

THAILAND HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 9–28, 2019



Gray Peacock-Pheasant

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By Dion Hobcroft



The stunning male Blue Pitta that came in to one of the wildlife viewing hides at Kaeng Krachan.

We returned to the “Land of Smiles” for our annual and as expected very successful tour in what is undoubtedly the most diverse and comfortable country for birding in Southeast Asia. Thailand is fabulous. Up early as is typical, we went to the recently sold off Muang Boran fish ponds—now sadly being drained and filled in. The one surviving pond was still amazing, as we enjoyed great looks at Pallas’s Grasshopper Warbler, Baillon’s Crake, a winter-plumaged Watercock, Black-headed Kingfisher, and a handful of Asian Golden Weavers, although only one male fully colored up. Nearby Bang Poo was packed to the gills with shorebirds, gulls, and fish-eating waterbirds. Amongst the highlights here were Painted Storks, breeding plumaged Greater and Lesser sand-plovers, hundreds of Brown-headed Gulls, primordial Mudskippers, and even more ancient: a mating pair of Siamese Horseshoe Crabs! Beverly spotted the elusive Tiger Shrike coming in to bathe at a sprinkler. A midday stroll around the ruins of the ancient capital of Ayutthya also offered some good birds with Small Minivets, a Eurasian Hoopoe feeding three chicks, and a glowing Coppersmith Barbet creating some “oohs and aahs” from first time Oriental birders, and rightly so. One last stop at a Buddhist temple in limestone hills in Saraburi revealed the

highly localized Limestone Wren-Babbler; they were quite timid this year, although finally settled for good looks.



To be in close proximity with a bull Asian Elephant on foot in a forest environment is like traveling back in time and gives you considerable appreciation for the power of these most giant of land mammals. (Photo Beverly VanDyke)

Khao Yai National Park was our destination playground for the next two and a half days. This justifiably famous national park is one of the largest in Thailand. It is well-protected, dominated by evergreen forest with some grassland areas. We had many fantastic encounters here, perhaps the most memorable with a bull Asian Elephant feeding just in from the forest edge as we looked on just a few meters away. Lucky us, as elephant sightings are not guaranteed in the dense jungle here. Another highlight was a family of White-handed Gibbons that wowed us with their gymnastic skills and operatic song. No one will forget the great looks at Silver Pheasant, Red-headed and Orange-breasted trogons, Banded Kingfisher, Long-tailed Broadbill, or incredible Great Hornbill. One vehicle was lucky enough to see a pair of Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoos skulk across the road. A supporting cast of other high-quality birds included Wreathed Hornbill, Greater Flameback, Indian Cuckoo, Asian Emerald Cuckoo, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Silver-backed Needletail, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Sultan Tit, Black-throated Laughingthrush, Slaty-backed Forktail, or just the pure colors of the glowing Chestnut-headed Bee-eater. A night drive produced a Buffy Fish-Owl, great looks at Small Indian Civet, and a bonus—a daytime sighting of a female emerald-green Vogel's Pit Viper resting in a tangle of rattan.

Returning to Bangkok, we took an afternoon flight to Chiang Mai, enjoying the Empress Hotel. Our hoped-for appointment with the Green Peafowl happened right on schedule, finding a fine male at his roost and enjoying the lustrous emerald-green colors of this highly ornamental and threatened pheasant. More birds came past including the handsome Black Baza, Indian Roller, Eurasian Jay, and the

brilliant, if tiny, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. Well-catered for by our support cooking team of Sakhon and Lam, we were settling into this dining in the wild experience. We moved along to Doi Inthanon. The afternoon was spent at two sites at the base of the mountain. We found about half a dozen Blossom-headed Parakeets including a pair of still dependent juveniles being fed by the adult female. The population has shrunk considerably over the years. It was a good session with fine looks at Black-collared and Chestnut-tailed starlings, a lovely Burmese Shrike, a pair of Plain-backed Sparrows, our first Green Bee-eaters, and a very songful Indochinese Bushlark.



A male Banded Kingfisher at Khao Yai National Park. (Photo: Beverly VanDyke)

A fantastic rush of new birds is a highlight for participants at the summit of Doi Inthanon. Here at 8,000 feet in old growth evergreen forest, the birding is distinctly Himalayan. Silver-eared Laughingthrush, Chestnut-tailed Minla, and Dark-backed Sibia dominate the babbler stakes. We had a superb encounter with a trio of beautifully plumaged Rufous-throated Partridges. Glowing Green-tailed and Gould's sunbirds flitted through the flowering Rhododendrons while a host of leaf-warblers (Buff-barred, Ashy-throated, and Claudia's), Rufous-winged Fulvetta, and Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail dominated the small insectivore bird waves. This is certainly the place to enjoy the antics of the "Himalayan" White-browed Shortwing—a fantastic inky-blue skulker: the original "angry bird" with its flaring supercilious expression. Snowy-browed and a handy male Slaty-backed Flycatcher, plus a female Eye-browed Thrush were all fortuitous. The shy, terrestrial Red-cheeked Squirrel was the mammal highlight, giving unprecedented views. Butterfly-watching was as diverse as the birdlife at lower altitudes. The afternoon proved quieter in the heat but came good with a remarkably tame Lesser Shortwing and a fine White-capped Restart. The leader was called upon to remove an Indochinese Rat Snake (non-venomous) from the public ladies' bathroom. With a feather duster as a snake hook, it all went to plan.

First light found us on a forest track. It was a stop-start sort of morning, with the birds not really getting going for us and many proving frustrating—the drought conditions not helping, I suspect. With persistence though, we began to kick a few goals, none better than a fine male Green Cochoa that showed up and perched quite openly for a short while before fleeing the scene. It is always difficult to see this scarce cryptic forest thrush. Blyth's Shrike-Babbler performed beautifully, as did Mountain Tailorbird, Hume's Treecreeper, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Gray-chinned Minivet, Davison's Leaf-Warbler, Spectacled Barwing, and Golden-throated Barbet. Verditer Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher, Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher, and Yunnan Fulvetta—more common and typically conspicuous species—rounded out the morning.

Late in the afternoon we explored some nearby ricefields that held a dozen handsome Gray-headed Lapwings. Mike spotted what he thought was a snake swimming across a storage pond. It was in fact a Caecilian, a most unusual and rarely encountered limbless amphibian. Black and striking yellow, it swam straight towards us and disappeared into a hole in the bank. It was a bit of a wow moment for me, having never seen any species before, and it was most unexpected in the heat of the day! Beverly even managed a good photo. Mike wandered into the fields, and a flurry of Pin-tailed Snipe and Scaly-breasted Munias flew up. Then up came a fantastic Yellow-legged Buttonquail and flew parallel past us. This is very much a declining bird. Back in the park at Vachitharan Waterfall, we found a male Plumbeous Redstart, yet another White-capped Redstart, and some quite tame Puff-throated Bulbuls. Later a Black-backed Forktail made a fleeting appearance at the well-known bridge site. On dusk we found a Spotted Owlet, a couple of Tokays, and had good views of a tiny flying squirrel with a flattened tail and black eye patches. It was thought to be Temminck's Flying Squirrel.



A rarely seen completely harmless “snake-like” amphibian called a Koh Tao Caecilian was most unexpected.
Photo Beverly VanDyke

A final morning at Doi Inthanon saw a combination of roadside birding and then a foray on the “Jeep Track.” Overall it was pretty lively. A stunning male Asian Emerald Cuckoo may have been the highlight, although a Pygmy Cupwing popped up beautifully for great looks. Yellow-cheeked Tit, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Large Niltava, and Streaked Spiderhunter all showed well, with other species seen bombing over including Bay Woodpecker, Asian Emerald Dove, and both Banded Bay Cuckoo and Large Hawk-Cuckoo. Most unusual was a presumed Chinese Bush-Warbler, a rare bird out of typical wintering habitat, presumably on migration. This finished up our time at Doi Inthanon, and we headed northwest to the border of Myanmar at Doi Ang Khang. On the way we stopped at the picturesque temple at Doi Chiang Dao. A stroll around the forest here yielded a quick succession of good birds including a Pin-tailed Pigeon, a male Blyth’s Paradise Flycatcher, and a lovely pair of Streaked Wren-Babblers.



Fantastic views of a male Hume's Pheasant at Doi Lang were a trip highlight this year.

Settled into Doi Ang Khang, we had a cracking morning exploring along the roadsides. Good bird followed good “nok,” the Thai word for bird. Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, Crested Finchbill, and numerous mating and singing Spot-winged Grosbeaks showed well, but the highlight had to be the Giant Nuthatch. A migrant Greater Spotted Eagle was a bonus. Later, at a photographer’s stakeout, we enjoyed fantastic views of White-tailed Robins, a Silver-eared Mesia, a female Rufous-bellied Niltava, and a lovely pair of Hill Blue Flycatchers. Black-breasted Thrush was in good numbers. Plenty of birds were attracted to flowering and fruiting trees including Blue-throated Barbet, Gray Treepie, Maroon Oriole, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Brown-breasted and Striated bulbuls, glowing Gould’s Sunbirds, and Chestnut-flanked White-eye. Right on the border a

Yellow-streaked Warbler gave great views. Chestnut-vented and our first Velvet-fronted nuthatches made it a three-nuthatch day. Trawling for pheasants and partridges produced a blank. A meter-long Oriental Vine Snake (non-venomous) with its distinctive long pointed rostrum was seen cruising across the road.

A final morning at Doi Ang Khang, and we had a reduced number of birds to try and target. We whistled-in a dapper little Rufous-fronted Babbler. Success was had with the scarce Spot-breasted Parrotbill that showed well indeed. White-browed Laughingthrushes posed for scope views on a scrubby hillside while a handsome Crested Goshawk performed its aerial display with fluffed undertail coverts and occasional bursts of rapid flickering wing beats. A major bonus was a Slender-billed Oriole, only my second sighting here. Doi Ang Khang had been kind to us. We descended from the mountain and moved along to the town of Fang. The afternoon hours found our group studying patches of riverine grassland and ricefields. Best was a stunning male Pied Harrier.



A beautiful male Siberian Rubythroat posed very well at Doi Lang.

Our day at Doi Lang is always a tour highlight. This year we were up against it a bit, as the site had been widely burnt and, in fact, several of the key areas were still smoldering at the time of our visit. First up though, Gray Nightjars started our session flying through our torch beams. Then one of the big birds of the trip, two male and a female Hume's Pheasant, posed beautifully for us, one male being chased off by the other as they vied for the female's attention. Fantastic! A patch of evergreen forest had been badly

burnt, and it did not look hopeful at all. Amazingly though, many of the best birds were still present and, with patience, good views were enjoyed of the ultra-cute White-gorgeted Flycatcher, wintering White-bellied Redstart and Siberian Rubythroat, the shy Asian Stubtail, Aberrant Bush-Warbler, and even another pair of Hume's Pheasants. The day reached a climax when Rat found a trio of Himalayan Cutias. This is a bit of a Holy Grail bird in Thailand and a stunning species. It was new for Mike, Rat, and myself in Thailand. The views were great, even preening in the scope. Returning down the mountain, we found our road blocked by a fallen tree, the base still on fire! Summoning our group strength, including our secret weapon Tirat (aka T-Rex), we rolled this sizeable tree out of the way! I was impressed with everyone. Late in the afternoon we enjoyed Asian Barred Owlet and dinner on a terraced restaurant overlooking fields of rice and sunflowers.



Stunning Silver-breasted Broadbills: in an amorous mood at Kaeng Krachan.

A final morning in the north was spent exploring Chiang Saen Lake on a boat, cruising across the serenely flat surface. A few lingering waterbirds were found including a surprise vagrant Great Crested

Grebe; single Mallard, Northern Shoveler, and Eurasian Wigeon; a few Eurasian Coots; Great Cormorant; good numbers of Gray-headed Swamphens and Indian Spot-billed Ducks; and hundreds of Lesser Whistling-Ducks. A visit to the Golden Triangle led to some shopping before our flight returned us to Bangkok. This gave us a chance for a bit of rest before our big day in the Gulf of Siam and our quest for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper.



A lovely male Zappey's Flycatcher we found at Laem Pak Bia.

This proved to be one tough quest! First light found us at the well-known site in commercial salt fields at Laem Pak Bia. Scouring through thousands of shorebirds, we searched and searched. We searched so diligently we found a Little Stint acquiring breeding plumage, a *sakhalina* Dunlin also acquiring breeding plumage, and an Eastern Curlew in a huge flock of several hundred Eurasian Curlews. All three are quite rare in Thailand! With all the shorebirds molting into breeding plumage and the sheer number of the birds here, it was truly spectacular. It is not often you are looking through Broad-billed Sandpipers, Curlew Sandpipers, Marsh Sandpipers, Long-toed Stints, and Red-necked Stints if you're a North American birder. More searching produced Ruff, Red-necked Phalarope, Terek Sandpiper, Great Knot, Spotted Redshank, and Great Knot. Hundreds of Greater and Lesser sand-plovers, Kentish Plovers, and

Black-bellied Plovers gave the participants plenty to digest on this shorebird tutorial. Still no sign of "Spoony"; I was beginning to fret. We gave it a break and did a boat trip to a remote sand spit, where we found the hoped-for Malaysian Plovers and the rare Chinese Egret. Six species of terns loafed on the beach. Lunch in an air-conditioned restaurant allowed us to recharge our batteries. Post-lunch, we toured around a Royal Project where the first bird we found was a stunning male Zappey's Flycatcher, a scarce passage migrant on its way to the mountains of central China. Next, up popped a pair of Greater Painted-Snipes and a tame Temminck's Stint and Wood Sandpiper, plus an Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Now we were back to searching for "Spoony," but to no avail, and we had to admit defeat on this day. I hatched a plan.



In very overcast gloomy conditions the male Gray Peacock-Pheasant came in for a drink at one of the wildlife hides at Kaeng Krachan. This photograph is a 10th/sec at 6400 ISO.

A very pleasant morning (once we found the turnoff) at Khao Sam Roi Yot allowed us to study a drumming female Rufous Woodpecker that was using a rooftop to great effect. In the marshes, a pair of male Cotton Pygmy-geese chased each other around repeatedly. Racket-tailed Treepie, Chestnut Munia, two species of reed-warblers, numerous Black-backed Swampens, photogenic Yellow Bitterns, and an outbreak of Plaintive Cuckoos kept us entertained. We spent a couple of hours relaxing at the lovely beachside hotel. Moving along, this time to Kaeng Krachan, we had booked a wildlife hide on private property adjoining the national park. We experienced the only rain of the tour; it became so gloomy and dark, in fact, that a Collared Scops-Owl started calling at 4:30 pm. This was the moment the star of the show decided to appear—a stunning male Gray Peacock-Pheasant snuck into view, gave the waterhole a thorough security assessment, and then wandered right down to drink just in front of us as we watched

with bated breath. There was not much light for photography, but we could not complain about the views of this most excruciatingly shy pheasant with its glowing purple ocelli. Then a timid Lesser Mouse Deer materialized for a close study of this most diminutive of ungulates.

Kaeng Krachan National Park was building a new road up to the plateau, and thus much access to some 30 km of the park was currently off limits. This meant we could only bird the lower stretch up to the Ban Kram campground. Still, this is rich forest habitat, and our first morning here showed why. Banded, Black-and-yellow, Black-and-red, and Silver-breasted broadbills all gave amazing views. Five species of woodpeckers showed well including our first Common Flameback, Greater Yellownape, Streak-breasted, and Gray-faced. Chestnut-breasted Malkoha showed superbly, as did Sultan Tit, Gray-rumped Treerunner, Black-thighed Falconet, and yet another Zappay's Flycatcher. Talking with a university researcher, he told me about two male King Cobras, four meters-long, he had observed in dominance combat the day before! For the afternoon we visited a different hide. A dizzying variety of birds and small mammals wandered in and out of view, some 22 species of birds alone. Big highlights included our first Scaly-breasted Partridges, White-browed and Large scimitar-babblers, and a superb Orange-headed Thrush; then an even bigger prize materialized with a stunning male Blue Pitta.



Success at last: the “Critically Endangered” Spoon-billed Sandpiper at Khok Kham.

Our second full day at Kaeng Krachan found us re-exploring along the very quiet road to Ban Kram. It started when we found an Asian Elephant walking in a thick vine tangle just next to the road giving obscured but decent views. We then hit the jackpot when across the road ambled a large male Sun Bear! This is a rarely encountered ursid, only my second sighting ever. The day was made! Fruiting figs attracted Great Hornbills, and we squeezed a few more new birds onto the list like Eastern Crowned Warbler and Ochraceous Bulbul, but the birding remained more subdued than it had been the previous

day when everything was jumping following the rain and termite hatching events. A new wildlife hide awaited us in the afternoon. We had seen the great majority of species we were likely to encounter by this stage; however, it was fun to watch the behavior of Red Junglefowl, Greater and Lesser Necklaced laughingthrushes, bathing Abbott's and Puff-throated babblers, Black-naped Monarch, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin, another Lesser Mouse Deer, and no shortage of lustrous Asian Emerald Doves. Right on dusk our patience was rewarded when in ran a sub-adult Slaty-legged Crake, one of the shyest and rarest forest rails in the continent. It was only my third ever sighting. It plunged into the water for a speedy bath, a species scared of its own shadow. Kaeng Krachan had been fantastic for us; despite our limited access we had truly done well here.

Our last day, and time for our plan to be put into action. Two hours after breakfast we were at Khok Kham. Mr. Tee had seen a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the early morning but was utterly dismayed when by the time we arrived it had moved along. This is an area of about five square kilometers with dozens of ponds and thousands of birds. While we enjoyed watching breeding plumaged Great and Red knots, Broad-billed Sandpipers, and Common Redshanks, Tee roamed far and wide. The breakthrough was made and, after a lengthy, somewhat tricky hike, there was Female No. 5 identified by a pale green leg flag "spooning" away in a shallow pond with several other migratory shorebirds. We all enjoyed long scope views of this critically endangered iconic shorebird. Nine birds were found this year wintering in the Gulf of Siam. This really is a needle in a haystack, and a big thank you to Tee who persisted with us for a day and a half in our search.

Our tour concluded where it all began, in Bangkok. The superb buffet received a work-out, we enjoyed icy-cold Singha Draught, and then we flew onto home after a good night of sleep. Our fabulous team of Mike, Sakhon, Lam, Tirat, and Rat had done a truly astonishingly fantastic job looking after us in the field including 19 meals in the forest. It had been a successful, healthy tour with plenty of laughs. Thank you so much for traveling with me.



The powerful fluting song of the Large Scimitar-Babbler is heard far more frequently than it is seen.



Another beautiful migrant en route to China and Korea was this glowing male Yellow-rumped Flycatcher at Kaeng Krachan.

BIRDS

Lesser Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*)

Cotton Pygmy-goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)

Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Rufous-throated Partridge (*Arborophila rufogularis*)

Scaly-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila chloropus*)

Green Peafowl (*Pavo muticus*)

Gray Peacock-Pheasant (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*)

Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*) Heard only

Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*)

Hume's Pheasant (*Syrmaticus humiae*)

Silver Pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*)

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*)

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)

Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*)

Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*)

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

Cinnamon Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Intermediate Egret (*Ardea intermedia*)

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Pacific Reef-Egret (*Egretta sacra*)

Chinese Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*)

[Eastern] Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus [ibis] coromandus*)

Chinese Pond-Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*)

Javan Pond-Heron (*Ardeola speciosa*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Oriental Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*)

Rufous-winged Buzzard (*Butastur liventer*)

Eastern Marsh-Harrier (*Circus spilonotus*)

Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucus*)

Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*)

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Black-eared Kite (*Milvus [migrans] lineatus*)

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Common Buzzard (*Buteo [buteo] japonicus*)

Slaty-legged Crake (*Rallina eurizonoides*)

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

White-browed Crake (*Amaurornis cinerea*)

Baillon's Crake (*Zapornia pusilla*)

Ruddy-breasted Crake (*Zapornia fusca*)

Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*)

Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*)

Black-backed Swamphen (*Porphyrio indicus*)

Eurasian Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Black-bellied (Gray) Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)

Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*)

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)

Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

Malaysian Plover (*Charadrius peronii*)

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Greater Painted-Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*)

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)

Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*)

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris falcinellus*)

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*)

Pin-tailed Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

Brown-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*)

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*)

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Great Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*)

*Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Red Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Barred Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia unchall*)

Asian Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)

Thick-billed Green-Pigeon (*Treron curvirostra*)

Pin-tailed Green-Pigeon (*Treron apicauda*)

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula badia*)

Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo (*Carpococcyx renauldi*)
Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)
Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*)
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*)
Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*)
Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopacea*)
Asian Emerald Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx maculatus*)
Banded Bay Cuckoo (*Cacomantis sonneratii*)
Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*)
Large Hawk-Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx sparverioides*)
Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) Leader only

Buffy Fish-Owl (*Ketupa ketupu*)
Collared Owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei*) Heard only
Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)
Brown Boobook (*Ninox scutulata*)
Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)

Great Eared-Nightjar (*Lyncornis macrotis*)
Gray Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*)
Large-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus macrurus*)

Silver-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus cochinchinensis*)

Brown-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus giganteus*)

Himalayan Swiftlet (*Aerodramus brevirostris*)

Germain's Swiftlet (*Aerdodramus germani*)

Cook's Swift (*Apus cooki*)

Pacific Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

House Swift (*Apus nipalensis*)

Asian Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)

Crested Treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronata*)

Gray-rumped Treeswift (*Hemiprocne longipennis*)

Orange-breasted Trogan (*Harpactes oreskios*)

Red-headed Trogan (*Harpactes erythrocephalus*)

Eurasian Hoope (*Upupa epops*)

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)

Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)

Wreathed Hornbill (*Aceros undulatus*)

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Banded Kingfisher (*Lacedo pulchella*)

White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)

Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris*)

Blue-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctyornis amictus*)

Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)

Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*)

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*)

Indian (Black-billed) Roller (*Coracias [benghalensis] benghalensis*)

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Coppersmith Barbet (*Psilopogon haemacephala*)

Blue-eared Barbet (*Psilopogon australis*)

Great Barbet (*Psilopogon virens*) Heard only

Red-throated Barbet (*Psilopogon mystacophanos*) Heard only

Green-eared Barbet (*Psilopogon faiosticta*)

Lineated Barbet (*Psilopogon lineata*)

Golden-throated Barbet (*Psilopogon franklinii*)

Moustached Barbet (*Psilopogon incognita*)

Blue-throated Barbet (*Psilopogon asiatica*)

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos atratus*)

Greater Yellownape (*Picus flavinucha*)

Streak-breasted Woodpecker (*Picus viridanus*)

Black-headed Woodpecker (*Picus erythropygius*) Leader only

Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*)

Common Flameback (*Dinopium javanense*)

Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropterus brachyurus*)

Greater Flameback (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*)

Bay Woodpecker (*Blythipicus pyrrhotis*)

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Black-thighed Falconet (*Microhierax fringillarius*)

Blossom-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula roseata*)

Vernal Hanging-Parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*)

Black-and-red Broadbill (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*)

Long-tailed Broadbill (*Psarisomus dalhousiae*)

Silver-breasted Broadbill (*Serilophus lunatus*)

Banded Broadbill (*Eurylaimus javanicus*)

Black-and-yellow Broadbill (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*)

Blue Pitta (*Pitta cyanea*)

Golden-bellied Gerygone (*Gerygone sulphurea*)

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*)

Ashy Woodswallow (*Artamus fuscus*)

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*)

Great Iora (*Aegithinia lafresnayei*)

Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*)

Gray-chinned Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*)

Short-billed Minivet (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*)

Long-tailed Minivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*)

Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

Swinhoe's Minivet (*Pericrocotus cantonensis*)

Rosy Minivet (*Pericrocotus roseus*)

Large Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina macei*) Heard only

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)

Tiger Shrike (*Lanius tigrinus*)

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Burmese Shrike (*Lanius colluriooides*)

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Gray-backed Shrike (*Lanius tephronotus*)

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler (*Pteruthius aeralatus*)

Clicking Shrike-Babbler (*Pteruthius intermedius*)

White-bellied Erpornis (*Erpornis zantholeuca*)

Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)

Slender-billed Oriole (*Oriolus tenuirostris*)

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*)

Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus traillii*)

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*)

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus remifer*)

Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)

Malaysian Pied-Fantail (*Rhipidura javanica*)

White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*)

Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*)

Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone affinis*)

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Common Green-Magpie (*Cissa chinensis*) Heard only

Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*)

Gray Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae*)

Racket-tailed Treepie (*Crypsirina temia*)

Large-billed (Eastern Jungle) Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos levaillanti*)

Indochinese Bushlark (*Mirafra erythrocephala*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)

Striated Swallow (*Cecropis striolata*)

Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail (*Chelidonyx hypoxantha*)

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

Japanese Tit (*Parus minor*)

Yellow-cheeked Tit (*Machlolophus spilonotus*)

Sultan Tit (*Melanochlora sultanea*)

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch (*Sitta nagaensis*)

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*)

Giant Nuthatch (*Sitta magna*)

Hume's Treecreeper (*Certhia manipurensis*)

Crested Finchbill (*Spizixos canifrons*)

Black-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

Striated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus striatus*)

Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*)

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

Brown-breasted Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*)

Sooty-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)

Stripe-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus finlaysoni*)

Flavescent Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flavesiensis*)

Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

Streak-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus blanfordi*)

Puff-throated Bulbul (*Alophoixus pallidus*)

Ochraceous Bulbul (*Alophoixus ochraceus*)

Gray-eyed Bulbul (*Iole propinqua*)

Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*)

Ashy Bulbul (*Hemixos flavala*)

Mountain Bulbul (*Ixos mcclellandii*)

Pygmy Cupwing (*Pnoepyga pusilla*)

Asian Stubtail (*Urosphena squameiceps*)

Slaty-bellied Tisia (*Tesia olivea*) Heard only

Mountain Tailorbird (*Phylloscopus cucullatus*)

Aberrant Bush-Warbler (*Horornis flavolivaceus*)

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

Buff-throated Warbler (*Phylloscopus subaffinis*)

Yellow-streaked Warbler (*Phylloscopus armandii*)

Radde's Warbler (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*)

Buff-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus pulcher*)

Ashy-throated Warbler (*Phylloscopus maculipennis*)

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Hume's Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*)

Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)
Two-barred Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*)
Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*) Leader only
Eastern Crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus coronatus*)
Claudia's (Blyth's) Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus [reguloides] claudiae*)
Davison's (White-tailed) Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus davisoni*)
Sulphur-breasted Warbler (*Phylloscopus ricketti*)
Gray-crowned Warbler (*Seicercus tephrocephalus*)
Chestnut-crowned Warbler (*Seicercus castaniceps*)

Black-browed Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)
Oriental Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus orientalis*)

Striated Grassbird (*Megalurus palustris*)
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella certhiola*)
Chinese Bush-Warbler (*Bradypterus taczanowskii*) Leader only

Golden-headed Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*)
Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)
Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*)
Hill Prinia (*Prinia superciliaris*)
Yellow-breasted Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*)
Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*)

Grey-headed Parrotbill (*Psittiparus gularis*)

Spot-breasted Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis guttaticollis*)

Chestnut-flanked White-eye (*Zosterops erythropleurus*)

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)

Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*)

Chestnut-capped Babbler (*Timalia pileata*)

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler (*Macronous gularis*)

Golden Babbler (*Stachyris chrysaea*)

Rufous-fronted Babbler (*Stachyris rufifrons*)

White-browed Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus schisticeps*)

Large Scimitar-Babbler (*Megapomatorhinus hypoleucus*)

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*)

Gray-throated Babbler (*Stachyris nigriceps*) Heard only

Rufous-winged Fulvetta (*Schoeniparus castaneiceps*)

Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*)

Abbott's Babbler (*Turdinus abbotti*)

Limestone Wren-Babbler (*Turdinus crispifrons calcicola*)

Streaked Wren-Babbler (*Turdinus brevicaudata*)

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe poiocephala*)

Yunnan Fulvetta (*Alcippe fratercula*)

Himalayan Cutia (*Cutia nipalensis*)

White-crested Laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*)

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush (*Garrulax monileger*)
White-necked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax strepitans*) Heard only
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush (*Ianthocincla pectoralis*)
Black-throated Laughingthrush (*Ianthocincla chinensis*)
White-browed Laughingthrush (*Ianthocincla sannio*)
Silver-eared Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron melanostigma*)
Black-backed Sibia (*Heterophasia melanoleuca*)
Silver-eared Mesia (*Leiothrix argentauris*)
Scarlet-faced Liocichla (*Liocichla ripponi*)
Spectacled Barwing (*Actinodura ramsayi*)
Rufous-backed Sibia (*Minla annectens*)
Blue-winged Minla (*Minla cyanouroptera*)
Chestnut-tailed Minla (*Minla strigula*)

Asian Fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*)

Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*)
Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)
White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*)
White-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Anthipes monileger*)
Hainan Blue-Flycatcher (*Cyornis hainanus*)
Pale Blue-Flycatcher (*Cyornis unicolor*)
Hill Blue-Flycatcher (*Cyornis banyumas*)
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*)
Large Niltava (*Niltava grandis*)

Rufous-bellied Niltava (Niltava sundara)
Zappey's Flycatcher (Cyanoptila cumatilis)
Verditer Flycatcher (Eumyias thalassinus)
Lesser Shortwing (Brachypteryx leucophris)
White-browed Shortwing (Brachypteryx montana)
Siberian Blue Robin (Larvivora cyana)
White-bellied Redstart (Hodgsonius phoenicuroides)
Blue Whistling-Thrush (Myophonus caeruleus)
Black-backed Forktail (Enicurus immaculatus)
Slaty-backed Forktail (Enicurus schistaceus)
Siberian Rubythroat (Calliope calliope)
White-tailed Robin (Cinclidium leucrurum)
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (Ficedula zanthopygia)
Slaty-backed Flycatcher (Ficedula hodgsonii)
Snowy-browed Flycatcher (Ficedula hyperythra)
Slaty-blue Flycatcher (Ficedula tricolor)
Little Pied Flycatcher (Ficedula westermanni)
Taiga Flycatcher (Ficedula albicilla)
Plumbeous Redstart (Phoenicurus fuliginosus)
White-capped Redstart (Phoenicurus leucocephalus)
Blue Rock-Thrush (Monticola solitarius)
Siberian Stonechat (Saxicola maurus)
Pied Bushchat (Saxicola caprata)
Gray Bushchat (Saxicola ferreus)

Orange-headed Thrush (*Geokickla citrina*)

Black-breasted Thrush (*Turdus dissimilis*)

Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*)

Green Cochoa (*Cochoa viridis*)

Golden-crested Myna (*Ampeliceps coronatus*)

Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*)

Black-collared Starling (*Gracupica nigricollis*)

Asian Pied Starling (*Gracupica contra*)

Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnia malabarica*)

Great Myna (*Acridotheres grandis*)

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Blue-winged Leafbird (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*)

Golden-fronted Leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*)

Orange-bellied Leafbird (*Chloropsis hardwickii*)

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*)

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird (*Chalcoparia singalensis*)

Brown-throated Sunbird (*Anthreptes malacensis*)

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*)

Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*)

Green-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga nipalensis*)

Black-throated Sunbird (*Aethopyga saturata*)

Gould's Sunbird (*Aethopyga gouldiae*)

Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*) Leader only

Streaked Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera magna*)

Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*)

Gray Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*)

Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*)

Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

Spot-winged Grosbeak (*Mycerobas melanozanthos*)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Plain-backed Sparrow (*Passer flaveolus*)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)

Asian Golden Weaver (*Ploceus hypoxanthus*)

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura atricapilla*)

MAMMALS

Indochinese Ground Squirrel (*Menetes berdmorei*)

Black Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*)

Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel (*Dremomys rufigenis*)

Gray-bellied Squirrel (*Callosciurus caniceps*)

Pallas's Squirrel (*Callosciurus erythraeus*)

Variable Squirrel (*Callosciurus finlaysoni*)

Himalayan Striped Squirrel (*Tamiops mcclellandii*)

Temminck's Flying-Squirrel (*Hylopetes temminckii*)

Lesser Gymnure (*Hylomys suillus*)

Small Indian Civet (*Viverricula indica*)

Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)

Sun Bear (*Helarctos malayanus*)

Dusky Leaf Monkey (*Trachypithecus obscurus*)

Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*)

Northern Pig-tailed Macaque (*Macaca leonina*)

White-handed Gibbon (*Hylobates lar*)

Pileated Gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*) Heard only

Northern Tree Shrew (*Tupaia belangeri*)

Common Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*)

Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*)

Lesser Mouse Deer (*Tragulus javanicus*)

Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

Siamese Hare (*Lepus peguensis*)

Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*)

Lyle's Flying-fox (*Pteropus lylei*)

REPTILES

Common Calotes (*Calotes versicolor*)

Blue-throated Calotes (*Calotes mystaceus*)

Forest Calotes (*Calotes emma*)

Spotted Draco (*Draco maculatus*)

Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*)

Clouded Monitor (*Varanus nebulosus*)

Tokay (Gekko gecko)

Flat-tailed Gecko (*Cosymbotus platurus*)

Eastern Butterfly Lizard (*Leiolepis reevesi*)

Striped Tree Skink (*Lipinia vittigera*)

Many-lined Sun Skink (*Mabuya multifasciata*)

Vogel's Pit Viper (*Viridovipera vogeli*)

Indochinese Rat Snake (*Ptyas korros*)

Oriental Vine Snake (*Ahaetulla prasina*)

AMPHIBIANS

Koh Tao Caecilian (*Ichthyophis kaotaoensis*)

Brown Tree Frog (*Polypedates megacephalus*)

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

Siamese Horseshoe Crab

Mudskipper