

**Central and South Viet Nam**  
(Phong Nha, Bach Ma, Lo Xo, Tan Phu, Cat Tien, Ta Nung and Mt Lang Bian)

14-25 March 2008



*Blue-rumped Pitta at Cat Tien*

**Björn Anderson**

## General

This was a 1.5 week trip to some key sites in central and south Viet Nam. Having been to Viet Nam a few times before (e.g. the north and Da Lat), I was keen on cleaning up on certain key birds. Stig-Uno Svensson was also ready to set his first steps on Vietnamese ground. In order to arrange local logistics in the most efficient way, I contacted Nguyen Bao, one of the extremely few Vietnamese birders. Bao fortunately decided to also join us and just before the trip, the interest of a national TV channel was also aroused. We were therefore a happy crew of seven people to go after those nice endemics (although on the trails the TV team kept their distance in order not to disturb the skulkers). All local arrangements worked out absolutely perfect and the time in the field was truly maximized.

All in all it was a very successful trip. We saw most of the target birds, heard a few of them (Crested Argus, Vietnam and Orange-necked Partridge) and missed completely only two (Red-collared Woodpecker and Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl). Favorite birds were Indochinese Wren-Babbler (former Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler), Black-crowned Barwing, Blue-rumped Pitta, Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Sooty Babbler, Pale-headed and Black-and-buff Woodpecker. We also encountered numerous endemic taxa, many of which are strikingly different from other taxa that they are currently included in.



*Cat Tien river crossing. The TV team with Stig-Uno and Bao in the centre*

## Itinerary

14/3

I left Beijing with the direct evening flight to Hanoi and soon after my arrival Stig-Uno Svensson arrived via Bangkok. Night at Noi Bai airport hotel.

15/3

This day started early with checking out from the hotel before 5.00 in order to catch the first flight of the day to Hue. The plane left on time, but unfortunately we had to continue to Da Nang as the morning mist was too thick at Hue. It took us however only some 45 minutes of waiting at the airport until we took off again and by 8.30 we arrived at Hue. Our guide Mr Bao met us and by 9.00 we were on our way towards Phong Nha. It was a 4 hour drive with a most welcome tea-stop at Bao's sister's fantastic house about halfway.

Around 13.00 we arrived at Phong Nha and had a quick lunch before going to a patch of forest inside the National Park. The targets were Red-collared Woodpecker and the local taxon of Indochinese Green Magpie. Unfortunately we spent the rest of the day without seeing any of them. At dusk around 18.00 we returned to the small hotel in the village near the jetty.

16/3

We woke up in time for having breakfast before the first boat departure to the caves at 7.00. Less than half an hour later we arrived at the cave and immediately climbed the steps up through the limestone cliffs. One of the two target birds, the so far unnamed Limestone Leaf-Warbler, was instantly heard, but all concentration was on finding the real prize bird. Sooty Babbler is known from only a very small area in central Viet Nam and neighboring Laos. It however took us more than one hour until we connected with it. I was watching a Swinhoe's Robin when suddenly the large dark babbler with a thick pale eye-ring appeared in front of me. We could follow two birds for a while before they disappeared and about half an hour later we found the same or two more nearby. This was much to the joy of the TV team that filmed us. Shortly after 10.00 we left the caves and went down-river and by 11.00 we were back in the forest from yesterday for another attempt on Red-collared Woodpecker. Being again a bad time of the day, we did not succeed on this seldom seen near endemic. We birded the forest until 12.40 when we returned to the village for a lunch. Around 14.00 we left Phong Nha and drove south towards Bach Ma. The journey took less than five hours to the top of the mountain. Near the summit we stayed at the guesthouse and immediately we went out looking for Hodgson's Frogmouth. In spite of a pair calling frequently, we only managed flight glimpses, and finally we gave up (or was it the Frogmouths themselves giving up?) and had a late dinner.



17/3

A new attempt on the Frogmouths was called for and from 4.00 to dawn we played 'hide and seek' with them. In fact it was completely 'hide' as they were not responsive at all and only called at the crack of dawn. The target bird of the day was Indochinese Wren-Babbler (aka Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler) and we devoted all resources on this one. Unfortunately this did not really help, as we at dusk were still in deep need of it. We spent our time down to 1.5 km below the guesthouse as well as 1.5 km above it, plus worked some of the trails. Some interesting endemic taxa were recorded (Sultan Tit and Grey-cheeked Warbler), but in general it was rather slow birding. After dusk we continued to look for the Frogmouths, but this evening they were not calling much at all. Perhaps because of the very bright moon light? We therefore decided to stay another night at the guesthouse instead of driving down to lower altitudes.

18/3

After a very short night, we were up again at 3.45 for a last attempt on the Frogmouths. This time the male responded quite actively and we were very close to nail it down. Close is never enough when it comes to birds and at 5.45 we decided to drive down to try for the two prized Bach Ma galliforms. Between 5.45 and 8.45 we birded along the Pheasant Trail. No Crested Argus was even heard, but at the end of the trail we heard a calling Vietnam Partridge calling across the stream. We stepped across and positioned ourselves, but the bird remained hidden in the thick vegetation in spite of being extremely close.

Down at the gate we had a quick noodle breakfast before leaving Bach Ma at 10.10.

We were heading for Lo Xo pass south of Kham Duc, which is nowadays a must-visit site on any central Viet Nam trip. It took us about four hours to reach, including a quick lunch-stop. In the mid afternoon we scrambled up a hillside covered in coffee bushes. The target was the recently described Black-crowned Barwing that is occurring in the secondary scrub and plantations. It did not take us long to get a response from a showy pair, and by then we felt that our luck had returned. We spent about an hour with these stunning babblers, much to the joy of the accompanying TV team.

When satisfied with the Barwings, we decided to make a rush up the road to Dak Blo, in fact leading into Lao. This road was supposed to hold good forest and, especially important, also Indochinese Wren-Babblers. As our car could not make the first muddy part of the road, we started walking the 3-4 km up to the forest. Bao flagged down a moto for me, so I could quickly get up there, but in spite of this we did not hear any response from the Wren-Babblers. By dusk we were back down at the main road and drove the 45 minutes down to Kham Duc. This small town surprisingly had at least one very good standard hotel and we enjoyed a good dinner in the evening.

19/3

This morning we left Kham Duc shortly before 5.00 and one hour later we arrived at the road to Dak Blo above Lo Xo pass. We started birding at KM 4 and the bird activity was in full swing for a couple of hours. We slowly walked uphill and eventually reached KM 7, which is at the highest point of the road and also the border with Lao. Bird of the day came in the form of the much-wanted Indochinese Wren-Babbler. Having dipped at Bach Ma in spite of a dedicated dawn-to-dusk search and a couple of morning hours at Lo Xo, it was a great relief to finally lay my eyes on it. We heard it responding distantly and after creeping into the forest we could admire it circling us for as long as we wanted. With this bird under the belt, we focused on eliciting a response from Golden-winged Laughler, all the way up to the highest point (1400 masl) of the road. In spite of this we came out empty-handed.

By 12.00 we were back down at KM 3.4 and boarded the car for the journey to Da Nang airport. This took 3.5 hours including a lunch stop. The flight to Saigon was not until 19.30, so we hung out in one of the bars for a couple of hours.

At arrival in Saigon we drove to Riverside Hotel for a short nights rest.

20/3

In order to reach the forest at Tan Phu at dawn we made a very early start from Saigon. Two hours later we arrived at a small patch of forest south of Tan Phu. The reason for visiting this site was to look for the hard-to-see Orange-necked Partridge. After having walked all the possible trails in the forest we only came out with two heard Partridges and the endemic Grey-faced Tit-Babbler. Although they responded briefly they unfortunately chose not to come all the way in to see us.

When we gave up we had a quick bowl of noodles for late breakfast before heading off to Cat Tien. It took us less than an hour to reach the ferry that swiftly got us across the river to the headquarters of this famous national park.

We quickly got settled in the accommodation and in the afternoon heat we walked the main trail, first to the south and then to the north. The first target birds fell and we enjoyed a nice pair of Black-and-buff Woodpeckers. We also walked the Lagerstroemia trail and briefly glimpsed a Blue-rumped Pitta. In the evening we walked the main trail to about 2 km from the HQ and heard a nice selection of owls and nightjars.

21/3

We left the HQ early in order to drive the 11 km to the Bau Sau trail (Crocodile Lake trail). The hour before dawn we tried to lure in a Blyth's Frogmouth, but sadly he did not respond so frequently that we could locate it and another brief bird was just too distant in the forest. At first light we walked Bau Sau trail, seeing a few Bar-bellied Pittas hopping in the leaf litter. The Blue-rumped proved harder to get and it took some perseverance until we could lay our eyes on a calling female that showed nicely. The other target of the day was Germain's Peacock-Pheasant and we got very close to two separate calling birds, although they eventually slipped away unseen. In the late morning we reached Crocodile Lake and had lunch and a very quick siesta before moving back along Bau Sau trail. This time we were luckier with the Pheasants and managed crippling unobscured views of a pair of Germain's Peacock-Pheasant right out in the open. A few drops of rain made us take shelter under a huge tree and while doing that a female Siamese Fireback slowly and unconcerned walked past us.

By dusk we were back along the main road and continued to look for Blyth's Frogmouth. We managed some flight views, but that was all he offered as he constantly hid in the canopy and the densest tangles.

22/3

The target bird of the day was Pale-headed Woodpecker, something we thought would be a relatively easy job. However, it turned out that we spent more than half the day looking in vain for it along the main trail. Some compensation came in the form of the local taxon of Purple-throated Sunbird, one of a handful of Sunbird species that morning. In the afternoon we decided to go to a different area of bamboo along Heaven Rapids trail to look for the woodpecker. The first bird we heard at arrival was a drumming woodpecker that sounded interesting, but it was not responding. After hanging around in the area for a couple of hours it started to call again and in response to playback a nice Pale-headed shot straight in and showed itself. Perseverance pays off!

After that it was time for a new attempt on the frogmouths. Just at arriving at the site it started to rain and we had to wait it out for half an hour. The rain really shut all the night birds up and it took about an hour until the frogmouths started calling and by then they were not very active. We played hide-and-seek, i.e. hide, until there was no point in continuing any longer. He again stuck to the densest canopy and did not show except briefly in flight.

23/3

Our last morning at Cat Tien was dedicated to seeing Orange-necked Partridge. We started off with yet another resultless attempt to get decent views of the frogmouths and then continued to Dac Loa. This used to be a regular site for the partridge, but it is a difficult area to see them as the bamboo is so dense and there are no real good trails to access. We made our way through the dense bamboo, but with the only result was that we got badly stung by fly-bees. Having not even heard any partridge we decided to change strategy and try a site at Heaven Rapids trail. Also there we did not manage even an aural response. Instead we heard some close Blue-rumped Pittas and having only seen a female before we gave

it a go. This turned out lucky as we could admire two stunning males hopping around us at 3 meters distance for almost as long as we wanted. This was our last good bird at Cat Tien and we returned to the HQ and packed up. At 10.15 we crossed the river and were soon on our way to the next and last destination: Da Lat.

The drive to Da Lat took about four hours and on arrival it started to rain lightly. We had a quick lunch-stop at Datanla Falls, where the first Da Lat specialy in the form of White-cheeked Laughler appeared in the light rain.

By 15.00 we arrived at Ta Nung just outside Da Lat. SUS and I was dropped off there in order to do some late afternoon birding. We quickly saw the specialty in the form of Grey-crowned Crocias as well as the highly distinctive local taxon of Black-throated Sunbird. We even stayed until well after dark trying to do some nocturnal birding, but it was rather quiet.

In the evening we had a farwell dinner with our friends from the TV team that had joined us for the entire week.

### 24/3

This was our last birding of the trip and it was planned to be Mount Langbian, just outside Da Lat. By 4.15 we were at the gate to the mountain and we started walking up the trail in the dark. At the crack of dawn we heard a somewhat distant Hodgson's Frogmouth calling, but it was too late to get it into view. We continued our walk towards the summit where we had a most fantastic view of the entire Da Lat area with good visibility and clouds filling the lower valleys. As scenery was not really on our agenda we started the birding and quickly saw two specialties of the area: Collared Laughler and Black-crowned Fulvetta. My personal target bird Vietnamese Cutia was alas heard only and we did not manage to pull it in. Instead we spent hours and hours trying to see it. Hopes were really fading as we had to leave for the airport at the very latest 13.00. A last minute effort by walking along the border between pine and broadleaf forest produced the wanted Cutia song at a huge distance. In fact it was so distant I did not clearly get the direction. As time was running out, we chanced upon a direction and ran towards the sound and within minutes we could admire a nice pair at close range. After some quick photos and recording, we quickly and happily scrambled down towards the waiting car that took us to the hotel.

Having picked up our gear, we headed towards the airport and the 16.30 flight to Saigon. We stayed at the comfortable Riverside Hotel and celebrated a very successful trip with an excellent dinner.

### 25/3

My flight to Beijing was at 6.30, so it was yet another early start from the hotel.

## **Weather**

This is the dry time of the year and we encountered good and dry conditions for virtyally the entire trip. Even at the notoriously cloudy Bach Ma, it was brilliant weather. Only at Cat Tien and Da Lat there were a few drops of rain the late afternoons, indicating the earlier than normal arrival of the monsoon.

## **Logistics**

All the logistics were arranged by Nguyen Bao (birdvietnam@gmail.com). Bao was a keen birder and a very good and flexible guide that ensured that maximum time was spent on birding rather than transport. His services can be thoroughly recommended for the independent birder wanting to set up a private trip.

## Site descriptions

### Phong Nha

Phong Nha is a large national park bordering Lao's. From Hue airport it takes almost four hours to drive on good roads. For birders it is well known as one of the easiest sites to find the near endemic Sooty Babbler. The best site for this bird is the tourist caves less than half an hour boat-ride upriver from the entrance village. Previously the national park itself has been very difficult to access for foreigners due to the proximity to the Lao border. Only during the last year this has changed and it is now fully possible to enter the forest. We visited an area where Bao had seen Red-collared Woodpecker a few years earlier. To reach this area is one drives along the river (upstream) through the village. When the road suddenly becomes a smaller track, we turned left on a paved road. This means leaving the riverside and having the fields to the left and the limestone mountain to the right. After a few km there is a gate, where I guess a permit has to be shown. The patch of forest that we visited was on the right hand side between KM 11-12, which is now a sort of wild botanical garden with a few trails contouring a small ridge. The trails start either at the green houses near KM 11 or immediately beyond KM 12. In the late afternoon on the first day we also birded along the road between KM 12 and 13.



*The jetty at the caves at Phong Nha*



*View from the Phong Nha caves*



*Trying to get a good photo opportunity of Sooty Babbler*

### Bach Ma

Bach Ma is a rather isolated mountain range near the central coast. We stayed both nights at the summit guesthouse, which also had a nice restaurant and offered immediate access to door-step birding. Key birds at Bach Ma are Vietnam Partridge, Crested Argus and Indochinese Wren-Babbler as well as a number of local subspecies. Birding should be performed at different altitudes. We were not that successful at this site as we dipped on the Wren-Babbler in spite of a full day of active searching. The Partridge was heard at zip zero distance, but would not reveal himself. The Argus was not heard at all and seems to be even more difficult to even hear during the last couple of years. We spent a whole lot of effort in trying to see Hodgson's Frogmouths, but only managed flight views.

### Lo Xo

Lo Xo pass hit the headlines during the last few years as THE site for Black-crowned Barwing. This species is endemic to central Annam and neighboring Lao and was described to science only some ten years ago. Interestingly it favours the scrub and plantations at the edge of the forest, so with the clearance of forest that is going on, it seems to have increased in numbers. In addition to this prize bird, Lo Xo also provides easy access to real good forest at altitudes between 1100 to 1400 masl. This is exciting as another recently described babbler, Golden-winged Laughingthrush, was discovered at nearby Ngoc Linh mountain. Hope is therefore that it may occur even at Lo Xo, although the altitudes are significantly below the 2000-2200 masl known range. The road to Dak Blo was only very recently constructed, so not many birders have been to the higher reaches of this forest. From the highest point at 1400 masl (KM 7) there is supposed to be a trail leading to perhaps 1800-1900 masl, which may very well be enough for the Laughing. The forest is excellent and is anyway worth birding for at least a day, maybe more. We played the song of Golden-winged all the way between KM 4 and 7, but got no response at all.

It should be mentioned that the highest point of the road is actually the border with Lao, and foreigners are not supposed to be there without permission. Some local officers fortunately granted us access and our car could even make it all the way to KM 7.



*Yours truly being happily interviewed by the TV team after having seen...*



*... Black-crowned Barwing*

### Tan Phu

Tan Phu is a small town situated between Saigon and Cat Tien. In between all the plantations and populated areas there is actually a tiny patch of forest along a small ridge. The forest is not really protected and is only some 11.000 ha. The key bird at this site is the Orange-necked Partridge that in 2005 had a population of 11 pairs. We spent a full morning walking a good deal of the trails in the forest. On two occasions we got close responses from the partridges, but they never really came all the way in and at the end we had to give up in seeing this species.



### Cat Tien

Cat Tien is one of the prime birding sites in Viet Nam and contains essentially lowland broadleaf forest and forest edge. It holds some key species like Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Siamese Fireback, Orange-necked Partridge, Pale-headed and Black-and-buff Woodpecker, Blyth's Frogmouth, Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, some endemic subspecies as well as being an easy place to see Blue-rumped and Bar-bellied Pittas. The national park has a HQ with good accommodation and restaurant (both being located at the entrance just after the river crossing). There are numerous good trails both in the vicinity of the HQ as well as further away. Jeeps for the longer transports can be arranged.

### Ta Nung

Ta Nung is famous as the easiest (and one of only two known?) place to see the endemic Grey-crowned Crocias. The patch of forest is rather small and is centered around a small valley. It is located very near Da Lat town and can thus be easily visited even with limited time available. The area is also a good place to see the beautiful local taxon of Black-throated Sunbird and three of the Da Lat endemic Laughingthrushes occur. We did not plan to go to this site from the beginning, but as we had an afternoon available, we made a quick but reasonably rewarding visit.

### Mount Langbian

Mount Langbian was the targeted site for us on the Da Lat plateau. The mountain is situated very near to Da Lat town and can be reached in about 20 minutes. One has to go with one of the local jeeps up the mountain to where the summit trail starts. The trail first leads through open pine forest (good for V Greenfinch and the endemic taxon of Brown-throated Treecreeper) before entering the broadleaf forest. Key birds are Vietnamese Cutia, Collared Laughingthrush and Black-crowned Fulvetta. Indochinese Fulvetta and Indochinese Wren-Babbler are said to occur, but are very seldomly seen. The area is rather small and from the start of broadleaf forest to the summit is only 30 minutes of steady walk.



*The vista from the summit of Mount Langbian*

## Birds

The list of birds is essentially those seen by myself unless specifically mentioned. Subspecies is based mainly of information from literature rather than actual morphologic characteristics.

Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

Two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Great Egret, *Ardea alba modesta*

One at the caves at Phong Nha, several north of Hue and two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Intermediate Egret, *Egretta intermedia intermedia*

Five at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Common between Hue and Phong Nha and at Phong Nha.

Chinese Pond-Heron, *Ardeola bacchus*

One north of Hue, three at the forest above Lo Xo pass, five at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien and three at Doc Loa Cat Tien.

Eastern Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus coromandus*

Many between Hue and Phong Nha, at Phong Nha, south of Bach Ma and one at Doc Loa Cat Tien.

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus actophila*

One at Bach Ma Pheasant Trail.

Yellow Bittern, *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Lesser Adjutant, *Leptoptilos javanicus*

One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Lesser Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna javanica*

70+ at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

One pair at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Oriental Honey-buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis*

One at Bach Ma summit area.

Grey-headed Fish-Eagle, *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Crested Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis cheela burmanicus*

Two birds heard at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Eastern Marsh Harrier, *Circus spilonotus spilonotus*

One at Da Lat airport.

Shikra, *Accipiter badius poliopsis*

Two and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

unidentified Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter* sp

One unidentified *Accipiter* at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and one near Lo Xo.

Grey-faced Buzzard, *Butastur indicus*

One near Bach Ma and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis malayensis*

Two sightings at Bach Ma summit area and two birds at the Bach Ma gate.



*Black Eagle, better not being a Pheasant when this silhouette is overhead*

Mountain Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus nipalensis nipalensis*  
 One at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus ssp*  
 One adult soaring at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Rufous-throated Partridge, *Arborophila rufogularis guttata & vietnamensis*  
 Three heard at Bach Ma summit area, one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass and three heard at Mount Langbian Da Lat. Taxon *guttata* in central VN and *vietnamensis* on Da Lat plateau.

Orange-necked Partridge, *Arborophila davidi*  
 Two heard at tantalizingly close range at Tan Phu forest.

Scaly-breasted Partridge, *Arborophila chloropus cognacqi*  
 One pair seen and three more heard at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien, three heard at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ, two heard at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Vietnam (Annam) Partridge, *Arborophila merlini vivida*  
 One heard at extremely close range at the far end (and across the river) of Bach Ma Pheasant Trail. After having crossed the river we pulled in the bird to a distance of probably less than ten meters, but in the dense vegetation we could not get a visual contact.

Red Junglefowl, *Gallus gallus gallus*  
 One heard and two separate males seen at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, one female at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien, one heard at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and one heard at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Siamese Fireback, *Lophura diardi*  
 One female at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, *Polyplectron germaini*  
 Two heard along Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ, five heard and one pair seen at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and one heard at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Crested Argus, *Rheinardia ocellata ocellata*  
 One heard about ten times between dawn and 11.00 at KM 4.5 at the forest above Lo Xo pass. Even though the call was "loud and clear" it was up a ridge on the opposite side of a stream, so a bit of a long-shot to chase.

White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
 One at Doc Loa Cat Tien.

Purple Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio viridis*  
 One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus ssp*  
 One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Bronze-winged Jacana, *Metopidius indicus*  
 Two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*  
 Many around Phong Nha, at Bach Ma gate, at the forest above Lo Xo pass and at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Barred Cuckoo-Dove, *Macropygia unchall minor*  
 Two at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Common Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica indica*  
 One at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and a few near Doc Loa Cat Tien and one at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Orange-breasted Pigeon, *Treron bicinctus bicinctus*  
 One at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Ashy-headed Green-Pigeon, *Treron phayrei phayrei*  
 Frequently seen and heard at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Thick-billed Pigeon, *Treron curvirostra*  
 Frequently seen and heard at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Green Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula aenea sylvatica*  
 A few seen and heard at Cat Tien.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula badia griseicapilla*  
 One heard and also seen flying past a few times at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Red-breasted Parakeet, *Psittacula alexandri fasciata*  
 Frequently seen and heard at Cat Tien, sometimes in larger flocks of up to 50 birds.

Vernal Hanging-Parrot, *Loriculus vernalis*  
 Frequently seen and heard at Cat Tien.

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, *Clamator coromandus*  
 One heard predawn at the start of Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparveroides sparveroides*  
 One heard both nights at Bach Ma summit area.

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus nasicolor*  
 One heard pre-dawn at Bach Ma summit area and one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Indian Cuckoo, *Cuculus micropterus concretus*  
 One heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass and one heard at Datanla Falls Da Lat.

Banded Bay Cuckoo, *Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii*

At least three heard at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien, one heard at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one heard at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Plaintive Cuckoo, *Cacomantis merulinus querulus*

One between Hue and Phong Nha, one heard at the caves at Phong Nha, one heard at Bach Ma gate, one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass and one heard at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Asian Emerald Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx maculates*

Two together at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Asian Drongo-Cuckoo, *Surniculus lugubris dicruroides*

One heard at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, one heard at Bach Ma Pheasant Trail, three at the forest above Lo Xo pass and two at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.



*Asian Drongo-Cuckoo*

Asian Koel, *Eudynamis scolopacea chinensis*

One heard at Phong Nha, one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass and one at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Green-billed Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus tristis longicaudatus*

Two sightings at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and five at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Greater Coucal, *Centropus sinensis intermedius*

One between Hue and Phong Nha, one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass and frequently heard and seen at Cat Tien.

[Lesser Coucal, *Centropus bengalensis bengalensis*

One probable between Hue and Phong Nha.]

Mountain Scops-Owl, *Otus spilocephalus siamensis*

One heard predusk at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and four heard at Bach Ma summit area.

Collared Scops-Owl, *Otus lettia lettia*

Three at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and two at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Collared Owlet, *Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*

One or two heard at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, one heard at Bach Ma summit area and one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Asian Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium cuculoides deignani*

Frequently heard at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Brown Hawk-Owl, *Ninox scutulata burmanica*

Four at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Hodgson's Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*

One pair heard each dusk and dawn at Bach Ma summit area and the male seen briefly in flight only. One heard at the crack of dawn at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Blyth's Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus affinis continentalis*

Three males and one female near Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien. Only view was of one male in flight.

Great Eared-Nightjar, *Eurostopodus macrotis cerviniceps*

Several at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Grey Nightjar, *Caprimulgus jota*

One flushed before dawn on the way down from Bach Ma summit area, one at Ta Nung at Da Lat and one heard at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Large-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus macrurus ssp*

One halfway up to Bach Ma summit after dusk, one at Loxo Pass at dusk, five at Cat Tien and one heard at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

- Indochinese or Germain's Swiftlet, *Aerodramus rogersi* or *germani*  
50 at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and two at Ta Nung at Da Lat. Neither could be positively identified.
- Silver-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus cochinchinensis cochinchinensis*  
Five at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.
- Asian Palm-Swift, *Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus*  
A few in a village south of Bach Ma, one at the forest above Lo Xo pass and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- House Swift, *Apus nipalensis nipalensis*  
Heard at Da Lat.
- Red-headed Trogon, *Harpactes erythrocephalus annamensis*  
Four heard at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, two heard and another pair seen at Bach Ma summit area, one heard at Bach Ma Pheasant Trail and one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass.
- Orange-breasted Trogon, *Harpactes oreskios stellae*  
Two seen and a few heard at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and one heard at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*  
One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.
- White-throated Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra*  
Two between Hue and Phong Nha and many below Lo Xo pass.
- Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis leucomelanurus*  
One pair at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.
- Blue-bearded Bee-eater, *Nyctyornis athertoni athertoni*  
One at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, *Merops leschenaultia leschenaulti*  
A few at Cat Tien.
- Indian Roller, *Coracias benghalensis affinis*  
Two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien and two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- Oriental Pied-Hornbill, *Anthracoceros albirostris albirostris*  
Several at Cat Tien.
- Great Hornbill, *Buceros bicornis*  
One at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.
- Red-vented Barbet, *Megalaima lagrandieri lagrandieri*  
One heard at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- Lineated Barbet, *Megalaima lineate hogdsoni*  
Several at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- Green-eared Barbet, *Megalaima faiostricta faiostricta*  
5+ at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.



*Green-eared Barbet*

- Golden-throated Barbet, *Megalaima franklinii auricularis*  
One at Bach Ma summit area and a few at the forest above Lo Xo pass.
- Black-browed Barbet, *Megalaima oorti annamensis*  
Several at Datanla Falls Da Lat and Ta Nung at Da Lat.
- Blue-eared Barbet, *Megalaima australis orientalis*  
Frequently heard and a few seen at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Coppersmith Barbet, *Megalaima haemacephala indica*  
Several at Cat Tien.

White-browed Piculet, *Sasia ochracea ochracea*  
One at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Grey-capped Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos canicapillus delacouri*  
One at Datanla Falls Da Lat.

Rufous Woodpecker, *Celeus brachyurus annamensis*  
One at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Lesser Yellownape, *Picus chlorolophus annamensis*  
One at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Greater Yellownape, *Picus flavinucha pierrei*  
One at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Laced Woodpecker, *Picus vittatus*  
Four at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ while looking for Pale-headed ditto.

Grey-faced Woodpecker, *Picus canus hessei*  
One at Tan Phu forest.

Greater Flameback, *Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacristatus*  
Two heard at Cat Tien.

Pale-headed Woodpecker, *Gecinulus grantia indochinensis*  
After a long day of searching for this species at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ, we eventually struck gold along Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien. A bird responded and shot straight in to have a look at us and then sat down at a safe distance for reciprocal views.

Bay Woodpecker, *Blythipicus pyrrhotis annamensis*  
One at the forest above Lo Xo pass, one heard at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and one at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Black-and-buff Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes jugularis*  
One pair and one single at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Black-and-red Broadbill, *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos siamensis*  
Two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Long-tailed Broadbill, *Psarisomus dalhousiae dalhousiae*  
Three at Bach Ma summit area.

Silver-breasted Broadbill, *Serilophus lunatus ssp*  
One at Bach Ma summit area.

Blue-rumped Pitta, *Pitta soror soror*  
Three seen and one seen briefly at Lager Trail, one female seen very well at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and finally we saw two super males on our last morning at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.





*Blue-rumped Pittas, one male even hit by a sun-ray*

Bar-bellied Pitta, *Pitta elliotii*

At least five heard at the forest inside Phong Nha NP in the late afternoon/evening, one heard at Bach Ma Pheasant Trail, at least ten at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien of which three seen well and a few more scattered heard at Cat Tien.



*Female Bar-bellied Pitta with its gleaming tail*

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* ssp

A few north of Hue and 300+ at Cat Tien.

Striated Swallow, *Cecropis striolata stanfordi*

Several at Cat Tien.

Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni*

Two at Bach Ma summit area and three at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Large Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina macei siamensis*

One heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass and one at Mount Langbian Da Lat

Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina polioptera jabouillei*

One male at the forest above Lo Xo pass. This local taxon is morphologically quite different from the neighbouring lowland taxa.

Long-tailed Minivet, *Pericrocotus ethologus* ssp

One pair at KM 7 at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Scarlet Minivet, *Pericrocotus speciosus semiruber*  
Two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Grey-chinned Minivet, *Pericrocotus solaris deignani*  
About ten at the forest above Lo Xo pass and two at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, *Hemipus picatus picatus*  
Two at the caves at Phong Nha, two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien and one at Doc Loa Cat Tien.

Black-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps*  
One at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Black-crested Bulbul, *Pycnonotus flaviventris johnsoni*  
Two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus pattani*  
A few at Phong Nha and a few at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Stripe-throated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus finlaysoni eous*  
One at Bach Ma gate and common at Cat Tien.

Streak-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus blanfordi conradi*  
A few at Cat Tien.

Puff-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus pallidus annamensis* & *khmerensis*  
One heard at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and three at Bach Ma summit area (*annamensis*) and one at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien (*khmerensis*).

Ashy Bulbul, *Hemixos flava remotus*  
One at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Mountain Bulbul, *Ixos mccllellandii loquax* & *griseiventris*  
Four at the forest above Lo Xo pass (*loquax*), several at Ta Nung at Da Lat and Mount Langbian Da Lat (*griseiventris*).

Himalayan Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* ssp  
One flock of about 20 at KM 7 at the forest above Lo Xo pass and three at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Blue-winged Leafbird, *Chloropsis cochinchinensis cochinchinensis*  
One at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Orange-bellied Leafbird, *Chloropsis hardwickii* ssp  
One pair at Bach Ma summit area.

Great Iora, *Aegithina lafresnayei xanthotis*  
A few at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

White-throated Rock-Thrush, *Monticola gularis*  
Two males at Datanla Falls Da Lat.

Blue Rock-Thrush, *Monticola solitarius pandoo*  
One male at the forest inside Phong Nha NP.

Blue Whistling-Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus eugenei*  
One heard at Bach Ma summit area and one at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

White's Thrush, *Zoothera aurea aurea*  
One at Bach Ma summit area.

Lesser Shortwing, *Brachypteryx leucophrys langbianensis*  
Three heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass (ssp?) and many heard at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Hill Prinia, *Prinia superciliaris klossi*  
Four at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Plain Prinia, *Prinia inornata herberti*  
Two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Grey-bellied Tesia, *Tesia cyaniventer*  
About ten at the forest above Lo Xo pass and several heard at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Black-browed Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*  
One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Oriental Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus orientalis*  
One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Mountain Tailorbird, *Orthotomus cuculatus coronatus*  
A few heard at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Common Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius maculicollis*  
Three at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and a few at the caves at Phong Nha, several heard at Bach Ma and common at Cat Tien.

Dusky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus* ssp  
One heard at the caves at Phong Nha.

Ashy-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus maculipennis maculipennis*  
One at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Yellow-browed Warbler, *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
One between Hue and Phong Nha, a few at Bach Ma summit area and Bach Ma Pheasant Trail, several at the forest above Lo Xo pass, several at Cat Tien and common at Da Lat.



Two-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*

Two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus tenellipes*

Three at Tan Phu forest, frequently heard and many seen at Cat Tien. Disclaimer that *Ph borealoides* cannot be ruled out.

Blyth's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus [reguloides] goodsoni/fokiensis & ticehursti*

Three at the forest above Lo Xo pass (*goodsoni* or *fokiensis*) and common at Mount Langbian Da Lat (*ticehursti*). Very bright yellowish and green.

Ogilviegranti's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti klossi*

At least two at Bach Ma summit, a few at the forest above Lo Xo pass area and two at Mount Langbian Da Lat, but may have been under-recorded.

Limestone Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus [ricketti] sp or ssp nov*

One seen very well when singing and calling at the caves at Phong Nha. The resident taxon of Sulphur-breasted Leaf-Warbler is as yet undescribed, but has a slightly different morphology and somewhat different song compared to in mainland China.

White-spectacled Warbler, *Seicercus affinis ocularis*

Two at Mount Langbian Da Lat according to song and call, but they looked rather greyish on the head-sides compared to in China. Eye-ring was white and clearcut and broken above/in front of eye without the tapering rear part.

Grey-cheeked Warbler, *Seicercus poliogenys*

Three seen well and many heard at Bach Ma summit area and one at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus castaniceps annamensis*

Two at the forest above Lo Xo pass (*ssp?*) and one at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Asian Brown Flycatcher, *Muscicapa dauurica*

Many at Cat Tien.



*Asian Brown Flycatcher*

Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina*

One male at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Mugimaki Flycatcher, *Ficedula mugimaki*

One at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Taiga Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla*

Two at Phong Nha and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Verditer Flycatcher, *Eumyias thalassina thalassina*

Two at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Large Niltava, *Niltava grandis decorata*

One at the forest above Lo Xo pass and one at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Blue-throated Flycatcher, *Cyornis rubeculoides klossi*

One singing male at Bach Ma summit area.



*Blue-throated Flycatcher*

Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher, *Cyornis tickelliae indochina*

A few at Bach Ma summit area, one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and two at Heaven Rapids Trail Cat Tien.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea*

Five at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, two at Bach Ma summit area and two at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Rufous-tailed Robin, *Luscinia sibilans*

One seen very well at the caves at Phong Nha.

Siberian Blue Robin, *Luscinia cyane ssp*

One at Tan Phu forest and one adult male at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis erimelas*

Several around Phong Nha and at Cat Tien.

White-rumped Shama, *Copsychus malabaricus interpositus*

Five at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and common at Cat Tien.

White-tailed Robin, *Cinclidium leucurum leucurum*

One male at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Siberian Stonechat, *Saxicola maurus stejnegeri*

Two at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.

Grey Bushchat, *Saxicola ferrea*

Two at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

White-throated Fantail, *Rhipidura albicollis cinerascens*

One at Bach Ma summit area, three at the forest above Lo Xo pass and two at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Black-naped Monarch, *Hypothymis azurea styani*

One at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, one at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone paradise indochinensis*

Three at Bach Ma summit area.

White-crested Laughingthrush, *Garrulax leucolophus diardi*

Two flocks at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, one at Tan Phu forest and frequently heard at Cat Tien.

Black-hooded Laughingthrush, *Garrulax milleti sweeti*

One heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Black-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax chinensis germaini*

One seen and one heard at Bach Ma summit area.

White-cheeked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax vassali*

Three at Datanla Falls Da Lat and ten at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Collared Laughingthrush, *Garrulax yersini*

Three seen at close range and another heard at Mount Langbian Da Lat.



Abbott's Babbler, *Malacocincla abbotti altera*

One at Tan Phu forest.

Buff-breasted Babbler, *Pellorneum tickelli annamense*

A few heard at Bach Ma Pheasant Trail and one heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Puff-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum ruficeps vividum*

Two heard and one seen at the forest inside Phong Nha NP.

Scaly-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron cinereum*

A few at Cat Tien.

Large Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos (tickelli?)*

Six heard and seen briefly at the forest inside Phong Nha NP.

White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus schisticeps klossi*

Three at Bach Ma summit area.

Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus dickinsoni*  
Four plus two at the forest above Lo Xo pass.



*Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler*

Indochinese Wren-Babbler (Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler), *Jabouilleia danjoui danjoui*

One came in nicely and showed very well at KM 5 at the forest above Lo Xo pass. This was a welcome compensation for the dip at Bach Ma. Good contender for bird of the trip!

Streaked Wren-Babbler, *Napothera brevicaudata proxima proxima*

One pair at the caves at Phong Nha. Apparently occupying the same territory as the Sooty Babblers. One at Bach Ma summit area and one at Bach Ma Pheasant Trail.



*Streaked Wren-Babbler at Phong Nha*

Pygmy Wren-Babbler, *Pnoepyga pusilla annamensis*

One heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass and two heard at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Rufous-capped Babbler, *Stachyris ruficeps (pagana?)*

A few heard at Bach Ma summit area and a few heard at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Sooty Babbler, *Stachyris herberti*

One or two pairs at the caves at Phong Nha. This is a species with an extremely limited range along the border of central Viet Nam and Lao, and Phong Nha is probably the easiest place to connect with it.

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, *Macronous gularis kinneari & versicolora*

Three at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, several at the caves at Phong Nha, several at Bach Ma Pheasant Trail and common at Cat Tien.

Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, *Macronous kellei*

Two at Tan Phu forest and four at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ. Nice near-endemic lifer, but not quite the bird that made it to the top ten ;-)

Silver-eared Mesia, *Leiothrix argentauris cunhaci*

Two at Bach Ma summit area and several at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Vietnamese Cutia, *Cutia legaleni*

One pair was distantly heard one minute past our deadline to leave for the airport. A quick rush and we managed to pull them in for nice close up views. This was a relief after having spent 7 hours of dedicated search for them with just hearing them once. This recently split taxon is morphologically only slightly different from Himalayan Cutia, but its song is strikingly different.



*Vietnamese Cutia*

White-browed Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius flaviscapis annamensis*

Common at Bach Ma summit area.

Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius aenobarbus indochinensis*

One at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Black-crowned Barwing, *Actinodura sodangorum*

One pair was performing extremely well at Loxo Pass and even the TV team managed to capture it on film. This recently described species favours forest edge and coffee plantations, rather than primary forest. Something that gives hope for its future when the forests are continuously turned into plantations by the month.



*Black-crowned Barwings*

Blue-winged Minla, *Minla cyanouroptera orientalis*

Two at the forest above Lo Xo pass and one at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Black-crowned Fulvetta, *Alcippe klossi*

A total of about 20 at Mount Langbian Da Lat. This is a recent split from Rufous-winged Fulvetta. I missed it on my previous rushed visit to Langbian so it was a nice recover.

Mountain Fulvetta, *Alcippe peracensis annamensis*

Fairly common at Bach Ma summit area, at Ta Nung at Da Lat and at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Black-browed Fulvetta, *Alcippe grotei*

Three at the forest inside Phong Nha NP.

Grey-crowned Crocias, *Crocias langbianis*

One bird was conveniently called in at the same spot at Ta Nung at Da Lat as I saw it two years ago, much to the delight of Stig-Uno. A nice endemic with an extremely limited distribution.

Black-headed Sibia, *Heterophasia desgodinsi robinsoni*

Three at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Chestnut-collared Yuhina, *Yuhina torqueola*

A total of about ten at Bach Ma summit area.

White-bellied Yuhina, *Yuhina zantholeuca tyrannula* & *sordida*

Four at the forest inside Phong Nha NP, one at Bach Ma summit area and two at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Grey-crowned Tit, *Aegithalos annamensis*

One at Bach Ma summit area, 5-10 at the forest above Lo Xo pass and ten at Mount Langbian Da Lat. This is a recent split from the widespread Black-throated Tit of east Asia.



*Grey-crowned Tit*

Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticolus legendrei*

Two at Ta Nung at Da Lat and five at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Yellow-cheeked Tit, *Parus sibilonotus basileus*

Five at the forest above Lo Xo pass and two at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Sultan Tit, *Melanochlora sultanea gayeti*

Two sightings of four birds at Bach Ma summit area. The local endemic subspecies has an all black crest.

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, *Sitta nagaensis grisiventris*

Two at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

Yellow-billed Nuthatch, *Sitta solangiae fortior*

Four at KM 4 at the forest above Lo Xo pass.



*Yellow-billed Nuthatch*

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, *Chalcoparia singalensis koratensis*

Five at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Purple-naped Sunbird, *Hypogramma hypogrammicum mariae*

One at Tan Phu forest, one at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Olive-backed Sunbird, *Cinnyris jugularis* ssp

One at the caves at Phong Nha and one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Gould's Sunbird, *Aethopyga gouldiae annamensis*

Ten at Mount Langbian Da Lat.



*Gould's Sunbird, quite a different appearance compared to those in e.g. China*

Black-throated Sunbird, *Aethopyga saturate ochra* & *johnsi*

Two males at the forest above Lo Xo pass were the pale-bellied drab taxon *ochra* and three at Ta Nung at Da Lat were the brilliantly red taxon *johnsi*.

Crimson Sunbird, *Aethopyga siparaja mangini*

Two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Little Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera longirostra pallida*

One at Tan Phu forest and two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Streaked Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera magna*

One heard at Bach Ma summit area and five at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum cruentatum cruentatum*

One heard at the forest inside Phong Nha NP.

Japanese White-eye, *Zosterops japonicus simplex*

One at Phong Nha.

Black-naped Oriole, *Oriolus chinensis diffusus*

Many at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.

Black-hooded Oriole, *Oriolus xanthornus xanthornus*

One at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien, one at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one at Doc Loa Cat Tien.

Maroon Oriole, *Oriolus traillii robinsoni*

Three at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Brown Shrike, *Lanius cristatus* ssp

Two north of Hue and one south of Bach Ma.

Burmese Shrike, *Lanius collurioides nigricapillus*

One south of Da Lat.

Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach* ssp

Several near Lo Xo Pass.

Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus* spp

Five blackish ssp at the forest above Lo Xo pass, one grey ssp at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and one dark grey ssp at Ta Nung at Da Lat.

Hair-crested Drongo, *Dicrurus hottentottus hottentottus*

A few at Cat Tien.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus paradiseus paradiseus*

Ten at Cat Tien.

Ashy Woodswallow, *Artamus fuscus*

Two at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

White-winged Magpie, *Urocissa whiteheadi xanthomelana*

Four at the forest above Lo Xo pass.

Yellow-breasted (Indochinese Green) Magpie, *Cissa hypoleuca hypoleuca*

Three at Tan Phu forest.

- Racket-tailed Treepie, *Crypsirina temia*  
One between Hue and Phong Nha and four at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- Ratchet-tailed Treepie, *Temnurus temnurus*  
Five at the forest inside Phong Nha NP and heard twice at Bach Ma summit area.
- Large-billed Crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos*  
One between Lo Xo and Da Nang.
- White-vented Myna, *Acridotheres grandis*  
10-15 at the caves at Phong Nha.
- Vinous-breasted Starling, *Acridotheres burmannicus leucocephalus*  
Two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus malaccensis*  
Common in virtually all villages.
- Baya Weaver, *Ploceus philippinus infortunatus*  
One male and one female at Crocodile Lake Cat Tien.
- White-rumped Munia, *Lonchura striata subsquamicollis*  
Two at Main Trail near Cat Tien HQ and five at Mount Langbian Da Lat.
- Vietnamese Greenfinch, *Carduelis monguilloti*  
Five heard and seen in flight at Mount Langbian Da Lat.

### **Mammals**

- Red-shanked Douc Langur, *Pygathrix nemaeus*  
Three at Bach Ma summit area. One of the more smashing primates I have seen with its orange face, black cap, white whiskers, bright chestnut hindlegs and white tail. This species is classified as endangered and occurs along the Annamite mountain range close to the border with Laos.
- Black-shanked Langur, *Pygathrix nigripes*  
One at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.



*Black-shanked Langur*

- Yellow-cheeked Gibbon, *Hylobates gabriellae*  
Heard at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.
- Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*  
One at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.
- Greater Mouse-Deer, *Tragulus napu*  
Two at Bau Sau Trail Cat Tien.
- Sambar Deer, *Cervus unicolor*  
One at Cat Tien.
- Common Palm Civet, *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*  
Three at Cat Tien.