Day 1: Phetchaburi – Pak Thale and Laem Pak Bia
After flying into Bangkok at 8:30 on New Year's Eve and a flawless transition to Phetchaburi via taxi, we booked into Rabieng Rimnum at 11:30 (just in time for some Happy New Year Cake!) and had scooters organised for the next morning. After a fairly leisurely breakfast we headed over to Pak Thale, where amongst the wader flocks we located all the usual suspects, our highlights being birds such as Red-necked Phalarope, Brown-headed Gull, Spotted Redshank, Eurasian Curlew and Broad-billed Sandpipers. Though not the target of course - it's never that easy. South to King's Project we sped, pulling off the road at various points for Black-capped Kingfishers and Coppersmith Barbets. On arrival it was already fairly hot, but Golden-bellied Gerygone showed with some work, along with Ruff, Common and Pin-tailed Snipe, Red-wattled Lapwing, Asian Pied Starling. Wat Kongmanrow was up next with a large group of Grey-headed Lapwings, a single Garganey, plentiful Asian Openbills and Long-toed Stints. After some roadside pork for lunch we headed to the main ponds of Laem Pak Bia, where we finally located a distant Nordmann's Greenshank, along with Asian Dowitcher, a lonely Pied Avocet, Great Knot and Grey Plover. As the sun lowered we arrived back at Pak Thale where, despite a few good sized stint flocks, we couldn't locate our most desire—.. "Got one!" Nathan suddenly shouted, getting Max and I quickly moving back to the scope and finally, we had all gotten onto this mega bird - Spoon-billed Sandpiper!

Day 2: Phetchaburi – Hong Elai Ricefields and Laem Pak Bia
With our waders under the belt, we utilised the backroads of Phetchaburi to make our way without incident to Hong Elai, where one male Pied Harrier and a flock of staked-out Yellow-breasted Bunting (thanks Thai Bird Report!) proved the highlights, alongside Baya Weaver and Plain-backed Sparrow. After a backtrack to the radio mast and easily nabbing Cotton Pygmy Goose, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas, we drove north to Wat Takrao for a reported Black-faced Spoonbill, however we
only located the Black-headed Ibis flock minus its star individual. Back to Hong Elai where the Narrow Track held Asian Golden Weaver, White-rumped, Chestnut and Scaly-breasted Munia, a number of Great Spotted Eagles overhead, one male Yellow Bittern, and a sublime breeding-plumaged male maxronyx Yellow Wagtail. Nearby a few Chestnut-tailed Starlings showed, unlike the Booted Eagle which numerous Thai birders had been trying to relocate. We had lunch at the hotel in Phetch. It was a long, straight, and frighteningly busy road down to Laem Pak Bia Sandspit where we located Mr Daeng, who in turn located us one female White-faced Plover, 2 Pallas Gulls, a Chinese Egret and a few Malaysian Plovers with ease! With time to spare, we returned to Laem Pak Bia where we had Nordmann's the previous day, and were rewarded with much better views of another 16 Nordmann's (worked out to be about 5% of the global population). On arrival at the abandoned building (and avoiding the numerous wild dogs), a Tropical Birding group had Slaty-breasted Rail lined up in the scope, and a Spot-breasted Woodpecker hung around briefly (Nathan's first woodpecker, finally, after 3 other Asia trips) but unfortunately the best birds came out after they left. Whilst working on pipit ID (Richard's, we decided, after being confused by numerous incorrectly labelled photos on google), Max finally spotted two Temmink’s Stint, and whilst looking at them in the scope movement in the shrub behind revealed a surprisingly furtive flock of White-shouldered Starlings. As the others were watching a Common Redshank, I was scoping the starlings, and a flash of chestnut had me repositioning the scope and there, right in the centre, was a handsome Brahminy Starling! We knew this rare vagrant had been seen in the general area recently, but re-finding it was a complete fluke! As dusk approached we decided to go for one last loop of a pond before beginning our Indian Nightjar stake-out, but after walking less than 50m a nightjar flushed from right in front of us, only flying a few metres, allowing perfect binocular views, and subsequently scope views. Spotlighting over before the sun had set, we headed back to Phetchaburi, thoroughly satisfied. We are now on the bus back to Bangkok to begin the second and final stage of our Thailand leg - Khao Yai. The trip list stands at 116.
Day 3: Phetchaburi to Khao Yai – Pa Gluay Mai Campground and Trail A
Left early for transit to Khao Yai National Park. Took a minibus to Bangkok, then another minibus to Pac Chong. From there it was a local bus to the gate of the national park, where the fun began. After being charged for 4 tickets due to a translation error and failing to hitchhike down the main road, we were hustled onto a national park jeep and charged for the ride all the way to Pa Gluay Mai camp. We arranged a pickup by the same driver for transit south through the park to the main road into Cambodia in a couple of days, then headed to reception to book a tent. Despite the huge number of people, there was still at least 100 pre-set 3 man tents set up near the restaurant, so we were surprised when told we couldn’t have one. On enquiring, apparently they can only be booked online, and even if empty you can’t book them in the park… Since our budget had been stretched thin getting into the park, and of course hiring tents cost more than we had been told from research, we elected to get a single 2-man tent for the three of us and rucksacks. As it transpired we got sick of this and just moved into an empty 3-man tent without telling anyone the next night. However, every day we were still hit with more fees and needless costs which we had not been informed about on booking, so we eventually had to dig into our US dollars. The whole park was not a pleasant experience for us all in all.

After sorting all that out we walked the first part of Trail A and saw Abbott’s Babbler and Ochraceous Bulbul. We blamed the bird list of two on the crowds (I’ve never seen a national park so crowded) and headed to the stakeout where the easy Orange-headed Thrushes showed as well as one could hope, while a Great Hornbill peered down at us from overhead.

Day 4: Khao Yai – Trail A, Road and Pitta Feeding Area
Woke up early before the hoards and did Trail A. We had immense difficulty finding anything except a few Hair-crested Drongos, Blue Whistling Thrush, and flyover Vernal Hanging Parrots. It got a bit better when we reached the open area around the carpark at the far end of the trail, where we picked up Taiga Flycatcher, Grey Wagtail, Little Spiderhunter, Blue-winged Leafbird, Asian Fairy Bluebird, and the plentiful Yellow-browed Warbler.
Walking the road back to camp we had Grey-eyed Bulbul, Red-headed Trogon, White-crested Laughingthrush, and a low fruiting fig gave us perfect views of both Moustached and Green-eared Barbet. As we approached the stakeout a Blue Pitta began to call. We rushed down only to find two photographers set up in two huge blinds with mealworms and branches all set up, getting photos of the numerous birds hanging around. They said we’d missed a Blue Pitta by an hour, but Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin, White-rumped Shama, Abbott’s and Puff-throated Babbler, Grey-crowned and Pale-legged Warbler, plus an obliging Red Junglefowl were all seen.

Nathan went to charge his electronics while Max and I explored the plethora of game trails behind the stakeout. Limited birds until I flushed something with a black tail in front of us. As we readied the ground cuckoo call in vain hope a Blue Pitta called once nearby, distracting us for 20 minutes, but giving no reward. We played the cuckoo call for a minute and walked back towards the camp as a gibbon troop began to call nearby. Whilst chatting to a German birder at the stakeout, the gibbons started hooting again, but it took us just a bit too long to realise the new eery "gibbon" whistle was actually a Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo. Unfortunately, it stopped before a direction could be pinpointed, and was not heard again for the remainder of our stay.

An afternoon in the campground looking for hornbills was unproductive, and became disappointing when we found out that the restaurant had shut at 3pm today (unlike the previous day when it was open all night) and now we had to buy dinner from the shop, where the most substantial item was a packet of Lays Potato Chips. Yum – thanks Khao Yai!

Went and ate at the stakeout with the Germans (who had beer!), which resulted in a spotlighting trip after dark in their car. Not 500m after leaving the campsite we rounded a corner and in the middle of the road stood a male Asian Elephant. As it walked towards the car we reversed, and ended up having to back all the way down to the campsite where the disgruntled animal turned right and walked straight through a row of tents, one of which was ours...

Continuing our trip we drove many of the roads near the headquarters (competing with 50 other spotlighting vehicles... What a zoo...), finding numerous Large-tailed Nightjars, a Brown Fish Owl, Brown Hawks Owls, another Elephant, Sambar Deer, Common Palm Civet and one Small Indian Civet. Collared Owlets were heard all over the place, but avoided our torch (as they did for the entirety of the trip).

**Day 5: Khao Yai – Trail B, HQ and Pitta Feeding Area**
A Spot-bellied Eagle Owl calling incessantly woke us before 6 (though I had been awake a fair bit that night listening for elephants...), however it stopped soon after we exited the tent. After being dropped at the HQ by the Germans we made our way back up the hill to Trail B, where we walked until the track exited the wet gullies and climbed steeply uphill away from Blue Pitta habitat, at which point we retraced our steps. A Banded Kingfisher called distantly, but apart from some brief Scaly-breasted Partridges, Hill Blue Flycatcher and a party of White-handed Gibbons we saw nothing of particular interest, and no pittas called, in response to tape or otherwise.
We headed across the road to Boon Song Camp where Ashy and Stripe-headed Bulbul fed in a tree with a few Black Giant Squirrels. Back to the HQ we entered the loop trail which was dismal minus one Blue Whistling Thrush. A long lunch break refuelled us until 1:00 (our first food since the chips and biscuits the night before) at which point we re-attempted Trail B. Again, saw very little (this time a dead Banded Kingfisher was the highlight for Nathan and I, as unlike Max, we didn't get onto the party of Siamese Firebacks, frustratingly the only sighting of the trip). Once we exited the gullies and got onto the ridge we saw even less. A long walk to Pa Gluay Mai campground ensued (hitchhiking is very difficult for three white people, despite what Thaibiding.com says!), but we eventually got a ride in the back of a ute for the last 2kms. Birds included Large Hawk Cuckoo and Red-breasted Parakeets.

As we walked down to the stakeout, defeated in spirit by Khao Yai, my head was obviously hanging too low as I missed noticing the bloody Blue Pitta standing on the left which flew quickly across the clearing and disappeared in a flash of blue. I cursed and alerted the others behind me, and Max managed to get a poor, brief view of the bird's face under a bush. We waited for a long time before the Germans came down, at which point I headed out the back of the stakeout to try and find the bird. Not surprisingly, I didn't. Nathan on the other hand played it smart, and climbed a high vine over the stakeout, which resulted in him obtaining excellent views of the pitta when it returned, however being the master skulker this bird was, it stayed out of sight from the others on the ground, and was only seen by Nathan because it didn't think to check in the trees for lurking birders.

Luckily, we managed to catch a staff member using the kitchen to cook the ranger's dinner, and we were able to ask her for meal (since they had not only shut the restaurant today, but also the shop!). A bout of spotlighting procured us good views of a loud-and-proud Brown Hawk Owl, and just after I mentioned to Max that it was disappointing we hadn't seen a Malaysian Porcupine, I shone the torch onto the grass and two surprised porcupines started at me in the spotlight before ambling past the tents and into the forest.

Day 6: Khao Yai to Siem Reap – Pitta Feeding Area and Transit
My frustration got me out of bed before dawn, and I headed to the stakeout, climbed a vine, and sat motionless until 7:00 when Max came down. Defeated, we decided it best to bird the campground, and return at half-hourly intervals hoping the pitta would come in and feed. On the entrance road we found Blue-eared Barbet, Hill Myna and Verditer Flycatcher. Returned to the stakeout, no pitta. Birded the exit road (towards Hwae Waterfall), with Asian Fairy Bluebird, Rosy Minivet, Swinhoe's Minivet, and perched Vernal Hanging Parrot right above the road.

As we were stalking our way back down behind the toilets, a single PIEOOOOO-WIT rang out from the forest somewhere behind the stakeout, stopping us mid-stride. A tense wait ensued, but the bird called again, and we quietly snuck our way towards it. After some
whistling and another 10 minutes of biding our time, the pitta erupted into a string of calls, so we hurried towards it. The calls stopped. We scanned the forest floor. I saw a leaf flip over, and raising my binoculars I see a male Blue Pitta sitting not 10m from us in the middle of a clearing! As it hopped away slowly Max and I high-fived, then headed back to the tents.

A quick packup and we're now off to Cambodia in a minibus travelling at excessive speeds... The trip list stands at 185.

A relatively painless border crossing saw us finding a taxi to Siem Reap, where we attempted to get into Siem Reap Hostel. Not used to being at tourist sites, we had neglected to book, and instead had to move just across the road to a... seedier hotel... Despite the late-night “karaoke” bar across the road, and the owner regularly trying to deal us substances, it suited our needs, and was only a block away from the SVC office.

**Day 7: Siem Reap – Phnom Krom Rice Fields**
A leisurely 7am tuk-tuk took us to Phnom Krom rice fields, where we set about walking an 8km route northwards. Right after getting out of the tuk-tuk I noticed a raptor headed straight towards us... Lo and behold a magnificent Black Baza flew right past us and perched briefly before flying a little further where we scoped it out. Phenomenal bird. We had planned out a route through reading ebird and SVC reports, plus utilising google imagery. Unfortunately some of the paths we intended to follow were flooded, so there was a lot of backtracking and re-routing (see map in appendix). Over the next few hours we notched up a number of good birds such as Watercock, Yellow Bittern, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Striated Grassbird, Racket-tailed Treepie, Wood Sandpiper, Pied Kingfisher, Lesser Coucal, and plentiful Plaintive Cuckoos. Seriously they were everywhere.

Right as we passed the GPS point where the ebird lists are centred (13.304729,103.818364) a large bird flew slowly across the field next to us - Chesnut-winged Cuckoo! A Yellow Bittern was located in the scope nearby after we lost it for some minutes when it stopped walking away from us through the lily field. The day was heating up, and from this point on we saw little else of note save two Black-collared Starling, as construction works and flooded tracks hindered access to the more northerly rice fields. The rest of the day was spent eating and planning the next stages of our trip.

**Day 8: Siem Reap – Angkor Wat**
Early start for sunrise viewing of Angkor Wat - impressive, but this is a birding trip report! House Swift and White Wagtail of note (we found out later that the forest just north of the temple is good for Forest Wagtail and White-throated Rock-thrush). We convinced our tuk-tuk driver to take us a bit further to Angkor Thom, where we had lots of Red-breasted Parakeets and a wide-awake Asian Barred Owlet. We were sick of the tourism by 9:00 so we went back into Siem Reap intending our last proper day of relaxation for a few weeks.
Day 9: Florican Grasslands and Tmatboey with SVC
Picked up at 5:00am on the dot by our Sam Veasna Centre guide, San Sikol, and we headed directly to the Florican Grassland Conservation Reserve. On pulling up next to our local guide (Mr Rain) and admiring the sharpii race of Sarus Cranes (a bonus bird, this family of four had been hanging around for a few weeks), I scanned some grassland and almost immediately noticed a male Bengal Florican in the distance. We headed over after losing sight of the bird, and promptly the magnificent male erupted from a few metres in front of us and flew leisurely away in the morning sunlight looking back at us over his shoulder. This
magical moment was improved upon when San suggested we keep trying for the female, so another few steps were taken and the much more secretive female also took flight right in front of us and cruised over to where the male had landed in the distance.

With this critical bird under our belt, we spent the next few hours enjoying the rich birdlife of the grasslands. With some effort, we eventually flushed a Manchurian Reed Warbler, which perched briefly on top of a grass stem before disappearing, and Bluethroats were abundant in the general vicinity, while a few Red Avadavat were welcome. After our first breakfast in 7 days, we drove a bit further to a different pond where numerous Lanceolated Warblers flushed right in front of our feet, Zitting Cisticolas zitted for us, and a male Eastern Marsh Harrier stuck around for a time. It was suggested we watch the road carefully on the drive back for Small Buttonquail, and it wasn't long before one of these tiny birds was running along the track in front of us in full view.

Onwards to Tmatboey with stops en. route for the White-rumped Pygmy-falcon tape, but unfortunately no response in the middle of the day (they are much easier in the late afternoon). A superb Collared Falconet perched obligingly on a wire (much more so than the flighty Red-rumped Swallows) and we decided not to follow a feeding flock of Small Minivets, Eurasian Hoopoe and Dark-hooded Oriole off the road when we noticed a number of flagged land mines in a nearby field.

Dropping our bags at the eco-lodge (currently being refurnished, looking very flash!), we went straight to some dry rice fields in the middle of the conservation reserve. A few quick stops along what I guess you could call a road yielded what we now consider to be the most spectacular woodpecker in the world, Black-headed, along with Common Woodshrikes (for once, actually common). A loop through the fields checked out numerous feeding ponds for the ibis, with the forest producing a large number of interesting species such as Vinous-breasted Starling, Brown Prinia, Olive-backed Pipit, Red-breasted and Blossom-headed Parakeet, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Rufous Treepie, Red-billed Blue Magpie, a flushed Chinese Francolin and White-bellied Woodpecker. Aside from two Woolly-necked Storks causing brief optimism it wasn't until we rounded a corner into a field that suddenly the
local guide, Gurrum, shouted as two White-shouldered Ibis took off from in front of us, but then all hell broke loose when Max exclaimed "GIANT IBIS!" as a third bird took flight, followed by another two, which disappeared around some foliage before coming to rest on the other side of the field in a dead tree. The White-shouldered had buggered off, so as the sun set we watched this small group of the world's most endangered avian evolutionary lineage (according to EDGE - what a mouthful) settle down to roost and fade into dark silhouettes against the sky... It was a bittersweet end to a day where we had seen three of the world's rarest birds, all well and truly critically endangered species, in less than 12 hours, but the back of our minds kept reminding us - for how much longer?

The return to the lodge in the dark netted us Spotted Owlet by the side of the road, and after driving back to the main road for a failed attempt at Savannah Nightjar, a ridiculously corporative Oriental Scops Owl sat above our heads at length, as others called nearby.

**Day 10: Tmatboey with SVC**

With the criticals done, we elected to spend the morning staking out the river for Pale-capped Pigeon. Unfortunately, with a fair amount of water still lying around, the first record of the season had only been the previous day, so although we stood and watched the same patch of sky diligently for 3 hours, we only saw Yellow-footed and Thick-billed Green Pigeons, Green Imperial, and Spotted Doves utilising the flyway. A pair of Blue-bearded Bee-eaters, a Stork-billed Kingfisher, two Grey-headed Fish Eagles and a noisy troop of Great Slaty Woodpeckers proved the highlights. A Siberian Rubythroat nearby was sadly too quick for very good views as it ran between two bushes, the skulker only coaxed out partially by tape.
At 10:00 we arrived at a Spotted Wood Owl roost, but it appeared to have vacated the usual tree. This resulted in an hour of walking around in the heat trying to spot the bird, with only Brown Prinias to show. Then eventually, a whistle called us over to a tree where Gurrum had miraculously managed to find a pair of Wood Owls, which we saw very well in the scope for walkway views. A few trees over a pair of Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers were being watched when a Grey Tit dropped in, and a surprisingly chestnut-flanked Neglected Nuthatch fed nearby (apparently many birders claim Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch at Tmatboey, but this has never been verified - maybe the intermediate birds represent a different form which has been neglected from research? Ha Ha). A Lanceolated Warbler flushed while a good number of Rufous-winged Buzzards soared overhead.

After lunch we drove back to the ibis site, and after a bit of walking (and Burmese Shrike), we spotted a White-shouldered Ibis perched in a dead tree (much better than the views the day before). It took flight after a few minutes, so we headed around to a pond near the base of that tree, and the second White-shouldered flushed, again giving good flight views. However Gurrum told us to stop, and a few seconds later the three Giant Ibis lumbered into flight. With the sun at our backs we had a good look at the mega birds as they flew to perch in their trusty roost tree.
Along a back track to the main road we saw little, but we soon pulled over and walked into the forest for a bit (there are probably no land mines here, San assured us), and after a few whistles two small birds undulated into view, and we enjoyed scope views of a White-rumped Pygmy-falcon pair! As dusk approached we left the diminutive raptors, and after quickly checking a White-shouldered Ibis nest (apparently there was a bird sitting there, we couldn't see it!), our group carefully followed a defined trail into the forest where we had seen Oriental Scops Owl the day before (don't step off the path, we were helpfully reminded this time), and after a little callback, one male Savannah Nightjar savvily responded, and we all had a good look at him circling around in front of us.

Day 11: Tmatboey to Kratie
With all our targets done and dusted, we elected to change our plans slightly today. The morning started at the Rufous-bellied Woodpecker stakeout, where a pair of birds showed nicely, along with a Radde's Warbler, Rufescent Prinias, and Black-headed Woodpeckers. From here, rather than spend the rest of the day birding at Tmatboey with SVC, we paid the driver a little extra to drop us at Stung Treng (Lesser Adjutant and Woolly-necked Storks seen soaring in thermals en. route, though no vultures from the nearby restaurant), from where we eventually got a 14 person minibus south to Kratie. In Cambodia, a 14 person minibus can quickly become a 27 person minibus, as we soon found out. Lazy afternoon in Kratie.
Day 12: Kratie to Phnom Penh

Got a tuk-tuk north to Kampi at 5:30, arrived just before sunrise, and after a bit of confusion on the cost, we were soon provided with a boat driver who obviously knew what we wanted - he headed straight over to the rocky islets, whistled a few times, and a Mekong Wagtail flew right in! We had at least three birds spread out over a couple of islands, often allowing quite close approach. Communication broke when we asked the driver about Small Pratincole, and he nodded, taking us across the river to a large sandy island, and showed us Little Ringed Plovers with enthusiasm. We gave up on this front and asked to go see the Irrawaddy Dolphins. A few minutes downstream we located a large group which must have surely exceeded 20 individuals using the cetacean multiplication rule, and also had distant looks at 5 Small Pratincoles flying over. The boat driver did not seem to have any ethics and just chased every dolphin that surfaced, so after a few minutes we asked to go back to shore. Saddening to think this happens all day every day, but at least this endangered species is being protected somewhat in this way. Due to some apparent logistical issues with the hotel, we weren't able to leave Kratie until 1:00, which saw us arrive on the outskirts of Phnom Penh at about 4:30, where we arranged a tuk-tuk to take us a few kms to a Cambodian Tailorbird site. Regrettably, we must have done something wrong in researching, and the habitat was largely unsuitable at our GPS point. With an expensive 3 hour return trip to the main site at Oudong beckoning the next day to guarantee the bird, we painfully decided to skip looking any more (after some lengthy arguments) and get an overnight bus to Saigon, which saved us two extra days to use in Dalat for (arguably) better birds than a ”common skulking little grey thing”. After sitting in an Indian restaurant for 5 hours using their wifi and drinking our sorrows away with beer, we got on a... cramped... sleeper bus. It's 9:30am and we've just crossed into Vietnam, with limited sleep - the trip list stands at 286, with only one major dip so far.
Day 13: Ho Chi Minh to Cat Tien – Main road spotlighting

Arrived late at Cat Tien after an overpriced (150,000D each) and very fast motorbike ride. Despite knowing that a taxi from the bus drop point is the cheapest option, we could not find one for the life of us! A kettle of Great Eared Nightjars was a surprising end to the day (we had 20+ every night). After dinner at the second restaurant (which was more fun to have dinner at with the rangers and guides than the touristy Yellow Bamboo Restaurant, though the latter has better wifi), we got straight into spotlighting up the main road. A Lesser Mousedeer hid under some vines and a Large-toothed Ferret Badger fed briefly in the torchlight. We tried for Blyth's Frogmouth around the Heaven's Rapid turnoff, but no cigar. The return walk gave us excellent views of a Leopard Cat.

Day 14: Cat Tien – HQ Trails and Grasslands

We were up bright and early, hungry for pittas. The trail was initially hard to find - walk behind the museum, then head north to a small cage, which for our stay held two Red Junglefowl. Whilst trying to spot a drumming woodpecker, a birder walked past with his local guide. We were a little despondent then, thinking the pittas would move away from the path. However no less than 60 seconds later we walked round a corner and I grabbed Max by the shoulder and lifted my binoculars to see a female Blue-rumped Pitta feeding just off the path! Max soon realised that a male was also feeding just to the left, and we had excellent views of both. This was not how we expected the morning to start, with one of Cat Tien's hardest birds! It was later divulged to us that the birder who walked past us had come to Cat Tien specifically looking for this pitta. And he dipped...

After walking another 10 metres a rustle alerted us to a female Bar-bellied Pitta hopping around in a large open area devoid of leaves to the right of the path, which we realised must be the infamous pitta feeding spot. It wasn't even 7am and our bird list hadn't tallied to 10 species yet. Don't you just love pittas?

Continuing the trail, we reached the Stung Tree, which contained 50 Golden-crested Mynas, again, a hard bird from our target list. We exited onto the road and followed it to the substation, finally finding our much-wanted Banded Kingfisher perched on an open branch, unmoving and cryptic as usual, plus a Black-and-Red Broadbill. Opposite the substation, we entered the forest again on a shortcut trail towards Uncle Dong. It was at this point we realised that none of the mud maps we had showed all the trails correctly, and we had to take every left turn to avoid getting hopelessly lost. Over the next few days we built up a mental map of the trails, but still don't know where half of them lead! As we returned slowly to the HQ a male Bar-bellied Pitta performed beautifully, along with a 5 drongo tree (Lesser and Greater Racquet, Ashy, Bronzed and Hair-crested), with some supporting Indochinese Tit-babbler, Laced Woodpecker, Asian Paradise Flycatcher and Black-naped Monarch.

After lunch we walked along the road to the bamboo area at Elephant Hill in the southwest, notching up Golden-fronted Leafbird, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, Great Iora, Violet Cuckoo, White-rumped Munia, Dollarbird, Yellow-bellied Warbler and Ashy Woodswallow. The walk was very long and hot, so we subsequently rested until 3:30, at which point we elected to hire bikes and go to the southwest grasslands. We chose a tandem bike to save money, which was a mistake. Two black greasy hands and broken chains later we arrived at
the start of the grasslands, extremely fatigued and with little motivation to go the next 5kms for Peafowl. It was only after reaching the halfway point that we realised our directions conflicted, so our party turned back to the second watchtower to hope a peafowl would show. Then a tractor started ploughing the field next to us, so we gave up. After checking out the ponds near where the tarmac ends, and retracing our steps for a lost scope lenscap, we arrived back at the HQ at 6. Notable birds included Chestnut-capped Babbler, Cinnamon Bittern, Lesser Coucal, Green Imperial Pigeon, Western Osprey and Vinous-breasted Starling.

Day 15: Cat Tien – Heaven’s Rapids, Uncle Dong Trail, Grasslands
4am start with fellow birder Dom for the walk to Heaven’s Rapids. Despite trying numerous times en. route we could not locate Blyth’s Frogmouth. We arrived at the rapids themselves just at dawn, and sat around for 30 minutes waiting for the light to improve. Walking 50m back towards the HQ along the road we heard a distant Pale-headed Woodpecker in the obvious bamboo patch, which flew right in to the tape and eventually gave good views for everyone. We walked back along the road (some trip reports call it the Heaven’s Rapid trail or track, but it’s just a road straight to the rapids, there is no walking track). Best birds included Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Dusky Broadbill, Banded Broadbill, Great Slaty Woodpecker, and many Scaly-breasted Partridges. At the road fork we decided to head further away from the HQ to the Uncle Dong trail head, as navigating to this trail from the HQ was impossible. We hoped for pheasants on the return trek, but ended with only Indian Emerald Dove, and brief views of the male Blue-rumped Pitta in exactly the same place as before.

After lunch, one of the local guides, Tim, informed us that his birding clients were going for peafowl that evening, so we asked them if we could possibly split the jeep hire with them. They agreed, and after passing the point where we turned around the day before and continuing onwards to the third observation tower (see species notes, this is really confusing) the jeep pulled up and in the distance a male Green Peafowl swung round and stood still briefly before running into the forest. This backlit sighting was poor, and Max didn't even get onto the bird, so we climbed the dubious observation tower (not for the faint hearted), and in the distance we scoped a second male peafowl walking through the grass. Still bad light, but satisfactory. We waited for a while and had 4 more peafowl fly across the lake behind us, but nothing else spectacular happened. As the light faded we set off back to the HQ, however as we passed the second watch tower I thumped on the roof of the jeep to stop as another magnificent male Green Peafowl fed in the field not far off the road. It continued feeding as we got the scope out and enjoyed this fantastic bird! A female called from behind us and another male was seen briefly further up the road.

Day 16: Cat Tien – Crocodile Lake (Bau Sau Trail)
Split a jeep with Dom to the Crocodile Lake (Bau Sau) trail the next morning, with Woolly-necked Stork but no pheasants on the road. Hint: Tell the HQ you’re just birding the road nearby to the trail, otherwise you have to pay an extra fee and have a guide with you all day - not for the financially challenged backpacking birder. I commented to Max that when we got Germain's Peacock Pheasant within 5 minutes we'd have to try the nearby bamboo for Orange-necked Partridge. 4 minutes later a peacock pheasant fed on the trail in front of
us. The bird eventually walked off the trail, so we stalked towards it to behold the same bloody pheasant sitting on a rock, and continued to behold it preening on this rock, less than 5m away from us, in full view for 15 MINUTES! Unfortunately, my iPhone doesn’t do these birds justice in any way, shape or form… Should have brought an SLR!

Satisfied, we went back to the road and headed half a km further up to a bamboo patch Tim had recommended for the partridge. No surprises that we didn’t see the partridge, and didn’t see a great deal more over the rest of the day. We bired the first 2kms of the trail numerous times - apparently after the big tree birding isn’t as good. Certainly if you want the peacock pheasant, this is the place to go - we had 6 different individuals within the area, including a number of excellent views, some almost as ridiculous as the first bird that morning, like a female which walked right past Max, Nathan and I as we sat resting on the track. Black-shanked Douc were numerous, along with Bar-bellied Pitta, Scaly-breasted Partridge, Blue-bearded Bee Eater, Indochinese Tit Babbler, White-bellied Woodpecker, Black-winged Cuckooshrike and Ashy Minivets. Got picked up by the jeep at 5pm after living off palm-oil-soaked biscuits all day, and returned to the HQ, again remaining Firebackless.

**Day 17: Cat Tien – HQ Trails**

I had been feeling terrible the previous day, so with all our realistic targets done and my alarm not set, we had a lazy day of casual birding. When I woke up at 7:30 Max had already left so I bired the main road and the various back trails until mid-morning. Max did a similar route. Birds seen between us included Golden-crested Myna, Blue-throated and Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, White-throated Rock Thrush, Banded Kingfisher and Germain's Peacock Pheasant (a few calling in forest down the road towards the grasslands taunted Max).

After lunch we tried to refind my White-throated Rock-thrush but failed, instead finally adding Lesser Yellownape. The afternoon was spent bashing through the sloping bamboo at Elephant Hill, the only easily accessible partridge site on foot from the HQ, where we found promising scratchings, but not the target bird. The only addition to our list was, finally, a party of Buff-breasted Babblers, and a few too many mosquito bites.
**Day 18: Cat Tien to Dalat – Elephant Hill and Transit**

Max and I walked back to our partridge scratchings early the next morning, which resulted in a tense 15 minute hunt as we flushed two partridges off the road less than 20m from our spot. This hunt ended when the partridges (remaining hidden) began calling... The Scaly-breasted call... Wrong habitat, you stupid undersized chickens, get out of here! Tried again for the rock-thrush, but eventually gave up and got packed ready to leave for Dalat on the minibus arranged through the park HQ. As I sit writing this on the vehicle (durian to human ratio exceeding 5:1, see inset), our trip list stands at 328.

**Day 19: Dalat – Ta Nung Valley**

Our base for the next 6 days was La Xanh (Green Leaves) Hotel in Dalat, which we found to be affordable, nearby good restaurants, and (finally) some effectively functioning hot water. Arranged a taxi with Dom at 6am to Ta Nung Valley (hot tip: get the white taxis, the green ones appear to be more expensive), and bought a few baguettes to sustain us for the morning until our arranged 2pm pickup. Vietnamese baguettes surely qualify as food for the gods!

After being let through the gate, we immediately picked up Vietnamese Greenfinch, and we slowly birded the road down to the dam wall. Numerous fruiting bushes and trees picked us up a few feeding flocks and constant bird activity, particularly in the stretch between the grassy field and the stream. A new mud map is attached, as the old ones appear out of date (some trails, the rose garden, and the deer pen no longer exist?). A full-on two hours of birding racked up an impressive list, including Black-headed Parrotbill, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Grey-crowned Crocias, Rufous-backed Sibia, the local race of Blue-winged Minla, Streaked Spiderhunter, Yellow-vented Green Pigeon flying over, Mountain, Black, Red-whiskered and Flavescent Bulbul, the endemic johnsonii Black-throated Sunbird, Mountain Fulvetta, Burmese Shrike, Chestnut-fronted Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, Indochinese Barbet, Long-tailed Broadbill, Little Pied Flycatcher and Maroon Oriole. Birded the NE end of the stream with Black-headed Sibia, Mugimaki Flycatcher, Slaty-backed Forktail and Mrs Gould's Sunbird. With almost every target locked away, we tried finding the paths mentioned in older trip reports. We followed some tenuous trails up the hill directly opposite the dam, and then in search of Orange-breasted Laughingthrush I left the others and bushbashed as far as I could down the SE end of the stream. Just before giving up, I came across an obvious path, which I was able to follow for about 200m before it disintegrated, finding Large Niltava, Grey-cheeked Warbler, Grey-bellied Tesia, and Red-headed Trogon. I retraced it back to the road and met the others. The rest of the morning the others all ambled around trying to find birds, while I made my way as deep into the forest as I could, determined to locate the laughingthrush. On return at 1:00, I found out that Dom had seen one in a mixed feeding flock an hour before, so with an hour remaining until pickup I found my way into the forest to the right of the NE stream and played the call, with an immediate response ensuing. After some creeping and positioning, I finally got onto two fine Orange-breasted Laughingthrush, and was able to eventually whistle Max over, who happily enjoyed the fruits of my many scrapes and punctures - worth it! Spent the afternoon in Dalat formulating a targeted plan for the next few days.
Day 20: Dalat – Mount Liang Biang

After a stroll to the nearby 24-hour bakery to pick up some baguettes and goodies, plus a large bunch bananas nearby ($2!) we found a taxi to drop us at Mount Liang Biang (this was our food strategy for the rest of our time in Dalat - very cheap, and allowing a full day in the field). Despite being before 7am, we had no trouble getting a jeep straight to the start of the summit trail, which we began in earnest. We didn't hear much in the initial pine forest, so walked straight through to the gully and subsequent hill. Numerous
Collared Laughingthrush were calling in the area, and we had no trouble immediately bringing the first nearby bird in with tape. Large Niltava and White-browed Scimitar Babbler were nearby, but a few minutes later we heard some calls to the right, so we walked 20m or so into the forest and came across the mother of all feeding flocks, which stuck around for ages as we mopped up good views of every single bird in it. The flock included the endemic Black-capped Fulvetta, the beautiful Yellow-billed Nuthatch, female Dalat Shrike-babbler, Chestnut-fronted Shrike Babbler, Golden-throated Barbet, Yellow-cheeked Tit, and more!

We continued up the mountain to the summit after taping out a fantastically showy Pygmy Cupwing, but saw little else new aside from a Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon. As we ate breakfast at the summit (tired out, but completely satisfied!), a Black Eagle soared below us, and Asian House Martins flitted about above a troop of Black-shanked Doucs visible down the hill. Returning down the mountain yielded Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Ashy-throated Warbler, male Dalat Shrike Babbler, Kloss's Leaf Warbler, Black-headed Sibia, and plenty of Collared Laughingthrush (allowing some stellar views). Sitting on a log I read through some trip reports to see what we still needed, and, suddenly realising that Lesser Shortwing was present, played the tape with an immediate response nearby. Although none of us had particularly good views, it was nice to get race liangbiangensis on Mt Liang Biang! As we ambled around the lower slopes (avoiding any more hill climbing), Max and I finally got onto a pair of the distinct White-spectacled Warbler race, and much better views of the shortwing. After regrouping, Dom almost stepped on an unidentified orange coral snake (marbles splotches and stripes on body, three small black stripes on head, resembling Kellogg's Coral Snake, but not quite right), and briefly we had views of our first (and only) Red-vented Barbet, whilst only Max got onto a flighty Vietnamese Cutia.

With Dom off to find his final Seicercus warbler (the cursed White-spectacled), Nathan, Max and I elected to head back to the pine forest. Whilst eating our last bites of food on a grassy area where numerous birds were in evidence all around us, we ticked up Vietnamese Crossbill, Long-tailed Minivet, White-throated Rock-thrush, the range-restricted races of Green-backed Tit and Grey-crowned Tit, Olive-backed Pipit, Grey Bushchat, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker and Chestnut-vented Nuthatch. Needless to say, our "One Beer per. Target Species" rule resulted in a satisfying dinner.

**Day 21: Dalat – Ho Tuyen Lam Lake East (Tourist Camps)**

Today we were dropped at the first tourist camp on the eastern side of Ho Tuyen Lam Lake. The road to the second tourist camp looks like it's never going to be completed, but the 5 minute walk produced Silver Pheasant for us. I won't go into detail on our route, but essentially we had collated a whole heap of GPS and topographical data, which was loaded
on our phones and allowed us to follow the instructions gleaned from reading various trip reports. This lead us on an 8km loop up and around the back ridges, through some good forest at times, though also often following game trails (complete with pheasant snares), or making our own trails over hills and alongside streams. Not easy.

In the initial pine forest around the tourist camps we saw Vietnamese Crossbill, Slender-billed Oriole, Green-backed Tit, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Long-tailed Minivet, Grey Bushchat, Hill Prinia, Hill Myna, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Vinous-breasted Starling and Asian Barred Owlet.

In the nearby degraded forest patches along streams, before the steep ascent to the higher forest, we saw Rufous-browed Flycatcher, Claudia's, Kloss's, Chestnut-crowned and White-spectacled Warbler, Black-headed Parrotbill, Slaty-backed and Spotted Forktail.

In the highland broadleaf evergreen, birding was slow, though over our few hours of trekking we picked up goodies such as Black-hooded Laughingthrush, Eyebrowed Thrush, Dalat Shrike Babbler, White-spectacled Warbler, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Greater Yellownape, and frustratingly brief views of both Vietnamese Cutia and Indochinese Green Magpie.

Eventually we returned to the second tourist camp and followed the obvious path leading directly away from the lake. 200m or so up this trail there is a steep rise, where two bands of broadleaf forest sandwich a strip of pine forest. It was here that we finally found two stunning male Vietnamese Cutias feeding at length in a pine tree, alongside a pair of Dalat Shrike Babblers. This site is mentioned as a good spot for cutia in other trip reports, so certainly did not disappoint! See species notes for GPS. We returned to the second tourist camp and had a beer to pass the time, waiting for our taxi to pick us up at 6, thoroughly satisfied at our 3-day clean-up of Dalat's birds. The only question was, what to do now...

**Day 22: Dalat – Ho Tuyen Lam Lake West (Tuoi Sia and Ridgeline)**

With our flight to Hanoi not for another 3 days, I emailed a Vietnamese bird guide we had met at Cat Tien asking for some other birding sites. He recommended Tuoi Sia as an
excellent site for Indochinese Green Magpie, and also possibly for Hodgson's Frogmouth. So after a lazy morning, and finally figuring out exactly where the site was, we arrived a little after lunch and set about finding the trail up to the ridge, which proved fairly easy. To get here, take a taxi to Dalat Star (a sculpture on the western side of the lake), and follow the obvious dirt road up the hill immediately after you pass the big sculpted rock with "Dalat STAR" written on it. Just after a metal shed on your right, an obvious trail leads up the hill towards the ridge. If you can endure the steep climb for a few hundred metres, it levels out and becomes an excellent birding trail following the top of the ridge, going north. We followed it until the ridge peak (GPS: 11.897540, 108.397449). See mud map for details.

Along the trail we found a number of the Dalat target species with relative ease, and the fact that the trail itself was so easy to find and follow makes me think that this should be any birder's first choice when hitting up the lake area (though we found this area seemingly not as good for the pine specialties). Most of the activity was along the ridge, where over 2 hours we had Black-headed Parrotbill, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Dalat Shrike Babbler, Red-headed Trogon, Black-hooded Laughingthrush, Bay Woodpecker, White-spectacled Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler and Rufous-browed Flycatcher (300m above the altitude range in Robson). I was also sneaky enough to get views of two Indochinese Green Magpies (a massive relief since I missed the bird yesterday), though as the previous day had shown, this species is very skulking, and surprisingly difficult to get binoculars on!

Back down near the intersection of pine and broadleaf forest we sat until dark in the hope of Hodgson's Frogmouth, and were surprised to hear one female call not 50m away right on dusk! Unfortunately tonight we walked away empty-handed, despite hearing at least two frogmouths, Collared Scops, Mountains Scops, and Collared Owlets.

**Day 23: Dalat – Ho Tuyen Lam Lake West (Tuoi Sia Spotlighting)**

After a day of eating and gift shopping around Dalat, we headed over to Tuoi Sia in the evening where we met up with Dom (regaling us with his tales of numerous sightings of Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Cutia and Crocias from his 8 hour day around Tuoi Sia and the ridgeline). The female Hodgson's called again from the same spot at dusk, but quickly shut up and could not be coaxed into view, despite a few attempts over the evening. This might have had something to do with the Brown Wood Owl which appeared above us when we played the call (no doubt attempting to make a meal of the poor frogmouth). A Mountain Scops Owl doing a convincing male Hodgson's also came in to our Hodgson's call, which must have been just as convincing.

**Day 24: Dalat to Tam Dao – Ta Nung Valley and Transit**

We returned on our last morning for some casual birding at Ta Nung (this time charged a modest 20,000D each for entry) where we succeeded in getting excellent close-up views of lots of good birds, from Black-throated Sunbird, Grey-crowned Crocias, Orange-billed Scimitar Babbler, Blue-throated Flycatcher, Lesser Shortwing and Rufous-backed Sibia. We also finally picked up some overdue ticks in the form of Speckled Piculet and Indochinese Cuckooshrike. A Mountain Hawk Eagle flew over briefly just before we left to have lunch and pack for our 4pm flight to Hanoi. The trip list stands at 407.
A taxi straight from the airport to Tam Dao had us arriving after dark, the Hanoian tourists stumbling past us in the fog like a scene from The Walking Dead. After ambling around for half an hour, we came to the conclusion that none of our mud maps were very accurate, so we picked a hotel at random (Gia Le), which proved adequate. Dinner across the road ended up being a whole chicken machete’d to bits, largely devoid of meat. We ate in the hotel for the remainder of our stay.

**Day 25: Tam Dao**

Woke up early to (surprise!) fog. We decided to wait until breakfast opened at the hotel before leaving due to the low light, so it wasn't until 7:30 that we arrived at the new Tam Dao National Park gate marking the start of the watertank trail. The layout has changed a lot over the last year or two it seems, see attached mud map for further information.

Luckily, despite not being able to identify birds more than 10m away, we almost continuously ran into feeding flocks, with the core species always being Schaeffer's Fulvettta, but additionally holding Golden Babblers, White-bellied Erpornis, Black-chinned Yuhina, Silver-eared Mesia, Orange-bellied Leafbird, etc. We also came across a flock of diminutive and ridiculously cute Short-tailed Parrotbills, our most wanted bird on the mountain. We saw numerous flocks throughout the next 2 days, mostly on bamboo trails past the carpark.

On reaching the parking area near the restaurant (which doesn't serve food...), after consulting trip reports we figured out which of the three trails was the classic contour trail, and walked this for about 2kms through the bamboo before giving up, as the combination of rain (heavy at times) and even thicker fog meant that we were identifying little. However, I'm always of the opinion that it's good to be birding even in the harshest conditions, and indeed it was on this walk that we saw our only Grey Laughingthrush flock for the trip, albeit briefly. I also got onto two Black-throated Laughingthrush associating with the Grey, again, only briefly through the fog. No other noteworthy birds seen aside from Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler.

Decided to walk back to town for lunch along the road, and of course the fog quickly lessened intensity. This allowed us to get views of Chestnut Bulbul, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler and a few other species.

After lunch, we looped through the eastern side of town and up the transmitter steps. The fog had all but disappeared for the afternoon, but this didn't really help us. A few Buff-throated Warblers were seen near the soccer field, but the overall lack of birds made us abandon our walk halfway up the transmitter steps and go back to the watertank trail. However it appears that Tam Dao birds really are early morning fog loving (they'd have to be), and the only new species we added was Spot-necked Babbler. A fairy dismal afternoon,
though we had essentially seen every bird we intended to target here except Indochinese Yuhina (which was eventually dipped - this supposedly common bird was just not in evidence!). Remaining were pittas, cochoas and some rarer bamboo specialties like Collared Babbler and Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill.

**Day 26: Tam Dao**

As Australia Day dawned, we prepared for an all-out assault on Tam Dao, stocking up on food to last us an entire day in the field (read Chocopies and Coke). The fog was similar to the previous day, with extra rain, but eventually got beautiful views of a calling group of Spot-necked Babblers. We sat under the shelter next to the trailheads for a time, but eventually got sick of the no-show Eyebrowed Wren-babbler and headed out into the fog.

The left-hand trail appeared very new, so it was decided this could be worth exploring. It's essentially a ~1km loop through a mix of bamboo and broadleaf forest, which certainly has lots of potential. We quickly got onto a Chestnut-headed Tesia, then a huge feeding flock containing many of the birds we had already encountered, but nothing new aside from Grey-chinned Minivet and a nearby Scaly Thrush. The fog began gradually improving at this point, and within an hour it was relatively clear. Relatively.

Back on the contour trail in the bamboo, our luck improved when I played the Collared Babbler call under a feeding flock and a small group of birds immediately responded, although actually seeing them moving around above the bamboo took some effort! An Orange-billed and probable Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler fed with the flock, and unfortunately we were so engrossed that we failed to pinpoint the direction of a calling Blue-naped Pitta before it shut up.

The rest of the day we birded the road and the loop trail and the first few hundred metres of the contour trail. Again, very little of note, although two unknown treepie sp. were heard.
Day 27: Tam Dao to Ba Be – Transit
Left early in a taxi arranged by the hotel towards Ba Be National Park. We had initially planned access via public transport, but with four people going from Tam Dao this ended up being the attractive option at $40 each. Very few people have ever birded Ba Be independently, so we were largely relying on very tenuously gathered information. So here, finally, is the definitive GPS coordinates of Mr Chat’s (excellent) guesthouse! Being the ranger in charge of monitoring the Night Herons, he’s the person to get you the birds. GPS: 22.397291,105.617182.
See mud map for further information. If arranging your own transport, the town to get to is called Boc Lau, on the southern edge of the lake, a 20 minute drive from the park HQ.

Day 28: Ba Be National Park
Got up at 5am and walked to Mr Chat’s boat, in which we motored over to an inlet and parked. It wasn’t long before a number of White-eared Night Heron silhouettes were flying around us, landing in trees and uttering their guttural growls. Unfortunately it was still very dark, and all the birds we saw went to roost halfway up the cliffs in areas we couldn’t view, so we headed back to Boc Lau a little unsatisfied, but ready to try again in the afternoon. It was good to see a couple of White-winged Magpies on the cliff nearby the Night Heron roosts, which allowed good, albeit distant, views. We arranged to have breakfast at 10, so walked west along a small road in the fields, notching up Japanese Tit and Chinese Blackbird. With little else to do we had settled in until our 4:00 rendezvous with Mr Chat when
he finished work, until Dom spotted a Pied Falconet perched on a snag at the top of a nearby ridge, which had us sprinting down the road to the scope (and sharing some views of the "ga" with local kids). The field next to the lake held 3 Rosy Pipits and some Chinese Pond Herons just before we were picked up.

Back at the inlet we checked around an empty nest for roosting birds, but found nothing. Hope was slowly draining away when I finally spotted a roosting heron perched in the foliage of a nearby tree, and after about 30 minutes of manoeuvring we all finally secured the views wanted of this extremely beautiful and cryptic bird, which only a very small number of birders have ever seen in the wild! A few flew around briefly in the twilight before heading off to feed, and we returned for a few beers!

Day 29: Ba Be to Cuc Phuong (Bong) – Transit
Transit to Cuc Phuong seemed simple enough. Mrs Chat arranged a minibus to pick us up from the guesthouse at 6am, and in a nearby town we transferred to a large bus bound for Hanoi. A taxi from the main bus stop to a secondary bus stop saw us board another bus heading for "Cuc Phuong, not Ninh Binh!" according to the spruiker. Here, our transit fell apart. We arrived at Ninh Binh (sigh) and were hustled off the bus onto another, also bound for "Cuc Phuong". We were dropped not at Cuc Phuong, but the nearby town, where a taxi to the HQ proved way too expensive, and we argued with him until he took us all the way to Bong Substation. This second half of the day cost us over 600,000D, putting us far beyond our budget. Helpful Hint: Get a bus to Ninh Binh, then a taxi to Bong, and it will end up a fair bit cheaper. Offloaded our gear in Pillar House ($7pp) and went to sleep.

Day 30: Cuc Phuong (Bong) – Valley Trail, Grid Trails and start of Loop
Birded the main road back towards the restaurant early in the morning, where we saw lots of thrush, but only of one species, Japanese. Also had great views of the surprisingly pretty Rufous-throated Fulvetta. Headed up the Valley Trail where we easily obtained good views of Limestone Wren-babbler, and also Scarlet Minivet, Black-browed Fulvetta and Puff-
throated Bulbul. The rest of the day we spent on the grid and the first 500m of the loop trail (starting at the restaurant end, allegedly the area around the woody liana is good for Eared Pitta). We had Red-headed Trogon, Spot-throated Babbler, Grey-throated Babbler, Asian Stubtail, Fujian Niltava, Limestone and Eastern Crowned Warbler, a female White-tailed Robin, and one male Silver Pheasant slowly walking away up a hill. Spotlighting the main road netted Hairy-footed Flying Squirrel, but no views of night birds. Collared and Mountain Scops, Collared and Asian Barred Owlet and Brown Hawk Owl all heard.

Day 31: Cuc Phuong (Bong) – Grid Trails, Valley Trail and start of Loop
The fog descended and the rain started overnight. The rest of our time at Cuc Phuong was very difficult birding, and we saw very little - the conditions remaining constant. Birded the loop trail to the liana three separate times, the grid multiple times, and the Valley Trail during the afternoon. Fujian Niltava was seen at each location, particularly well at the start of the loop trail, out in the open next to the track. One male White-tailed Flycatcher was seen briefly on the Valley Trail, and an unidentified robin species observed at length, causing much confusion (and we’re still confused). Numerous Rufous-tailed Robin were observed over the day, often giving excellent views. A few Grey-backed Shrikes were around the open areas, along with a single nicely feathered Ratchet-tailed Treepie.

Day 32: Cuc Phuong (Bong and HQ) – Loop Trail and HQ Area
Did the loop trail all the way round from 6:30 to 9:30am. Added Eyebrowed Wren-babbler, and a very frustrating untickable Malaysian Night Heron. The main road yielded our first Greater Flameback since Khao Yai, and we decided to ditch Bong and have a night at the HQ instead. Said our farewells to Dom and hitched a ride out of Bong. The only new bird that afternoon at the headquarters was Japanese White-eye, with a brief Pied Falconet flyover.

Day 33: Cuc Phuong (HQ) to Hanoi – Botanic Gardens and Transit
The gate guard arrived at 6:30 and gave us the key to the botanical gardens with no hassle. No guide needed it seems, unlike many trip reports mention. Had good views of White-winged Magpies up the back of the garden, but little else aside from a Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler and Chinese Blackbird.

Due to some money issues, we had been surviving in Cuc Phuong on two or less bowls of Pho per day (not easy considering how many kms we walked!), so the 9:00 cheap bus from the HQ to Hanoi got us into town around lunch, where we found a fast food place with dodgy wifi. I finished off the trip report whilst we slowly spent our remaining $10 on cheap food stuffs to last us overnight until flying out at 9:30am the next day. We moved to a nearby all-night bar when the restaurant kicked us out, and took a taxi to the airport at 5am using up our last few dollars. Black-eared Kite from the terminal rounded off the trip, and plane food has never tasted so good!

The trip list holds at 461.
As we finalise this report for publishing back in Australia, looking back on the trip I realise how lucky we were to have so few problems, and see so many tricky, endangered and flat out amazing birds in a fantastic part of the world. Our expectations were regularly exceeded (who knew flying into Bangkok on New Year’s Eve at midnight would result in two of the world’s rarest waders immediately afterwards?!), and we saw the overwhelming majority of our target species, many of course being endangered or critically endangered taxa. Despite many puncture wounds from murderous plants, leeches and ticks of the blood-sucking variety, bites from potentially malarial mozzies, sulphurous muddy sinkholes, incoordination on slippery logs crossing streams, getting ripped off, getting lost, getting sick, elephants, lack of food, sleep and hot water, we’re already looking at details for the next overseas backpacking trip! I certainly had a fantastic time, and I hope anyone reading this finds our information useful in the future. The photos aren’t too bad either for an iPhone! See the appendix for our own detailed mud maps, with relevant GPS coordinates and links to high resolution imagery and routes. Thanks to the boys for helping get this report together, and to Dominic Davidson for being our birding partner in in Vietnam!

Until next time,
Joshua Bergmark

**Birds of the Trip:**
1: Green Peafowl
2: Spoon-billed Sandpiper
3: White-eared Night Heron
4: Short-tailed Parrotbill
5: Bar-bellied Pitta
Annotated Species List - 01/01/2015 to 03/02/2015

1. **Chinese Francolin** - Tmat Beauy
   - 9/1 - One flushed in rice paddies frequented by ibis.
   - 10/1 - Numerous birds heard along main road near Tmat Beauy.
   - 11/1 - One bird seen briefly on main road near Tmat Beauy.

2. **Rufous-throated Partridge** - Mount Liang Biang

3. **Scaly-breasted Partridge** - KhaoYai NP, Cat Tien NP

4. **Red Junglefowl** - Khao Yai NP, Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP

5. **Silver Pheasant** - Ho Tuyen Lam, Cuc Phuong NP
   - 21/1 - Single *annamensis* male flushed just north of second tourist camp (HTL).
   - 30/1 - Singly *nycthemera* male seen briefly on Loop Trail (CP).

6. **Siamese Fireback** - Khao Yai NP
   - 5/1 - Four birds seen briefly on Trail B.

7. **Germain’s Peacock Pheasant** - Cat Tien NP
   - 16/1 - Single bird observed at close quarters for an extended period within the first 200m of the trail to Crocodile Lake. A further two birds seen well at the same location later that day. At least five additional birds heard here.
   - 17/1 - Single bird observed and two others heard beside main road 1km SW of the park HQ.

8. **Green Peafowl** - Cat Tien NP
   - 15/1 - Two males observed from most western watchtower of the park HQ (11.405164,107.374447). A further 4 birds observed flying across river nearby. Two separate males observed well while driving back to park HQ in the late afternoon near the second watchtower (11.404828,107.391593).

9. **Lesser Whistling Duck** - Laem Phak Bia, Wat Khao Takrao
   - 1/1 - Flock of +40 birds seen on salt farm north of King’s Project (LPB)
   - 2/1 - Several bird observed in flight north of the Wat (WKT)

10. **Cotton Pygmy Goose** - Nong Pla Lai, Phnom Krom

11. **Indian Spot-billed Duck** - Phnom Krom, Florican Grasslands, Kampi

12. **Garganey** - Wat Komnamram
   - 1/1 - Single female on freshwater wetland

13. **Tufted Duck** - Ba Be NP
   - 28/1 - Several small flocks flying past while looking for White-eared Night Heron

14. **Little Grebe** - Numerous sites

15. **Painted Stork** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Phnom Krom, Florican Grasslands

16. **Asian Openbill** - Laem Phak Bia, Phnom Krom

17. **Woolly-necked Stork** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
   - 9/1 - Two in flight (TB)
   - 11/1 - Four in flight between Tmat Beauy and Stung Treung
   - 16/1 - Three birds flushed from pool along road to Crocodile Lake (CT)

18. **Lesser Adjutant** - Between Tmat Beauy and Stung Treung
   - 11/1 - One bird in flight

19. **Black-headed Ibis** - Wat Khao Takrao
   - 2/1 - Over 30 birds observed foraging on wetland just north of Wat

20. **White-shouldered Ibis** - Tmat Beauy
9-10/1 - Two birds flushed from rice paddies with Giant Ibis. Subsequently seen perched at a distance.

21. **Giant Ibis** - Tmat Beauy
   9-10/1 - Three birds flushed from rice paddies and subsequently seen perched nearby.

22. **Yellow Bittern** - Phetchaburi, Nong Pla Lai
   1/1 - Poor views along river in town (P)
   2/1 - Bird flushed from riverside vegetation in paddies (NPL), then another located in scope

23. **Cinnamon Bittern** - Cat Tien NP
   13/1 - Three birds flushed from flooded grassy area 3km SW of park HQ

24. **White-eared Night Heron** - Ba Be NP
   28/1 - Five birds observed closely in flight, but in almost darkness at roost site pre-dawn.
   A single bird located roosting in tree above water later that day. Several birds observed leaving roost site that evening. Excellent views obtained by all after much anticipation!

25. **Malaysian Night Heron** - Cuc Phuong NP
   1/2 - Untickable views of single bird flushed off Loop Trail 1km from western end.

26. **Striated Heron** - Numerous sites

27. **Chinese Pond Heron** - Numerous sites

28. **Javan Pond Heron** - Jakarta International Airport, Nong Pla Lai
   31/12 - Eleven birds observed in wet grassy areas fringing runway, most in full breeding plumage (JIA)
   2/1 - Single bird observed in flight, almost full breeding plumage (NPL)

29. **Cattle Egret** - Numerous sites

30. **Grey Heron** - Numerous sites

31. **Purple Heron** - Numerous sites

32. **Great Egret** - Numerous sites

33. **Intermediate Egret** - Numerous sites

34. **Little Egret** - Numerous sites

35. **Pacific Reef Egret** - Laem Phak Bia Sandspit
   2/1 - Several dark morph birds observed foraging along rocky area at sandspit.

36. **Chinese Egret** - Laem Phak Bia Sandspit
   2/1 - Single bird distinguished from reef egrets. Feeding along rocky area at sandspit.

37. **Little Cormorant** - Numerous sites

38. **Indian Cormorant** - Laem Phak Bia
   1/1 - Single bird at King’s Project. Others likely observed in flight, but not identified.

39. **Oriental Darter** - Numerous sites

40. **White-rumped Pygmy Falcon** - Tmat Beauy
   10/1 - Pair taped in at known site near Tmat Beauy. Excellent scope views obtained.

41. **Collared Falconet** - Tmat Beauy
   9/1 - Single bird observed along roadside 20mins from Tmat Beauy. Excellent scope views obtained of it perched on powerline.

42. **Pied Falconet** - Ba Be NP, Cuc Phuong NP
   28/1 - Two birds scoped on hilltop 300m south-west of Mr. Chat’s guesthouse (BB).
   1/2 - Single bird in flight near park HQ (CP).

43. **Common Kestrel** - Laem Phak Bia
   1/1 - Single bird briefly stirring up waders at salt farm north of King’s Project.
44. **Peregrine Falcon** - Ba Be NP  
28/1 - Single likely *ernesti* female observed in flight.

45. **Western Osprey** - Cat Tien NP, Ho Tuyen Lam

46. **Black Baza** - Phnom Krom, Angkor Thom  
7/1 - Single bird observed closely in flight and subsequently scoped perched just north of Phnom Krom outcrop.
8/1 - Four birds observed foraging in trees (AT).

47. **Oriental Honey Buzzard** - Numerous sites

48. **Black-winged Kite** - Numerous sites

49. **Black Kite** - Nong Pla Lai, Noi Bai International Airport  
2/1 - Three birds observed over paddy fields (NPL).
3/2 - Single *lineatus* (Black-eared Kite) observed from terminal building while waiting for flight (NBIA).

50. **Brahminy Kite** - Numerous sites

51. **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP  
10/1 - Pair observed briefly along river while waiting for Pale-capped Pigeon (TB)
14/1 - Single bird observed in flight 1km SW of park HQ

52. **Crested Serpent Eagle** - Numerous sites

53. **Eastern Marsh Harrier** - Florican grasslands  
9/1 - One male and one probable female observed in flight.

54. **Pied Harrier** - Nong Pla Lai, Florican Grasslands  
2/1 - One male observed quartering briefly over paddyfields (NPL)
9/1 - One male observed in flight (FG)

55. **Crested Goshawk** - Tam Dao  
26/1 - Single bird observed in flight between town and entrance gate

56. **Shikra** - Tmat Beauy

57. **Rufous-winged Buzzard** - Tmat Beauy

58. **Black Eagle** - Mount Lang Biang  
20/1 - Single bird observed from above as it soared close to tree tops below summit

59. **Greater Spotted Eagle** - Nong Pla Lai  
2/1 - Three birds observed in flight over paddy fields

60. **Changeable Hawk Eagle** - Tmat Beauy  
9/1 - Single pale morph bird observed perched in area frequented by ibis

61. **Mountain Hawk Eagle** - Ta Nung Valley  
24/1 - Single bird made brief fly-by along the northern side of the valley

62. **Bengal Florican** - Florican grasslands  
9/1 - At least 9 individuals observed over course of morning visit. A couple seen poorly on the deck, while excellent views were obtained of several males and females in flight. Purportedly the most birds recorded in a single day by SVC to date.

63. **Slaty-breasted Rail** - Laem Phak Bia  
2/1 - Single bird observed through the scope at the abandoned building

64. **White-breasted Waterhen** - Numerous sites

65. **White-browed Crake** - Phnom Krom  
7/1 - Single bird seen briefly along the vegetated edge of a large pond

66. **Watercock** - Phnom Krom  
7/1 - Several birds flushed and subsequently seen briefly in flight only
67. **Black-backed Swamphen** - Phnom Krom  
   7/1 - Several birds observed foraging in vegetated pond
68. **Common Moorhen** - Numerous sites
69. **Sarus Crane** - Florican grasslands  
   9/1 - Four *sharpii* birds observed foraging together in grassland
70. **Small Buttonquail** - Florican grasslands  
   9/1 - Two separate birds observed poorly from the car as they ran ahead
71. **Barred Buttonquail** - Cat Tien NP, Tan Nung Valley  
   15/1 - Single bird observed on the edge of the main road about 5km SW of the park HQ
72. **Black-winged Stilt** - Numerous sites
73. **Pied Avocet** - Laem Phak Bia  
   1/1 - Single bird observed on salt farms north of King’s Project
74. **Grey-headed Lapwing** - Wat Komnamram  
   1/1 - Twenty or so birds observed at freshwater wetland
75. **Red-wattled Lapwing** - Numerous sites
76. **Pacific Golden Plover** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Wat Komnamram
77. **Grey Plover** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia
78. **Little Ringed Plover** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia
79. **Kentish Plover** - Laem Phak Bia Sandspit
80. **White-faced Plover** - Laem Phak Bia Sandspit  
   2/1 - Single bird observed in the company of several Malaysian Plovers
81. **Malaysian Plover** - Laem Phak Bia Sandspit  
   2/1 - Five birds observed along eastern side of the sandspit
82. **Lesser Sand Plover** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia
83. **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** - Numerous sites
84. **Bronze-winged Jacana** - Numerous sites
85. **Pintail Snipe** - Laem Phak Bia, Wat Komnamram  
   1/1 - Single bird showing no white tail fringing flushed at each site respectively
86. **Common Snipe** - Laem Phak Bia  
   1/1 - Two birds showing white tail fringing flushed and observed at King’s Project
87. **Asian Dowitcher** - Laem Phak Bia  
   1/1 - Several birds observed foraging together on salt farms north of King’s Project
88. **Black-tailed Godwit** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia
89. **Bar-tailed Godwit** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia
90. **Eurasian Curlew** - Laem Phak Bia, Laem Phak Bia Sandspit
91. **Spotted Redshank** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Wat Khao Takrao
92. **Common Redshank** - Wat Khao Takrao, Laem Phak Bia
93. **Marsh Sandpiper** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Wat Khao Takrao
94. **Common Greenshank** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia
95. **Nordmann’s Greenshank** - Laem Phak Bia  
   1/1 - A stunning sixteen birds observed on salt farms north of King’s Project
96. **Wood Sandpiper** - Numerous sites
97. **Terek Sandpiper** - Pak Thale
98. **Common Sandpiper** - Numerous sites
99. **Great Knot** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia
100. **Sanderling** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Laem Phak Bia Sandspit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Bird Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td><strong>Red-necked Stint</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td><strong>Temminck’s Stint</strong></td>
<td>Laem Phak Bia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/1 - Two birds closely observed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on pond at the abandoned building</td>
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<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td><strong>Long-toed Stint</strong></td>
<td>Wat Komnamram</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/1 - Several birds feeding on</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mud at freshwater wetland</td>
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<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td><strong>Curlew Sandpiper</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td><strong>Spoon-billed Sandpiper</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/1 - Single bird picked out of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a flock of Red-necked Stints in</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the late afternoon, pond</td>
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<td></td>
<td>directly adjacent to the pump</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>house</td>
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<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td><strong>Broad-billed Sandpiper</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia</td>
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<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td><strong>Ruff</strong></td>
<td>Laem Phak Bia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/1 - Single bird observed on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pond at King’s Project</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td><strong>Red-necked Phalarope</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/1 - Two birds observed on</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ponds just west of the pump</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>house</td>
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<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td><strong>Small Pratincole</strong></td>
<td>Campi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/1 - Five birds observed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>distinctly in flight over</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sandbar during boat trip. Several</td>
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<td></td>
<td>others noted extremely distinctly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on far bank of Mekong River</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from Kratie</td>
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<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td><strong>Brown-headed Gull</strong></td>
<td>Numerous sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td><strong>Pallas’ Gull</strong></td>
<td>Laem Phak Bia Sandspit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/1 - One adult and juvenile</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bird observed on sandflat</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td><strong>Gull-billed Tern</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td><strong>Caspian Tern</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Laem Phak Bia Sandspit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td><strong>Greater Crested Tern</strong></td>
<td>Laem Phak Bia Sandspit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td><strong>Little Tern</strong></td>
<td>Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Laem Phak Bia Sandspit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td><strong>Whiskered Tern</strong></td>
<td>Numerous sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td><strong>Feral Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Numerous sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td><strong>Red Turtle Dove</strong></td>
<td>Numerous sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td><strong>Spotted Dove</strong></td>
<td>Numerous sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td><strong>Emerald Dove</strong></td>
<td>Cat Tien NP, Ta Nung Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td><strong>Zebra Dove</strong></td>
<td>Numerous sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td><strong>Orange-breasted Green Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Cat Tien NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15/1 - Several birds observed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>perched along road to Heaven’s</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rapids</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td><strong>Thick-billed Green Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Tmat Beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/1 - Several small flocks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>observed in flight at river</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>site near Tmat Beauty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td><strong>Yellow-legged Green Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Tmat Beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/1 - One small flock observed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in flight at river site near</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tmat Beauty</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td><strong>Yellow-vented Green Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Ta Nung Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19/1 - Two birds observed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>briefly in flight</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td><strong>Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Mount Lang Biang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20/1 - Single bird observed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>feeding in fig tree at the start</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of the stairway to the summit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td><strong>Green Imperial Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Tmat Beauty, Cat Tien NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td><strong>Mountain Imperial Pigeon</strong></td>
<td>Khao Yai NP, Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td><strong>Vernal Hanging Parrot</strong></td>
<td>Numerous sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td><strong>Alexandrine Parakeet</strong></td>
<td>Tmat Beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/1 - Several birds observed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>poorly in flight at river site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>near Tmat Beauty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td><strong>Blossom-headed Parakeet</strong></td>
<td>Tmat Beauty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9/1 - Several birds observed feeding with Red-breasted Parakeets in paddies frequented by ibis

132. **Red-breasted Parakeet** - Khao Yai NP, Angkor Thom, Tmat Beauy

133. **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** - Phnom Krom, Cat Tien NP
   - 7/1 - Single bird observed well in low flight over vegetated pond (PK)
   - 15/1 - Single bird observed briefly just SW of park HQ (CT)

134. **Large Hawk Cuckoo** - Khao Yai NP, Cuc Phuong NP

135. **Indian Cuckoo (H)** - Tmat Beauy

136. **Banded Bay Cuckoo** - Numerous sites

137. **Plaintive Cuckoo** - Numerous sites

138. **Violet Cuckoo** - Cat Tien NP
   - 14/1 - Single bird calling and observed briefly in bamboo along the road SW of the park HQ

139. **Asian Drongo Cuckoo** - Cat Tien NP, Ta Nung Valley
   - 17/1 - Two birds distinguished from the nearby Black Drongos feeding just SW of the park HQ (CT). Surprisingly similar!
   - 19/1 - Single bird observed (TNV)

140. **Asian Koel** - Numerous sites

141. **Green-billed Malkoha** - Numerous sites

142. **Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo (H)** - Khao Yai NP
   - 4/1 - Single bird heard call 4 times from forest behind the stakeout area, possible bird observed briefly, but couldn't rule out other pheasant/junglefowl types

143. **Greater Coucal** - Numerous sites

144. **Lesser Coucal** - Angkor Thom, Cat Tien NP

145. **Mountain Scops Owl** - Ho Tuyen Lam

146. **Collared Scops Owl (H)** - Numerous sites

147. **Oriental Scops Owl** - Tmat Beauy
   - 9/1 - Single bird taped in and spotlighted to within touching distance at recently burnt forest site near Tmat Beauy, several others heard only

148. **Spot-bellied Eagle Owl (H)** - Khao Yai NP
   - 5/1 - Single bird (possibly two) heard calling around 4am from area across the river at western end of the southern camping area at Pla Gluay Mai

149. **Brown Fish Owl** - Khao Yai NP
   - 4/1 - Single bird observed perched above pool near main road around 8pm during spotlighting

150. **Spotted Wood Owl** - Tmat Beauy
   - 10/1 - Pair of roosting birds expertly located by local guide at known site near Tmat Beauy

151. **Brown Wood Owl** - Ho Tuyen Lam, Cuc Phuong NP
   - 23/1 - Single bird observed twice while spotlighting at site on the western shore of Ho Tuyen Lam. Responded well to Hodgson’s Frogmouth call (multiple times, coming in right above our heads) which we took as a sign that they may in fact predate on the frogmouth.
   - 2/2 - Single bird heard calling early morning at park HQ (CP)

152. **Collared Owlet (H)** - Numerous sites

153. **Asian Barred Owlet** - Numerous sites
154. **Spotted Owlet** - Tmat Beauy
   9/1 - Single bird spotlighted from car beside dirt road near Tmat Beauy

155. **Brown Hawk Owl** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

156. **Hodgson’s Frogmouth (H)** - Ho Tuyen Lam
   22-23/1 - At least 2 different birds (male and female) heard each night while failing to
   spotlight this species

157. **Great Eared Nightjar** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
   4/1 - A couple of birds poorly observed over southern camping area at dusk. Others
   heard each night (KY)
   13-17/1 - Numerous birds observed well in flight over park HQ and nearby areas each
   night. Plus 20 birds observed feeding in tight group just south of the park HQ on the 13/1

158. **Large-tailed Nightjar** - Numerous sites

159. **Indian Nightjar** - Laem Phak Bia
   2/1 - Single bird flushed from scrubby vegetation near abandoned building, subsequently
   observed on deck for a prolonged period allowing close scope views and photographs

160. **Savanna Nightjar** - Tmat Beauy
   10/1 - Single bird taped in at recently burnt forest site near Tmat Beauy, another bird
   heard only

161. **Germain’s Swiftlet** - Numerous sites

162. **Brown-backed Needletail** - Khao Yai NP
   5/1 - Several in flight above Bookoong Camp

163. **Asian Palm Swift** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands

164. **House Swift** - Angkor Wat

165. **Crested Treeswift** - Tmat Beauy
   9/1 - Several birds observed in flight over bushfire at a site south Tmat Beauy

166. **Orange-breasted Trogon** - Cat Tien NP
   15/1 - Single bird observed in forest behind park HQ. Heard regularly during our stay.

167. **Red-headed Trogon** - Numerous sites

168. **Indian Roller** - Numerous sites

169. **Dollarbird** - Cat Tien NP

170. **Banded Kingfisher** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
   5/1 - Single recently deceased bird found in creek bed along Trail B, another heard only
   nearby (KY)
   14/1 - Single bird observed closely in tree above main road 1km north of the park HQ
   (CT). Another seen at point blank sitting just above eye level on the path by JB only.

171. **Stork-billed Kingfisher** - Tmat Beauy
   10/1 - Single bird observed at river site near Tmat Beauy

172. **White-throated Kingfisher** - Numerous sites

173. **Black-capped Kingfisher** - Khao Yai NP

174. **Collared Kingfisher** - Laem Phak Bia Sandspit

175. **Common Kingfisher** - Numerous sites

176. **Pied Kingfisher** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands

177. **Blue-bearded Bee Eater** - Numerous sites

178. **Little Green Bee Eater** - Tmat Beauy

179. **Blue-tailed Bee Eater** - Numerous sites

180. **Chestnut-headed Bee Eater** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
181. **Common Hoopoe** - Tmat Beauy
   - 9/1 Single bird observed on the edge of a bushfire at a site south of Tmat Beauy
   - 10/1 Single bird observed in flight in forest west of Tmat Beauy

182. **Oriental Pied Hornbill** - Numerous sites

183. **Great Hornbill** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
   - 4/1 - Pair observed in tree above stakeout area (KY)
   - 15/1 - Pair observed in flight at park HQ (CT)

184. **Wreathed Hornbill** - Khao Yai NP
   - 4/1 - Pair observed in flight at park HQ (CT)

185. **Red-vented Barbet** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam, Ta Nung Valley
   - 20/1 - Only seen once, briefly perched on a branch consuming a berry half way up the Lang Biang trail. Frustratingly heard at many other places.

186. **Lineated Barbet** - Angkor Thom, Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP

187. **Green-eared Barbet** - Khao Yai NP, Ba Be NP, Cuc Phuong NP

188. **Golden-throated Barbet** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam

189. **Annam Barbet** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang

190. **Moustached Barbet** - Khao Yai NP

191. **Blue-eared Barbet** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

192. **Coppersmith Barbet** - Laem Phak Bia, Cat Tien NP

193. **Speckled Piculet** - Ta Nung Valley
   - 24/1 - Single bird observed on two different occasions amongst a mixed feeding flock

194. **White-browed Piculet** - Cat Tien NP, Tam Dao
   - 16/1 - Single bird observed very briefly within first 100m of trail to Crocodile Lake (CT)
   - 25/1 - Single bird observed well in mixed feeding flock just before entrance gate (TD)

195. **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** - Tmat Beauy
   - 11/1 - Pair observed foraging in dead trees and calling at site near Tmat Beauy

196. **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** - Numerous sites

197. **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** - Tmat Beauy
   - 10/1 - Single male observed with mixed feeding flock near Spotted Wood Owl site

198. **Spot-breasted Woodpecker** - Laem Phak Bia, Tmat Beauy
   - 2/1 - Single bird observed feeding in scrubby vegetation near tip south of the abandoned building (LPB)

199. **Rufous Woodpecker** - Cat Tien NP
   - 15/1 - Single bird observed in bamboo near westernmost watchtower

200. **White-bellied Woodpecker** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
   - 9/1 - Pair observed in dead trees around paddies frequented by ibis (TB)

201. **Lesser Yellownape** - Cat Tien NP
   - 17/1 - Single bird observed in forest behind park HQ

202. **Greater Yellownape** - Ho Tuyen Lam, Cuc Phuong NP

203. **Laced Woodpecker** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

204. **Black-headed Woodpecker** - Tmat Beauy
   - 9-11/1 - Several trios observed at different points over the course of our visit

205. **Grey-headed Woodpecker** - Mount Lang Biang
   - 20/1 - Single bird observed poorly in pine forest between main road and evergreen forest

206. **Common Flameback** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
207. **Greater Flameback** - Khao Yai NP, Cuc Phuong NP
    5/1 - Single bird observed feeding at the start of the Waterfall Trail (KY)
    1/2 - Single male observed feeding along main road about 2km east of Bong (CP)
208. **Pale-headed Woodpecker** - Cat Tien NP
    15/1 - Single bird taped in and observed well at obvious bamboo grove just before Heaven’s Rapids. Eventually good views were obtained by everyone.
209. **Bay Woodpecker** - Cat Tien NP, Ho Tuyen Lam, Cuc Phuong NP
210. **Heart-spotted Woodpecker** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
    10/1 - Single bird observed in flight at river site near Tmat Beauy
    15/1 - Single bird observed at close quarters just behind park HQ (CT)
    16/1 - Single bird observed well roughly 1km North of the trail to Crocodile Lake. (CT)
211. **Great Slaty Woodpecker** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
    10/1 - Family group of five birds observed in forest near river site (TB)
    15/1 - Heard only near Heaven’s Rapids (CT)
212. **Black-and-red Broadbill** - Cat Tien NP
    14/1 - Pair observed in mixed feeding flock in forest behind park HQ (CT)
213. **Long-tailed Broadbill** - Ta Nung Valley
    19/1 - Flock of 6 birds on the edge of mixed feeding flock just SW of the dam
214. **Banded Broadbill (H)** - Cat Tien NP
    17/1 - Heard only along the road to Heaven’s Rapids
215. **Dusky Broadbill** - Cat Tien NP
    15/1 - Flock of at least 15 birds responded well to tape in forest halfway between main road and Heaven’s Rapids
216. **Blue-naped Pitta (H)** - Tam Dao
    26/1 - Single bird heard call 3 times from forest below bamboo trail about 300m from outpost
217. **Blue-rumped Pitta** - Cat Tien NP, Cuc Phuong NP
    14/1 - Pair observed exceedingly well in forest behind park HQ on our first walk (CT)
    15/1 - Male observed briefly in same area as previous sighting (CT) Heard at Cuc Phuong.
218. **Blue Pitta** - Khao Yai NP
    4/1 - Heard only in forest behind stakeout area
    5/1 - Fleetingly observed at stakeout area in late afternoon
    6/1 - Single bird tracked and observed well in the open, early morning in forest behind stakeout area. Another heard nearby
219. **Bar-bellied Pitta** - Cat Tien NP
    14-17/1 - Two separate females and one male usually observed each day in forest behind park HQ. Also seen within first 100m of trail to Crocodile Lake on 16/1
220. **Golden-bellied Gerygone** - Laem Phak Bia
    1/1 - Pair coaxed into view in mangroves at King’s Project
221. **Large Woodshrike** - Ho Tuyen Lam, Cuc Phuong NP
222. **Common Woodshrike** - Tmat Beauy
223. **Ashy Woodswallow** - Wat Takrao, Khao Yai NP, Mount Lang Biang
224. **Common Iora** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
225. **Great Iora** - Cat Tien NP, Cuc Phuong NP
226. **Large Cuckooshrike** - Tmat Beauy
227. **Indochinese Cuckooshrike** - Ta Nung Valley
   24/1 - Single bird eventually allowed acceptable views after much calling and elusiveness

228. **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

229. **Rosy Minivet** - Khao Yai NP
   4/1 - Small group seen briefly along road between Pla Gluay Mai campground and Haew Suawet Waterfall
   6/1 - Small flock observed in trees at Pla Gluay Mai campground

230. **Swinhoe's Minivet** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

231. **Ashy Minivet** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

232. **Small Minivet** - Tmat Beauy
   9/1 - Ten or so birds in a moving flock observed near bushfire along main road towards Tmat Beauy

233. **Grey-chinned Minivet** - Tam Dao
   26/1 - Flock in treetops near checkpoint

234. **Long-tailed Minivet** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam

235. **Scarlet Minivet** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP, Cuc Phuong NP

236. **Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike** - Numerous sites

237. **Brown Shrike** - Numerous sites

238. **Burmese Shrike** - Tmat Beauy, Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam

239. **Grey-backed Shrike** - Cuc Phuong NP
   30/1 - Single bird observed around main grassy area at Bong

240. **Slender-billed Oriole** - Ho Tuyen Lam
   21/1 - Small group observed in pines at the end of the road on the eastern side of lake

241. **Black-naped Oriole** - Khao Yai NP, Angkor Thom, Cat Tien NP

242. **Black-hooded Oriole** - Tmat Beauy

243. **Maroon Oriole** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam, Cuc Phuong NP

244. **Black Drongo** - Numerous sites

245. **Ashy Drongo** - Numerous sites

246. **Bronzed Drongo** - Cat Tien NP

247. **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** - Cat Tien NP, Ta Nung Valley

248. **Hair-crested Drongo** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

249. **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** - Numerous sites

250. **White-throated Fantail** - Numerous sites

251. **Pied Fantail** - Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia, Nong Pla Lai, Wat Takrao

252. **Black-naped Monarch** - Khao Yai NP

253. **Asian Paradise Flycatcher** - Cat Tien NP

254. **Eurasian Jay** - Mount Lang Biang
   20/1 - Single bird calling and seen very briefly in flight in pine forest

255. **Red-billed Blue Magpie** - Tmat Beauy
   9/1 - A few birds around a feeder at the accommodation. Some others in rice field areas

256. **White-winged Magpie** - Ba Be NP, Cuc Phuong NP
   28/1 - At least 5 birds observed distantly, calling and flying around, on forested slope above WENH roost area (BB)
   2/2 - Family group seen well in botanical gardens at HQ 20.248803, 105.703448 (CP)

257. **Indochinese Green Magpie** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam
21/1 - Single very wary bird observed briefly in forest along ridgeline, eastern side of the lake (HTL). Extremely skittish, untickable views for the majority of the group
22/1 - Pair observed along ridgeline, western side of lake (HTL)
24/1 - Single bird heard only (TNV)

258. Rufous Treepie - Tmat Beauy
9/1 - A couple of birds observed in rice fields

259. Racquet-tailed Treepie - Phnom Krom, Cat Tien NP

260. Ratchet-tailed Treepie - Cuc Phuong NP
31/1 - Single bird observed along Valley Trail just west of Bong, with some nice ratchets!

261. Large-billed Crow - Khao Yai NP, Tmat Beauy

262. Grey Tit - Tmat Beauy
10/1 - Single observed with mixed feeding flock in forest near Spotted Wood-Owl roost

263. Japanese Tit - Ba Be NP
28/1 - Pair observed in trees along stream in farmland adjoining lakeside

264. Green-backed Tit - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
265. Yellow-cheeked Tit - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam

266. Sultan Tit - Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP

267. Sand Martin - Florican grasslands

268. Barn Swallow - Numerous sites

269. Asian House Martin - Mount Lang Biang
20/1 - Five or so birds flying around at the summit

270. Red-rumped Swallow - Pak Thale, Florican grasslands, Tmat Beauy

271. Black-throated Bushtit - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam

272. Horsfield’s Bushlark - Florican grasslands

273. Indochinese Bushlark - Tmat Beauy
9/1 - Pair observed on powerlines along main road to Tmat Beauy

274. Oriental Skylark (H) - Florican grasslands

275. Zitting Cisticola - Florican grasslands, Ba Be NP

276. Brown Prinia - Tmat Beauy
9/8-1 - Single birds observed in grassy forest around Tmat Beauy both days

277. Hill Prinia - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam
19/1 - Single bird observed briefly in grassy area around dam wall (TNV)
21/1 - Single bird observed in scrubby grass area near border of pine forest (HTL)

278. Rufescent Prinia - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP, Cuc Phuong NP

279. Yellow-bellied Prinia - Cat Tien NP

280. Plain Prinia - Phnom Krom

281. Mountain Tailorbird - All Dalat sites, Tam Dao

282. Common Tailorbird - Tmat Beauy, Tam Dao, Ba Be NP, Cuc Phuong NP

283. Dark-necked Tailorbird - Cat Tien NP, Ta Nung Valley

284. Black-headed Bulbul - Cat Tien NP

285. Black-crested Bulbul - Numerous sites

286. Red-whiskered Bulbul - Ta Nung Valley

287. Sooty-headed Bulbul - Numerous sites

281 Klossi subspecies observed in farmland at Ba Be only. Thais subspecies noted at numerous sites, including Jakarta International Airport
288. **Stripe-throated Bulbul** - Khao Yai NP, Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP, Cuc Phuong NP
289. **Flavescent Bulbul** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam
290. **Yellow-vented Bulbul** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands, Kampi
291. **Streak-eared Bulbul** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
292. **Puff-throated Bulbul** - Cuc Phuong NP
   30/1 - A few birds observed along start of Valley Trail and main road
293. **Ochraceous Bulbul** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP, Ta Nung Valley
294. **Grey-eyed Bulbul** - Khao Yai NP, Tmat Beauy
295. **Mountain Bulbul** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam, Tam Dao
296. **Chestnut Bulbul** - Tam Dao
   25/1 - Two small groups observed fairly briefly around checkpoint area
297. **Ashy Bulbul** - Khao Yai NP, Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang
298. **Black Bulbul** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam
299. **Striated Grassbird** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands
300. **Chestnut-headed Tesia** - Tam Dao
   26/1 - Single bird calling strongly and observed in low vegetation among bamboo forest just below checkpoint area
301. **Slaty-bellied Tesia** - Tam Dao
302. **Grey-bellied Tesia** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
303. **Asian Stutail** - Cuc Phuong NP
   30/1 - A few birds observed low down in vegetation along main road and grid trails
304. **Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler** - Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP
305. **Lanceolated Warbler** - Florican grasslands, Tmat Beauy, Ta Nung Valley
306. **Oriental Reed Warbler** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands
307. **Manchurian Reed Warbler** - Florican grasslands
   9/1 - After much effort, a single bird clearly observed in head high grasses near creekline. Funnily enough, we never managed to properly get onto Black-browed for the whole trip!
308. **Dusky Warbler** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands, Ba Be NP
309. **Buff-throated Warbler** - Tam Dao
   25/1 - A single bird observed in cultivation near old sports field
310. **Radde’s Warbler** - Tmat Beauy, Ta Nung Valley, Cuc Phuong NP
311. **Ashy-throated Warbler** - Mount Lang Biang
   20/1 - One or two birds observed in forest just below summit
312. **Pallas’ Leaf Warbler** - Tam Dao
313. **Yellow-browed Warbler** - Numerous sites
314. **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
315. **Eastern Crowned Warbler** - Cuc Phuong NP
316. **Claudia’s Leaf Warbler** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam, Cuc Phuong NP
317. **White-tailed Leaf Warbler** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
318. **Limestone Leaf Warbler** - Cuc Phuong NP
319. **White-spectacled Warbler** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
320. **Grey-crowned Warbler** - Khao Yai NP
321. **Bianchi’s Warbler** - Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP
322. **Plain-tailed Warbler (H)** - Ta Nung Valley
323. **Grey-cheeked Warbler** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang
324. **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam  
325. **Yellow-bellied Warbler** - Cat Tien NP, Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP  
326. **Spot-throated Babbler** - Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP  
327. **Puff-throated Babbler** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP  
328. **Buff-breasted Babbler** - Cat Tien NP  
329. **Abbott’s Babbler** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP  
330. **Large Scimitar Babbler (H)** - Ho Tuyen Lam  
331. **White-browed Scimitar Babbler** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam  
332. **Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** - Tam Dao  
333. **Orange-billed Scimitar Babbler** - Ta Nung Valley, Tam Dao  
334. **Limestone Wren Babbler** - Cuc Phuong NP  
335. **Eyebrowsed Wren Babbler** - Ho Tuyen Lam, Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP  
336. **Pygmy Wren Babbler** - Mount Lang Biang  
337. **Collared Wren Babbler** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Tam Dao  
338. **Golden Babbler** - Tam Dao  
339. **Grey-throated Babbler** - Cuc Phuong NP  
340. **Spot-necked Babbler** - Tam Dao, Ba Be NP  
341. **Pin-striped Tit Babbler** - Numerous sites  
342. **Grey-faced Tit Babbler** - Cat Tien NP  
343. **Chestnut-capped Babbler** - Cat Tien NP  
344. **White-crested Laughingthrush** - Khao Yai NP, Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP  
345. **Black-hooded Laughingthrush** - Ho Tuyen Lam  
346. **Grey Laughingthrush** - Tam Dao  
   25/1 - Very skittish, seen briefly near the trail heads  
347. **Black-throated Laughingthrush** - Tam Dao  
   25/1 - Two birds mixed in with the skittish Grey Laughingthrush flock  
348. **White-cheeked Laughingthrush** - Ta Nung Valley  
349. **Collared Laughingthrush** - Mount Lang Biang  
   20/1 - Very easy to tape in, many seen well  
350. **Orange-breasted Laughingthrush** - Ta Nung Valley  
   19/1 - After a long day of bush bashing up and down the valley, played the tape one last time before leaving and had a response not 10m away. MB and JB subsequently saw a pair very well. A hard-earned reward!  
351. **Silver-eared Mesia** - Tam Dao  
352. **Vietnamese Cutia** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam  
   20/1 - Single seen only by MB on Liang Biang  
   21/1 - Single seen very briefly way up on the hill behind Ho Tuyen Lam  
   21/1 - Finally, two males found foraging in a pine tree for stunning views at length. GPS: 11.875723, 108.419914 as a strip of pine forest is sandwiched between some evergreen.  
353. **Dalat Shrike Babbler** - Mount Lang Biang, Ta Nung Valley  
354. **Chestnut-fronted Shrike Babbler** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang  
355. **Collared Babbler** - Tam Dao  
   26/1 - A small group of five birds showing poorly in bamboom tops along trail west of checkpoint. Eventually got good views.  
356. **Blue-winged Minla** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang  
357. **Black-crowned Fulvetta** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
358. **Rufous-throated Fulvetta** - Cuc Phuong NP
359. **Schaeffer's Fulvetta** - Tam Dao
   25/26 - Very common, once we worked out the taxonomy
360. **Mountain Fulvetta** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
361. **Black-browed Fulvetta** - Cuc Phuong NP
362. **Grey-crowned Crocias** - Ta Nung Valley
   19/1 - A few seen very well in mixed feeding flocks (though not in the red flowering bottlebrush trees as many reports mention - they're all dead now!), and also on our return to the valley a few days later. Dom had some at the west Ho Tuyen Lam site.
363. **Rufous-backed Sibia** - Ta Nung Valley
   19/1 - A few seen very well in feeding flocks
364. **Black-headed Sibia** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang
365. **Black-chinned Yuhina** - Tam Dao
   25/1 - A flock of 15 or so feeding in bushes beside cliffside trail
366. **White-bellied Erpornis** - Numerous sites
367. **Short-tailed Parrotbill** - Tam Dao
   25/26 - Several flocks of 10-20 birds observed both days along main trail and in bamboo forest east and south of checkpoint
368. **Black-crowned Parrotbill** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam
   19/1 - Small flock observed along gravel road (TNV)
   21/1 - Pair observed briefly along stream near boundary with pine forest (HTL)
369. **Chestnut-flanked White Eye** - Khao Yai NP
370. **Japanese White Eye** - Cuc Phuong NP
   1/2 - Decent numbers observed in and around botanical gardens at HQ (CP)
371. **Oriental White Eye** - Khao Yai NP
372. **Asian Fairy Bluebird** - Numerous sites
373. **Chestnut-vented Nuthatch** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
374. **Neglected Nuthatch** - Tmat Beauy
   10/1 - Pair observed in mixed feeding flock in forest near Spotted Wood-Owl roost. Much more chestnut than illustrated in field guides.
375. **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** - Tmat Beauy
376. **Yellow-billed Nuthatch** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
   20/1 - Single observed amongst a mixed feeding flock just off the track where it begins to climb steeply to the summit
   22/1 - Pair observed amongst a mixed feeding flock along the flat section of the ridgeline track on the west side of the lake
377. **Golden-crested Myna** - Cat Tien NP
   14/1 - At least 30 birds feeding in fruiting trees in forest behind the park HQ. Subsequently seen most days
378. **Hill Myna** - Numerous sites
379. **White-vented Myna** - Numerous sites
380. **Common Myna** - Numerous sites
381. **Asian Pied Starling** - Numerous sites
382. **Vinous-breasted Starling** - Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP, Ho Tuyen Lam
383. **Black-collared Starling** - Numerous sites
384. **White-shouldered Starling** - Laem Phak Bia
2/1 - Five birds feeding in low shrubs just south of the abandoned building

385. **Chestnut-tailed Starling** - Nong Pla Lai

2/1 - Small flock observed briefly in roadside trees

386. **Brahminy Starling** - Laem Phak Bia

2/1 - Single bird associating with White-shouldered Starlings near the abandoned building

387. **Blue Whistling Thrush** - Khao Yai NP

388. **Orange-headed Thrush** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

389. **Scaly Thrush** - Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP

26/1 - Single bird flushed in bamboo forest at checkpoint (TD)

30/1 - Single bird flushed near swimming pool at Bong (CP)

390. **Japanese Thrush** - Cuc Phuong NP

30/1 - 1/2 - Very common along main road, particularly the section adjacent to the grid trails near the restaurant

391. **Eurasian (Chinese) Blackbird** - Ba Be NP, Cuc Phuong NP

28/1 - Several birds foraging in trees around settlement near lakeside (BB)

2/2 - Single bird observed in the botanical gardens at the HQ (CP)

392. **Eyebrowsed Thrush** - Ho Tuyen Lam

393. **Lesser Shortwing** - Mount Lang Biang, Ta Nung Valley

20/1 - Single bird observed skulking in low vegetation, responded fairly well to tape. Several others heard only

24/1 - Excellent views of a single bird feeding on exposed fallen log north of the dam

394. **Bluethroat** - Florican grasslands

9/1 - Numerous individuals observed around vegetated creekline and adjacent pools

395. **Siberian Rubythroat** - Tmat Beauy, Tam Dao

10/1 - Single bird responded briefly to tape at a vegetated pool allowing short views (TB)

25/1 - Single bird observed briefly in garden (TD)

396. **Siberian Blue Robin** - Numerous sites

397. **Rufous-tailed Robin** - Cuc Phuong NP

30-31/1 - Individual birds observed skulking in low vegetation, but also allowing close views in the open along road between Bong and the restaurant. Fairly common in the area.

398. **Oriental Magpie Robin** - Numerous sites

399. **White-rumped Shama** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP

400. **White-tailed Robin** - Cuc Phuong NP

30/1 - Single female observed several hundred metres along Loop Trail from restaurant

401. **Slaty-backed Forktail** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam

19/1 - Single bird observed along creekline north of the dam (TNV)

21/1 - Single bird observed along creekline bordering the edge of the main evergreen forest. Somewhat associating with a Spotted Forktail (HTL)

402. **White-crowned Forktail** - Khao Yai NP, Tam Dao

5/1 - Single bird observed briefly at creek crossing along Trail B (KY)

25/1 - Single bird observed along loop trail south of outpost area (TD)

403. **Spotted Forktail** - Ho Tuyen Lam East

21/1 - Single bird observed with Slaty-backed Forktail along creekline

404. **Eastern Stonechat** - Numerous sites
405. **Pied Bushchat** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands, Tmat Beauy
406. **Grey Bushchat** - Mount Lang Biang
407. **Blue Rock Thrush** - Numerous sites
408. **White-throated Rock Thrush** - Cat Tien NP, Mount Lang Biang
    17/1 - Single bird responded to pishing in forest behind park HQ (CT)
    20/1 - Single bird observed foraging in pine/evergreen forest ecotone (MLB)
409. **Asian Brown Flycatcher** - Numerous sites
410. **Mugimaki Flycatcher** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
411. **Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher** - Mount Lang Biang
    20/1 - Pair observed somewhat briefly in forest just below the summit
412. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** - Numerous sites
413. **Rufous-browed Flycatcher** - Ho Tuyen Lam
    22/1 - Single bird observed in forest at highest point of the ridgeline along trail starting on the SW side of the lake
414. **Little Pied Flycatcher** - Ta Nung Valley
415. **Verditer Flycatcher** - Numerous sites
416. **Hainan Blue Flycatcher** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
417. **Hill Blue Flycatcher** - Khao Yai NP
418. **Tickell’s Blue Flycatcher** - Cat Tien NP
    17/1 - Pair responded to pishing in forest behind park HQ
419. **Blue-throated Flycatcher** - Cat Tien NP, Ta Nung Valley
    17/1 - Single bird observed along roadside north of park HQ (CT)
    24/1 - Single male observed on the edge of main road where the gravel track starts (TNV)
420. **White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** - Cuc Phuong NP
    31/1 - Single male observed briefly, calling, along Valley Trail
421. **Fujian Niltava** - Cuc Phuong NP
    30/1 - Male and female observed fleetingly along road and nearby grid trails.
    Subsequently better views obtained in the following days at same site and start of Loop Trail near substation restaurant
422. **Large Niltava** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang
    19/1 - Single bird observed in forest south of the dam
    20/1 - Single bird observed in evergreen forest
423. **Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher** - Numerous sites
424. **Blue-winged Leafbird** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
425. **Golden-fronted Leafbird** - Cat Tien NP
    14/1 - Three birds observed feeding in dense foliage, along main road SW of the park HQ
426. **Orange-bellied Leafbird** - Tam Dao
    25-26/1 - Pair present in same tree 50m before the gate, both days
427. **Thick-billed Flowerpecker** - Cat Tien NP
    15/1 - Single bird observed in forest behind park HQ
428. **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang
    19/1 - Male observed feeding in mistletoe along gravel road (TNV)
    20/1 - Male observed briefly near summit (MLB)
429. **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** - Cat Tien NP, Cuc Phuong NP
430. **Purple-naped Sunbird** - Cat Tien NP
431. **Van Hasselt’s Sunbird** - Cat Tien NP
432. **Purple Sunbird** - Tmat Beauy
433. **Olive-backed Sunbird** - Angkor Wat, Cat Tien NP
434. **Mrs Gould’s Sunbird** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam
435. **Fork-tailed Sunbird** - Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP
436. **Black-throated Sunbird** - Ta Nung Valley, Ho Tuyen Lam

   19/1 & 24/1 - Several birds observed feeding in low flowering shrubs (TNV)
   21/1 - Single bird observed feeding in flowering shrub near lakeside (HTL)
437. **Crimson Sunbird** - Khao Yai NP, Cat Tien NP
438. **Little Spiderhunter** - Khao Yai NP
439. **Streaked Spiderhunter** - Ta Nung Valley, Cuc Phuong NP
440. **House Sparrow** - Phnom Krom
441. **Plain-backed Sparrow** - Nong Pla Lai, Laem Phak Bia, Phnom Krom
442. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** - Numerous sites
443. **Asian Golden Weaver** - Nong Pla Lai

   2/1 - Around ten birds amongst flock of Baya Weavers in roadside shrubs
444. **Baya Weaver** - Nong Pla Lai

   2/1 - Flock of 100 or so in roadside shrubs
445. **Red Avadavat** - Florican grasslands

   9/1 - Several pairs, one with juvenile in tow, observed during course of the morning
446. **White-rumped Munia** - Nong Pla Lai, Tmat Beauy, Cat Tien NP
447. **Scaly-breasted Munia** - Nong Pla Lai, Florican grasslands, Ta Nung Valley
448. **Black-headed Munia** - Nong Pla Lai
449. **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** - Nong Pla Lai, Laem Phak Bia, Phnom Krom

   2/1 - Several smart-looking *macronyx* males observed in rice paddies
450. **Grey Wagtail** - Numerous sites
451. **White Wagtail** - Angkor Wat, Ba Be NP, Cuc Phuong NP

   28/1 - Males of both *leucopsis* and *alboides* observed feeding together in fields adjoining Ba Be Lake. Also on the roof of Mr Chat’s guesthouse
452. **Mekong Wagtail** - Kampi

   12/1 - At least 3 birds observed atop bushes and flying between small islands in the middle of the Mekong River
453. **Richard’s Pipit** - Laem Phak Bia, Khao Yai NP
454. **Paddyfield Pipit** - Phnom Krom, Florican grasslands
455. **Olive-backed Pipit** - Tmat Beauy, Mount Lang Biang, Tam Dao
456. **Rosy Pipit** - Ba Be NP

   28/1 - Three birds observed in grassy area adjoining lakeside
457. **Red-throated Pipit** - Florican grasslands

   9/1 - Several birds observed in burnt grassland
458. **Vietnamese Greenfinch** - Ta Nung Valley, Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam

   19/1 & 24/1 - Two birds observed calling from tops of pines along gravel road (TNV)
   20/1 - Single bird observed in pines a few hundred metres from the main road (MLB)
   21/1 - Several birds observed in pine forest before the trail enters evergreen forest (HTL)
459. **Red Crossbill** - Mount Lang Biang, Ho Tuyen Lam

   20/1 - Several birds observed feeding in pines between the road and where the trail enters evergreen forest (MLB)
21/1 - Several birds observed feeding in pines between second tourist camp and where the trail enters evergreen forest (HTL)

460. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** - Nong Pla Lai
   2/1 - About 20 birds observed in hedgerows at a site mentioned by Thai Bird Report

461. **Tristram’s Bunting** - Tam Dao, Cuc Phuong NP
   25/1 - Pair observed at close quarters about 300m from entrance gate (TD)
   26/1 - Likely same pair observed briefly about 50m from entrance gate (TD)
   1/2 - Pair observed near fruiting trees around the old watchtower at the start of the Valley Trail (CP)

**Mammals (in order of sighting):**

- **Black Giant Squirrel** - Common
- **Variable Squirrel** - Common
- **White-handed Gibbon** - Trail B, Khao Yai
- **Asian Elephant** - Pa Giuay Mai Campground - Khao Yai
- **Small Indian Civet** - Khao Yai HQ
- **Common Palm Civet** - Observation Tower Parking Lot, Khao Yai
- **Sambar Deer** - Khao Yai, Cat Tien
- **Red Muntjac** - Common
- **Northern Pig-tailed Macaque** - Khao Yai
- **Long-tailed Macaque** - Khao Yai
- **Malayan Porcupine** - Family of 4, campground at Khao Yai
- **Irrawaddy Dolphin** - Kratie
- **Large-toothed Ferret Badger** - Single seen very well next to the Main Road, Cat Tien
- **Leopard Cat** - Single sitting still at point blank next to the Main Road, Cat Tien
- **Lesser Mouse Deer** - Main Road, Cat Tien
- **Northern Slender-tailed Treeshrew** - Common at Cat Tien
- **Pallas’ Squirrel** - Common in Vietnam
- **Black-shanked Douc** - A few parties in Cat Tien, also below the summit of Liang Biang.
- **Rhesus Macaque** - Regular in the north
- **Cambodian Striped Squirrel** - Common in the latter half of the trip, particularly Cat Tien
- **Buff-cheeked Gibbon (H)** - Calling in the forest near Heaven’s Rapids, Cat Tien
- **Small Asian Mongoose** - Running across road in the grasslands, Cat Tien
- **Indian Giant Flying Squirrel** - West Ho Tuyen Lam
- **Eastern Striped Squirrel** - Common around Dalat
- **Greater Bandicoot Rat** - West Ho Tuyen Lam
- **Hairy-footed Flying-squirrel** - Single above the road, Bong, Cuc Phuong

Please contact Joshua Bergmark ([joshua.birdmark@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.birdmark@gmail.com)) for further information.
More than happy to help out anyone requiring more details, advice or directions.
Note that the entrance to the trail along the stream can be difficult to find – I only located it by chance, bush-bashing above the stream’s far side, moving south (right) from the bridge. The “Crocias” bottlebrush trees are now mostly dead, however we found numerous birds in feeding flocks throughout the valley.
GPS Mark Tam Dao: 21.458855,105.641414

Note that in old trip reports, the main road past the ranger station at Tam Dao used to be a walking trail (often named Watertank Trail or Contour Trail). It has recently been turned into a proper road which leads to a carpark as illustrated above. We found the road to be just as productive for birding as other birders had found the walking trail in previous years, whilst the birding past the carpark was often very difficult under a closed canopy.

The following links contain high resolution imagery of the main birding sites, with routes, trails and landmarks labelled in full. Click to view.

Phetchaburi  http://i.imgur.com/oQ7gyGr.jpg
Laem Pak Bia  http://i.imgur.com/AldccW5.jpg
Khao Yai  http://i.imgur.com/dWFTSlu.jpg
Phnom Krom  http://i.imgur.com/7LhTx2F.jpg
Cat Tien  http://i.imgur.com/Qb1iei5.jpg
Tam Dao  http://i.imgur.com/6uTtdKS.jpg
Ba Be  http://i.imgur.com/FdkPwtq.jpg