pale Sand Larks. We make one landing where, on a well vegetated island, White-tailed Stonechats are common and we tape in a responsive party of Striated Babblers. Rum sundowners and sunset over the outliers of the Chin Hills with the expanse of the Bagan pagodas to the east are again memorable

Monday 13 February

Dawn again finds us at the Sitsana Pagoda and a long sweep of the surrounding fields eventually results in sightings of at least 11 Rain Quail, including birds flushing from underfoot, overhead and on the ground. They are the pick of the morning which also includes, for those who make the climb, roosting Great Large-eared Roundleaf Bats in the temple itself. A visit to the Law Ka Nan Dar Restoration Project by the river has a flowering bombax tree full of Vinous-breasted Starlings and a few Jungle Mynas and a male Blue-throated Flycatcher is also found. Chinese Francolins are calling around the Kyauk Gu Pagoda in the evening but cannot be located.

Tuesday 14 February

An early start has us away south and across the new bridge over the Irrawaddy River then west through dry dipterocarp forest from Chauk to Saw and onto the slopes of Mt Victoria at Kanpetlet (C-K). It is a long hot, dusty day but is made memorable by a fine pair of endemic Hooded Treepies at our breakfast stop west of Chauk, good views of Alexandrine, Red-breasted and the much wanted Grey-headed Parakeet and a fine roadside White-eyed Buzzard. The well appointed Pine Wood Villa above Kanpetlet is our home for the next 4 nights and its immediate environs in the evening produce Crested Finchbill, a male Slaty-backed Flycatcher and, for some, the first glimpses of the little Chin Hills Wren-babbler. Most surprising is what seems to be a perfectly good male Mugimaki Flycatcher, a species little known in Burma

Wednesday 15 February

A big and long day this, concentrating on the upper reaches of Mt Victoria (MV) which we reach by dawn and breakfast. We soon tape in the first of several endemic White-browed Nuthatches, near endemic Assam Laughingthrushes are on the road and we also soon locate a pair of the equally range restricted Brown-capped Laughingthrush. A series of further good sightings this morning include a male Slaty-blue Flycatcher, the now "split" Hume's Treecreeper, the equally now "split" Burmese Tit, point blank looks at both Chin Hills and Scaly-breasted Wren-babblers, Himalayan Cutia, Streak-throated Barwing, the first of many Grey Sibias, several Fire-tailed Sunbirds (but alas no full tailed males) and a nice trio of Brown Bullfinch. Lower down in the afternoon the list grows with a female Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush perched atop a pine tree, vocal Chestnut-vented Nuthatches, Aberrant Bush Warbler and, for some at least, looks at the range restricted Striped Laughingthrush

Thursday 16 February

Today we concentrate on the middle levels of the mountain including an extensive patch of evergreen forest. We commence at our site of the previous evening, eventually get everyone onto the sneaky Striped Laughingthrush and score big with a restless flock of the tiny and now near endemic Buff-throated Parrotbill moving through the low bamboo. We sanitise such as Black-bibbed and Black-throated Tits, Bar-tailed Treecreeper and Little Bunting – all seen one way or another yesterday evening and, as the morning progresses, add Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Maroon Oriole, Chestnut-flanked White-eye, the Mt Victoria race (species?) of Chinese Babax, Whiskered Yuhina and 2 males and a female of the elusive Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker to our growing tallies. The afternoon, in and below the evergreen forest, is slower going but White-tailed Nuthatch, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Blyth's Shrike-babbler, Red-tailed Minla and, late in the day, the tricky Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler all oblige. We also make a start on the flocks of Eye-browed and the rare Grey-sided Thrush which will be a target for tomorrow morning

Friday 17 February

Thrushes indeed and in the early morning sun we all enjoy multiple sightings of yesterday's two species whilst some, in the first vehicle, confirm a Scaly Thrush flushed off the road pre dawn and a Long-tailed Thrush flying across later on. Flycatchers and Warblers also abound on these lower slopes including Vivid Niltava, Dark-sided, Hill Blue, Tickell's Blue and Pygmy Blue Flycatchers and Hume's, Whistler's and (alas for only a few) Black-faced Warblers. Other notables are a pale Mountain Hawk Eagle, an immature Crested Goshawk, extraordinary close looks at a pair of Wedge-tailed Pigeon, a responsive but flighty Bay Woodpecker and an immaculate party of fully plumaged Mrs Gould's Sunbirds. For the late evening die hards a pair of Crimson-faced Liocichlas respond but move through very rapidly. Perhaps an extra day on Mt Victoria would have revealed a few more but we could be well satisfied from our return from this extraordinary birding site

Saturday 18 February

We are away 0530 to back track through Saw, Chauk and on again to Bagan. First stop just east of Saw for early morning Parakeets which include three pairs of Blossom-headed, one pair in amorous mood! In the early morning cool Yellow-footed Green Pigeons are perched up, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes are active and a walk along the road produces a flighty male Red-headed Trogon and a pair of Golden-fronted Leafbirds. It is ferociously hot and dry at our lunch spot but a Changeable Hawk-eagle flies past and, glory be, a pair of White-rumped Falcons gives point blank views from our chairs. Back at Bagan we visit the Danzayazaka Pagoda for sunset and hear both Chinese Francolin and Indian Nightjar, but no success in chasing the latter

Sunday 19 February

The Nightjar succumbs pre dawn at the Sitsana Pagoda then the morning is spent relaxing and sight seeing before an efficient Air Mandalay flight to Heho where the airport bombax trees are full of Starlings including a fine trio of the near endemic Collared Myna. On and up to Kalaw (K) and the Honey Pine Resort where local guide Gideon is on hand to take us on an evening walk on Dhein Taung hill for Japanese Tit, Yellow-eyed Babbler, a yellow vented Sooty-capped Bulbul, Russet Sparrow and some fine Black-headed Greenfinches. Toddies with local honey and Mandalay rum enhance the evening dinner!

Monday 20 February

Our day down to the good looking forests at Yay-aye-kan (YaK) is somewhat blighted by wind and the visit of a local politician (with all its associated disturbance) to the reservoir which is only accessible along the road we are taking. Our pickings are thus a bit lean but do, in the end, include Speckled Piculet, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Davison's and Marten's Warblers, Spectacled Barwing and Dark-backed Sibia. But assorted malaises are affecting various members of the party and for once the evening is a bit subdued

Tuesday 21 February

A reduced party makes the return visit to Yay-aye-kan but today, an hour earlier, in calmer conditions and without any politicians, the pickings are richer. First up a pair of Black-tailed Crakes (heard yesterday) are out in the open in the paddies at the forest edge, yesterday's Spectacled Barwings re-appear and Dark-backed Sibias are significantly more obvious than yesterday. And Gideon, on a mission, manages to pull out a pair of the much wanted Burmese Yuhina, again very nearly endemic to Burma, feeding on a hillside tree and we all get scope views of this elusive creature. Back at Kalaw he also takes a few maniacs on, by all accounts, a mini death march but they do get distant views of a Brown-breasted Bulbul. After an immature Rufous-winged Buzzard in the pines downslope from Kalaw the evening, on the backwaters and then the waters of Lake Inle (LI), is more gentle paced. The highlight is a series of views of both male and female Jerdon's Bushchats, easier to see here than anywhere else on earth. Dinner is livelier with (good) local Taungyi wine and Mandalay rum again on offer!

Wednesday 22 February

We wind it all down with another morning boat ride where several Ferruginous Pochards amongst the other ducks, plenty of Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, multitudes of Sand Martins and three individual Bluethroats vie with more Jerdon's Bushchats and others for our attention. Lunch over it is back to Heho airport, Air Yangon to Yangon and a last dinner with Tony to round off a marvellous tour redolent with highlights of every sort

Thursday 23 February

The morning flights back to Bangkok sees us bid a reluctant farewell to the “Golden Land” and life without Thiri to organise it again takes over!

Birds

1. Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)
HP only 11/2
2. Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)
3 at HP 11/2
3. Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*)
4. Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Along the Irrawaddy at B 12/2 and 13/2
5. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)
6. Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
Several along the Irrawaddy at B 12/2
7. Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)
A single at LI 21/2
8. Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)
9. Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)
A couple along the Irrawaddy at B 12/2
10. Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*)
The split still not yet fully recognised
11. Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)
The resident species over much of Burma
12. Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*)
Again if the dark wing tips are really an identification feature we saw several of these at LI 21/2 and 22/2
13. Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*)
A couple at HP 11/2
14. Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanensis*)
Large numbers of restless birds at HP 11/2 and several hundred on LI 21/2 and 22/2
15. Fulvous Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)
At least 6 amongst the Lessers at HP 11/2
16. Cotton Pygmy Goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)
10 or so amongst the throng at HP 11/2
17. Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)
Numerous along the Irrawaddy at B 12/2 and 13/2
18. Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhynchus*)
Numerous along the Irrawaddy at B and at LI
19. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)
Several 00's at LI 21/2 and 22/2
20. Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)
A few amongst the Garganey at LI 21/2 and 22/2
21. Ferruginous Pochard (*Aythya nycora*)
8, amongst the ducks at LI 22/2

22. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
2 at HP 11/2. Still talk of a multiple split of this species
23. Oriental Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)
Y, B, C-K, and MV
22. Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)
Singles at Y 10/2, Heho 192 and LI 22/2
23. Black-eared Kite (*Milvus (migrans) lineatus*)
6 at Y on 10/2. Still not an “officially” recognised split
25. Crested Serpent-eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)
Multiple sightings C-K, MV, K and YaK
26. Eastern Marsh Harrier (*Circus spilonotus*)
A single bird, against the light, at LI on 22/2 was presumably this species but may have been *C. aeruginosus*
27. Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)
A single near the Kyauk Gu Pagoda at B 13/2
28. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)
Singles at Y and HP 10/2 and 11/2 and two C-K 14/2
29. Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*)
An immature at MV 17/2
30. White-eyed Buzzard (*Butastur teesa*)
An adult close to the C-K road 14/2
31. Rufous-winged Buzzard (*Butastur liventer*)
Good views of a perched immature below K on 21/2
32. Common (Himalayan) Buzzard (*Buteo (burmanicus) buteo*)
Y, HP, C-K and K. A proposed “loose” split, not yet widely recognised
33. Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*)
Several on MV 15/2, 16/2 and 17/2
34. Changeable Hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus limnaeetus*)
A single K-C 18/2
35. Mountain Hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus nipalensis*)
A single at MV 17/2
36. Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
2 at Y 10/2 and 1 at YaK 21/2
37. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
One on the Shwedagon dome 10/2, and singles at B 12/2 and 13/2
38. Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*)
A single circling with prey B 12/2 and another 13/2. A relatively rarely recorded dry country Falcon
39. Northern Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)
One made a single lightning dash through the emerging bats at the Shwedagon Pagoda on 10/2 (RA)
40. White-rumped Falcon (*Polihierax insignis*)
“If any of you actually want to see that Falconet you better look here”!
We did indeed and revelled in that close male at our lunch spot west of Chauk on 18/2. He perched calmly, peered down and even dropped on prey before disappearing. The female in a nearby tree almost went unnoticed. This road seems to be a hotspot for this elusive dry dipterocarp specialist. Way to go Marilyn!

41. Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)
Several heard easily at B in the early evenings of 13/2 and 18/2 but strangely silent when we went seriously looking for them in the early morning of 19/2
42. Hill Partridge (*Arborophila torquelo*)
A pair duetting on the upper reaches of MV on 15/2 got mixed in with too many other things
43. Red Junglefowl (*Galus gallus*)
Several at HP 11/2, a single C-K 13/2 and heard frequently on MV
44. Green Peafowl (*Pavo muticus*)
Who will ever forget that full plumaged cock in full display at HP on 11/2. That must have been one sexy beer bottle! Another heard that morning. OK re-introduced here but more than 20 years ago and breeding freely. Get it ticked, it's a good native species!
45. Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*)
We made a big effort for this one in the fields around the Sitsana Pagoda on 13/2 (having heard it the previous day) and were rewarded with sightings of at least 11 birds including rare views on the ground
46. Barred Buttonquail (*Turnix suscitator*)
A single for some, flushed near the Kyauak Gu Pagoda at B on 13/2
47. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
2 at HP 11/2
48. Black-tailed Crake (*Porzana bicolor*)
Heard at the edge of the paddies at YaK 20/2 and two feeding, unconcerned, out in the open early morning 21/2. A relatively widespread but rarely seen inhabitant of open areas in hill forest and part of an excellent selection of Rallidae for those that took the whole tour
49. Purple (Grey-headed) Swamphen (*Porphyrio (poliocephalus) porphyrio*)
Several at LI 21/2 and 22/2. Part of a possible multiple split of this species but not yet fully recognised
50. Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
2 at HP 11/2. Now split from American forms
51. Common Coot (*Fulica atra*)
> 1000 birds on LI 21/2 and 22/2
52. Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirugus*)
LI 21/2 and 22/2. At least 20 birds in partial plumage
53. Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
54. Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
55. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)
A couple flushed at our breakfast stop C-K on 14/2 and a couple at LI 21/2
56. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)
57. Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
58. Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)
Up to 3 along the Irrawaddy at B on 12/2. Those that took the full tour recorded an extraordinary total of 41 species of shorebird by the time we had finished
59. Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)
60. Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)

61. Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
HP and B
62. River Lapwing (*Vanellus davaucei*)
3 along the Irrawaddy at B 12/2 and another 3 on 13/2
63. Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)
Only a single, at HP 11/2
64. Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenuru*)
A single LI 21/2 and 3 on 22/2
65. Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*)
Up to 100 whirling about over the Irrawaddy in the evening of 12/2
and 5 birds on 13/2
66. Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*)
Abundant on LI 21/2 and 22/2 even if one hungry boat consumed their
snacks! Tasty were they lads?
67. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)
At least 2 picked out amongst the Brown-headeds at LI 22/2
68. Ashy Wood Pigeon (*Columba pulchricollis*)
A single scoped on the upper reaches of MV 15/2
69. Oriental Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)
Abundant around K and YaK 19 – 21/2
70. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)
71. Red-collared Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)
Just a single noted, at B 12/2
72. Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
Common at B. This endemic (to the Burmese dry zone) ssp
xanthocyclus is darker with a conspicuous yellow eye ring
73. Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)
A couple at YaK 20/2
74. Thick-billed Green-pigeon (*Treron curvirostra*)
A pair at YaK 21/2
75. Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon (*Treron sphenura*)
Extraordinary close views of an unconcerned pair in a roadside tree on
MV 17/2
76. Yellow-footed Green-pigeon (*Treron phoenicoptera*)
Around 10 scoped in the early morning sun near Saw on 18/2
77. Mountain Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula badia*)
A couple at YaK 20/2
78. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)
A female at a nest hole Inya Lake Hotel Y 10/2
79. Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*)
A few along the C-Y road 14/2 and 18/2
80. Grey-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula finschii*)
The C-Y road must be the best place in the world to still see this
disappearing Psittaculid (and 5 other species to boot). Up to 10 on 14/2
and 4 on 18/2 with some exceptional studies
81. Blossom-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula roseata*)
A trio for some on 14/2 and good looks at 6 (including a “doing what
comes naturally” pair) on 18/2
82. Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandrii*)
Flocks of around 40 from our breakfast stop on 14/2

83. Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopacea*)
Easily heard in Y and HP
84. Green-billed Malkoha (*Rhopodytes (Phaenicophaeus) tristis*)
Singles at HP 11/2, C-K 14/2 and YaK 20/2 and 21/2. Even Robson cannot decide on the latin name for this one!
85. Asian Emerald Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx maculatus*)
A female at YaK 21/2 (RA)
86. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)
Odd birds here and there throughout including several at LI
87. Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*)
A single at LI 22/2
88. Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
A single at the Shwedagon Pagoda 10/2 (MB)
89. Collared Owlet (*Glaucidium brodei*)
We heard (from Tony and Gideon) a lot of this one but only one was real, on MV on 15/2!
90. Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)
A single C-K 14/2 and heard on 18/2
91. Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)
A cooperative pair at the Sitsana Pagoda at B on 12/2 and a single there on 13/2
92. Grey Nightjar (*Caprimulgus jotaka*)
They were faithful to one stretch of road on MV with up to 4 predawn on 15/2, 16/2 and 17/2
93. Indian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus asiaticus*)
One in daylight from one vehicle at B 18/2 and a predawn bird near the Sitsana Pagoda on 19/2
94. Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)
95. Germain's Swiftlet (*Collocalia germani*)
Plentiful at Y and HP 10/2 and 11/2
96. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)
97. Red-headed Trogon (*Harpactes erythrocephalus*)
A responsive but flighty male near Saw on 18/2
98. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
99. White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)
100. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)
B only
101. Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)
Regularly encountered in the lowlands. Spp *ferrugeiceps* of this wide ranging and often different looking species
102. Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*)
A few Y and HP 10/2 and 11/2
103. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*)
Common at HP 11/2
104. Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)
105. Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)
B only
106. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)
Easily heard and a few seen on MV

107. Lineated Barbet (*Megalaima lineate*)
A couple scoped C-K 14/2. Heard again 18/2
108. Golden-throated Barbet (*Megalaima franklinii*)
Heard on MV and good views of one 16/2
109. Blue-throated Barbet (*Megalaima asiatica*)
Heard commonly at YaK 20/2 and 21/2
110. Blue-eared Barbet (*Megalaima australis*)
Ditto
111. Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)
Good studies (even in the scope!) at B 12/2 and 13/2
112. Speckled Piculet (*Picumnus innominatus*)
A single at YaK 20/2
113. White-browed Piculet (*Sasia ochracea*)
A single C-K on 14/2 was a good catch back for some from Thailand
114. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus hyperythrus*)
The only obvious Woodpecker on MV 15/2, 16/2 and 17/2. This handsome Asian “Sapsucker” had to compensate for a disappointing return for this family here
115. White-bellied Woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*)
Views for some C-K 14/2
116. Bay Woodpecker (*Blythipicus pyrrhotis*)
A responsive but flighty individual on MV 17/2
117. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (*Picus macei*)
One for some at B 12/2
118. Himalayan Flameback (*Dinopium shorii*)
Rather distant scope views of this uncommon species C-K 14/2
119. Golden-fronted Leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*)
A nice vocal pair near Saw 18/2
120. Orange-bellied Leafbird (*Chloropsis harwickii*)
A single then a pair YaK 20/2 and 21/2
121. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)
122. Burmese Shrike (*Lanius colluroides*)
Common enough at B and a few at YaK
123. Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)
A few around K and YaK 20 – 22/2
124. Eurasian Jay (*Garrulax glandarius*)
A single on MV on 17/2 and a trio on Dhein Tuang 19/2. The distinctive white faced ssp *leucotis*
125. Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhynchus*)
Up to 5 K-C 18/2 and a noisy pair near K 21/2
126. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa flavirostris*)
Rather fleeting views of a single on the higher reaches of MV on 15/2 and a pair on 16/2
127. Grey Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae*)
One on the ground in a rice paddy at YaK on 20/2 was something of a surprise!
128. Racket-tailed Treepie (*Crypsirina temia*)
Nice views of a single bird at HP 11/2

- 129. Hooded Treepie (*Crypsirina cucullata*)**
For my money Burma's best endemic, restricted to the dry zone of the centre of the country. Good looks at a pair at our breakfast stop C-K 14/2
130. House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)
As usual nothing splendid about this potential pest – abundant in Y, B, K and around LI. These dark birds are of the spp *insolens* and can be confused with 131
131. Eastern Jungle Crow (*Corvus (macrorhynchus) leuallantii*)
Some want to split this into four but it has yet to widely adopted
132. Ashy Woodswallow (*Artamus fuscus*)
One or more birds at Inlay town on 22/2
133. Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)
A couple at HP 11/2 and C-K 14/2
134. Slender-billed Oriole (*Oriolus tenuirostris*)
Heard in the pines around K and a single scoped on 20/2
135. Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*)
A couple at HP 11/2
136. Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus trailli*)
Several on MV and at YaK
137. Large Cuckooshrike (*Coracina macei*)
One in flight at YaK 21/2
138. Indochinese Cuckooshrike (*Coracina polioptera*)
On reflection the bird identified as Black-winged (evergreen forests above 300m) at HP on 11/2 should have been this
- 139. Jerdon's Minivet (*Pericrocotus (erythropygus) albifrons*)**
Several at B 12/2, 13/2 and 19/2, especially around the Sitsana Pagoda, granted a series of excellent looks. A not yet fully recognised but seemingly good split, on geography and appearance, from the White-bellied form in India, this endemic seems to be increasing around B in recent years
140. Grey-chinned Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*)
A couple on MV 17/2
141. Long-tailed Minivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*)
Frequently encountered on the upper reaches of MV
142. Short-billed Minivet (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*)
A small party positively identified near the Pine Wood Villa 14/2
143. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)
K-C road 18/2 and frequent at YaK
144. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*)
Several at YaK
145. Blyth's Shrike-babbler (*Pteruthius aerolatus*)
Singles on MV 15/2 and 16/2 and another at YaK. Both part of a 4 way split of this species and destined also to be split away from true Babblers and put into Vireonidae. Despite a big effort the only member of its genus we could find to see
146. Green Shrike-babbler (*Pteruthius xanthochlorous*)
Only heard several times on MV but could not be induced into view
147. Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*)
Several at HP and B

148. Yellow-bellied Fantail (*Rhipidura hypoxantha*)
A common member of mixed flocks on MV. This is in fact a Fairy Warbler (other species found in Africa) and not a Fantail at all
149. White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*)
Only a single, on MV 16/2
150. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)
151. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)
Common in several forms. Mostly the darker *mouhoti* on MV
152. Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*)
Common at YaK
153. Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)
Common along the C-K road 14/2 and 18/2
154. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)
Several at HP 11/2 and a single K-C 18/2
155. Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*)
Several encounters
156. Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*)
2 individual females MV 15/2 and a fine male 17/2
157. Blue Rock-thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)
A single male at the Sitsana Pagoda at B 12/2 and 13/2
158. Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus*)
A single at YaK 20/2 and 21/2
159. Black-breasted Thrush (*Turdus dissimilis*)
A probable female in with other species at MV 16/2 got away before it could be confirmed (KC)
160. Grey-sided Thrush (*Turdus feae*)
A couple on MV on 16/2 and excellent views of at least a dozen on 17/2. This rare species is probably easier to see here than anywhere else
161. Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*)
Several mixed in with 160 on 16/2 and 17/2. One at YaK 21/2 was more unexpected
162. Long-tailed Thrush (*Zoothera dixonii*)
Several *Zootheras* flushed off the MV tack at dawn may have been this species but only one, on the morning of 17/2, was properly identified
163. Scaly Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*)
And only one of these, with obvious white tail tips, also on 17/2. Both species sadly only for a few in the first vehicle
164. Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)
3 birds from our boat at LI 22/2
165. Himalayan Bluetail (*Tarsiger rufilatus*)
A few on MV 15 – 17/2. Yes Marilyn this is a different bird from the one we saw in China which is now *T. cyanurus*
166. Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*)
167. White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*)
Singles C-K road 14/2 and 18/2
168. Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*)
A female at B 13/2 and females and a single male near K 19/2 and 20/2
169. Blue-fronted Redstart (*Phoenicurus frontalis*)
Regularly encountered on the upper reaches of MV

170. White-capped Water-redstart (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*)
A single bird at the YaK dam 20/2 and 21/2
171. White-crowned Forktail (*Enicurus leschenaulti*)
A pair at YaK 20/2 and 21/2. Typically sneaky
172. Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maura*)
B and common at LI
173. White-tailed Stonechat (*Saxicola leucura*)
A least a dozen gave excellent views on the Irrawaddy island we visited on 12/2
174. Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*)
Common in the lowlands
175. **Jerdon's Bushchat (*Saxicola jerdoni*)**
Positively abundant by the watery approaches to LI with 5 on 21/2 and at least 20, males and females, on 22/2. This must surely be the easiest place on earth to see this often elusive species
176. Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferrea*)
Common at MV and K
177. Slaty-backed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hodgsonii*)
Single males MV 14/2 and 17/2
178. Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*)
One at HP 11/2. Now split from the "Siberian" Red-throated (*F. parva*)
179. Little Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula westermanni*)
A few on MV and one at K
180. Slaty-blue Flycatcher (*Ficedula tricolor*)
A nice male of ssp *cerviventris* high on MV 15/2. Good one Glo!
181. Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*)
A male bird near the Pine Wood Villa MV on 14/2 seemed to have everything including the white post ocular patch. Only problem, there seem to be no previous records for Burma! (although it is common in Indochina)
182. Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa strophiiata*)
A few at mid levels on MV
183. Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*)
MV and YaK
184. Dark-sided Flycatcher (*Muscicapa sibirica*)
Several MV 17/2. One studied closely
185. Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa daurica*)
Singles Y, HP and near the Pine Wood Villa MV
186. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher (*muscicapella hodgsoni*)
A little flock on MV 17/2 was too quick for most
187. Large Niltava (*Niltava grandis*)
Only heard in the evergreen forest on MV 16/2 and 17/2
188. Vivid Niltava (*Niltava vivida*)
A male briefly in a Flycatcher flock MV 17/2
189. Blue-throated Flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides*)
A nice male at B 13/2
190. Hill Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis banyumas*)
A single male MV 17/2
191. Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*)
A male amongst the others MV 17/2

192. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)
A single C-Y 14/2 and a couple at YaK 20/2
193. Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnus malabarica*)
A tree full of some 40 birds at our breakfast stop C-K 14/2 and also at Heho 19/2 and 22/2 and at LI 22/2
194. Black-collared Starling (*Sturnus nigricollis*)
A single near K 20/2 and a couple at LI 21/2
195. Vinous-breasted Starling (*Sturnus burmannicus*)
Common at B. This endemic nominate ssp is a candidate for a split from the yellow billed *leucocephalus* of the rest of Asia
196. Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)
197. Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*)
3 in a bombax tree at B 13/2
198. White-vented Myna (*Acridotheres grandis*)
Around K and LI
- 199. Collared Myna (*Acridotheres albocinctus*)**
3 gave good views in the flowering bombax trees at Heho airport 19/2 and 6 were seen in flight near Inlay on 21/2. Although it just creeps into Manipur in India and into extreme SW China, Burma is the only logical place to see this species
200. Chestnut-vented Nuthatch (*Sittab nagaensis*)
Common in the pines at mid elevations on MV
201. White-tailed Nuthatch (*Sitta himalayensis*)
Easily heard in the evergreen forest on MV but just a single seen on 16/2
- 202. White-browed Nuthatch (*Sitta victoriae*)**
Virtually endemic to Mt Victoria, we had several of these delightful little birds on its upper reaches on 15/2. Only rediscovered for western eyes in 1995 after being “lost” for more than 50 years
203. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*)
A couple at YaK 20/2
204. Bar-tailed Treecreeper (*Certhia himalayana*)
A few in the pines on MV 15/2 and 16/2. The isolated ssp *ripponi*
205. Hume’s Treecreeper (*Certhia (discolor) manipurensis*)
Several at higher and mid elevations on MV 15 – 17/2. This is a not yet universally recognised split of South East Asian birds from Brown-throated (*C. discolor*) which is now considered confined to the Himalayas
206. Black-bibbed Tit (*Parus hypermelaena*)
Several on the higher levels of MV 15/2 and 16/2. The population here is very isolated from the main population in China but it appears to be monotypic
207. Japanese Tit (*Parus minor*)
Common at K and YaK 29 – 21/2. Slightly greenish of back but a not yet fully accepted split from *P. major* / *cinereus*
208. Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*)
A couple of birds on MV 16/2 and 17/2
209. Yellow-cheeked Tit (*Parus sillonotus*)
A single at YaK 20/2 as we “hid” from the political entourage

210. Yellow-browed Tit (*Sylviparus modestus*)
A frequent member of bird flocks on MV but not always distinguished from the multitudes of accompanying Warblers
211. Black-throated Tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*)
A few (the orange crowned *manipurensis*) on MV 17/2 and a couple (the grey crowned *pulchellus*) at YaK on 20/2. Keep an eye on these – the splitters are into them
- 212. Burmese Tit (*Aegithalos (bonvaloti) sharpei*)**
Viz. Now generally recognised as endemic to Burma and distinct from the different looking Black-browed (*A. bonvaloti*), more than 600 km away in China. Some large flocks (30+ birds) on MV 15/2 and 16/2
213. Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)
Several hundred over the reeds and waters of LI 22/2
214. Grey-throated Sand Martin (*Riparia chinensis*)
Plentiful over the Irrawaddy river at B 12/2 and 13/2. . Probably a correct split from Plain Martin (*R. paludicola*) which is now considered confined to Africa
215. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rusticola*)
216. Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*)
4 birds at the Dhan Ma Kan bridge near K on 21/2
217. Striated Swallow (*Hirundo striolata*)
Several at YaK 20/2
218. Asian House Martin (*Delichon dasypus*)
Many over the mid levels of MV 16/2 and 17/2
- 219. Burmese Bushlark (*Mirafra microptera*)**
Common at B. Endemic to central Burma
220. Australian Bushlark (*Mirafra javanica*)
5 or so of these paler breasted birds picked out amongst the Burmese near the Sitsana Pagoda on 13/2
221. Sand Lark (*Calandrella raytal*)
4 of these ghosts along the Irrawaddy River 12/2
222. Crested Finchbill (*Spizixos canifrons*)
This much wanted species was happily common on the lower reaches of MV and at YaK
223. Striated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus striatus*)
And this handsome fellow common at higher altitudes on MV especially in the evergreen forest
224. Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*)
Regularly encountered
225. Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)
3 at HP 11/2
226. Brown-breasted Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*)
The diehards who did the second “death march” at Dhein Taung at K on 21/2 were at least rewarded with a distant pair
227. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)
Common. This ssp *melanchimus* is variable and known to hybridise with 228 in east Burma
228. Sooty-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)
At least one pair we saw at Dhein Taung on 19/2 seemed of a pure yellow vented ssp, probably *letouchi*

229. Flavescent Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flavescens*)
A few on MV and common at YaK. ssp *vividus*
230. Stripe-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus findlaysoni*)
4 scoped at HP 11/2. This endemic pale eyed ssp *davisoni* is endemic to south Burma and needs marked as a potential split
231. Streak-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus blanfordi*)
Common in the lowlands. Nominate ssp
232. Mountain Bulbul (*Hypsipetes maclellandii*)
A couple (ssp *ventralis*) on MV 17/2 and at least 10 at YaK (ssp *tickelli*) on 21/2
233. Himalayan Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*)
A few at Yak 20/2 and 21/2. The dark headed *concolor*
234. Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola jundicis*)
A couple at the Irrawaddy River island 13/2
235. Brown Prinia (*Prinia atrogularis*)
One for some at LI 22/2
236. Black-throated Prinia (*Prinia atrogularis*)
Individuals seen on MV 16/2 and 17/2 were of the ssp *hasiana*. “They” are partly into this as well with *P. atrogularis* now split from Hill Prinia, *P. superciliaris*. *hasiana* is a candidate for a further split as well
237. Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*)
One in good voice at B 12/2
238. Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*)
And several, even more so, at LI 22/2
239. Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*)
Common in the lowlands
240. Chestnut-flanked White-eye (*Zosterops erythropleurus*)
A few amongst the mixed flocks on MV 16/2 and 17/2
241. Chestnut-headed Tesia (*Tesia castaneocoronata*)
Heard only MV 16/2
242. Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler (*Cettia fortipes*)
One seen 15/2 and another heard MV 17/2
243. Aberrant Bush-warbler (*Cettia flavolivacea*)
Seen by most MV 15/2 and 16/2
244. Rusty-rumped Warbler (*Locustella certhiola*)
One typically sneaky one glimpsed from one boat at LI 22/2
245. Black-browed Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus bigstrops*)
Only poorly seen at LI 22/2
246. Oriental Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus orientalis*)
Several in good voice and conspicuously perched at LI 21/2 and 23/2. Some like to split these resident birds here as Indian Reed Warbler, *A. brunescens*
247. Black-faced Warbler (*Abroscopus schisticeps*)
One in a flock MV on 17/2 was only seen by one or two before that horrible “farting” truck spoiled everything
248. Broad-billed Warbler (*Tickellia hodgsoni*)
Heard only in the upper bamboo on MV 16/2
249. Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)
Common and often heard in the lowlands

250. Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*)
Ditto in more forested areas
251. Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)
Singles at HP 11/2 and B 12/2
251. Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*)
Several in the acacias at our hotel in B 12/2 and 13/2
252. Buff-thoated Warbler (*Phylloscopus subaffinis*)
A few identified on the upper reaches of MV 15/2
253. Buff-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus pulcher*)
The number of *Phylloscopus* Warblers wintering on MV is mind boggling and this is the default one, present in 00's if not 000's
254. Ashy-throated Warbler (*Phylloscopus maculipennis*)
Plenty of these as well
255. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)
One identified at HP 11/2
256. Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)
This and 257 were numerous at mid levels on MV but most were not differentiated
257. Hume's Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*)
258. Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)
Singles at HP 11/2 and MV 14/2
259. Two-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*)
Only identified at HP 11/2
260. Blyth's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus reguloides*)
Common on MV
261. Davison's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus davisoni*)
Common by voice at YaK and a few seen. Now generally recognised as distinct from White-tailed Warbler which is now *P. ogilviegranti*
262. Whistler's Warbler (*Seicercus whistleri*)
Singles on MV 16/2 and 17/2. Others heard
263. Marten's Warbler (*Seicercus omeiensis*)
Vocal at YaK and one taped in on 20/2. These are new splits from the former Golden-spectacled Warbler which now no longer exists as such
264. Grey-hooded Warbler (*Seicercus xanthoschistos*)
A few in mixed flocks MV 15/2 and 17/2. Now reckoned to be a *Phylloscopus* and its arboreal habits would seem to bear this out
265. Striated Grassbird (*Megalurus palustris*)
A single at YaK 20/2 than several at LI 21/2 and 23/2, In voice
266. White-crested Laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*)
A couple of noisy flocks at HP 11/2
267. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush (*Garrulax monileger*)
Several near Saw 18/2
268. White-browed Laughingthrush (*Pterorhinus sannio*)
Common around K and YaK
- 269. Striped Laughingthrush (*Strophocincla virgatus*)**
We worked on a pair high on MV 15/2 and 16/2 , saw another on 17/2 and heard others. Endemic to the Chin Hills and adjacent and largely inaccessible states in India

270. **Brown-capped Laughingthrush (Trochalopteron austeni)**
A pair relatively easily seen high on MV on 15/2 and others heard. Again endemic to the Chin Hills and adjacent eastern India
271. Assam Laughingthrush (Trochalopteron chrysopterum)
Easily seen on the higher reaches of MV on 15/2 with views of at least 30 birds. A recent split from Chestnut-crowned, the ssp here is *erythrolaema*
272. Silver-eared Laughingthrush (Trochalopteron melanostigma)
Another split from Chestnut-crowned and easily heard at YaK. We could not get one into view however. Wide ranging in SE Asia
273. Chinese Babax (Babax lanceolatus)
3 seen on MV 15/2 and others heard. This endemic race *woodi* has been suggested as a species (Mt Victoria Babax) but is not yet widely accepted
274. Crimson-faced Licichla (Liocichla phoenicea)
Those who stayed on to the end on MV on 17/2 were rewarded with a responsive but fast moving pair. Heard elsewhere. This endemic ssp *bakeri* is sometimes split from nominate
275. Puff-throated Babbler (Pellornem ruficeps)
A couple of very responsive birds at HP 11/2
276. **Spot-breasted Scimitar-babbler (Pomatorhinus maclellandii)**
Part of a now 4 way split of the former P. erythrocnemis and restricted to Burma and SW China. Eventually all got onto a semi responsive bird on MV 16/2
277. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler (Pomatorhinus erythrognys)
Heard around K and at YaK but could not be induced into view
278. Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler (Pomatorhinua ruficollis)
Heard on MV and a single bird seen on 17/2
279. White-browed Scimitar-babbler (Pomatorhinus schisticeps)
Seen at K and YaK 19/2, 20/2 and 21/2
280. Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler (Pnoepyga albiventer)
Wonderful close views of one on the upper reaches of MV 14/2. Probably not a Babbler at all!
281. **Chin Hills Wren-babbler (Spelaeorhis oatesi)**
Often heard and one at least giving point blank views on MV 14/2. The former Long-tailed Wren-babbler (S. chocolatinus) is now split into 4 with this species pretty well endemic to the Chin Hills and adjacent Mizoram in India
282. Golden Babbler (Stachyris chrysea)
We at last all got onto this often heard species at YaK 20/2 and 21/2. ssp *binghami* in the west and *aurata* in the east
283. Pin-striped Tit-babbler (Macronous gularis)
Heard at HP and seen near Saw on 18/2
284. Yellow-eyed Babbler (Chrysomma sinense)
A couple on Dhein Taung K on 19/2 and 6 or so at YaK 20/2
285. Striated Babbler (Turdoides earlei)
A very responsive party of 6 birds on the Irrawady River island on 12/2
286. **White-throated Babbler (Turdoides gularis)**
Common at B and endemic to the dry country of central Burma

287. Silver-eared Mesia (*Leiothrix argenteauris*)
Surprisingly elusive, heard on MV but only one seen, at YaK 20/2.
This one probably *ssp galbana*
288. Himalayan Cutia (*Cutia nipalensis*)
A couple high up on MV 14/2 and 3 on 15/2. Now split from *C. legalleni* in Vietnam
289. Rusty-fronted Barwing (*Actinodura egertoni*)
A nice group of 4 on MV 15/2. *ssp ripponi*
290. Spectacled Barwing (*Actinodura ramsayi*)
A group of about 6 gave good views at the edge of the YaK forest 20/2 and 21/2
- 291. Streak-throated Barwing (*Actinodura waldeni*)**
A nice group of about 6 on the upper reaches of MV 14/2. The *ssp poliotis*. Although it extends into NE India and SW China it is rarely seen off this mountain
292. Chestnut-tailed Minla (*Minla strigula*)
Regular in the evergreen forest of MV 15/2 and 16/2. *ssp yunnanensis*
293. Red-tailed Minla (*Minla ignotincta*)
A group of 4 with 292 on 16/2
294. Rufous-winged Fulvetta (*Alcippe castaneiceps*)
A large flock of around 30 birds on MV 16/2. Nominate *ssp*. Keep an eye on Fulvettas – “they” are now into them
295. White-browed Fulvetta (*Alcippe vinipectus*)
Common at higher altitudes on MV 15 – 17/2. *ssp ripponi*
297. Brown-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe poiocephala*)
A group of 4 along the C-K road 14/2. Heard on 18/2. *ssp phayrei*
298. Grey-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe yunnanensis*)
Several at YaK 20/2 and 21/2. This has become, with the splitting off or more eastern forms, another taxonomic minefield
299. Nepal Fulvetta (*Alcippe nipalensis*)
A few on MV on 17/2. Perhaps not given the attention they deserved!
300. Rusty-capped Fulvetta (*Alcippe dubius*)
This one was however! A single calling bird was eventually tracked down on MV 17/2. The well marked *ssp mandelli*
- 301. Grey Sibia (*Heterophasia gracilis*)**
Common on MV which remains the easiest place to see this bird. *ssp dorsalis*
302. Dark-backed Sibia (*Heterophasia melanoleuca*)
A few at YaK 20/2 and 21/2. The well marked *ssp castanoptera* with rufous tertials
303. Whiskered Yuhina (*Yuhina flavicollis*)
Occasional birds on MV 16/2 and 17/2. *ssp rouxi*
303. Stripe-throated Yuhina (*Yuhina gularis*)
Commonly encountered on the upper reaches of MV 15 – 17/2.
Nominate *ssp*

- 304. Burmese Yuhina (*Yuhina humilis*)**
Gideon located a pair of this elusive and desperately wanted species for us in a flowering tree at YaK on 21/2 and we enjoyed scope views of everything including the diagnostic grey collar. A lifer for all, essentially restricted to Burma (this ssp *clarki*) with an outpost (ssp *humilis*) on the Tenassarim / Thailand border where it is rarely recorded
- 305. Buff-breasted Parrotbill (*Suthora (nipalensis) ripponi*)**
A superb active little group of around 30 in the low bamboo on MV on 16/2. A probably good but not yet fully accepted split (from nominate *S. nipalensis*) this ssp is endemic to the Chin Hills with another, *patriciae*, occurring over the border in Mizoram, India
306. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum melanoxanthum*)
A notoriously elusive member of its family, we were pleased to get long looks at two individual males and a female on MV 16/2
307. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)
A few on MV and at YaK
308. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)
4 at HP 11/2 and one C-K road 14/2
309. Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*)
4 at HP 11/2
310. Mrs Gould's Sunbird (*Aethopyga gouldiae*)
A nice gathering of about 10, including full plumaged males, lower slopes of MV 17/2
311. Green-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga nipalensis*)
Several higher up, also in full finery
312. Black-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga saturate*)
At least 3, in full nick, at YaK 20/2
313. Fire-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga ignicauda*)
But sadly these, perhaps the finest of them all, were not quite there although they were common enough on the higher reaches of MV 15/2 and 16/2
314. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)
One at HP 11/2 but not many (if any?) got onto it
315. Amur Wagtail (*Motacilla (alba) leucopsis*)
The common form encountered in our travels in Burma
316. Himalayan Wagtail (*Motacilla (alba) alboides*)
A single photographed in the "Crake" paddy at YaK on 20/2
317. Swinhoe's Wagtail (*Motacilla (alba) ocularis*)
One at YaK 21/2
318. Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)
A couple by the Irrawady 12/2 and 3 at LI 22/2
319. Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla (flava) thurnbergi*)
The light crowned bird at LI on 22/2 seemed to be this and not the darker crowned *macronyx*
320. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)
A couple at YaK 20/2
321. Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*)
At B and YaK

322. Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*)
3 at B 13/2. Watch this endemic ssp *yamethini* which differs markedly from others in this widespread species which is a candidate for a multiple split
323. Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)
Plentiful on MV and a few at YaK
324. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
Y and K
325. Plain-backed Sparrow (*Passer flaveolus*)
Common at B
326. Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
327. Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*)
Several on Dhein Tuang 19/2
328. Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)
Numbers at B 13/2
329. Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)
Common at B
330. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch (*Carduelis spinoides*)
Frustratingly only heard a few times on MV
331. Black-headed Greenfinch (*Carduelis ambigua*)
No such problem with this one, easily seen on Dhein Tuang on 19/2 and near K on 21/2
332. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)
A few on MV all seemed to be full plumaged males!
333. Brown Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula nipalensis*)
3 on the upper reaches of MV 15/2. The endemic ssp *victoriae*
334. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)
Abundant on burned areas of MV 15 – 17/2

Mammals

1. Burmese Hare (*Lepus peguensis*)
1 (RJ) at B predawn on 14/2
2. Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel (*Dremonys lokriah*)
Singles on MV 15/2, 16/2 and 17/2
3. Finlayson's (Variable) Squirrel (*Callosciurus finlaysoni*)
A couple in Y 10/2
4. **Irrawaddy Squirrel (*Callosciurus pygerythrus*)**
Common at B and endemic to central Burma
5. Himalayan Striped Squirrel (*Tamiops mccllellandii*)
Common on MV, often mixed in with bird flocks
6. Fawn-coloured Mouse (*Mus cervicolor*)
The "putative" identification of the small short tailed rodent caught in the headlights at B 14/2
7. Large-eared Roundleaf Bat (*Hipposideros pomona*)
20 or so roosting at the Sitsana Pagoda at B. Thanks to Thida for keeping us right on this one

8. Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bat (*Chaerephon plicatus*)
And this one as well. The extraordinary sight of literally millions leaving their roosts in swirling “smoke” columns at the Shwedagon Pagoda on 10/2 was one of the highlights of the tour
9. Small Asian Mongoose (*Herpestes javanica*)
One at B (RA) 12/2
10. Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*)
One going about its nefarious business at dusk at B 13/2
11. Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*)
Reaching plague proportions at HP
12. Eurasian Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*)
Several at HP 11/2. Re-introduced here
13. Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*)
Ditto and thriving
14. Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*)
Ditto

Hugh Buck

**Buckbird Journeys Ltd
Scaurbank
Keir
Thornhill
Dumfriesshire DG3 4DD
Scotland**

Tel: 00 44 1848 330933
E mail: bigbuck44@btinternet.com

