

BURMA

28 DECEMBER 2011 – 10 JANUARY 2012

TOUR REPORT

LEADER: CRAIG ROBSON

The fifth Birdquest to Burma was another great success, as well as being an excellent introduction to South-East Asian birds for those who were new to this region. The easy pace, and attractive surroundings in this culture-rich nation, combined with extremely smooth-running logistics, good accommodations and food, and excellent weather throughout, made for a very enjoyable and satisfying experience for all. We managed a record bird total of 384 for this itinerary, including another 20 write-ins! All six endemics (Hooded Treepie, Jerdon's Minivet, White-browed Nuthatch, Burmese Tit, White-throated Babbler, and Burmese Bushlark) were easily located. We also found six species that could be described as near endemics (Collared Myna, Burmese Yuhina, Striped, and Brown-capped Laughingthrushes, Chin Hills Wren-babbler, and the recently split Buff-breasted Parrotbill). The bird of the trip was a stunning male White-bellied Woodpecker that performed so well for us and gave brilliant views. The numerous other avian highlights included several flushed Rain Quail, Laggar Falcon, superb walk-away scope views of White-rumped Pygmy-falcon, Pied Harrier, White-eyed Buzzard, a showy pair of Black-tailed Crakes, Pin-tailed Green-pigeon, scope views of Darjeeling Woodpecker and Himalayan Flameback, Black-headed Shrike-babbler, Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, large numbers of Grey-sided Thrushes, loads of White-tailed Stonechats, tame Jerdon's Bushchats, several Black-bibbed Tits, close views of calling Martens's Warblers, great views of Spot-breasted Parrotbill, the *woodi* race of Chinese Babax, Assam Laughingthrush, Streak-throated Barwing, the *castanoptera* race of Dark-backed Sibia, and Black-headed Greenfinch. Rarities included two Black-necked Grebes and three Common Shelducks at Inle Lake. Amongst the mammals, Red Giant Flying Squirrel and Leopard Cat on Mt Victoria were good, but pride of place went to the incredible emergence of Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bats at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Our full, multi-national group finally all met up at the hotel in Yangon on day one and, after our first lunch together, our local guide Thiri took us to Yangon University Boat Club. It was quite birdy, as on the previous tour, but with quite a few different species this year. Jim spotted a juvenile Yellow Bittern that was trying its best to hide, and there were fleeting glimpses of Rusty-rumped Warbler. More typical species included Oriental Darter, Little Cormorant, Black-naped Oriole and Jungle Myna. It was nice to see plenty of resident Black Kites around as well. In the evening we headed off

to Yangon's most famous attraction, the fantastic Shwedagon Pagoda. We took a clockwise walk around this stunning cultural treasure (the Buddhist direction), before heading back down to the bottom in time to witness the unbelievable emergence of Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bats. We were gob-smacked at the sheer numbers that were spewing out of the pagoda entrance-way, and estimated at least a million flying out at the rate of perhaps 1000 per second. We all agreed that this was by far the most incredible bat-spectacle that any of us had ever witnessed anywhere!

A pre-dawn departure on the following morning took us the relatively short distance to Hlawga Park on the outskirts of Yangon. This is a fairly extensive area of secondary woodland, bushy country and small lakes, with numbers of introduced (or perhaps re-introduced) Sambar, Hog Deer, Wild Pig and Rhesus Macaque. We were treated to a good range of typical South-East Asian birds, with activity continuing well into late morning. Although we struggled with our main targets - the highly distinctive endemic *davisoni* form of Stripe-throated Bulbul (a likely future addition to the list of Burmese endemics) only showing very briefly and Pale-capped Pigeon not at all - this was made up for somewhat by great looks at Swinhoe's and Rosy Minivets, and Forest Wagtail, as well as Indochinese Cuckooshrike, numerous Two-barred Warblers, a showy pair of Ruby-throated Sunbirds, and Radde's Warbler amongst other species.

After lunch, we took a short flight north to Bagan, Walking from the plane to the airport building we managed to spot our first Dry Zone endemic in the form of a foraging group of White-throated Babblers and, as we pursued the birds, we attracted the attentions of airport staff, and were quickly rounded-up!

We spent the morning of our full day at Bagan exploring Dry Zone habitats in the vicinity of the so-called Sitsana Temple (or Saytanargyi Pagoda) to the south of town. Things went superbly well, and we had already had scope views of all four Dry Zone endemics by 0805. First, Ron noticed a Hooded Treepie perched atop a distant bushy tree and, after pursuing the bird, we bumped into a foraging group of a male and two female Jerdon's Minivets. Good numbers of Burmese Bushlarks and White-throated Babblers also performed. Around the temple itself, we had superb views of a pair of Laggar Falcons and, further on, we flushed a handful of Rain Quail from some grassy field borders. Numerous other goodies during the morning included many yellow eye-ringed *xanthocyclus* Eurasian Collared-doves, Spotted Owlet, Indian Nightjar, a couple of Wrynecks, a fantastic male Siberian Rubythroat, Plain-backed Sparrows, large numbers of the endemic and very distinct nominate Vinous-breasted Myna, Tickell's Leaf-, Yellow-streaked and Dusky Warblers. Exploring one of the small shafts in the base of the impressive pagoda, we got in amongst a roosting colony of Large-eared Roundleaf Bats, of both colour morphs. In the afternoon, we cruised down the Irrawaddy River to some areas of sandy shoreline and riverine grassland. In the latter, we found the very large local population of White-tailed Stonechat. These grasslands support relatively few other species, but a very reactive group of Striated Babblers were also much appreciated, as were a couple of nice male Pied Harriers, a Bluethroat and a small number of Red Avadavats and Baya Weavers. Several Rain Quail could clearly be heard giving their territorial calls in the open crop-fields. Along the shore, there were a scattering of Ruddy Shelducks, shorebirds and wagtails, with some male Citrine Wagtails outstanding. On the return journey, at dusk, a few Small Pratincoles were noted flying low over an expansive sand-bank.

Leaving Bagan predawn, we embarked on the relatively long drive to Mount Victoria, in the south Chin Hills. The road was somewhat worse than normal due to the after effects of a recent typhoon that had strayed inland to the region, but our journey was broken by a number of stops in various habitats along the route. The highlight of the day for most people were the superb views that we had of a pair of White-rumped Pygmy-falcons, the male being particularly obliging. We had a good go at

getting further looks at Hooded Treepie, but only got rather brief flighty views of three birds. A mixed flock of Greater and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes was a bonus, as was a write-in Rufous-bellied Eagle and a male Collared Falconet. Other good birds during the day were Common Woodshrike, Rufous Treepie, Red-billed Blue Magpie, flyover Long-billed Pipit, Golden-fronted Leafbird, and Blue-throated Flycatcher. We arrived at the Pine Tree Villas above Kanpetlet, on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria, not long after dark.

Based at this cosy and well-equipped lodge, and furnished with outstanding service, we enjoyed five full days exploring various elevations and habitats on this remote mountain. The higher oak and rhododendron forests are the habitat of the regions most famous endemic, the restless and noisy White-browed Nuthatch. Needless to say, on our first morning, we drove straight up to the higher reaches of the mountain to look for it, and succeeded in doing so almost immediately! As soon as the sun hit the tree-tops, its nasal piping could be heard. Several other specialities are only to be found at the higher levels, and it was here that we saw the final endemic, the attractive little Burmese Tit, as well as Darjeeling Woodpecker, an excellent foraging female Black-headed Shrike-babbler, Assam and Brown-capped Laughingthrushes, the local *woodi* race of Chinese Babax (which some say deserves full-species status), and some remarkably obliging Streak-throated Barwings. Openings with fine old pine trees and scattered oaks and rhododendrons were the haunt of Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, the range-isolated Black-bibbed Tit, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush, and Blue-fronted Redstart. The margins of the track consistently turned up Himalayan Bluetail, while several co-operative Chin Hills Wren-babblers, another near-endemic, were eventually appreciated. Chestnut-headed Tesia and Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler were harder to get onto in the dense weedy understorey, but some of us had some surprisingly good views of a singing White-browed Shortwing. Predawn, on every morning that we ascended the mountain, we disturbed a Grey Nightjar with the lead vehicle and, on one morning, we were lucky enough to get views of a Leopard Cat crossing the track. Flowering trees and shrubs, like the red-flowered rhododendrons were attracting numerous Buff-barred Warblers, as well as colourful Mrs Gould's, Green-tailed and Fire-tailed Sunbirds. Two different Yellow-bellied Flowerpeckers put in brief appearances. Some of the higher-level evergreen forests have an extensive bamboo understorey and this is where we found the hyper-active little Buff-breasted Parrotbill, though we had our work cut-out keeping up with a flock of 50 of them, and even had to run! Another bamboo-lover, Sickle-billed Scimitar-babbler, was found once more, but again proved elusive and relatively unresponsive. Bird-waves were often quite hard to come by, perhaps due to the relatively mild weather, but when we did bump into one we found such species as Green Shrike-babbler, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Yellow-browed Tit, a single White-tailed Nuthatch, nervous Black-faced Warblers, occasional Ashy-throated and Whistler's Warblers, Whiskered and Stripe-throated Yuhinas, moss-gleaning Rufous-winged Fulvettas, Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler, boldly-patterned Bar-throated and Red-tailed Minlas, Blue-winged Siva, and numerous Grey Sibilas and White-browed Fulvettas. The secondary-growth and scrub dominated middle altitudes held the attractive near-endemic Striped Laughingthrush, though we also found this much higher than normal on the mountain, at 2740m. Several were scoped for a long time. Another restricted range species, Spot-breasted Scimitar-babbler, proved more difficult to get onto however, but we did get much better than normal views of Rusty-capped Fulvetta. Certain fruiting trees around the lower evergreen forest limit were attracting concentrations of the scarce Grey-sided Thrush, numerous Slaty-backed Flycatchers, and groups of the unusual Crested Finchbill. The lower level pine forests with their weedy, bushy and grassy understorey brought us further good birds like Asian Barred Owlet, Slender-billed Oriole, Buff-throated Warbler, Silver-eared Mesia, and a superb pair of Spot-breasted Parrotbills. Other memorable birds on Mt Victoria included Crimson-breasted and Stripe-breasted Woodpeckers, Great and Golden-throated Barbets, Ashy Woodpigeon, displaying Black Eagle, Large and Rufous-bellied Niltavas, and the recently split Hume's Treecreeper.

The return journey to Bagan gave us the opportunity to find a completely different set of birds in the lowland broadleaved evergreen and deciduous forests along the road. Even before it had got light, we were lucky enough to encounter at least four Collared Scops-owls along the roadside. From our dawn viewpoint we scoped Grey-headed Parakeets and a male Himalayan Flameback, and quite a few Common Hill-mynas passed over. Walking slowly along the road we scoped-up a perched adult Mountain Hawk-eagle, and a calling male Red-headed Trogon was unexpected. Loud tapping drew our attention, and then we heard the distinctive drum of the impressive White-bellied Woodpecker. The male of a pair proved highly responsive, and we got some really great views of him with his vivid rest crest all puffed-up. Just around the corner in some bamboo, at the other extreme, we enjoyed two tiny White-browed Piculets. The bird-waves in this area (Pholalkyin) were frequent and productive, and we notched-up White-browed Fantail, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Blyth's Leaf-warbler, and Brown-cheeked Fulvetta. We also saw our best selection of butterflies during this morning. Closer to the Irrawaddy we spotted a perched White-eyed Buzzard, and jumped out to scope that. We arrived at the river at sundown, so took the opportunity to walk across the bridge, noting some Small Pratincoles flocking south in the process.

Early the following morning we took a very short flight from Bagan to Heho, which is situated in south-west Shan State. From the airport we drove the relatively short distance to Inle Lake. Along the way, we noticed a large fig tree full of birds in the grounds of a monastery. We quickly jumped out with our scopes, and were soon admiring some Collared Mynas, that were mixed-in with the much commoner White-vented and Vinous-breasted Mynas and Red-whiskered Bulbuls. We also had our only obvious Striated Swallow of the tour overhead. Continuing on, the magnificent lake soon came into view, and we were welcomed to our beautiful hotel by some loud gong-banging! Inle Lake is set in a basin-like depression at 900m, surrounded by low hills, and is famous for it's leg-rowers. Local people who make their living from the lake stand on the back of their canoes with one leg firmly planted on the deck, the other foot is wrapped around the oar which is then paddled using the whole leg in a weird rowing action. Come late morning, we boarded two long-tail boats and sped off south for a very nice lunch at a lakeside restaurant. From there we headed up to the north end of the lake, slowing along the way to scan, first through hundreds of Lesser Whistling-ducks, and then through large rafts of Common Coots. To our great surprise, one of the first species that we latched-onto was a couple of Black-necked Grebes, a real rarity in South-East Asia, and the first record from the lake and East Myanmar. Small numbers of other ducks were spotted, the best being a nice male Red-crested Pochard. On reaching the northern marshlands, we positioned ourselves on the second floor of a stilted reserve building, and scanned the surroundings until the sun began to drop and the temperatures eased off. A nice flock of Ferruginous Pochards were resting at surprisingly close range, and a distant flock of Common Coots held six Tufted Ducks - another tour write-in. Both species of marsh harrier were watched together and we also found Grey-headed Swamphen, flighty groups of Black-winged Stilt and Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Striated Grassbird, and many Dusk and Black-browed Reed-warblers. As the air cooled, we got back in our boats and headed off to a different area of marshland. Here, we soon located what was perhaps our main target at the lake, the glossy Jerdon's Bushchat. Three different males and a female were watched feeding for a long time, and gave a good show. A couple of lively Chestnut-capped Babblers also came right out. Back at the hotel, we still had a little while to check the marshes next to some of the accommodations, but only succeeded in hearing a number of Ruddy-breasted Crakes. Birding resumed early the next morning at the hotel marshes. Ron and Roger were lucky enough to see a Ruddy-breasted Crake, and an Indian Reed-warbler was a surprise when it responded strongly to a recording. We also managed a large mixed-race flock of Chestnut-tailed Starlings, two Bluethroats, several Oriental Reed-warblers, and a couple of Yellow-bellied Prinias. There was also time for another boat trip in search of the rare and elusive

Baer's Pochard. We drew a blank again, but did manage to see another local rarity in the form of three Common Shelducks.

Continuing on to the old hill station of Kalaw (1350m), we settled into the Hill Top Villa with its flowery surroundings. In the afternoon, we hooked-up with the local bird guide, Gideon, and drove the short distance to a trail leading to a well-known monastery called Dhein Taung. The open pine woods, scrub- and grass-covered slopes and broadleaved evergreen forest edge provided excellent habitat for a wide range of birds. First off, we admired several relaxed Black-headed Greenfinches by a smaller monastery, then there were some White-browed Scimitar-babblers feeding up in a pine tree of all places, and then we had great views of White-browed Laughingthrushes and a good number of Brown-breasted Bulbuls. A responsive pair of striking Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babblers performed for us and we had good scope views of the interesting local form of Dark-backed Sibia, with its rusty tertials. On the way back to the bus, a Brown Prinia popped-up briefly.

Our last day birding in Burma was a long and very birdy one, and brought some of the best observations of the tour. Even before we had finished eating our picnic breakfast at sunrise, we were getting amazing views of a pair of Black-tailed Crakes right out in the open above some small farm fields. Walking slowly along the track towards Yay Ayekan reservoir we added a long list of species to our burgeoning bird list - the best being Burmese Yuhina, which was easily seen this year on three separate occasions. After a nice packed lunch at the dam, in company with White-capped and Daurian Redstarts, a flock of distant raptors circled-up above the forested horizon. They were juvenile vultures but the views were too brief and distant to confirm their suspected identity as Himalayan. Such a rare site these days. The numerous other bird highlights during the day included a lovely singing Pin-tailed Green-pigeon, a shy Common Green Magpie, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Martens's and Davison's Warblers (the former split from Golden-spectacled and the latter from White-tailed Leaf Warbler), grey-crowned *pulchellus* Black-throated Tits, and Grey-cheeked Fulvetta. It had been a very satisfying end to a very enjoyable trip.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

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

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

PHASIANIDAE

Rain Quail *Coturnix coromandelica*: Four were flushed and at least six heard singing in the Bagan area.

Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* (H): Three were heard on Mt Victoria.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: A female was seen flying to its roost-site above our lodge near Kanpetlet. Also heard at Hlawga Park.

DENDROCYGNIDAE

Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*: Flocks on Inle Lake totalled at least 400 birds.

ANATIDAE

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*: A group of three on Inle lake, were a big surprise. This was the first record from East Myanmar, apart from being a write-in.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*: Quite plentiful on the Irrawaddy River at Bagan, with at least 50 there, plus another six on Inle lake.

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*: Six on the lakes at Hlawga Park.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: Just one on Inle Lake.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: A single calling bird that flew off during our second boat trip on Inle Lake, was seen well by Hannes.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*: Ten on the Irrawaddy at Bagan, 100 on Inle Lake, and a pair at Hlawga Park.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: Just one at Inle Lake.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: Four on Inle Lake.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*: At least 80 on Inle Lake.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*: At least four at Inle Lake.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*: A nice male with the coot rafts at the north end of Inle Lake.

Ferruginous Pochard *Aythya nyroca*: We counted 31 of these handsome ducks at Inle Lake.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: A group of six with coots at Inle Lake.

PODICIPEDIDAE

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: One at Hlawga Park, and four at Inle Lake.

Black-necked Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Two at Inle Lake; the first sighting of this South-East Asia rarity in East Myanmar.

CICONIIDAE

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*: About 40 taking to the skies at Hlawga Park.

ARDEIDAE

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: Jim found a skulking juvenile for us at Yangon University Boat Club.

Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: A single bird flew by during the bat spectacle at the Shwedagon Pagoda, and we heard one or two flying over the Hupin Hotel, Inle Lake, after dark.

Indian Pond-heron *Ardeola grayii*: This should be the commoner (and resident) pond heron, and those seen on the way to Mt Victoria are most likely to have been this species.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*: If dusky wing-tips are a good feature, then we definitely saw this at a number of sites east of the Irrawaddy.
Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*: Widespread sightings in cultivated and grazed areas.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: Six on the Irrawaddy and one at Inle Lake.
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Two or three at Inle Lake.
Eastern Great Egret *Casmerodius modestus*: Several on the Irrawaddy at Bagan, and another en route to Mount Victoria.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: A scattering during the first few days of the tour.
Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*: One at Inle Lake, and two at Dhan Ma Kan, on the way to Kalaw.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*: A few in Yangon, one at Bagan, and then over 200 at Inle Lake.
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: A group of four on the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

ANHINGIDAE

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: Small numbers at Yangon University Boat Club and at Hlawga Park.

FALCONIDAE

White-rumped Pygmy-falcon *Polihierax insignis*: Superb views of a pair in the Dry Dipterocarp forests near Kazunma. The male was very responsive and perched at close range for an extended period, giving superb scope views. Third favourite bird of the tour.
Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens*: A male flew in to perch in an open treetop at Nagarbwet, a real bonus-bird.
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: Frequently seen at Bagan and also in the Kalaw area.
Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*: A single leader-only bird seen soaring over forest at Pholalkyin.
Laggar Falcon *Falco jugger*: A pair performed for us around the Sitsana Temple at Bagan. A rather scarce, localized and seldom seen dry country species. Joint fifth favourite bird of the trip.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: Two that were hunting bats at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon were thought to be subspecies *peregrinator* (Shaheen Falcon).
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: A couple at Hlawga Park.
Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: A good scattering of sightings this year, including a pair above Kanpetlet.
Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*: Particularly common and conspicuous at Inle Lake.
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: About 20 in Yangon, and a single bird along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.
Himalayan Vulture (H Griffon) *Gyps himalayensis*: A distant flying group of nine juvenile Gyps vultures at Yay Ayekan were thought to be this species, rather than White-rumped Vulture *G. bengalensis*, which was the only other option based on plumage. It's a shame that we did not clinch it.
Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela*: A few of these widespread raptors, being seen particularly well at Pholalkyin.
Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: Two, including a juvenile seen together with an adult female of the next species, at Inle Lake.
Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*: At least two at Inle Lake.
Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*: Two beautiful males and a female were seen over the grassy riverine banks south of Bagan.
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: A single male came low overhead at Yay Ayekan.
Shikra *Accipiter badius*: The typical Accipiter of open habitats, with three seen at scattered sites.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: Only one at Mt Victoria, and one at Yay Ayekan.
White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*: A single bird was seen well through the scope near Kazunma.
Another dry zone specialist.
Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmannicus*: The commonest raptor on Mt Victoria, and around Kalaw.
This is a recent split from Common Buzzard *B. buteo*, following Rasmussen & Anderton's Birds of South Asia.
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: Two, including one displaying, on Mt Victoria
Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*: An adult at Nagarbwet was not only a write-in, but also a new species for Central Myanmar.
Changeable Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus limnaeetus*: A really excellent displaying pair between Pholalkyin and Nagarbwet.
Mountain Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis*: Brilliant scope views of a perched subadult at the higher levels of Mount Victoria, and an even better adult at Pholalkyin. Joint fifth favourite bird of the trip.

RALLIDAE

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (NL): One at Yangon University Boat Club.
Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor*: A very responsive pair showed well, completely out in the open, at Yay Ayekan. They were discovered here two years ago, and had not been seen since!
Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*: At least four calling by our hotel at Inle Lake, one of which was seen by Roger and Ron.
Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus*: At least eight at Inle Lake.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Two at Hlawga Park, one at Inle Lake.
Common Coot *Fulica atra*: Huge rafts totalling c.2000 birds on Inle Lake.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: A single bird at Hlawga Park, and a flock of 19 at Inle Lake.

VANELLIDAE

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*: Five of these widespread lapwings at Hlawga Park.

CHARADRIIDAE

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: About 85 in the Bagan area.
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: At least ten along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

JACANIDAE

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*: At least 30 at Inle Lake.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: Scattered sightings of small numbers.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: Two at Hlawga Park, and another over the Irrawaddy west of Chauk.
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: Twelve along the Irrawaddy south of Bagan.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: One along the Irrawaddy.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: Two flying along the Irrawaddy at dusk.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: Two along the Irrawaddy.
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: A small number were seen along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

GLAREOLIDAE

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*: A small number were spotted flying low over a broad sandbank, across the river from Bagan, and at least 26 flew south down the river at Chauk; both at dusk.

STERNIDAE

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: Four at Inle Lake.

LARIDAE

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*: Plentiful at Inle Lake where we saw some 400 or so, and were able to attract feeding groups over our boats as we sped along.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: At least six at Inle Lake.

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Widespread sightings of feral-type birds.

Ashy Woodpigeon *Columba pulchricollis*: At least six on Mt Victoria, including one scoped. Very nervous!

Oriental Turtle-dove *Streptopelia orientalis*: One was nest-building on the way from Nagarbwet to Saw. Commoner near Kalaw, in the pine forests and small fields.

Eurasian Collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: Not uncommon near Bagan, and a few more on the way to Mount Victoria. The race *xanthocyclus* is an interesting taxon, with an isolated population in the Burmese Dry Zone, a bold yellow eyering, darker overall plumage and more vinous underparts.

Red Collared-dove (R Turtle-D) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: A small number in flight at Bagan.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Frequently encountered in the lowlands.

Yellow-footed Green-pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*: A fruiting tree between Kazunma and Chauk held at least five birds.

Pin-tailed Green-pigeon *Treron apicauda*: An excellent perched calling male at Yay Ayekan.

PSITTACIDAE

Vernal Hanging-parrot *Loriculus vernalis* (NL): Hannes saw a group of about six birds in flight at Nagarbwet.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*: At least 16 of these loud parakeets along the Chauk to Saw road.

Grey-headed Parakeet *Psittacula finschii*: Common between Chauk and Saw, with at least 75 seen at Pholalkyin. One at Hlawga Park.

Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseata*: At least 25 of these lovely parakeets were identified along the Chauk to Saw road.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*: One at Hlawga Park, and two perched along the Chauk to Saw road.

CUCULIDAE

Large Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides*: A brief leader-only bird on Mt Victoria; flew off before I could get the scope on it.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*: Several in Yangon, though mainly heard.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*: A few at Hlawga Park, and one at Dhein Taung, near Kalaw.

CENTROPODIDAE

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: Several in the marshy grasslands of Inle Lake.

TYTONIDAE

Eurasian Barn-owl *Tyto alba*: Two heard and one of them seen twice by the hotel in Bagan.

STRIGIDAE

Collared Scops-owl *Otus lempiji*: Most surprisingly, we encountered at least four birds along the roadside between Kanpetlet and Pholalkyin, and had stationary views of two different birds in the spotlight. Heard at Hupin Hotel, Inle Lake.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* (H): Only heard twice at Mt Victoria.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: One of a pair, at first seen poorly, was eventually scoped in daylight near the Pine Tree Villas on Mt Victoria. Another was seen and several heard between Pholalkyin and Nagarbwet, and at least two were calling at Inle Lake.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*: Some great views of these around Bagan, and on the way to Chauk.

PODARGIDAE

Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* (H): On Mt Victoria, we tried our best on five evenings, but with no luck. At least four were heard in all, but they were only calling very randomly, or from inaccessible locations.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*: One predawn on the road on four separate mornings, and another seen in flight one evening, on the way up Mt Victoria.

Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*: One was flushed at very close range at Sitsana Temple, and the front vehicle flushed several en route to Chauk.

APODIDAE

Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris*: One very close bird at the Hupin Hotel, Inle Lake, and 14 seen by C-G at Dhein Taung.

Asian Palm-swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: Common at lower elevations.

House Swift *Apus affinis*: A handful in Yangon, and around Kalaw.

HEMIPROCNIDAE

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*: Just a few from Bagan to Pholalkyin.

TROGONIDAE

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*: A lovely calling male gave multiple good views at Pholalkyin.

CORACIIDAE

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*: Frequently seen in lowland open areas.

ALCEDINIDAE

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*: Regularly encountered.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: A few encounters by various lowland wetlands.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*: Two along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

MEROPIDAE

Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*: Common in typical dry lowland habitats.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*: A handful in and near Yangon.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*: Quite common at Hlawga Park.

UPUPIDAE

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: A handful near Bagan.

MEGALAIMIDAE

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*: Quite common at Mt Victoria and also heard at Yay Ayekan.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata* (H): There must have been a food shortage in the areas that we birded on the way to and from Mt Victoria, as we just heard two this time

Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*: Several of these colourful barbets were scoped on Mt Victoria, and many more heard.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*: Gideon got one in the scope at Yay Ayekan.

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*: One scoped at Yay Ayekan.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*: Common in the lowlands.

PICIDAE

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*: Two at Bagan and, more surprisingly, one near Kalaw.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*: Thiri found one for us in a mixed-species feeding flock at Yay Ayekan.

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*: Great views of a presumed pair in bamboo at Pholalkyin; in extreme contrast to the White-bellied Woodpecker that we found nearby.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Hypopicus hyperythrus*: Several seen on Mt Victoria where they were vocal and obvious. A very handsome bird!

Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*: Seen on several occasions in various lower level forest habitats.

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus*: Scope views of a male on Mt Victoria, and another bird quite briefly at Yay Ayekan.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos cathpharius*: Two on Mt Victoria. Assumed to be of the race *pyrrhothorax*, though it has never been collected here.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis*: Very nice scope views in high elevation oak-rhododendron forest on Mt Victoria.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*: A crippling male was seen for a prolonged period at Pholalkyin, with his domed red crest all puffed-up. One or two others were heard. It was clearly voted bird of the trip! White-browed Nuthatch eat your heart out.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*: A single bird showed all too briefly on Mt Victoria.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: A few seen, and several heard, from Nagarbwet to Pholalkyin.

Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*: We were fortunate to get scope views of this rather localized flameback at Pholalkyin.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*: One was flying around and calling at Pholalkyin.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: Seen just once on Mt Victoria, with good flight views; heard at Yay Ayekan.

EURYLAMIIDAE

Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus*: We were very lucky to catch sight of three in a mixed-species feeding flock at Yay Ayekan, and we were able to watch them through the scope. Beautiful birds.

VIREONIDAE

- Black-headed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer*: Prolonged and excellent views of a female in some of the nicer oak forest on Mt Victoria. A tough species to see in much of its range.
- Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: Only heard on Mt Victoria (*validirostris*), but a female seen by all of us at Yay Ayekan (nominat race). One of four species resulting from the division of the former White-browed Shrike-babbler *P. flaviscapis*.
- Green Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*: Seen several times, though often rather briefly, in mixed bird-flocks at higher elevations on Mt Victoria. The eye ringed form *hybrida*.
- Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* (NL): C-G saw a pair briefly in a bird-wave on Mt Victoria.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

- Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*: Several from the lower slopes of Mt Victoria to Nagarbwet.
- Indochinese Cuckooshrike *Coracina polioptera*: A female at Hlawga Park, and another bird briefly on the way to Mt Victoria.
- Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*: One showed very well on Mt Victoria.
- Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus*: Quite common at Hlawga Park, with some great view, and also seen at Pholalkyin.
- Swinhoe's Minivet (Brown-rumped M) *Pericrocotus cantonensis*: A few were mixed-in with the last species at Hlawga Park. A nice bonus, as well as being a write-in for the tour.
- Jerdon's Minivet *Pericrocotus albifrons*: Great views of three, including a stunning male, at Sitsana Temple, Bagan. This Burma Dry Zone endemic can be tricky to pin down, and is a good split from the equally isolated White-bellied Minivet *P. erythropygus* of India.
- Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*: Several encountered in the broadleaved evergreen forest at Mt Victoria.
- Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: The most frequently seen minivet on Mt Victoria and also at Kalaw, but in fairly small numbers.
- Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*: A few were seen in forest between Saw and Kazunma, and at Yay Ayekan.

ORIOLIDAE

- Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris*: We enjoyed a nice flock of about eight birds in the pines on Mt Victoria, and there was another at Dhein Taung, near Kalaw.
- Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*: A few in Yangon and at Hlawga Park.
- Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*: A small number were seen at Hlawga Park, and in the lowland forests between Saw and Chauk.
- Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*: Encountered a number of times on Mt Victoria, and then very common at Yay Ayekan.

ARTAMIDAE

- Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*: Three at Hlawga Park, a couple on the way to Mt Victoria.

GENERA INCERTAE SEDIS

- Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*: A few small flocks en route to Mt Victoria and back.
- Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*: As for the last species.

AEGITHINIDAE

- Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*: Common at Bagan, and also seen on the way to Mt Victoria.

RHIPIDURIDAE

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*: Small numbers of these odd little birds on Mt Victoria. Thanks to DNA, it has recently been shown to be a fairy-warbler, in the family Stenostiridae, and is not related to the fantails.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: Quite scarce, with two on Mt Victoria and two in the Kalaw area.

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola* (NL): Hannes was lucky enough to pick one out in a bird-wave at Pholalkyin.

DICRURIDAE

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*: Often, in lowland open country, but particularly numerous going to roost at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: Frequently seen (subspecies *mouhoti*).

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: Frequent in the lowland forests.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*: A tail-less bird at Hlawga Park, and a few along the road from Pholalkyin to Nagarbwet.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: A pair at Hlawga Park, and small numbers along the way to Mt Victoria.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*: Quite a few again on Mt Victoria, this time in the pine forest zone. Another on the way back to Bagan from Mt Victoria.

MONARCHIDAE

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*: Occasionally encountered in broadleaved evergreen and semi-evergreen forests.

CORVIDAE

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: Common in Yangon, and also at Bagan and near Kalaw. These dark, almost uniform birds that had us momentarily confused belong to the *insolens* race.

Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii*: Relatively small numbers were seen on Mt Victoria, and around Kalaw. Note that, following Rasmussen & Anderton's Birds of South Asia, the former Large-billed Crow *C. macrorhynchos* has been split into four species, the other three being: Large-billed Crow *C. japonensis*, Indian Jungle Crow *C. culminatus*, and Southern Jungle Crow *C. macrorhynchos*.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: A handful of the very distinctive white-faced *leucotis* race at Yay Ayekan.

Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*: Unfortunately this beauty was typically elusive at Yay Ayekan, but one or two of us had a decent view.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris*: Seen a few times at the higher levels on Mt Victoria.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*: A few were seen on the way to and from Mt Victoria; heard at Yay Ayekan.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*: Several seen in the lowlands west of the Irrawaddy.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*: A pair perched atop a tree for us in the evening at Dhein Taung, near Kalaw.

Hooded Treepie *Crypsirina cucullata*: In complete contrast to the previous tour, this was one of the first birds that we saw in the dry country at Bagan; perched atop a bushy tree. Further searches along the earlier stretches of our journey to Mt Victoria produced less good views of three flighty birds.

LANIIDAE

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*: Several in and around Yangon, including one *lucionensis*, and also in the Heho to Inle area.

Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*: Common from Bagan to Kazunma.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: Frequent in Shan State; the black-headed *tricolor* race.

NECTARINIIDAE

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*: A small number were seen in the dry lowlands, and Jim and Marian had a pair at the Hupin Hotel, Inle Lake.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*: Quite common at Hlawga Park, and also seen on the way to Mt Victoria.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*: Quite a few seen on Mt Victoria in various states of plumage; subspecies *isolata*.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*: Small numbers of *victoriae* at the higher levels on Mt Victoria.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*: The race *assamensis* was only seen rather too fleetingly this year at Yay Ayekan.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*: Only relatively small numbers this year at the higher altitudes on Mt Victoria; particularly around the flowering rhododendrons.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*: A superb pair at Hlawga Park, and a female en route to Mt Victoria.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* (H): A couple were heard in flight at Yay Ayekan.

DICAEIDAE

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*: Two different males of this rather scarce and elusive flowerpecker were seen on Mt Victoria.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*: One singing bird at Pholalkyin

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*: Frequently seen in montane areas.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*: Common at Hlawga Park, and also seen on the way to Mt Victoria.

CHLOROPSEIDAE

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*: There was one briefly at Yay Ayekan, but it got away before we could scope it.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*: Six seen in the dry lowland forests.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*: Three at Yay Ayekan.

PLOCEIDAE

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*: Several in grassland along the Irrawaddy River, south of Bagan.

ESTRILDIDAE

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*: A group of three in the Irrawaddy grasslands.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: Several small flocks encountered, at Bagan, on the way to Mt Victoria, and at Yay Ayekan.

PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: A few at Yangon, Bagan, and Kalaw.

Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus*: Some good looks at these colourful sparrows at Bagan, where it was not uncommon.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Widespread around habitation.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*: Just one spotted by Hannes, very briefly, on Mt Victoria, and a flock at Dhein Taung that C-G found..

MOTACILLIDAE

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*: A few in flight at Bagan, and heard going over at Inle Lake.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*: Commonly encountered on Mt Victoria, and also seen around Kalaw.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: Small numbers at Bagan.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*: Small numbers at Bagan.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*: A couple on the way to Mt Victoria, with reasonable flight views of one. The endemic race *yamethini*.

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus baicalensis*: About ten at Hlawga Park, with some good perched views.

Baikal Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] baicalensis*: About six birds by the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

Amur Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis*: The default wagtail seen frequently throughout the tour.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: One on Mt Victoria and two at Yay Ayekan.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*: At least two, with little to no supercilium, by the Irrawaddy at Bagan. The former Yellow Wagtail has recently been split in two.

Alaskan Wagtail (Beringian W) *Motacilla [tschutschensis] tschutschensis*: The commonest yellow-type wagtail by the Irrawaddy. The sighting of one or two *macronyx* (Manchurian Wagtail) along the river, which is tough to separate from *thunbergi* Western Yellow is questionable on range, and would have required better views. Two plain-grey-headed birds at Inle Lake may also have been the latter form.

Manchurian Wagtail *Motacilla [tschutschensis] macronyx*: There were one or two plain grey-headed-type wagtails along the Irrawaddy, and a couple at Inle Lake, that were thought to be this form. It is very similar to *thunbergi*, and good close views are required to clinch the ID.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*: Three along the Irrawaddy, and another close to Chauk, west of the river.

FRINGILLIDAE

Black-headed Greenfinch *Carduelis ambigua*: Some nice views around Kalaw, where the species is common, and we even found it at our lunch stop on the way there from Heho.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* (H): Just a single leader-only heard near our accommodation on Mt Victoria. A surprisingly poor showing.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*: Occasional in small to medium-sized flocks on Mt Victoria, and at Inle Lake.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*: Just a couple this year on Mt Victoria.

Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*: Just a couple at Yay Ayekan.

CERTHIIDAE

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana*: Small numbers seen in high elevation pine forests on Mt Victoria. This population (*ripponi*) is isolated from the western Himalayan and Chinese populations, but the calls seem the same.

Hume's Treecreeper (Manipur T) *Certhia manipurensis*: Quite often encountered in the evergreen forest on Mt Victoria, the nominate *manipurensis* race here showing the most orangey throat of all the races. This is a recently split taxon, covering all the races found in South-east Asia and south-western China, separated from Brown-throated Treecreeper *C. discolor* that occurs in the Himalayas.

SITTIDAE

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: Regular in bird-waves between Nagarbwet and Pholalkyin.

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*: The most frequently seen Nuthatch, in the open pine forests on Mt Victoria.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*: Just one in the oak forests of Mt Victoria, but a good view.

White-browed Nuthatch *Sitta victoriae*: The crown jewel of Burmese endemics was commonly found again this year, over a wide area, with at least 16 individuals recorded. Endemic to Mt Victoria and its adjoining ridges.

STURNIDAE

White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis*: Common this year on the way to the Hupin Hotel, Inle Lake.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*: Small numbers of this colonial breeder at Yangon and Bagan.

Collared Myna *Acridotheres albocinctus*: After the endemics, this was one of the most wanted species of the tour. Our luck was in again this year, and we had good scope views of at least eight in a huge fig tree, with other sturnids. It is restricted in range to parts of Myanmar and adjacent Manipur, India and west Yunnan, China.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: Scattered sightings around human habitation.

Vinous-breasted Starling *Acridotheres burmannicus*: Common at Bagan, and between Heho and Inle Lake. These red-billed birds are of the nominate race, which perhaps in due course will be recognised as a separate species from the larger yellow-billed *leucocephalus* form found in the rest of South-east Asia.

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*: Just one scoped at Yay Ayekan.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*: Large numbers this year in the Inle Lake area, with at least 100 seen. They were mostly pale-bellied *nemoricola*, but we also note a few chestnut-bellied *malabaricus*. These are the first sightings of the latter form in East Myanmar.

Common Hill-myna *Gracula religiosa*: A total of 15 birds were seen in flight at Pholalkyin.

TURDIDAE

Grey-sided Thrush *Turdus feae*: Good numbers again this year on Mt Victoria, with over 35 seen, and some excellent views again. Many heard.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*: Just seven were identified, with the above species on Mt Victoria.

MUSCICAPIDAE

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*: Most of us got onto a singing bird below the road at Mt Victoria, and several others were heard on the mountain.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*: Great looks at a male at Sitsana Temple, Bagan, and a female in flight at Kanpetlet. Others were heard at Bagan, on the way to and from Mt Victoria, and at Dhein Taung, near Kalaw.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*: A single bird was seen nicely on the White-tailed Stonechat island near Bagan, and there were two at the Hupin Hotel marsh, Inle Lake.

White-capped Water-redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*: A very friendly individual on the dam wall at Yay Ayekan. Recent DNA research has shown that this species is a *Phoenicurus* redstart.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*: There was a rather elusive female at Yay Ayekan, and C-G had a male at Dhein Taung.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*: Common at all elevations on Mt Victoria, with more than 20 seen.

Blue Rock-thrush *Monticola solitarius*: One at Sitsana Temple, Bagan, and another at the Hupin Hotel, Inle Lake.

Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush *Monticola rufiventris*: Eight or so on Mt Victoria.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*: Seen frequently in the Chin Hills and Kalaw area.

Eastern Stonechat (Siberian S) *Saxicola maura*: Widespread in lowland areas and in Shan State.

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*: Very common in riverine grasslands south of Bagan, where we saw about 30.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*: Plenty seen in open country, mainly in the lowlands.

Jerdon's Bushchat *Saxicola jerdoni*: Some great views of three males and a female feeding close to our boats at Inle Lake. This must surely be the best place to see this skulking shiny chat in the world. Fourth favourite bird of the tour.

Himalayan Bluetail (H Red-flanked Bush Robin) *Tarsiger rufilatus*: Quite common on Mt Victoria. Rasmussen & Anderton split the former Orange-flanked Bush Robin or Red-flanked Bluetail *T. cyanurus*) into two species, the one we saw, which is a Himalayan breeder, and Northern Red-flanked Bush Robin *T. cyanurus* which breeds in Siberia.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*: Several brief sightings of a sneaky pair along the stream at Yay Ayekan.

MUSCICAPIDAE

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas*: Two males at Yay Ayekan.

Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides*: Small numbers at Hlawga Park, and on the way to Mt Victoria. The fully blue-throated nominate race.

Verditer Flycatcher *Muscicapa thalassina*: Occasional sightings from Mt Victoria to Pholalkyin.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*: A female sat up for a while on Mt Victoria, and there was a male briefly at Yay Ayekan.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*: Four on Mt Victoria.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii*: Very common at middle altitudes on Mt Victoria.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: A male at Pholalkyin, and a pair at Yay Ayekan.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*: Good views of a female lower down on Mt Victoria. The race was *cerviniventris*, with prominently uniform rich buff underparts. Heard at Dhein Taung.

Sapphire Flycatcher *Ficedula sapphira*: A calling female showed very well to some of us at Yay Ayekan.

Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla*: Widespread, but particularly common at Hlawga Park.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Muscicapa strophiatea*: Quite common on Mt Victoria.

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis*: Odd ones seen at widely scattered locations.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* (H): A single was heard at Hlawga Park.

PARIDAE

Black-bibbed Tit *Parus hypermelaena*: This excellent, sprightly tit was found on several occasions at the higher levels of Mt Victoria. It's population here in the Chin Hills is very remote from the main population in south-west China. Nevertheless, it is still considered to be monotypic.

Grey Tit *Parus cinereus*: A few from Pholalkyin to Nagarbwet.

Japanese Tit *Parus minor*: Common around Kalaw. This and the previous species have recently been split-off from Great Tit *P. major*.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*: Quite frequently seen at the lower levels on Mt Victoria.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*: Frequent in bird-waves at the higher forest on Mt Victoria.

STENOSTIRIDAE

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: Just a few on Mt Victoria and on the way there, and then a few at Yay Ayekan.

ALAUDIDAE

Burmese Bushlark *Mirafra microptera*: This Burmese endemic was commonly encountered around the old pagodas of Bagan, and was also seen along the way to Kazunma.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*: One seen and another heard singing along the banks of the Irrawaddy near Bagan.

Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*: Many seen well on the mud-and sandbanks of the Irrawaddy River at Bagan.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons*: Common in the right habitat on Mt Victoria.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*: Regularly encountered in the broadleaved evergreen forest on Mt Victoria.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*: Good numbers of this familiar and distinctive bulbul at Hlawga Park and en route to and from Mt Victoria.

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*: We searched hard for the unusual pale-eyed *davisoni* form at Hlawga Park, but only succeeded in getting very brief views of a pair. This potential future split is endemic to S Myanmar.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: Very common this year at Inle Lake and Kalaw.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*: About ten seen well at Dhein Taung, near Kalaw.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*: The default bulbul of lower and middle altitudes in degraded habitat. The race at Bagan was *melanchimus*. The species is known to hybridize with Sooty-headed Bulbul *P. aurigaster* in East Myanmar, and this explains the intermediate appearance of birds around Kalaw.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*: See the previous species. Some of the birds around Kalaw, particularly at Dhein Taung, were very close to this species.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*: Several seen in marginal habitats at Mt Victoria and around Kalaw.

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*: Rather common in the dry lowlands. Endemic *blanfordi*.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flava*: Only seen at Yay Ayekan where we found ten or so. Race *hildebrandi*.

Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mcclllandii*: Several of these noisy birds seen on Mt Victoria, and at Yay Ayekan. Subspecies *ventralis* and *tickelli* respectively.

Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*: Quite common at Yay Ayekan. Race *concolor*.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Asian House-martin *Delichon dasypus*: Very common at Mt Victoria this year, with over 300 counted.

Common Sand-martin (Sand Martin) *Riparia riparia*: Quite a few at Inle Lake this year.

Grey-throated Sand-martin *Riparia chinensis*: Quite a few around the Irrawaddy sandbanks at Bagan. Rasmussen & Anderton split Plain Martin *R. paludicola* into this form *R. chinensis* of Asia and Brown-throated Sand Martin *R. paludicola* of Africa

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Common near water. Hannes noted a single rufous-bellied *tytleri* at Inle Lake.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*: Two at Sitsana Temple, Bagan, one at Heho Airport, and about four at our lunch stop on the way to Kalaw. Great to see so many.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: Four at Hlawga Park. Five birds recorded at Bagan could have been this or the next species.

Striated Swallow *Hirundo striolata*: One at Inle Lake, but only heard around Kalaw.

CETTIIDAE

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*: Several in bamboo habitats between Nagarbwet and Pholalkyin.

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*: We saw several hyper-active waves of these superb little warblers on Mt Victoria.

Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler *Cettia fortipes*: Several showed, at the lower levels, on Mt Victoria.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*: Three were heard by the stream at Yay Ayekan, and some of us saw bits and pieces.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*: A similar thing to the last species but on Mt Victoria. Frequently heard, but often tough to get onto in the dense roadside weeds at this location.

AEGITHALIDAE

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*: Great views of grey-crowned *pulchellus* at Yay Ayekan.

Burmese Tit *Aegithalos sharpei*: Less common this year at the higher levels of Mt Victoria, with less than ten seen in total. Split from Black-browed Tit *A. bonvaloti* from which it is separated by 600km and shows marked plumage differences.

PHYLLOSCOPODIDAE

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*: A total of five birds seen at high elevations on Mt Victoria.

Martens's Warbler *Seicercus omeiensis*: Good views of five or so at Yay Ayekan. Fortunately this, the previous, and the next species were all calling, otherwise identification would have been impossible!

Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus* (H): Two calling birds at Yay Ayekan remained elusive. This and the previous two species were formerly lumped together as part of Golden-spectacled Warbler *S. burkii*.

Davison's Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*: Common at Yay Ayekan. After DNA work, this is now considered to be a different species to *P. ogilviegranti* (with regional races *klossi* and *disturbans*), which retains the old name White-tailed Leaf-warbler.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*: A small number were seen with busy bird-flocks at mid-elevations on Mt Victoria. Recent DNA studies place it squarely amongst the *Phylloscopus* warblers, rather than *Seicercus*.

Blyth's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*: One on Mt Victoria, eight or so in bird-waves at Pholalkyin, and one at Yay Ayekan

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: Small numbers en route to and from Mt Victoria, and several at Yay Ayekan.

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*: Common at Hlawga Park.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*: Five or so, high up on Mt Victoria.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*: Abundant on Mt Victoria, particularly at higher altitudes.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: Common and very widespread, being particularly abundant at the lower levels on Mt Victoria.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*: Commonly seen and heard at mid-elevations on Mt Victoria (at least 60 logged), and one at Dhein Taung. Subspecies *mandelli*.

Tickell's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*: Six were found wintering around Bagan, and there were a couple more on the way to Kazunma. Thought to be this species rather than the newly described Alpine Leaf-warbler *P. occisinensis*.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*: A couple showed well at Hlawga Park, and a couple more were heard at dawn at Yay Ayekan.

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii*: Frequently seen and heard from Bagan to Saw.
Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*: Frequent and widespread.
Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis*: Common at the higher levels of Mt Victoria, and also seen at Dhein Taung.

TIMALIIDAE

Spot-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis guttaticollis*: Excellent prolonged close views of a pair below our lodge on Mt Victoria. Superb, and voted second favourite bird of the tour.
Buff-breasted Parrotbill *Suthora ripponi*: We had to run to catch up with a manic flock of about 50 of these unbelievably hyper-active little babblers that cut through a bamboo patch on Mt Victoria. This near endemic was recently split from the former Black-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis nipalensis*. This is the nominate race which is endemic to the south Chin Hills. Another race, *patriciae*, occurs in adjacent Mizoram, India.
Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*: Quite a few from Bagan to Kazunma, and also a couple at Dhein Taung.
White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus*: Very common at the higher altitudes on Mt Victoria. The highly distinctive race *riponi*.
Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus*: A flock of ten on Mt Victoria; with the ID of one flock member being confirmed by the leader only!
Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*: A few at Yay Ayekan.
Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*: Two at the lower levels on Mt Victoria; the first record from West Myanmar.
Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*: Small numbers were regularly seen at the higher altitudes on Mt Victoria.
Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*: Quite common in the evergreen forests of Mt Victoria, particularly in fruit-bearing roadside bushes.
Burmese Yuhina *Yuhina humilis*: We finally caught up with this species at Yay Ayekan, with two pairs and a single bird being easily found this time. Endemic to south-east Burma and adjacent Thailand.
Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe yunnanensis*: A few at Yay Ayekan. Following the splitting off of more eastern forms, the specific name of this fulvetta has changed.
Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis*: Surprisingly secretive, though regularly encountered in bird-flocks at lower levels on Mt Victoria.
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala*: Very vocal and encountered in several small flocks in roadside forest between Pholalkyin and Nagarbwet. Rather plain-headed *phayrei*.
Rusty-capped Fulvetta *Schoeniparus dubius*: Several seen on Mt Victoria, with a pair that perched totally in the open on a fence being particularly memorable. Boldly-marked *mandellii*.
Sickle-billed Scimitar-babbler (Slender-b S B) *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*: A calling bird came so close, but only C-G caught a glimpse. Frustratingly hard to see here.
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrognys*: Seen very well through the scope at Dhein Taung, near Kalaw, in complete contrast to its very close relative proceeding.
Spot-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus mccllellandi*: A very sneaky bird on this tour, with brief glimpses of one bird from a calling pair in the undergrowth on Mt Victoria. Others were heard. Following the babblers section in Handbook of the Birds of the World, the former Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler *P. erythrocnemis* is now divided into four species, with this monotypic taxon retaining the old English name, but with a change of scientific name.
White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*: Numbers showed well enough in the Kalaw area, particularly when feeding up in pine trees! The race here is *nuchalis*.
Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*: Frequently encountered on Mt Victoria.

- Chin Hills Wren-babbler (Long-tailed W B) *Spelaornis oatesi*: Fortunately, this near endemic was tape responsive in the off-season, and we had views of at least five birds. Many others were heard at varying elevations. Following Rasmussen & Anderton and Handbook of the Birds of the World, the former Long-tailed Wren Babbler *S. chokolatinus* has been divided into four species, with the current former being restricted to the Chin Hills and adjacent Mizoram, India.
- Spotted Wren-babbler *Elachura formosus* (H): Heard singing twice on Mt Victoria but out of reach on both occasions.
- Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer*: Two were seen on Mt Victoria, though not fantastically well, and many others were heard. Such great little birds, but recently shown to be totally unrelated to babblers!
- Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* (H): Several uncooperative individuals were heard at the lower levels on Mt Victoria. This and the last species are now placed in an unrelated family to babblers, the PNOEPYGIDAE, and will be referred to as cupwings.
- Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea*: Not uncommon in bird-waves on Mt Victoria, and also seen at Yay Ayekean. At the former site we saw *binghami* with grey ear-coverts, while in the east, they were *aurata*.
- Pin-striped Tit-babbler (Striped Tit Babbler) *Macronus gularis*: A small number in roadside bamboo and scrappy forest between Nagarbwet and Pholalkyin, and also heard at Kalaw.
- Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*: Excellent views at Inle Lake, and also heard around Kalaw.
- Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*: One showed well at eye-level by the roadside en route to Mt Victoria. Others were heard here and at Hlawga Park.
- Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*: Regular parties seen on Mt Victoria, busily searching mossy boughs in the evergreen forest.
- White-throated Babbler *Turdoides gularis*: This highly distinctive endemic was easily found in the Dry Zone, from Bagan to Kazunma.
- Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*: Stunning point-blank views of six in the Irrawaddy River grasslands, near Bagan.
- White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*: Three of these striking and very vocal babblers at Hlawga Park, and a couple playing hide-and-seek at Pholalkyin.
- Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*: At least two in a flock of the next species near Nagarbwet. Identified by their smaller size and black lores amongst other things.
- Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis*: A very obliging flock of at least eight birds gave us close looks as they worked through the forest at Nagarbwet.
- Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus*: Very responsive at the higher levels on Mt Victoria, with prolonged scope views of three. In Birds of South Asia, Rasmussen & Anderton suggest that the near-endemic local race, *woodi*, might be considered a distinct species from Chinese birds. However, the plumage distinctiveness that they suggest is not born-out by specimens, and it was not split by Collar & Robson in HBW. No doubt future DNA work will shed light on the matter.
- Striped Laughingthrush *Strophocincla virgatus*: Restricted to the far-eastern states of India adjacent to Myanmar plus the Chin Hills (including Mt Victoria), we saw this rather skulking laughingthrush very easily this time. A pair at 2740m provided a new upper elevational limit for the species.
- White-browed Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus sannio*: Pleasingly common and showy around Kalaw.
- Brown-capped Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron austeni*: Another one of the several near-endemic laughingthrushes that we were on the lookout for. Luckily this species performed well for us early on, proving surprisingly confiding once again.
- Assam Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron chrysopterum*: One of the first birds that we saw on Mt Victoria, hopping around on the track in full view. Further good views were later

obtained of several more. It was initially split from Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *G. erythrocephalus* by Rasmussen & Anderton in their Birds of South Asia, the race here being chestnut-hooded *erythrolaemum*.

Silver-eared Laughingthrush *Trochaloxyton melanostrigatum*: Small numbers at Yay Ayekan, but much more skulking than the last species. Another recent split from Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, this time following Nigel Collar's paper in Forktail 22 (A partial revision of the Asian Babblers). The range extends from E and SE Myanmar and NW Thailand to N and C Laos, NW Vietnam and SE Yunnan.

Crimson-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea*: Very elusive on Mt Victoria, with just one popping up for us a couple of times. One or two others heard.

Bar-throated Minla (Chestnut-tailed M) *Chrysominla strigula*: Common in the higher evergreen forests on Mt Victoria. Subspecies *yunnanensis*.

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*: A total of eight individuals seen with mixed flocks on Mt Victoria. The nominate race.

Blue-winged Siva *Siva cyanouroptera*: Occasionally encountered on Mt Victoria, and at Yay Ayekan. The races were *aglae* at the former, and *wingatei* at the latter.

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentea*: A large flock was found in understorey lower down on Mt Victoria (*aureigularis*).

Grey Sibia *Heterophasia gracilis*: Common and highly visible throughout the evergreen forest on Mt Victoria.

Dark-backed Sibia *Heterophasia melanoleuca*: A good number of these in the forest at Yay Ayekan, but seen better through the scope at Dhein Taung. The race here is *castanoptera* that shows bright rufous tertials and inner greater coverts.

Streak-throated Barwing *Actinodura waldeni*: A rather rare babbler with a restricted range, which is now placed in the genus *Ixops*. We were fortunate to find about seven rather tame and very responsive birds on Mt Victoria. This was subspecies *poliotis*, and it was voted joint fifth favourite bird of the trip.

Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni*: Small flocks were encountered a few times in the broadleaved evergreen forests on Mt Victoria. Subspecies *ripponi*.

Spectacled Barwing *Actinodura ramsayi*: Heard and seen by a few of us at Yay Ayekan, and a group seen in understorey vegetation at Dhein Taung by C-G.

ACROCEPHALIDAE

Black-browed Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*: Quite common at the north end of Inle Lake, and quite easy to see.

Indian Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus brunnescens*: One was taped-in and gave prolonged good views by our hotel at Inle Lake. It is resident in the marshes at Inle.

Oriental Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*: Three by the Hupin Hotel, Inle Lake.

Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon*: Widespread sightings. Burma must be a major wintering area for the species.

MEGALURIDAE

Rusty-rumped Warbler *Locustella certhiola*: One showed for some of us at Yangon University Boat Club. Only heard at Inle Lake.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*: One scoped, and a couple heard at Inle Lake.

CISTICOLIDAE

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: Quite common along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*: A few at Hlawga Park.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*: Regularly encountered throughout.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*: A small flock at Pholalkyin.
 Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*: Common at Bagan, and heard in the Kalaw area.
 Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: We finally latched onto several birds by the Hupin Hotel, at Inle Lake.
 Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*: Scattered sightings of this widespread and common prinia.
 Brown Prinia *Prinia polychroa*: Just one briefly at Dhein Taung
 Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*: Some very good looks on Mt Victoria. Rasmussen & Anderton split this from the following species, although *hasiana* (the form on Mt Victoria) differs quite markedly from Himalayan *atrogularis*, and should perhaps be considered as a separate species too.
 Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*: Seen by C-G and heard by the rest of us at Dhein Taung.

MAMMALS

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*: A few of these predominantly ground-dwelling squirrels in the broadleaved evergreen forest on Mt Victoria.
 Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*: Small numbers of this thick-set arboreal squirrel on Mt Victoria.
 Finlayson's Squirrel (Variable S) *Callosciurus finlaysoni*: Two in Yangon and one at Hlawga Park.
 Irrawaddy Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*: The 'default' squirrel in the lowlands and Irrawaddy valley.
 Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maclellandii*: Frequently seen on Mt Victoria, often with bird-flocks!
 Indochinese Ground Squirrel *Menetes berdmorei*: One at Dhein Taung.
 Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista*: We had great views of one on a couple of evenings, during our search for Hodgson's Frogmouth at Mt Victoria.
 Large-eared Roundleaf Bat (Andersen's Leaf-nosed B) *Hipposideros pomona*: A large roost in the tunnel under Sitsana Temple, Bagan. We saw both typical and rufous colour morphs; the former being notably pale below. The species has recently been found in tunnels below other temples and stupas in the Bagan area.
 Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bat (W-I Free-tailed B) *Chaerephon plicatus*: At least a million spewing out of the entrance way of the Shwedagon Pagoda. An incredible spectacle!
 Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis*: A lucky sighting for those in the front vehicle on Mt Victoria.
 Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*: Arse-end views of one leaving the track on Mt Victoria.
 Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*: About 100 at Hlawga Park, where it has been (re-)introduced, and a couple on the way to Mt Victoria.
 Eurasian Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*: One at Hlawga Park, where it has been (re-)introduced.
 Indian Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak*: One, of unknown origin, at Hlawga Park.
 Sambar *Cervus unicolor*: Six at Hlawga Park, where it has been (re-)introduced.
 Hog Deer *Axis porcinus*: 50 at Hlawga Park, where it has been introduced.

BUTTERFLIES

Common Wanderer *Pereronia valeria*: Frequent in the lowlands; Nagarbwet, Pholalkyin etc.
 Psyche *Leptosia nina*: Yangon & Nagarbwet.
 Green Sapphire *Heliophorus androcles*: A couple on the track at Mt Victoria.
 Common Pierrot *Castalius rosimon*: A few on the road at Pholalkyin.
 Common Cerulean *Jamides celeno*: Mt Victoria & Yay Ayekan etc.
 Forget-me-not *Catochrysops panormus*: Along the lower stretches of the Mindat Road, Mt Victoria.
 Pea Blue (Long-tailed B) *Lampides boeticus*: Common in the lodge garden at Kanpetlet, Mt Victoria, and also at Yay Ayekan. The same as in Europe.

Pale Hedge Blue *Udara dilecta*: Along the lower stretches of the Mindat Road, Mt Victoria.
Dark Judy *Abisara fylla*: A few at Yay Ayekan.
Punchinello *Zemeros flegyas*: One shot off at Yay Ayekan.
Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia*: Roadsides, on the way to Mt Victoria, and near Kalaw etc.
Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*: Common at Bagan etc.
Chocolate Tiger *Parantica melaneus*: Pholalkyin.
Blue Glassy Tiger *Ideopsis vulgaris*: Yangon University Boat Club etc.
Common Crow (C Indian C) *Euploea core*: Roadsides at Pholalkyin etc.
Rustic *Cupha erymanthis*: On the muddy road at Pholalkyin.
Staff Sergeant *Athyma selenophora*: One on the track at Yay Ayekan.
Common Lascar *Pantoporia hordonia*: Pholalkyin.
Common Jester *Symbrenthia hippoclus*: On the track at Yay Ayekan.
Indian Red Admiral *Vanessa indica*: A couple on Mt Victoria.
Blue Pansy *Junonia orithiya*: Bagan.
Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites*: Yangon area.
Lemon Pansy *Junonia orithiya*: Yangon area.

DRAGONFLIES

Flashwing *Vestalis smaragdina*: Resting on leaves by the stream bank at Yay Ayekan.



The tour began at the amazing Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon



In Bagan we found Dry Zone endemics like White-throated Babbler,



Burmese Bushlark



and the lovely Jerdon's Minivet



Typical habitat around the Sitsana Temple, Bagan



We also checked the Irrawaddy River grasslands near Bagan,



where specialties included Striated Babbler



En route to Mt Victoria, we found White-rumped Pygmy-falcon



On Mt Victoria, we saw the unique White-browed Nuthatch



The many other goodies here included Black-bibbed Tit



In the east, we visited the huge Inle Lake



A good number of Collared Mynas were seen near Inle



The Kalaw area brought nice birds like Black-headed Greenfinch



and Pin-tailed Green-pigeon