



Collared Laughingthrush is one of the most sought-after Vietnamese endemics (János Oláh)!

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LEADER: JÁNOS OLÁH

Birdquest was the pioneer birdwatching company to take birders to Vietnam and ever since we have returned regularly to this amazing country! Indochina has many endemics and an additional wide range of special birds. Vietnam hosts a fairly large number of birds found nowhere else, and it is amazing how much more we see nowadays on the tour compared to the lists of 1990's. Especially since 2005 a lot of new birding sites and a new generation of birders emerged with the help of the growing economy of the country. This was the time when we revised our itinerary and again we were the first to visit the Central Highlands for some newly described birds. The itinerary keeps changing with new birds and locations being found and we try to keep up with all the changes. For some years we were visiting Ba Be National Park in the north to see the very rare White-eared Night Heron but in 2016 and 2017 we did not go to the site (despite it being in the itinerary) as there were no breeding locations known any longer. The local farmers destroyed the nest in 2016 and it has not been relocated, so seeing the bird became very difficult again. It is not going to be in our programme from 2018 but in case of favourable news before the tour, we can organize a short extension for those who want to try. We have also operated an expedition in 2017 following the regular tour to seek out more special birds and as a result we will have some exciting changes in the 2018 itinerary! Our 2017 tour

was again a highly successful one and we managed to find almost all of our target birds on our epic journey across this long country from south to north. We saw an amazing nine species of pheasants and partridges including the enigmatic Orange-necked Partridge and several superb looks of Germain's Peacock-Pheasant. We also had no less than ten species of cuckoos, six species of owls including an adult and a juvenile Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, fourteen species of woodpeckers and an amazing ten species of laughingthrushes, which is certainly a main focus of this tour. No doubt the much-localised pittas were also very high on the wish-list and we were not disappointed with several great looks of Blue-rumped and Bar-bellied Pittas!

All the key Indochinese endemics were also seen amongst a good total of 390 species recorded. Highlights among the many regional or near-endemics included superb views of Pied Falconet, a pair of the very shy and rare Red-collared Woodpecker, several Red-vented, Indochinese and Necklaced Barbets (the latter is split from Golden-throated), Yellow-vented and Pin-tailed Green Pigeons, Dalat Shrike-babbler (split from White-browed), White-winged Magpie, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, the punkish but shy Indochinese Green Magpie, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Limestone Warbler (split from Sulphur-breasted), Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler (or Indochinese Wren-babbler), Sooty Babbler, Grey-faced Tit-babbler, Black-hooded, Rufous-cheeked, Grey, Chestnut-eared, Orange-breasted, Collared and White-cheeked Laughingthrushes, Vietnamese Cutia, Black-crowned Barwing, Grey-crowned Crocias, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Black-browed Fulvetta, Black-headed Parrotbill and superb Short-tailed Parrotbills, Fujian Niltava and White-tailed Flycatcher as well as Yellow-billed Nuthatch.



Bar-bellied Pitta is probably THE most wanted bird in Vietnam for obvious reasons (János Oláh)!

The supporting cast had a wide range of other hard-to-see or localised birds like Malayan Night Heron, Siamese Fireback, stunning Green Peafowl, Silver Pheasant, Great Hornbill, River Lapwing, Cook's Swift, Hodgson's Frogmouth, showy Banded Kingfisher, Green-eared Barbet, shy Pale-headed Woodpecker, Speckled and White-browed Piculets, Banded, Long-tailed, Dusky and Silver-breasted Broadbill, Swinhoe's Minivet, Slender-billed Oriole, the black-crested race of Sultan Tit, Chestnut Bulbul, Rufous-faced, Bianchi's, Alström's, White-spectacled and Grey-cheeked Warblers, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Limestone, Eye-

browed and Streaked Wren-Babblers, Spot-necked Babblers, Collared Babbler, Rufous-throated Fulvetta, Rufous-backed and Black-headed Sibilias, Vinous-breasted and Golden-crested Mynas, Japanese Thrush, stunning Green Cochoa, skulking White-gorgeted, Pale Blue and Hainan Blue Flycatchers and Fork-tailed Sunbird. Non-avian highlights included several regionally endemic primates such as Black-shanked Douc Langur, Annamese Langur and Buff-cheeked Gibbon in Cat Tien NP, the amazing coloured Red-shanked Douc Langur in Bach Ma NP, Hatinh Langur in Phong Nha Ke Bang NP and Delacour's Langur at Van Long Marsh. All in all we had an action-packed tour to this truly fantastic country again! Special thanks must go to our fantastic and very knowledgeable Vietnamese guide, Quang who made our visit even more memorable!



Short-tailed Parrotbills in Tam Dao National Park (János Oláh)!

The tour began with a longish drive from Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) to Cat Tien National Park, which is actually the largest remaining lowland forest block in northern Cochinchina and has recovered well after the Vietnam War of the sixties and early seventies. We arrived at this spectacular park in time for the late afternoon bird activity. After a quick check-in we drove to a more open area of the park seeing a gorgeous pair of Siamese Firebacks on the way. In the last hour of birding we managed to see Common Flameback, Indian Cuckoo, Thick-billed Green Pigeon and Yellow-bellied Prinia. We did not connect with the Green Peafowls we were particularly after but it was a nice first birding session! As we were walking back to our rooms at dusk several harrier-like Great-eared Nightjars were calling and showing well and a Large-tailed Nightjar was also lured into view.

Early next morning we made special trip to visit a pitta-feeding spot. We took up positions and soon after dawn a nice Green-legged Partridge slowly walked across the little clearing allowing excellent looks. We did not need to wait long to see our first pitta bouncing in the background and soon we were watching a pair of fantastic Bar-bellied Pittas. We spent a little more time at this location and although the much wanted Blue-rumped Pitta did not show (it has not been showing in this area this year) we had great looks of Abbott's Babblers, a female Siberian Blue Robin, White-rumped Shama and Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. On the way out from the feeding area we saw Black-and-red Broadbill, White-browed Piculet, Great Iora, Grey-eyed Bulbul and, Blue-winged Leafbird and Ruby-cheeked Sunbird.



Tickell's Blue Flycatcher male (left) and Oriental Pratincole in Cat Tien NP (János Oláh).

The rest of the morning was spent along the main track both on foot and on a back of a jeep. We saw several bird parties which had some exciting birds like male Orange-breasted Trogon, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, the localised Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, Black-hooded Oriole, Great Iora, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike and Swinhoe's Minivet. We also tracked down Green-eared and Blue-eared Barbets, Greater Flameback, Red-breasted Parakeet, a party of Dusky Broadbills and Ochraceous Bulbuls. On our return journey to the headquarters we saw Red Junglefowl and Blue-bearded Bee-eater to round off this memorable morning! After a quick but refreshing lunch we visited some paddy fields on the edge of the national park. On the way we saw Grey-headed Fish Eagle and a fine male Green Peafowl. In the open habitat we saw Grey-faced Buzzard, Asian Koels, Greater and Lesser Coucals, Indian (Black-billed) Roller, Stejneger's Stonechat, the handsome Plain-backed Sparrow. We were also lucky to see a flock of 70 breeding plumaged Oriental Pratincoles as they were feeding on the ground and in the air. Unfortunately the Indochinese Bushlark was only heard briefly just as the sun was setting. On the return drive we saw more Green Peafowls. What a stunning bird it is with its long and colourful tail! As dusk fell a patrolling Great Eared Nightjar emerged early to give nice views.

Our next day was a real pheasant day! After breakfast we drove to a bamboo area where we only had fleeting views of the usually shy Pale-headed Woodpecker but Yellow-bellied Warbler was a bit more cooperative! Red Junglefowl was seen very well on the track as we entered a *Lagerstroemia* woodland and for the next few hours we were birding amongst these giant trees. There were very few flowering trees around but after some work we finally managed to find one where we saw Golden-crested Myna and both Golden-fronted and Blue-winged Leafbirds. Pigeons were a bit thin on the ground but a few Thick-billed Green Pigeons and Green Imperial Pigeons show up. We also had great looks of the Indochinese endemic Red-vented Barbet near this flowering tree showing its red bristles around its big beak! Another feature of this woodland that in this season the rather leafless trees allow good views of some canopy birds and we managed to locate both Banded and Dusky Broadbills as well as Laced Woodpecker and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch. Just as we were walking on the winding track we heard the wing-whirring of a displaying Siamese Fireback and as we slowly approached him we could watch this beautiful bird walking in the forest. After a few minutes he decided to come out on the track right in front of us and started displaying. It was a magical moment to see this bird so well! This superb show was followed by a male Banded Kingfisher and in the roadside bushes Scaly-crowned Babbler and Little Spiderhunter was seen. In the late morning we positioned ourselves at a drinking station in the hope of a thirsty pheasant. We got lucky and only after about half an hour a female Germain's Peacock-Pheasant came in to view and stayed around for a few minutes much to our delight. Within just about an hour we had absolutely amazing looks of two sought-after pheasants. We also had Stripe-throated Bulbuls, Blue-winged Leafbirds, Hainan Blue Flycatcher and an Indochinese Ground Squirrel coming to drink. A nice lunch with some cold drinks was much appreciated and after a little siesta we were birded the main jeep track again. Although most of the afternoon session was rained out we

got great looks of Oriental Pied Hornbill, a nice Collared Falconet, more Dusky Boradbills, White-crested Laughingthrushes and Grey-faced Tit-Babblers. We tried some spots for Blyth's Frogmouth at dusk but the forest was really quiet and nothing was calling.



Male Siamese Fireback displaying (top; János Oláh) and a female Germain's Peacock-Pheasant in Cat Tien NP (Terry Laws)!

On our final day we started with an owling around our lodge which gave us nice looks of Collared Scops Owl and Brown Hawk-Owl. After a quick breakfast we were soon riding on the back of our regular jeep again. Our local guide Quang spotted a Germain's Peacock-pheasant crossing the road so we could enjoy more looks of this regional endemic, this time a male! Our next stop was a troop of Black-shanked Douc Langurs. These rare primates usually seen on the tour and we were getting worried in the last two days where they could have been. But finally we got great looks and at the same spot we had Banded Bay Cucukoo and several Vernal Hanging Parrots too. After a few km we saw another troop of Douc Langurs and finally a nice male 'in flight' as he was trying to get away from us!



Black-shanked Douc Langur in 'flight' at Cat Tien NP (Terry Laws).

The rest of the morning was spent along the rather disused trail to C6, which is a seasonally flooded area of freshwater swamp forest in the centre of the park. We slowly birded our way towards the wetland and got good looks of Orange-breasted Trogon, a pair of Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Indochinese Cuckoo-Shrike, and Swinhoe's Minivet and Pale-legged Leaf Warbler. After the birdy forest trail we emerged from the darkness of the forest to a bright, wide vista. Unfortunately, swathes of invasive Giant Mimosa *Mimosa pigra* scrub has now totally taken over the wetland and because of the lack of rain it was also totally dry. We had some skulking Black-browed Reed Warblers and some of us a male Asian Golden Weaver! Back along the main track we saw Laced Woodpecker, Greater Flameback and more Red Junglefowls on the way back to the HQ. After a short siesta we drove to another bamboo location in search of more Cat Tien specialities. The forest was quiet but some of us had a Pale-headed Woodpecker, while Red-vented and Blue-eared Barbets showed well. In a thick patch of bamboo we tried our luck and played the song of the rare Orange-necked Partridge. Much to our surprise we got an immediate response and after a few nervous minutes and some strategic positioning some of us managed to get limited views. It is a rather difficult bird to see well and it was frustrating that we could not get everybody on this specialty. Even though we located a pair and we still had one more last morning in the park...

On our last morning at Cat Tien we were back to the bamboo patch we spent the last hours of the previous day. On our drive in the bamboo we spotted a bird on the track at dawn and as soon as we stopped the jeep it turned out to be a male Blue-rumped Pitta! It stood there for a few seconds and then leisurely hopped away. What a start of the day! Soon after dawn we heard two Orange-necked Partridge singing but rather distantly. It took a while to get the birds closer and just as we got some views another pair started calling from behind. Even though we had two pairs around us it was not easy to get good looks of this partridge, but most of us managed to see it at least crossing the main track. After this success we drove to some fishponds where finally spotted two Lesser Adjutants. We also had Woolly-necked Storks, Cinnamon Bittern, a nice pair of Chestnut-capped Babblers as well as several King Quails and a few wintering Lanceolated Warblers. We also had a small bird party along the track and we finally got very good looks of the localised Black and-buff Woodpecker!



Colours from Cat Tien National Park: Common Flameback (top left), the localised Black-and-buff Woodpecker (top right), Bar-bellied Pitta male (left; János Oláh) and Black-and-red Broadbills (Terry Laws).

After this last morning we had to say goodbye to this bird-filled lowland national park and we made our way towards the endemic-rich Southern Highlands, which holds some of Vietnam's most famous endemic bird species. Our first port of call was the Deo Nui San Pass which is an excellent foothill area and our first afternoon was very productive with a female Blue-rumped Pitta, male Siberian Blue Robin, Indochinese Barbet, White-cheeked Laughingthrush and for some of us even the ultra-elusive Orange-breasted Laughingthrush. The best of all however was a fantastic Spot-bellied Eagle Owl with a well grown chick spotted by Libby. We enjoyed excellent scope looks of this amazing owl and it even made it into the top 5 birds of the trip at the end!



Spot-bellied Eagle Owl and its well grown chick at Deo Nui San (János Oláh).

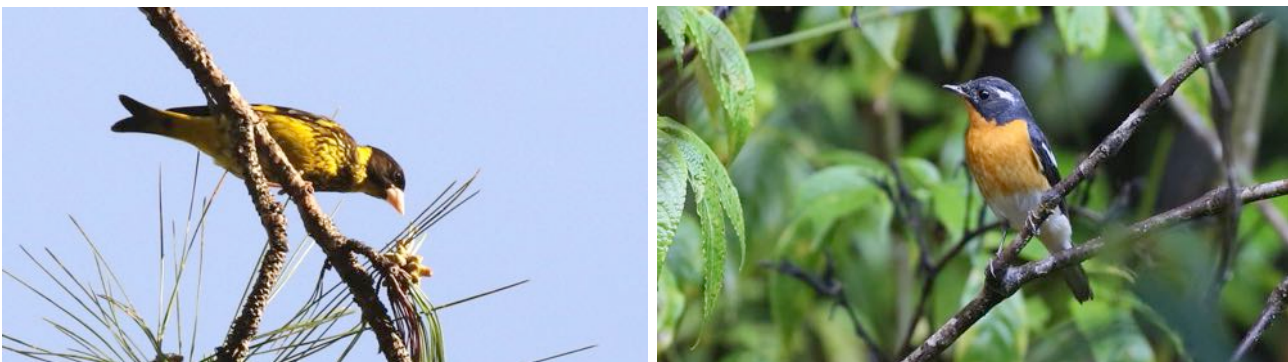
Over the next day and a half we birded this very interesting forest. We concentrated our efforts on finding a special endemic bird that occur at this elevation, the Orange-breasted Laughingthrush. Although in some past years it has been worm-fed at a different site but unfortunately it was not available this year so we had to work hard. Ten years ago this lovely songster was still very common at this location but illegal bird trapping made it really scarce now. The first few hours of the morning was spent along the road itself and we saw Barred Cuckoo-Doves, Yellow-vented Green Pigeon, Mountain Imperial Pigeons, several Long-tailed Broadbills, Speckled Piculet, Swinhoe's Minivet, several Black-throated (Grey-crowned) Bushtits, singing Kloss's Leaf Warblers, Blue-and-white Flycatcher, many Annam Fulvettas, excellent looks of two Spot-throated Babblers, *orientalis* non-blue-winged Blue-winged Minlas, male Clicking Shrike-Babbler, Maroon Orioles and a noisy party of Black-headed Parrotbills. A nice Sulphur-breasted Warbler was a bit of a surprise in a mixed bird party. Later when the sun was getting stronger we quietly walked along a forest trail where we managed to see a female Blue-rumped Pitta, Red-headed Trogon, Alström's Warbler, a female Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher of the *klossi* subspecies, Collared Babbler and Streaked Wren-Babbler. Finally in the late afternoon we located a singing Orange-breasted Laughingthrush but despite much effort only a few of us managed to secure reasonable looks. At dusk we had a brief sighting of a calling Hodgson's Frogmouth. We were back early next morning for a last trial on the skulking laughter but we had no success at the site we heard it the previous day. Slightly disappointed we changed location and drove to a different area which proved to be a very lucky move as not much later we located another singing pair and after some

careful positioning and coaxing, we finally all got great looks of this mega endemic! The main target of the area was finally seen so the rest of the morning was just pure liberated birding! Just as usual this is the time when birders get lucky and indeed lots of other goodies showed up to us like a big party of 10 Bar-backed Partridges, Black-hooded Laughingthrushes and a singing Alström's Warbler.



The endemic Orange-breasted Laughingthrush was not easy to see (Terry Laws).

In the afternoon we drove to Da Lat which is one of the touristiest towns in Vietnam with a very special and pleasant climate. Lots of people take refuge here from the hot and humid lowlands and this is the capital of the Vietnamese flower industry with endless greenhouses of roses. We had a few hours of daylight left so we decided to visit a nearby pine forest, which was an excellent choice as we saw several endemic Vietnamese Greenfinches and a pair of the endemic Vietnamese Cutia. It used to be an isolated race of Cutia in Southern Vietnam but has been elevated to full species status a few years ago. It has entirely barred underparts and the female has an all dark brown head. There were some other notable birds in this area such as Besra, Barred Buttonquail, Burmese Shrike, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Ashy Woodswallow, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Grey Bush Chat, Mugimaki and Little Pied Flycatchers, Dalat Shrike-Babbler, Slender-billed Oriole and a Fire-breasted Flowerpecker.



The endemic Vietnamese Greenfinch (left) and Mugimaki Flycatcher (János Oláh).



Female Vietnamese Cutia near Da Lat (János Oláh).

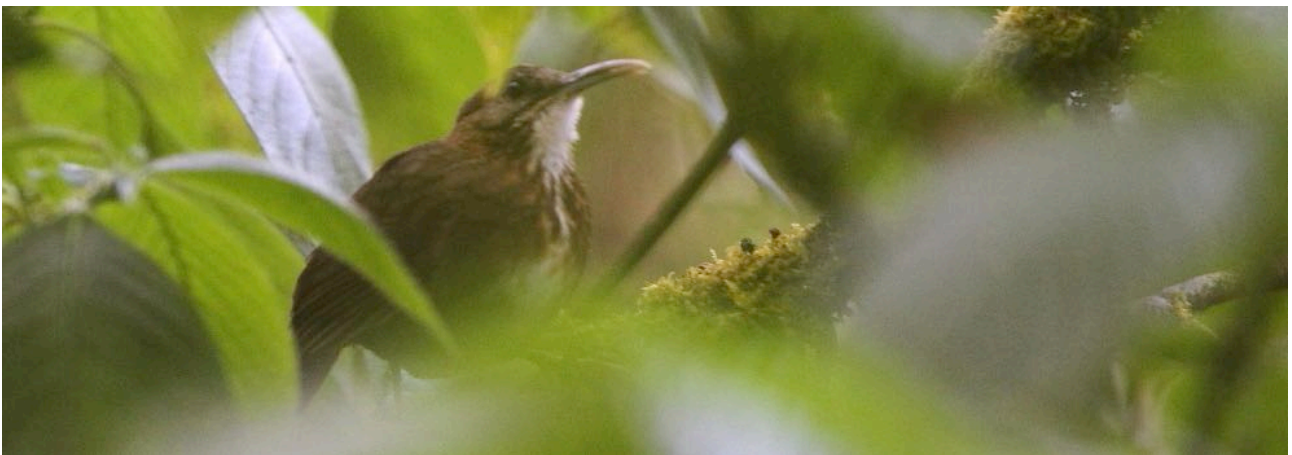
Our first morning in the Da Lat area was spent in the Bidoup Nui Ba National Park. Just after dawn we arrived to the superb broadleaved evergreen forest. Our first bird was a nice male Mrs Gould's Sunbird but we were on a mission so quickly took position in a shady gully by a stream and played the song of the endemic Collared Laughingthrush, which is one the prized endemic of the park. After a few minutes we had a pair hopping on a big log for several minutes bringing wide smiles to all faces! Just as we got superb looks of this shy forest denizen, the Indochinese Green Magpie started to call and after a few minutes we managed to call them in for a quick look. Back on the road we saw many more Vietnamese Greenfinches and was playing around with Rufous-capped babblers when we suddenly heard a Singing Green Cochoa. We were lucky as the bird came close very quickly and we all got great looks of this sluggish canopy-dwelling thrush. After this great start we were back in the shady forest where we slowly tracked down all the goodies we wanted. Mixed bird parties gave us Bay Woodpecker, the near-endemic Yellow-billed Nuthatch, another Vietnamese Cutia, Yellow-cheeked Tits, the *annamensis* subspecies of Chestnut-crowned Warbler, the *ocularis* race of White-spectacled Warbler and several endemic Black-crowned Fulvettas. For the more skulking birds we had to work a bit harder but finally most of us managed to see *langbianensis* race of Lesser Shortwing, Pygmy Wren-Babbler as well as several male White-tailed Robins. The most difficult bird to locate and see was the Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler or Indochinese Wren-Babbler. First we heard a pair way down in a gully and after some bushwhacking we got into position but the birds went silent and we never had a sniff. It was strange as usually they are shy and skittish but do respond to tape well. Our guide Quang found another pair at a different location but by the time we got there they had gone silent. We did not give up and kept trying so finally a singing bird was responding and coming into view several times. It was another highlight of the morning for those who managed to get their bins on it. After this very birdy and successful morning we drove to the national park headquarter area a where we wanted to see Red Crossbill. In Southern Vietnam it is the endemic *meridionalis* race a highly potential split. Unfortunately, a male was seen-only by Quang and most of us only had a female in flight. Other goodies in this area included White-throated Needleetails, Burmese Shrikes, more Slender-billed Orioles, *legendrei* race Green-backed Tits, *annamensis* race of Long-tailed Minivet, Blue Rock Thrush, Vinous-breasted and Chestnut-tailed Starlings

and Vietnamese Greenfinches. It was a really birdy day with amazing looks of some of the most sought-after birds of the country!



Green Cochoa (left), Collared Laughingthrush (right) and the Black-crowned Fulvetta in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP (János Oláh).

Next morning we drove to the well-known Ta Nung valley. It was a fantastic bright sunny morning and it did not take long before we spotted a singing Grey-crowned Crocias, our main target here. Again it was a good start and this was followed by some more action-packed birding. In mixed bird parties we saw other goodies like Black-headed Sibia of the endemic *robinsoni* race and the non-rufous-backed *eximia* subspecies of Rufous-backed Sibia. Amongst the other noteworthy birds here were Yellow-vented Green Pigeon, Dalat Shrike-Babbler and the *decorata* race of Large Niltava. Good numbers of stunning red-breasted *johnsi* Black-throated Sunbirds were feeding on trackside bottlebrush trees along with Mrs Gould's Sunbirds. The narrow trail along the stream was very quiet though we heard Collared Owlet and seen a Grey-cheeked Warbler and some of us even managed to get on a wintering Rufous-tailed Robin. It was a sunny morning so activity quickly dwindled away and we also moved on to another location. Our trial for Da Lat Bush Warbler was unfruitful in the midday heat but we had Chestnut-vented Nuthatch and *leucotis* Eurasian Jays. In the afternoon we were back to the Bidoup National Park for a last visit and this time we got better looks of Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler before it started to rain! Early next morning we had short birding session by the Da Tan La waterfalls which finally produced a nice male White-throated Rock Thrush and many Indochinese Barbets and a recently split Necklaced Barbet for some. The area was very birds because of all the flowering trees and a few fast-moving Eye-browed Thrushes and Blue Whistling Thrush was also added to our growing list. However we had to say goodbye to the Southern Highlands and started our long drive north towards the Central Highlands.



The nominate Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler (top) at Bidoup Nui Ba NP and male White-throated Rock Thrush near Da Lat (János Oláh).

After a few hours' drive we had a quick lunch stop at Lak Lake where we saw Little Grebe, Black-backed Swamphen, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Asian Barred Owlet, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Ashy Woodswallow, Dusky Warbler, Black-browed Reed Warbler, Lineated Barbet, White-shouldered Starling, White-vented Myna and various egrets. It was already dark when we rolled into the small town called Mang Den our gateway to the Mang Canh forest. The Central Highlands of Vietnam is another endemic bird area centred on the mighty Ngoc Linh Mountain. This is probably the last part of Vietnam where superb mountain forest stretches as far as the eye can see however it is already disappearing in an alarming rate wherever a new road is being built! We were up early and our main quest for the day was to locate yet another endemic bird, the stunning Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush. As it is the case with most endemic laughers in Vietnam it is another tricky one to see. We tried several locations where our guide Quang has seen or heard the bird recently but have not had a sniff. The morning activity was already slowing down even in the forest when suddenly a Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush was spotted along the trail but disappeared way too fast for most of us to see it. In the next hours or so we tried hard at this location but only we had brief glimpses. It was frustrating! The rest of the day we were still patrolling the many logging trails around and it was late afternoon when we got a brief response from another laugher. We quickly discussed the plan and got into action. This time it worked out exactly as we wanted and were soon watching this amazingly patterned rare endemic. What a bird! It was especially highly prized with so much effort was put into seeing it! We encountered three different birds throughout the day but all of them were single birds so we assume the breeding season started earlier because of the unusual weather and this is why it was so difficult to track down the Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush. This bird was described as recently as 2001 in the near Mount Kon Ka Kinh but was not seen again until its rediscovery at this location.



Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush at Mang Canh forest (János Oláh).

This early breeding time was also true for some other birds in Mang Canh as it was distinctly less birdy as it was on our pervious visits. However the *sweeti* race of the Black-hooded Laughingthrush was still delightfully common and we had several great encounters with it. We also managed to see other goodies while trying to locate our main target and this included the black-crested race of Sultan Tit, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Red-vented and Necklaced Barbets, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Ratchet-tailed Treepie,

Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher and Pale Blue Flycatchers, Rufous-faced Warbler, a female White-throated Rock Thrush, our first Orange-headed Thrush, Dalat and Black-eared Shrike-Babblers for some and We also had several cuckoos like Indian, Square-tailed Drongo, Plaintive, Banded Bay and Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo but Common Cuckoo was heard-only. After a hearty Vietnamese meal we left for our next destination towards the Laos border. Before we arrived to Ngoc Hoi we did some birding in a nearby paddy field where open country birds included Striated Heron, Wire-tailed Swallow, Paddyfield Pipits, Brown Shrike and Stejneger's Stonechat.

Next morning we ascended on the newly built Ho Chi Minh highway to the Lo Xo Pass area in remote Quang Binh province. As soon as we arrived we climbed to a steep hillside to look for our sole target here, the recently described and highly localized Black-crowned Barwing. Just as we got up to the highest point we got the message from Quang who climbed another hill that he located a pair. Needless to say we rushed down the slope and up to the other area. We were lucky however as the birds were still around and when we got back our breath we had good looks of this special bird. Satisfied with the sighting we were back to the bus and we spotted a male Plumbeous Water Redstart by the waterfall while a flock of four White-winged Magpies appeared in the valley and then flew across the road. Excellent! After this successful morning we continued towards Bach Ma National Park. We had a quick stop near the Vuzia River, where a short birding session produced a River Lapwing and some lovely Little Green Bee-eaters. The lapwing is a considered near threatened nowadays and it is a rapidly declining species in Asia and a very localised and rare bird in Vietnam.



River Lapwing is a rare bird in Vietnam (left, Terry Laws) and Black-crowned Barwing at Lo Xo Pass (János Oláh).

We were in the Lang Co area by lunch though it was really hot and the only birds we saw in the garden were Light-vented Bulbuls, Olive-backed Pipits, a Dusky Warbler and a Brown-throated Sunbird. After lunch we drove into Bach Ma National Park and drove straight to the summit area as it was perfect sunny weather, which is a very rare day in the area. Bach Ma National Park is one of the wettest places in Vietnam and usually covered in mist and drizzle. So we took advantage of the brilliant weather and had a very birdy afternoon. The flowering tree in the car park held several male Orange-bellied Leafbirds and many Maritime Striped Squirrels. Along the trail we saw Bay Woodpecker, Silver-breasted Broadbills, a party of Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, nice Silver-eared Mesia, more black-crested Sultan Tits, Blue-throated Blue Flycatchers, a female Narcissus and two Ferruginous Flycatchers, several Red-flanked Bluetails, Golden Babblers and Indochinese Yuhinas. The best experience of the afternoon however was locating a troop of the rare Red-shanked Douc Langurs at the very top of the mountain. These stunning primates have amazing colours and look like as they would be dressed for a night out. We could

watch the troop moving through the foliage for about 20 minutes as the sun was setting. It is indeed a rare event in Bach Ma to have clear weather and it certainly resulted in a superb afternoon for us.



Red-shanked Douc Langurs (top) and the views from the summit of Bach Ma NP (János Oláh).

We were out pre-dawn the following morning but we only heard a few Mountain Scops Owls distantly. In the early cool hours (at least we thought so) we were birding in the lower parts of the park. While having

breakfast in the open area around the headquarters we saw a few Masked Laughingthrushes, Racket-tailed Treepie, migrant male Narcissus Flycatchers and Fork-tailed Sunbird. We have visited a narrow trail where we had Buff-breasted Babbler, Ratchet-tailed Treepie and some shy Lesser Necklaced Laughinthrushes but our prime target *merlini* race of the Green-legged Partridge remained heard-only. As it was getting hot we climbed back to the higher parts of the mountain and birded the summit trail and the main track until lunch. The weather was still great and we had Black Eagles and short glimpse of a probable Jerdon's Baza (which did not finally go to our list in the evening). We also had more Silver-eared Mesias, Silver-breasted and Long-tailed Boradbills and White-crowned Forktails. We also tracked down another pair of Short-tailed Scimitar Babblers for those who kept missing it in the south, this time the Central Vietnamese *parvisrostris* race but a singing White-gorgeted Flycatcher remained in cover. After lunch we continued our journey north to Hue – which was the imperial capital of the Nguyen dynasty for 150 years – and after a dinner in Dong Ha we drove to Khe Shan close to the Laos border.



Ferruginous Flycatcher at Bach Ma NP (János Oláh).

Next morning we have visited the Sa Mu Pass area. However, the weather really deteriorated and we had gale force winds. Birding was very difficult and in a few hours we only managed to find a handful of birds though our main target, the very localised Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush was seen by most of us. We also had Black Eagle, Moustached and Golden-throated Barbets, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Black-throated Laughingthrush, Ratchet-tailed Treepie and Crested Myna. We drove the Ho Chi Minh highway north and by late afternoon we arrived to Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in the quest to find the highly localized and poorly known Sooty Babbler and the recently described Limestone Warbler. We quickly checked in and drove into the limestone karst dominated national park. Our first stop produced a troop of the very rare Hatinh Langurs as they were feeding on a fruiting tree by a massive cliff face. We counted 14 individuals and got excellent scope looks. Finally we arrived to an area we have seen the Sooty Babblers in the past and luckily we soon located a pair of restless Sooty Babblers. This strange bird is a real rock climber and they change location very quickly. Not surprising at all that they were placed into their own genus in the past though nowadays considered to be a *Stachyris* babbler. It was very comforting to score on the main target on our arrival day!



The unique Sooty Babbler in Phong Nha Ke Bang NP (János Oláh).

Early next morning we were back in the national park but the weather was overcast and misty. Our first bird was a singing Black-throated Laughingthrush on the roadside railing. A bit of a surprise after battling to see it at previous locations in thick bamboo. The morning was slow and although we heard Limestone Leaf Warbler they were not showing. We found a nesting pair of Long-tailed Boradills, a Greater Yellownape and watched many Crimson Sunbirds. Next we drove towards the Hang Co Temple and a nice Mountain Hawk Eagle was seen perched and a single Hatinh Langur in the car park. We spent an hour in this area as we have seen the enigmatic Red-collared Woodpecker in this area a few years ago but this time we had no woodpeckers and in fact just a few common birds were seen. We decided to change scenery and birded the main track towards the Paradise Cave. It was more activity in this area as we had displaying Crested Goshawks, two Great Hornbills, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoos, lovely Sultan Tits and Pin-striped Tit-Babbler. We had Blue-and-white Flycatcher and Puff-throated Bulbuls from our dining table and after lunch we walked the trail to the cave through excellent forest on a limestone hillside. This was a very productive session with a very cooperative Limestone Leaf Warbler finally and we also had several Orange-headed

Thrushes, more good looks of Sooty Babblers, Black-browed Fulvetta and a pair of Bar-bellied Pittas. We finished the day by the west gate where we had a Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, four Grey-headed Lapwings and a huge swirl of Cook's Swifts. We were very satisfied with the results of the day as we seen most things we hoped for. Next morning we left Phong Nha after breakfast and continued to drive north towards Cuc Phuong National Park. This was a travelling day and we only had Black Kite, Brown and Long-tailed Shrikes on the drive through endless paddyfields and pretty strong traffic. Our drive was slightly longer then expected so instead of visiting Van Long Marsh we drove straight to the park and had our last hour birding along a nice trail through limestone forest. Cuc Phuong is the oldest and most famous of Vietnam's National Parks another fine example of limestone karst. The habitat was very similar to Phong Nha Ke Bang NP but still some difference in birds. Our best bird of the afternoon was a very cooperative Limestone Wren-Babbler though the male White-tailed Flycatcher was much appreciated as well!



Limestone Wren-Babbler or Greyish Limestone-Babbler as it is called by some nowadays in Cuc Phuong NP (János Oláh).

Next early morning on the way into Bong Substation we drove slowly along the road and checked for wintering thrushes. Much to our surprise the first bird we came across was a superb Malayan Night Heron, which allowed really good looks as it was just standing on the edge of the road. Again we had a superb start to the day! As it was getting light we got further into the forest and were able to get great views of Japanese and Orange-headed Thrush. On the first morning we counted only about 6-7 thrushes along the road, which is much less then we usually have here. According to Quang they had a very mild winter and it was also very dry so wintering birds were not in huge numbers. Our very best possible bird of the park was next as we had a little stroll along the main road still before breakfast and heard a woodpecker call which was promising. It took us a few minutes to call-in a pair of Red-collared Woodpeckers. They were very shy as usual but everybody managed to see either the male or the female and some lucky ones both. After this unexpected mega bird we had banana pancake for breakfast to celebrate! After breakfast we did the loop trail and got excellent looks of Silver Pheasant, Bar-bellied Pitta, Rufous-throated Fulvetta, Eye-browed Wren-Babbler, Fujian Niltava, White-tailed Flycatcher and White-tailed Robin. A pretty good list for a morning's birding. In the afternoon we drove to Van Long Marsh where we had Yellow Bittern, Common Moorhen, Black-backed Swamphen, White-browed Crake, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and several Plain Prinias and a few migrant pipits. The best experience was to see twelve Delacour's Langurs as they appeared on the rocks and the nearby bushes. This is another very rare monkey, which is endemic to Vietnam and was great one to see! We had another day in Cuc Phuong as the White-eared Night Heron was not breeding in Ba Be NP so we spent most

of our time in the forest looking for Eared Pitta and other goodies. Unfortunately we did not see the pitta and in fact only heard it once on our entire stay in the park but we finally managed to see a Pied Falconet, Collared Owlet, Brown-backed Needletail, Red-vented and Green-eared Barbets, White-winged Magpie, Arctic and Bianchi's Warblers, Plain Flowerpecker and Fork-tailed Sunbirds.



Orange-headed Thrush (top) and the rare Delacour's Langur at Van Long Nature Reserve (János Oláh).



Malayan Night Heron (left) and White-tailed Flycatcher in Cuc Phuong NP (János Oláh).

From Cuc Phuong we drove to Hanoi and had a brief stop along the Red River to look around for migrants. There has been a lot of rain and the area was pretty muddy but there was good activity in the trees along the river. We saw Black-winged Kite, Eastern Marsh Harrier, Ashy Minivet, Japanese Tit, Grey-throated Martin, Arctic Warbler, Siberian Rubythroat, Taiga and Narcissus Flycatchers, Japanese White-eye, Richard's Pipit and Olive-backed Pipits. It was dark when we arrived to Tam Dao, the old French colonial hill station. It was not foggy however and the weather forecast was good for the next day! We were up early next morning and it was not misty so we started to walk along the Three Peaks road and the trail through the 'Bamboo Forest'. Tam Dao is a National Park nowadays but the forest certainly has less birds compared to the 1990's when we first visited and illegal trapping and hunting is a problem. We quickly found the first Chestnut Bulbuls and Pale-footed Bush Warbler was playing hide-and-seek with us. Mixed parties held Golden Babblers, Indochinese Yuhinas and David's Fulvettas as well as Pallas's Warblers. A shy flock of Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes were glimpsed and a distant Blue-naped Pitta was heard way down the steep slope. Just as we got to the start of the bamboo trail we heard Grey Laughingthrushes very close to us and after a tantalising few minutes they flew in and we got excellent looks of these often very quick and shy birds. The trail was also very productive and we had several mixed parties with more David's Fulvettas and several cute Short-tailed Parrotbills. It was not easy to see them well in the thick bamboo as they were very quickly hopping around but finally we all got excellent looks. Fantastic! We also tracked down a singing White-gorgetted Flycatcher and party of Collared Babblers too. Additional birds along the trail were Yellow-bellied and Bianchi's Warblers and a male Hill Blue Flycatcher. After this amazing morning we were heading back to town for lunch. As we got out of the forest it was still clear sky and visible migration with flocks of Japanese White-eyes flying over plus Crested Serpent Eagle, Crested Goshawk, Besra, House Swifts and Silver-backed Needletails all migrating north. After lunch we walked to the top of the transmitter steps but we have not had many birds in the midday heat (without the fog). A few Streak-necked Scimitar Babblers, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler and Chestnut Bulbuls were seen plus we also had a Yellow-bellied Weasel. The last hour we spent it the pine forest below town and seen Blue-and-white Flycatcher and Red-billed Blue Magpies. We had a nice dinner and all agreed we could not have hoped for better day in Tam Dao as our last birding day of the tour! Next morning we returned the 'Bamboo Forest' for a last bit of birding but apart from Golden-throated Barbet, Spot-necked Babbler, Streaked Wren-Babbler, Eye-browed and Orange-headed Thrushes we did not add much to the previous days list. However we got fantastic eye-level views of

a party of 8 Short-tailed Parrotbills and most probably a male Purple Coho got away before we could 100% identify it. It was time for packing and a final lunch. While loading the luggage to the bus we spotted a male Crested Bunting in the garden of the hotel, which was the penultimate bird of this successful and action-packed tour to this amazing country! 2017 we had a very productive Birdquest tour to the magical country of Vietnam and certainly stored endless great birding memories in our head and on our memory cards as well!



Short-tailed Parrotbill (top) and White-gorgeted Flycatcher in Tam Dao NP (János Oláh).



Limestone Leaf Warbler is a recently described species from the limestone areas of Vietnam and Laos (János Oláh).

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.2). This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra (www.igoterra.com) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* One was seen our drive to Cat Tien NP [*harringtoni*].

Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* (H) We heard it on our very first afternoon at Cat Tien NP [*phayrei*].

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis* A total of eight were seen in Cat Tien NP [*nominata*].

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* (H) It was heard in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP [*annamensis*].

Bar-backed Partridge ◊ *Arborophila brunneopectus* Excellent looks of a covey of ten at Deo Nui San [*albigula*].

Orange-necked Partridge ◊ *Arborophila davidi* Two pairs were seen Cat Tien NP. **NT**

Green-legged Partridge ◊ *Arborophila chloropus* Seen Cat Tien, heard Bach Ma and Cuc Phuong. See note.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* Several sightings Cat Tien NP, Bach Ma NP and Phong Nha Ke Bang NP [*nominata*].

Silver Pheasant ◊ *Lophura nycthemara* A fantastic male was seen by some at Cuc Phuong NP [*berliozii*].

Siamese Fireback ◊ *Lophura diardi* Absolutely amazing looks of this beauty in Cat Tien NP.

Germain's Peacock-pheasant ◊ *Polyplectron germaini* Three sightings, best looks of a female at Cat Tien NP. **NT**

Green Peafowl ◊ *Pavo muticus* Four were seen in Cat Tien NP including a superb male [*imperator*]. **EN**

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Many were seen at Tuyen Lam lake and Van Long Marsh.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* Six were seen at Cat Tien NP.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* Four were seen at Cat Tien NP. **VU**

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* Just one was seen at Van Long Marsh.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* Two were seen in the Cat Tien NP.

Malayan Night Heron ◊ *Gorsachius melanolophus* Fantastic prolonged looks of this scarce bird in Cuc Phuong NP.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (H) Heard at Cat Tien NP at predawn one morning.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* One was seen near Kontum.

Chinese Pond-heron *Ardeola bacchus* Common throughout.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* Common throughout, up to 300 at Van Long Marsh. See note.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* First seen at Van Long Marsh.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Singletons were seen at Cat Tien NP and Lak lake.

Great Egret (Great White E) *Ardea alba* Several sightings throughout [*modestus*].

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* A few in Central Vietnam.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Common throughout the tour.

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* Several were seen at Cat Tien NP and one near Da Lat at Tuyen Lam.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Just one was seen at Cat Tien NP.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* We had two sightings of this open country raptor.

Crested Honey-buzzard (Oriental H-B) *Pernis ptilorhyncus* Several sightings in Cat Tien and around Mang Canh.

Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela* Regular records throughout the tour.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nivalensis* Excellent looks of an immature in Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.



Mountain Hawk-Eagle (left) in Phong Nha Ke Bang NP and Lesser Adjutant at Cat Tien NP (János Oláh).

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* One was seen at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* It was seen at Bach Ma and also at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* Many excellent looks, the best perhaps at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* Several sightings in the south mainly in Cat Tien NP.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus* One was seen at Tuyen Lam and one at Tam Dao.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* One was seen at the Red River. See note.
Black Kite *Milvus migrans* One was seen on our way to Cuc Phuong.
Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaeus* One was seen at Cat Tien NP.
Grey-faced Buzzard *Buteo indicus* Just a single sighting at Tai Lai rice fields near Cat Tien NP.
Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* Just one was seen at Mang Canh. See note.
White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* We had a total of six birds at Van Long Marsh.
Black-backed Swamphen (Purple S) *Porphyrio indicus* It was seen at Lak Lake and at Van Long Marsh. See note.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* It was seen at Lak Lake and at Van Long Marsh.
Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* One was seen at Tuyen Lam [*pallascens*].
River Lapwing ◊ *Vanellus duvaucelli* One was seen on the Vuzia River near Bach Ma NP. Rare bird in Vietnam. **NT**
Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* Four birds were seen at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.
Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* Several sightings at Cat Tien NP.
Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* One was seen at Lak Lake and several at Van Long Marsh.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* One was seen displaying at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* One was seen near Kontum and one on the sand bars of the Vuzia River.
Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* We had amazing looks of 70 on the paddies at Cat Tien NP.
Rock Pigeon (R Dove) *Columba livia* Common near human habitation throughout.
Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* It was very common in Cat Tien NP.
Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* Regularly seen throughout the tour.
Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall* Just a few sightings in the southern highlands [*minor*].
Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* A few were seen Cat Tien NP and Phong Nha Ke Bang NP [*nominate*].
Zebra Dove (introduced) *Geopelia striata* Getting more common in Cat Tien NP, a total of 13 seen.
Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* It was seen a few times at Cat Tien NP [*nipalensis*].
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron apicauda* Three were seen close to Sa Mu Pass [*laotinus*].
Yellow-vented Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron seimundi* Several sightings at Deo Nui San, some preched close [*modestus*].
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura* We saw two in flight at Mang Canh. See note.
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* Good numbers again this year at Cat Tien NP [*sylvatica*].
Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* Frequently recorded in the Southern and Central Highlands [*griseicapilla*].
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* Regularly recorded throughout the tour [*intermedius*].
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* A few sightings in its preferred grassland habitat in Cat Tien NP [*nominate*].
Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis* Commonly seen throughout, especially in Cat Tien NP [*nominate*].
Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* Five were seen at Cat Tien NP [*chinensis*].
Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* (H) Heard twice at Cat Tien NP but somehow eluded us [*nominate*].
Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* Several sightings throughout the tour [*nominate*].
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* Many sightings this year throughout the tour [*querulus*].
Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* One seen at Mang Canh and two at Phong Nha NP. See note.
Large Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveriioides* (H) heard regularly at Tam Dao but no sightings.
Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nasicolor* We had three sightings at Mang Canh. See note.
Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* Three sightings of this loud species on the tour [*concretus*].
Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (H) One was heard Bach Ma NP very close but we were busy with other things.
Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica* One was seen well on our way to Deo Nui San one morning [*stertens*].
Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* As often with this bird remained heard-only despite hearing several places.
Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* Great views of this one at Cat Tien NP [*nominate*]. See note.
Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl ◊ *Bubo nipalensis* We had great looks at an adult and a chick at Deo Nui San [*nominate*].
Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* (H) One was heard at Cuc Phuong briefly.
Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* This commonly heard species was finally seen at Cuc Phuong NP [*nominate*].
Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* We had several sightings Cat Tien NP and Cuc Phuong NP [*deignan*].
Brown Boobook (B Hawk Owl) *Ninox scutulata* One was seen at Cat Tien NP [*burmanica*]. See note.
Hodgson's Frogmouth ◊ *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* One was glimpsed a few times at Deo Nui San [*indochinae*].
Great Eared-nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* This harrier-like bird was seen in good number Cat Tien [*cerviniceps*].
Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* A pair was seen and heard calling every evening by our hotel at Da Lat. See note.
Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* A few were seen at Cat Tien NP and at Deo Nui San [*bimaculatus*].
Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani* Commonly seen throughout the tour. See note.
White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* Just eight were seen at the Bidous Nui Ba NP HQ [*nudipes*].

Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* It was seen at Cat Tien NP and also at Tam Dao.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* A flock of ten were seen at Cuc Phuong NP.

Asian Palm-swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* Just a few sightings on the tour.

Cook's Swift *Apus cooki* ◊ It was commonly seen at Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP. See note.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* Scattered sightings of this widespread swift [*nominata*].

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* Nice looks of this smart bird in Cat Tien NP [*stellae*].

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* Seen at Deo Nui San, Cuc Phuong and Phong Nha [*annamensis*].

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* A few seen in the open areas at Cat Tien NP [*affinis*]. See note.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* A few were seen at Cat Tien NP and Cuc Phuong NP [*nominata*].

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* One was seen very well at Cat Tien NP [*amabilis*].

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* One was seen at Cat Tien NP [*burmanica*].

White-throated Kingfisher (W-breasted K) *Halcyon smyrnensis* Regular sightings throughout [*perpulchra*].

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* A common winter visitor and it was numerous in the north [*bengalensis*].

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Just one at Cat Tien and two along the Red River near Hanoi [*leucomelanurus*].

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* Three sightings of this handsome forest bee-eater [*nominata*].

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* Six of the resident race was seen at the Vuzia River [*ferrugeiceps*].

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaultia* A few sightings throughout the tour [*nominata*].

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* (H) It was heard near Da Lat but not seen [*longirostris*].

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* One was seen by some at Cat Tien NP and two more at Phong Nha Ke Bang. NT

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* Daily sightings at Cat Tien NP [*nominata*]. See note.

Austen's Brown Hornbill (Northern B H) ◊ *Anorrhinus austeni* (H) It was heard at Cuc Phuong NP. See note. NT

Red-vented Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon lagrandieri* Seen at Cat Tien NP [*rotschildi*], and at Cuc Phuong [*nominata*].

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineate* Hear at Cat Tien NP and seen at Lak Lake [*hodgsoni*].

Green-eared Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon faiostricta* It was seen at Cat Tien [*nominata*] and Cuc Phuong [*praetermissus*].

Necklaced Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon auricularis* We heard them around Da Lat and seen at Mang Canh. See note.

Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii* It was seen at Sa Mu Pass and at Tam Dao [*nominata*].

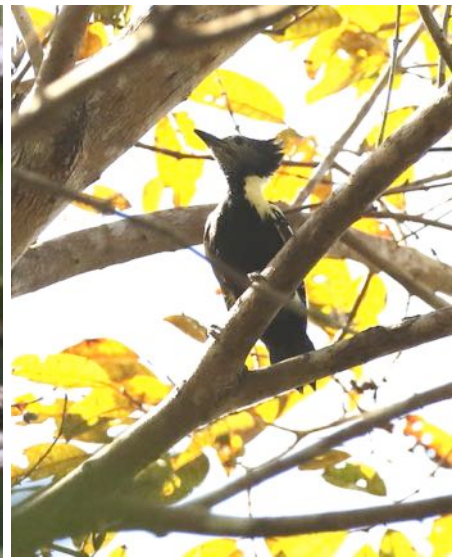
Indochinese Barbet (Annam B) ◊ *Psilopogon annamensis* Commonly encountered on the Southern Highlands.

Moustached Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon incognitus* A pair was seen near Sa Mu Pass [*elbeli*].

Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon australis* Several were seen through the scope at Cat Tien [*orientalis*].

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephala* One was seen at Cat Tien NP [*indicus*].

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* Two were seen at Deo Nui San and one at Mang Canh [*malayorum*].



Speckled Piculet (left) in Deo Nui San and Black-and-buff Woodpecker at Cat Tien NP (János Oláh).

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea* Three were seen at Cat Tien NP [*nominata*].

Heart-spotted Woodpecker ◊ *Hemicircus canente* Two encounters with this handsome bird at Cat Tien.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus* It was seen at Cat Tien and at Tuyen Lam [*delacouri*].

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus* Just one was seen at Mang Canh [*vietnamensis*].

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* It was seen at Deo Nui San [*pierrei*] and Phong Nha Ke Bang [*ricketti*].

Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus* Regularly seen at Cat Tien NP and heard at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

Red-collared Woodpecker ◇ *Picus rabieri* A pair was seen at Cuc Phuong NP. Amazing bird! **NT**

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* One was seen well at Cat Tien NP [*hesse*].

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense* We had good views at Cat Tien NP [*intermedium*].

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* Regularly heard and seen at Cat Tien NP [*guttacristatus*].

Pale-headed Woodpecker ◇ *Gecinulus grantia* Three sightings of the elusive bird for some Cat Tien [*indochinensis*].

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* Several seen in the south [*annamensis*], and in the north [*pyrrhotis*].

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* (H) It was heard once at Cat Tien NP [*annamensis*].

Black-and-buff Woodpecker ◇ *Meiglyptes jugularis* Finally we got excellent looks at Cat Tien NP.

Collared Falconet ◇ *Microhierax caerulescens* Superb looks of one at Cat Tien NP.

Pied Falconet ◇ *Microhierax melanoleucos* One was seen at Cuc Phuong NP in the very last minute!

Common Kestrel (Eurasian K) *Falco tinnunculus* Several sightings in the north.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* One was seen on our drive to Cuc Phuong NP.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* Common at Cat Tien NP [*fasciata*]. **NT**

Vernal Hanging-parrot *Loriculus vernalis* Good numbers were seen at Cat Tien NP [*nominate*].

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos* Excellent looks of this beauty in Cat Tien NP [*siamensis*].

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* Seen De Nui San [*divinus*], and Phong Nha Ke Bang NP [*nominate*].

Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* Seen at Bach Ma NP and Cuc Phuong NP [*elisabethae*].

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus* Two were seen and others heard at Cat Tien NP [*pallidus*].

Dusky Broadbill ◇ *Corydon sumatranus* Several excellent looks at Cat Tien NP [*jaoensis*].

Eared Pitta ◇ *Anthocincla phayrei* (H) Despite much effort only heard briefly at Cuc Phuong NP.

Blue-naped Pitta ◇ *Pitta nipalensis* (H) Heard distantly at Tam Dao down a steep slope.

Blue-rumped Pitta ◇ *Pitta soror* A male was seen at Cat Tien NP and a female at Deo Nui San [*nominate*].

Blue Pitta ◇ *Pitta cyanea* (H) They were not calling this year! Heard briefly Deo Nui San and Tuyen Lam [*willoughbyi*].

Bar-bellied ◇ *Pitta Pitta ellioti* Excellent looks at Cat Tien NP and Cuc Phuong NP.



Male Bar-bellied Pitta showing its amazing colours (left) while the female Blue-rumped Pitta is more subtle (János Oláh).

Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus* Regular sightings throughout the tour [*nominate*].

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis* Seen at Cat Tien [*mekongensis*] and at Cuc Phuong NP [*hainanus*].

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* Regularly encountered in small congregations.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* Regularly seen at Cat Tien NP [*cambodiana*].

Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayeii* Seen in bird-waves at Cat Tien NP [*xanthotis*] and one at Cuc Phuong [*innotata*].

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei* Just one was seen at Cat Tien NP [*siamensis*].
Indochinese Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina polioptera* Regular sightings in the south [*nominata*].
Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos* Just a few seen on the tour [*avensis*].
Swinhoe's Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus cantonensis* Many excellent looks at Cat Tien NP and Deo Nui San. See note.
Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Just one was seen at the Red River near Hanoi [*nominata*].
Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* A few were seen at Deo Nui San, Mang Canh and Bach Ma [*deignani*].
Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* Regularly seen on the Southern Highlands [*annamensis*].
Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* It was seen twice at Mang Canh [*anthoides*].
Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* Several seen in the south [*semiruber*], and [*fraterculus*] the north. See note.
Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* Regular sightings throughout, mainly along roadsides.
Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurio* Small numbers seen on the Southern Highlands [*nigricapillus*].



The 'nigricapillus' Burmese Shrike near Da Lat (János Oláh).

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* Commonly seen roadside bird especially in central Vietnam [*tricolor*].
White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* Regularly seen throughout the tour [*sordida*].
Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* (H) Just heard at Tam Dao [*ricketti*]. See note.
Dalat Shrike-babbler (Annam S-b) ◊ *Pteruthius annamensis* Several sightings of this vocal endemic. See note.
Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* (LO) A pair was seen at Mang Canh [*melanotis*].
Clicking Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius intermedius* Several good views at Deo Nui San [*nominata*]. See note.
Slender-billed Oriole ◊ *Oriolus tenuirostris* We had excellent views in the pine forest at Tuyen Lam Lake [*invisus*].
Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Several sightings at Cat Tien NP [*diffusus*].
Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* Almost daily sightings at Cat Tien NP [*nominata*].
Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* Locally common in the Southern and Central Highlands [*robinsoni*].
Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Scattered observations in open areas all along the tour [*tha*].
Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* The most widespread drongo species on the tour, seen regularly. See note.
Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* Commonly seen at Cat Tien NP [*nominata*].
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* Small numbers in the Southern and Central Highland [*peracensis*].
Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* Seen at Cat Tien NP [*nominata*], and Phong Nha [*brevirostris*].

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* Regular sightings at Cat Tien NP [*nominata*].
White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* Regular sightings throughout the tour [*cinerascens*].
Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* Frequently recorded, mainly in the lowlands [*styanii*].
Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* A few seen in the southern highlands, very distinctive race [*leucotis*].
Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* We saw three of this very handsome birds at Tam Dao [*nominata*].
White-winged Magpie ◊ *Urocissa whiteheadi* Seen this tricky-to-see bird at Lo Xo and Cuc Phuong [*xanthomelana*].
Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* (H) Remained heard-only at Tam Dao.
Indochinese Green Magpie ◊ *Cissa hypoleuca* Two were seen in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP [*nominata*].
Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia* A small number at Cat Tien NP and Bach Ma NP.
Ratchet-tailed Treepie ◊ *Temnurus temnurus* We saw a few at Mang Canh, Bach Ma and Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.
Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* It was seen at several location, most commonly at Mang Canh. See note.
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher (Grey-h F) *Culicicapa ceylonensis* Regularly seen throughout [*chaloachrysea*].
Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* We saw it Mang Canh, Bach Ma, Phong Nha Ke Bang and Cuc Phuong. See note.



Sultan Tit with its usual yellow-crown in Phong Nha Ke Bang NP (Terry Laws).

Japanese Tit *Parus minor* A few were seen at Tam Dao NP [*nubicolus*]. See note.
Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* A few were seen on the Southern Highlands [*legendreii*].
Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* We saw two at Bidoup Nui Ba NE and also in Mang Cabh [*basileus*].
Indochinese Bushlark ◊ *Mirafra erythrocephala* (H) One was heard near Cat Tien NP. See note.
Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* Regular sightings throughout the tour [*johnsonii*].
Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* Regularly seen throughout the tour Mang Canh northwards [*pattani*].
Light-vented Bulbul (Chinese B) *Pycnonotus sinensis* Just three were seen near Bach Ma [*hainanus*].
Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Common bulbul of disturbed areas [*germani*].
Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* Several sightings at Cat Tien NP and Cuc Phuong NP [*eous*].
Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens* It was fairly common in the Southern Highlands [*sordidus*].
Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi* Small numbers at Cat Tien NP.
Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus* We saw several from Phong Nha Ke Bang NP onwards [*annamensis*].
Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus* Small numbers in the south [*hallae*].

Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua* Just a few were seen in Cat Tien NP [*simulator*].

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii* Small numbers in the Central Highlands [*griseiventer*].

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flava* A few were seen in the Southern Highlands [*remotus*].

Chestnut Bulbul ◇ *Hemixos castanonotus* A few of these striking bulbuls were seen at Tam Dao [*nominata*].

Black Bulbul (Himalayan B B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* Widespread in montane areas. See note.

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis* Five were seen along the Red River [*nominata*].

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A very commonly encountered winter visitor.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Two were seen near Kontum [*filifera*].

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* We saw a flock of about ten birds at De Nui San.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Some wintering birds were seen in Cat Tien NP [*japonica*].

Pygmy Wren-babbler (P Cupwing) *Pnoepyga pusilla* It was seen in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP [*annamensis*].

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* A few were seen in Cat Tien and Tam Dao NP [*euthymus*].

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* Four were seen at Mang Canh [*fulvifacies*].

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus* It was seen in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP [*coronatus*].

Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler *Horornis fortipes* (LO) Just one was seen at Tam Dao [*davidianus*].

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* (H) Several heard but we were not very interested to track one down.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* It was seen along the bamboo trail at Tam Dao [*chiangmaiensis*].

Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* (H) Remained heard-only at Tam Dao NP.

Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Urosphena pallidipes* Three were seen in Tam Dao NP [*laurenti*].

Black-thorated Bushtit ◇ *Aegithalos annamensis* Common in the Southern Highlands [*annamensis*]. See note.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* One was seen at Lang Co [*nominata*].

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (H) Just a single one heard at Deo Nui San.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Just a few through the fog at Tam Dao.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* The most frequently recorded warbler on the tour.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* One was seen at Cuc Phuong NP [*nominata*].

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* Small numbers were seen at Cat Tien NP.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* Frequently heard a few seen in Cat Tien NP.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* We saw it in Bidoup Nui Ba NP [*ticehursti*].

Kloss's Leaf Warbler (White-tailed L W) ◇ *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti* It was quite common in the south. See note.



Kloss's Leaf Warbler (left) and Limestone Leaf Warbler (János Oláh).

Limestone Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus calciatilis* Great views at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP. See note.

Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* We had one in a big mixed species flock at Deo Nui San.

White-spectacled Warbler ◇ *Seicercus affinis* Two were seen at Bidoup Nui Ba NP [*ocularis*]. See note.

Bianchi's Warbler ◇ *Seicercus valentine* Several were seen in Tam Dao NP [*latouchi*]. See note.

Alström's Warbler (Plain-tailed W) ◇ *Seicercus soror* A total of three were seen at De Nui San. See note.

Grey-cheeked Warbler ◊ *Seicercus poliogenys* Two were seen at Ta Nung Valley [*ocularis*].

Chestnut-crowned Warbler ◊ *Seicercus castaniceps* Seen at Bidoup NP [*annamensis*] and Mang Canh [*collins*].

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* One was seen at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP. See note.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* It was seen at Cat Tien NP and Lak Lake.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* Two were seen at Cat Tien NP.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* One was seen on a roadside stop close to Cuc Phuong NP.

Hill Prinia *Prinia supercilialis* It was common in the Southern Highlands [*klossi*]. See note.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* It was common at Cat Tien NP [*dalatensis*], and Cuc Phuong NP [*beavani*].

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsoni* A pair was seen at Cat Tien – nice surprise there [*erro*].

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Several were seen at Cat Tien NP [*delacourie*].

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* It was common in the Van Long marsh [*extensicauda*].

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* A few sightings on the tour [*longicauda*].

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis* Quite common throughout tour [*nitidus*].

Large Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* (H) Heard at Mang Canh and at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* We saw it at Bach Ma NP and at Sa Mu Pass [*humilis*].

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* A few seen at Tam Dao NP [*reconditus*].

Red-billed Scimitar Babbler (Orange-billed S B) *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps* One was seen at Mang Canh.

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps* (H) It was heard at Tam Dao but no joy [*alius*].

Sooty Babbler ◊ *Stachyris herberti* We had excellent looks of this rock-climbing babbler at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* We have seen it in the south [*rileyi*] and in the north too [*yunnanensis*].

Spot-necked Babbler ◊ *Stachyris striolata* Finally we got good looks at Tam Dao NP [*tonkinensis*].

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* The few were seen in the south [*pagana*].

Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* Great looks at Mang Canh and Tam Dao NP [*aurata*].

Pin-striped Tit-babbler (Striped T B) *Macronus gularis* Common throughout [*verusicola*, *lutescens*, *kinneari*].

Grey-faced Tit-babbler ◊ *Macronus kelleyi* Good showing of this Indochinese endemic at Cat Tien NP.

Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata* Excellent views of several birds at Cat Tien NP [*smithi*].

Black-crowned Fulvetta ◊ *Alcippe klossi* Excellent looks of this localised endemic in Bidoup Nui Ba NP.

Rufous-throated Fulvetta ◊ *Alcippe rufogularis* We had excellent views at Cuc Phuong NP [*stevens*].



Eye-browed Wren-Babbler (left) and Rufous-throated Fulvetta were star birds in in Cuc Phuong NP (János Oláh).

Annam Fulvetta (Mountain F) ◇ *Alcippe peracensis* It was common in the south [*annamensis*]. See note.
Black-browed Fulvetta ◇ *Alcippe grotei* Just two were seen at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP [*nominate*]. See note.
David's Fulvetta (Schaeffer's F) ◇ *Alcippe davidi* A very common bird at Tam Dao NP [*schaefferi*]. See note.
Limestone Wren-Babbler ◇ *Gypsophila crispifrons* Superb looks of one at Cuc Phuong NP [*annamensis*].
Streaked Wren-Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata* One was seen at Deo Nui San [*rufiventer*].
Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler *Napothera epilepidota* It was seen well in Cuc Phuong NP [*amyae*].
Collared Babbler ◇ *Gampsorhynchus torquatus* It was seen at Deo Nui San [*nominate*] and Tam Dao NP [*luciae*].



Collared Babbler in Tam Dao NP (János Oláh).

Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler ◇ *Jabouilleia danjoui* Three sightings of this special bird on the tour. See note. **NT**
Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* Excellent looks at Cat Tien NP [*williamsoni*].
Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum* Seen twice in Cat Tien NP [*indochinense*].
Spot-throated Babbler ◇ *Pellorneum albiventre* Superb views at Deo Nui San and Ta Nung Valley [*cinnamomeum*].
Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps* Frequently heard and seen Cat Tien NP and Cuc Phuong NP [*deignani*].
Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli* Seen Cat Tien NP [*annamense*] and various places in the north [*fulvum*].
White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* A few seen at Cat Tien NP and heard elsewhere [*diardi*].
Black-hooded Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax millet* We saw it in Deo Nui San [*nominate*] and Mang Canh [*sweeti*]. **NT**
Grey Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax maesi* Absolutely amazing looks this year at Tam Dao NP.
Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax castanotis* After much work it was seen at Sa Mu Pass [*varenne*].
Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax konkakinhensis* Very hard work but finally seen well at Mang Canh. **VU**
Masked Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax perspicillatus* A few were seen near Bach Ma NP.
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* We saw a few at Bach Ma NP [*pasquieri*].
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* A few skittish birds were seen at Tam Dao NP [*robini*].
Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* First seen at Sa Mu Pass and then Phong Nha NP [*chinensis*].
White-cheeked Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax vassali* Many sightings on the Sothern Highlands and seen Mang Canh.
Orange-breasted Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax annamensis* This shy endemics was finally seen at Deo Nui San.
Collared Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron yersini* Bird of the trip! Amazing looks at Bidoup Nui Ba NP. **EN**
Vietnamese Cutia ◇ *Cutia legalleni* Nice looks of a pair near Da Lat [*nominate*]. See note. **NT**



White-cheeked Laughingthrush (top) at Deo Nui San and Grey Laughingthrush in Tam Dao NP (János Oláh).

- Blue-winged Minla (B-w Siva) ◇ *Minla cyanouroptera*** Repeated sightings in the Southern Highlands [*orientalis*].
- Black-crowned Barwing ◇ *Actinodura sodangorum*** This restricted range species was seen at Lo Xo Pass. **NT**
- Silver-eared Mesia *Mesia argenteauris*** Seen at Bach Ma NP [*cunhaci*] and Tam Dao [*ricketti*].
- Grey-crowned Crocias ◇ *Crocias langbianis*** We had good views of this mythical bird in the Southern Highlands. **EN**
- Rufous-backed Sibia ◇ *Heterophasia annectans*** The dark-backed race seen on the Southern Highlands [*eximia*].
- Black-headed Sibia ◇ *Heterophasia desgodinsi*** Several were seen on Southern Highlands [*robinsoni*].
- Short-tailed Parrotbill ◇ *Neosuthora davidianus*** Many superb views of this minute bird at Tam Dao [*tonkinensis*]
- Black-headed Parrotbill ◇ *Psittiparus margaritae*** Several were seen very well at Deo Nui San. **NT**
- Indochinese Yuhina ◇ *Yuhina torqueola*** Common at Bach Ma NP and Tam Dao NP. See note.
- Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*** Several sightings at Deo Nui San and Tam Dao NP.
- Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonica*** Quite common in Tam Dao NP [*simplex*].

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* Just a few were seen at Deo Nui San [*siamensis*].

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella* Commonly encountered in the lowlands [*nominate*].

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* Frequently seen in the pine forests of the Da Lat Highlands [*grisiventris*].

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* A few at Cat Tien NP and Deo Nui San [*nominate*].

Yellow-billed Nuthatch ◇ *Sitta solangiae* We saw two in Bidoup Nui Ba NP and one at Mang Canh [*fortior*]. NT

Golden-crested Myna ◇ *Ampeliceps coronatus* Several were seen very well at Cat Tien NP.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* It was seen at Cat Tien NP and also at Cuc Phuong NP [*intermedia*].

Great Myna (White-vented M) *Acridotheres grandis* Just two were seen at Lak Lake.

Crested Myna ◇ *Acridotheres cristatellus* Five were seen near Sa Mu Pass [*brevipennis*].

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Scattered sightings throughout [*nominate*].

Vinous-breasted Starling ◇ *Acridotheres burmannicus* Several sightings throughout [*leucocephalus*].

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis* It was seen near Da Lat and at the Lo Xo Pass.

White-shouldered Starling ◇ *Sturnus sinensis* Just two were seen near Cuc Phuong NP.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabarica* A few seen at Bidoup Nui Ba NP and Mang Canh [*memoricola*].

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* The first was seen at Mang Canh and 17 more further north [*aurimacula*].

Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* Common in Cuc Phuong NP though slightly less than usual. It was warm winter.

Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis* One was seen in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* Regular sightings at the lowland sites [*nominate*].

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* Frequently heard and seen at the lowland sites [*macrourus*].

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* Common in Cat Tien NP, and one near Da Lat [*siamensis*].

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* A total of seven birds seen in Bach Ma NP.

White-gorgeted Flycatcher ◇ *Anthipes monileger* Heard Bach Ma NP and seen very well at Tam Dao NP [*leucops*].

Hainan Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis hainanus* Seen at Cat Tien, Phong Nha Ke Bang and Cuc Phuong NPs.

Pale Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis unicolor* Several were seen in the Mang Canh area [*nominate*].

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas* One was seen in the bamboo in Tam Dao NP [*whitei*].

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae* Several were seen Cat Tien NP and one at Cuc Phuong NP [*indochina*].

Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis rubeculoides* Several Deo Nui San, Mang Canh and Bach Ma NP [*klossi*].

White-tailed Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis concretus* Several superb sightings in Cuc Phuong NP [*cyaneus*].

Fujian Niltava ◇ *Niltava davidi* Excellent looks of a female in Cuc Phuong NP.



Female Siberian Blue Robin (left) and female Fujian Niltava (János Oláh).

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* A pair was seen at Ta Nung Valley [*decorata*].

Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* We have had an unusual five sightings on the tour [*intermedia*].

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus* Occasional sightings throughout [*nominate*].

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* One was seen very well in Bidoup Niu Ba NP [*langbianensis*].

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* Both sexes were seen at Cat Tien, Deo Nui San, Bidoup and Bach Ma.

Rufous-tailed Robin ◊ *Luscinia sibilans* One was seen by some at Ta Nung Valley.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* One was seen along the Red River.

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* Fantastic views of males in Bidoup Nui Ba NP and Cuc Phuong NP [*nominate*].

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* About four were seen in Bach Ma NP.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* One was seen in Bidoup Nui Ba NP.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaultii* A pair was seen in Bach Ma NP [*indicus*].

Blue Whistling-thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* It was seen Da Lat, Bach Ma and Phong Nha Ke Bang NPs [*eugenei*].

Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* Males and a female Bach Ma and a male along the Red River [*nominate*].

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* Several seen in the Southern highlands and one in Cuc Phuong NP.

Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla* Two were seen along the Red River.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* A pair was seen near Da Lat [*langbianis*].

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosa* A male was seen at Lo Xo Pass [*nominate*].

Blue Rock-thrush *Monticola solitaries* Three sightings on the tour [*philippensis*].

White-throated Rock Thrush *Monticola gularis* Superb male near Da Lat and a female at Mang Canh.

Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* Scattered sightings in open habitat especially in the north. See note.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* One was seen on our way to Mang Canh [*burmanicus*].

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* Common in the pine forests of the Da Lat Highlands [*nominate*].

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* Many seen in Cat Tien and Phong Nha Ke Bang. See note.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* Several excellent views at Cat Tien NP [*inornata*].

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* A male seen at Deo Nui San and several at Bach Ma NP [*melliana*].



Male Orange-bellied Leafbird (left) at Bach Ma NP and Blue-and-white Flycatcher at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP (János Oláh).

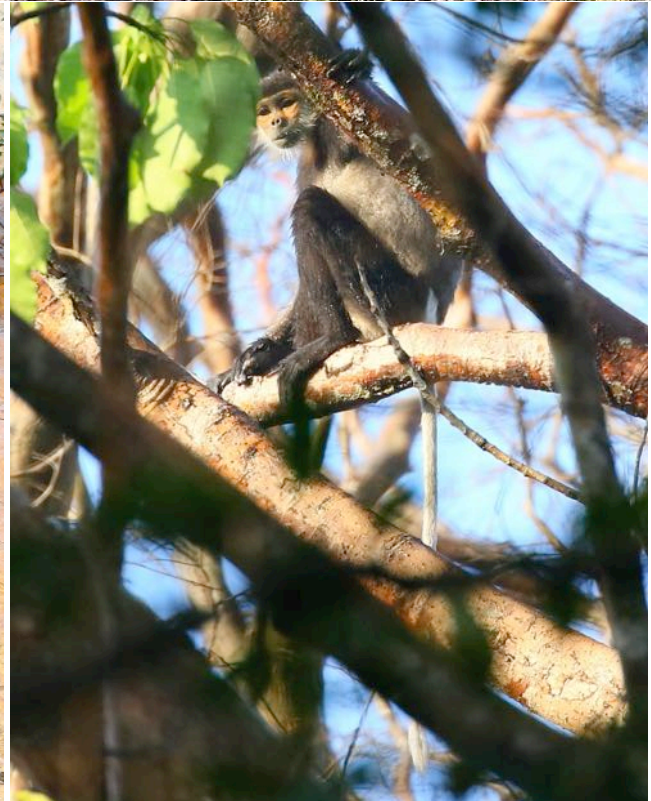
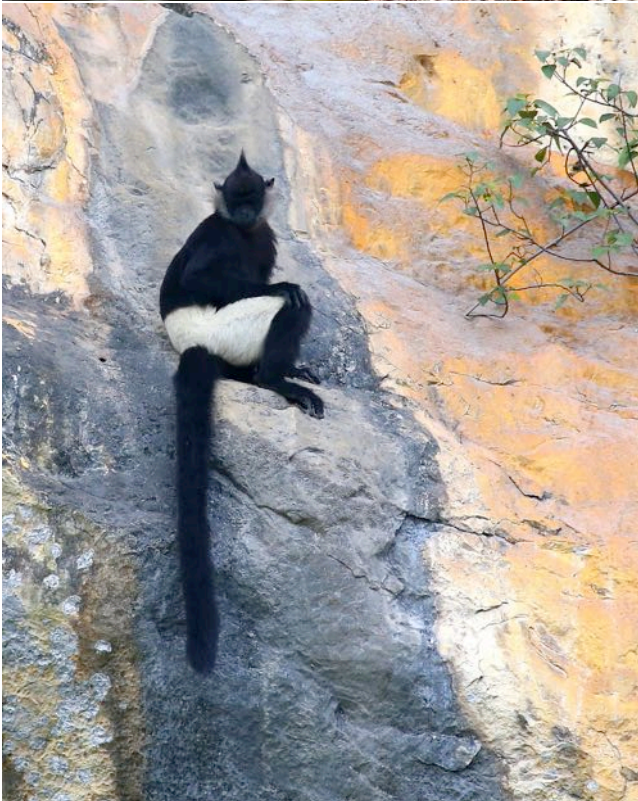
Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor* Several were seen at Cuc Phuong NP [*olivaceum*].

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Buff-bellied F) *Dicaeum ignipectus* A fine male was seen near Da Lat [*nominate*].

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* Several females were seen in Cat Tien NP [*nominate*].
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis* Just a female seen in Cat Tien NP [*koratensis*].
Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* A male was seen at Lang Co [*nominate*].
Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum* Great views at Cat Tien and at Phong Nha NPs. See note.
Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* Several sightings in the south [*flammaxillaris*], and north [*rhizopora*].
Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* Fantastic views in the Southern Highlands and at Mang Canh. See note.
Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* Nice males were seen at Cuc Phuong and Tam Dao NP [*latouchii*].
Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturate* Very distinctive race seen in the south [*johnsi*] also Mang Canh [*ochra*].
Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* Several excellent sightings at Cat Tien and Phong Nha Ke Bang NP [*mangini*].
Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra* Just a few seen at Cat Tien NP [*pallida*].
Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* Regularly recorded throughout the tour [*remota*].
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Four were seen.
Plain-backed Sparrow ◊ *Passer flaveolus* This superb-looking bird was seen at Cat Tien NP.
Eurasian Tree-sparrow *Passer montanus* Frequently seen around habitation [*malaccensis*].
Asian Golden Weaver ◊ *Ploceus hypoxanthus* A fine male was seen by some at Cat Tien NP [*chryseus*].
White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* A few were seen Cat Tien NP and Phong Nha Ke Bang NP [*subsquamicollis*].
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Seen at Cat Tien NP and near Kontum [*topela*].
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Many sightings of wintering birds [*cinerea*].
Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* Three were seen in the north.
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* Usually encountered whenever we birded open cultivation [*nominate*]. See note.
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Three in Lang Co and several Tam Dao of this common winterer from Siberia.
Vietnamese Greenfinch ◊ *Chloris monguilloti* Excellent looks of this endemic near Da Lat.
Red Crossbill ◊ *Loxia curvirostra* Just a female seen in flight in Bidoup Nui Ba NP [*meridionalis*].
Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami* The very last bird of the trip was a nice male at Tam Dao for some.

MAMMALS

Northern Tree-Shrew *Tupaia belangeri* A few seen in the Southern Highlands.
Northern Smooth-tailed Tree-Shrew ◊ *Dendrogale murina* Two seen in Cat Tien NP and one in Bach Ma NP.
Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* One was seen at Cat Tien and two at Cuc Phuong NP.
Pallas's Squirrel (Belly-banded) *Callosciurus erythraeus* Commonly seen [*nominate*; *flavimanus*].
Maritime Striped Squirrel (Indochinese S S) *Tamiops maritimus* Common in the Southern Highlands and Bach Ma.
Cambodian Striped Squirrel ◊ *Tamiops rodolphii* Three were identified at Cat Tien NP.
Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel *Dremomys rufigenis* Excellent looks in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP.
Indochinese Ground Squirrel (Berdmore's S) *Menetes berdmorei* Two were seen in Cat Tien NP.
Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* Seen at Phong Nha Ke Bang.
Yellow-bellied Weasel ◊ *Mustela kathiah* One was seen at Tam Dao NP by some.
Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* Two were seen at Cat Tien NP.
Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonina* Just one was at Cat Tien NP. See note.
Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating M) *Macaca fascicularis* A few were seen at Cat Tien NP.
Red-shanked Douc Langur ◊ *Pygathrix nemaus* A group of 15 were seen at Bach Ma NP. Stunning!
Black-shanked Douc Langur ◊ *Pygathrix nigripes* A total of 14 of these rare primates at Cat Tien NP. See note.
Annamese Langur (A Leaf Monkey) ◊ *Trachypithecus margarita* (NL) One was seen at Cat Tien NP. See note.
Delacour's Langur (D Leaf Monkey) ◊ *Trachypithecus delacouri* Amazing looks of 12 at Van Long Marsh.
Hatinh Langur (H Leaf Monkey) ◊ *Trachypithecus hatinhensis* Total of 15 were seen at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.
Annam Gibbon (Northern B-ch G) *Nomascus annamensis* (H) Heard distantly at Sa Mu Pass.
Buff-cheeked Gibbon ◊ *Nomascus gabriellae* Two sightings at Cat Tien NP. See note.
Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus muntjak* Two were seen at Cat Tien NP.
Sambar *Cervus unicolor* Six were seen at Cat Tien NP along the road through grassy habitat.



Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel (top) at Bidoup Nui Ba NP, Delacour's Langur at Van Long Nature Reserve (left) and Black-shanked Douc Langur at Cat Tien NP (János Oláh).

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird List (v3.1). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/ioc-lists/master-list/>

Green-legged Partridge (Scaly-breasted P) *Arborophila chloropus*

Sometimes placed in genus *Tropicoperdix*. The forms were formerly lumped in Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *A. charltonii*, with the name Scaly-breasted Partridge being used for the enlarged species. We saw the *cognacqi* race in Cat Tien NP and heard the *merlini* race at Bach Ma NP as well as the *tonkinensis* race remained heard-only in Cuc Phuong

NP despite being very close to calling birds. This *merlini* race was suggested in the past as a possible separate species but not recognized as separate species nowadays. The birds present in the Bach Ma NP were believed to be *merlini* race but now this is in question following the recent camera trapping study in the park. Some authors recognize the *tonkinensis* race as a separate species nowadays but IOC does not.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Some authors lump this form in Western Cattle Egret *B. ibis*, using the name Cattle Egret for the enlarged species.

Eastern Marsh-harrier *Circus spilonotus*

Some authors lump this form in Western Marsh Harrier *C. aeruginosus* using the name Marsh Harrier for the enlarged species.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*

It used to be lumped in Common Buzzard *B. buteo*.

Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio [porphyrio] indicus*

Some authors lump this (and several related forms) in Purple Swamphen *P. porphyrio*.

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenurus*

The race we saw in the Central Highlands at Mang Canh forest is not clear. It is perhaps the *delacouri* race or an undescribed race.

Square-tailed (Asian) Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

Multiple species involved in former *S. lugubris* and IOC now splits them. The form we are concerned is Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *S. lugubris* (the breeding population from the Himalayas eastwards). Other species are Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *S. dicruroides*; Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo *S. musschenbroeki*; Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo *S. velutinus*.

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus nasicolor*

A recent study split the former Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo into four species: Northern Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx hyperythrus* (of southeast Siberia, NE China and Japan, wintering in Borneo and, rarely, Sulawesi); Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo *H. fugax* (resident in southern Peninsular Thailand, Malaya, Sumatra and Borneo); Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *H. nasicolor* (breeds lower Himalayas from Nepal eastwards and southern China wintering at lower altitudes in the Himalayas and in Malaya, Sumatra, Java and Borneo) and Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo *H. pectoralis* (resident in the Philippines).

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia*

This form (along with Sunda Scops Owl *O. lempiji* and Japanese Scops Owl *O. semitorques*) was formerly lumped in Indian Scops Owl *O. bakkamoena*, with the name Collared Scops Owl being used for the enlarged species.

Brown Boobook (Brown H-O) *Ninox scutulata*

The former Brown Boobook has been split into three closely related allospecies. The form found on this tour is Brown Boobook *N. scutulata* (resident from India through southeast Asia to Sumatra, Java, Borneo and Palawan). The other forms are: Northern Boobook *N. japonica* (breeding in northern China, southeast Siberia, Korea, Japan and Taiwan with some populations wintering in southeast Asia, the Philippines and Indonesia) and Chocolate Boobook *N. randi* (resident in the Philippines except Palawan). Northern migrants can only be reliably separated from resident birds by their vocalizations.

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*

This species was formerly lumped in Indian Jungle Nightjar *C. indicus*, with the name Grey or Indian Nightjar being used for the enlarged species.

Germain's Swiftlet *Collocalia germani*

This form was formerly often lumped in Edible-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphaga*.

Cook's Swift *Apus cooki*

This limestone-loving form was formerly lumped in Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*.



Cook's Swift at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP (János Oláh).

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

The form we have been seeing in Southern Vietnam *affinis* is nowadays proposed to be split as separate species Indochinese Roller or Black-billed Roller *C. affinis* (HBW). Although IOC does not recognise it yet but it is a likely future split.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*

Some authors use the name Indian Pied Hornbill for this species, but it is now known as Oriental Pied Hornbill following the lumping of Southern Pied Hornbill *A. convexus* into this species.

Austen's Brown Hornbill (Rusty-cheeked H, Northern B H) *Ptilolaemus tickelli*

This form is now generally split from Southern Brown (or Tickell's Brown) Hornbill *A. tickelli*. When lumped, the combined form is known as Brown Hornbill.

Necklaced Barbet *Psilopogon auricularis*

Until recently considered conspecific with *P. franklinii*, but split proposed on molecular grounds supported by morphological evidence.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

This form was formerly lumped in Rosy Minivet *P. roseus*.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

Most authors lump this form in Orange Minivet *P. flammeus* of peninsular India and Sri Lanka, using the name Scarlet Minivet for the enlarged species.

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*

This form was formerly lumped in White-browed Shrike-babbler *P. flaviscapis*.

Dalat Shrike-Babbler (Annam S-b) *Pteruthius annamensis*

This form was formerly lumped in White-browed Shrike-babbler *P. flaviscapis*.

Clicking Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius intermedius*

The Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler has been split into two species: Trilling Shrike-Babbler *P. aenobarbus* of Java (endemic to the island) and Clicking Shrike-Babbler *P. intermedius* of the rest of East Asia.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Several forms were seen on the tour. We had the resident *bondi* in the south at Cat Tien NP, *mouhoti* was seen in the Central Highland and *hopwoodi* in the north. Also several of the pale *salangensis* and/or *leucogenis* migrant forms were seen at various locations.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Several recently split species were formerly lumped in this species with the name Large-billed or Jungle Crow being used for the enlarged species.

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*

The very distinctive black-crested *gayeti* form was seen at Mang Canh and Bach Ma while one of the yellow-crested form *seorsa* was seen in Phong Nha Ke Bang NP and Cuc Phuong NP. The distinctive black-crested race is a potential future split.

Japanese Tit *Parus minor*

Many authors lump this form in Great Tit *P. major*.

Indochinese Bushlark *Mirafra marionae*

This form was formerly lumped in Bengal Bushlark *M. assamica* (along with Burmese Bushlark *M. microptera* and Jerdon's Bushlark *M. affinis*) with the name Rufous-winged Bushlark being used for the enlarged species.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

This form was formerly lumped in Madagascar Bulbul *H. madagascariensis*, with the name Black Bulbul being used for the enlarged species. The form *concolor* was seen at most locations but we also had some migrant white-headed birds of the form *leucothorax*.

Black-throated (Grey-crowned) Bushtit *Aegithalos [concinus] annamensis*

Robson (2008) splits this form from Black-throated Bushtit *A. concinns*.

Kloss's Leaf-warbler (White-tailed L W) *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*

Following recent molecular studies, this is now considered to be a different species to the monotypic *P. davisoni* (Davison's Leaf-warbler). We saw the *klossi* form on the tour.

Limestone Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus calciatilis*

This is a recent split from Sulphur-breasted Warbler *P. ricketti*.

White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*

The local endemic race *ocularis* in the Southern Highlands may represent a separate species.

Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentini*

This form was formerly lumped in Golden-spectacled Warbler *S. burkii*.

Alström's Warbler (Plain-tailed W) *Seicercus soror*

This form is a recently discovered species in the Golden-spectacled Warbler *S. burkii* complex.

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

The individual seen on the paddy fields when we arrived to Phong Nha Ke Bang NP originally was identified as Clamorous (Indian) Reed Warbler of the *amyae* race but checking all field ID marks it was most likely to be this species.

Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*

Some authors still lump this form in Black-throated Prinia *P. atrogularis* (of the eastern Indian subcontinent and adjacent areas), using the name Hill Prinia for the enlarged species.

Annam Fulvetta *Alcippe [peracensis] annamensis*

The endemic subspecies of Mountain Fulvetta is sometimes considered as a separate species.

Black-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe grotei*

Some authors lump this distinctive form in Mountain Fulvetta *A. peracensis*. It occurs sympatrically though generally at lower altitudes than the *annamensis* subspecies of the latter [Annam (Mountain) Fulvetta].

David's Fulvetta *Alcippe davidi*

David's Fulvetta is split from the Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* complex.

Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui*

Robson call it Indochinese Wren-Babbler and place it in the *Rimator* genus – perhaps adequately. IOC still use the genus *Jabouillea* for this species but it is not monotypic any more since the description of Naung Mung Scimitar Babbler *J. naungmungensis* in 2005. We saw the *nominata* form in the Bidoup Nui Ba NP in the south while the *parvirostris* race was seen in Bach Ma NP.

Vietnamese Cutia *Cutia legalleni*

This form was formerly lumped in Himalayan Cutia *C. nipalensis*.

Indochinese Yuhina *Yuhina torqueola*

This form was formerly lumped in Chestnut-collared Yuhina *Y. castaneiceps*.

Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*

Split from Siberian Stonechat *S. maurus* according to mtDNA analysis, but may be premature and further resolution of the entire stonechat complex is needed.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

We saw two forms on the tour: *auropectus* in the south at Cat Tien NP and *kinneari* in the north at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP and Cuc Phuong NP.



Female Vietnamese Cutia (left) near Da Lat and male Blue-winged Leafbird at Cat Tien NP (János Oláh).

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*

We saw two forms on the tour: *mariae* in the south at Cat Tien NP and *lisettae* in the north at Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*

We had many great looks in the Southern Highlands of the *annamensis* race. The race we saw in the Mang Canh area is still undescribed.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Some authors lump this resident form in Australasian Pipit *A. novaeseelandiae*, using the name Richard's Pipit for the enlarged species.

MAMMALS

Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonina*

This form is sometimes lumped in Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque *M. nemestrina*, with the name Pig-tailed Macaque being used for the enlarged species.

Black-shanked Douc Langur *Pygathrix nigripes*

This form is sometimes lumped with Red-shanked Douc Langur *P. nemaus* and Gray-shanked Douc Langur *P. cinerea*, with the name Douc Langur being used for the enlarged species.

Annamese Langur (A Leaf Monkey) *Trachypithecus margarita*

This species was formerly lumped in Indochinese Langur (I Leaf Monkey) *T. germaini*.

Buff-cheeked Gibbon *Hylobates gabriellae*

This species was formerly lumped in White-cheeked Gibbon *H. leucogenys*.

APPENDIX: overall results of the 'Bird of the tour' contest

Species	Points	Nominations
1st Collared Laughingthrush	38	5
2nd Bar-bellied Pitta	18	3
3rd Siamese Fireback	12	2
4th Spot-bellied Eagle Owl	12	2
5th Black-crowned Barwing	10	2
5th Green Cochoa	10	1
5th Blue-rumped Pitta	10	1

APPENDIX 2 - Other fauna & flora recorded

BUTTERFLIES (courtesy of Bill Gradwell)

Psyche *Leptosia nina*
Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta*
Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites*
Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*
Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana*
Black-and-white Helen *Papilio nephelus*
Great Mormon *Papilio memnon*
Fivebar Swordtail *Graphium antiphates*
Common Bluebottle *Graphium sarpedon*
Tailed Jay *Graphium agamemnon*
Fourbar Swordtail *Protographium leosthenes*
Golden Birdwing *Troides aeacus*
Common Earl *Tanaecia jului*
Archduke *Lexias pardalis*
Common Sailer *Neptis hylas*
Common Cruiser *Vindula erota*
Common Wanderer *Pareronia anais*
Common (Lemon) Emigrant *Catopsila pomona*
Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia*
Little Map *Cyrestis themire*
Marbled Map *Cyrestis cocles*
Bamboo Treebrown *Lethe europa*
Orange Oakleaf *Kallima inachus*
Great Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina*
Intricate Jester *Symbrenthia hypathya*
Wavy Maplet *Chersonesia intermedia*
Tufted Jungle King *Thauria aliris*
Common Three-ring *Ypthima asterope*
Knight *Lebadea martha*
Plain Nawab *Polyura hebe*
Blue Admiral *Kaniska canace*
Common Lascar *Pantoporia hordonia*
Yellow Coster *Acraea issoria*

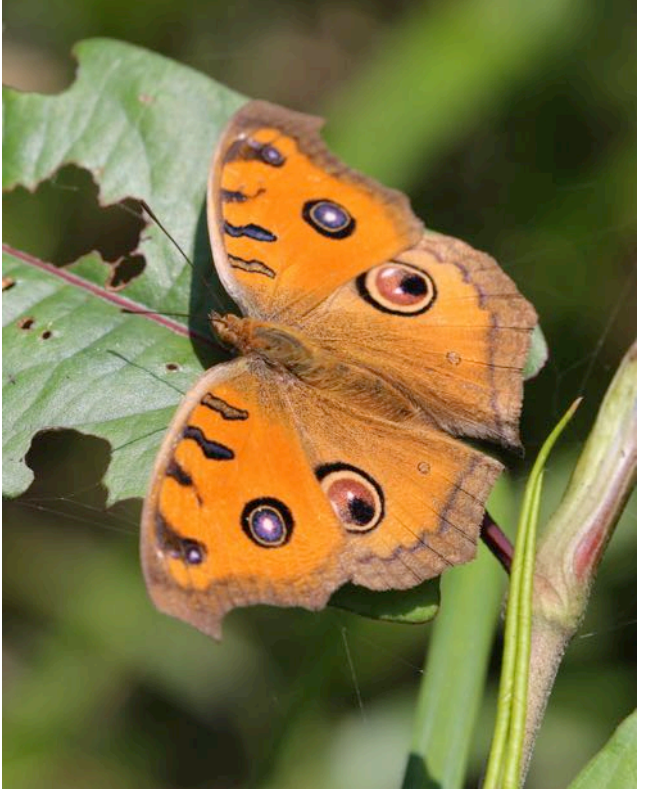
Malaysian Assyrian *Terinos clarissa malayanus*
Great Orange Tip *Hebomoia glaucippe*
Large Faun *Faunis eumeus*



Blue Admiral (top) at Mang Canh and Orange Oakleaf at Cuc Phuon NP (János Oláh).



Large Faun (left) and Golden Birdwing (bottom) at Bach Ma and Malaysian Assyrrian at Cuc Phuong (János Oláh).



Plain Nawab (top left) and Bamboo Tree Brown (top right) at Cuc Phuong NP, Tailed Jay (centre left) at Deo Nui San, Peacock Pansy (centre right) at Tam Dao NP, Common Bluebottle (bottom left) and unidentified butterfly at Deo Nui San (János Oláh).