



Hooded Treepie at Saw. (all photos by Dave Farrow unless otherwise indicated)

BURMA

24 MARCH – 6 APRIL 2019

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This years' Birdquest tour to Burma was once again a successful and enjoyable affair. We saw all nine of the Burmese endemics – Hooded Treepie, Jerdon's Minivet, White-throated Babbler, Burmese Bushlark, White-browed Nuthatch (surely the 'jewel in the crown' of the endemic birds), Burmese Bushtit, and Irrawaddy Bulbul - the 'newest' of the set, plus Davison's Bulbul and Burmese Collared Dove that are not yet universally split. We also found six taxa that could be described as near-endemics - Collared Myna, Striped and Brown-capped Laughingthrushes, Mount Victoria Babax, Burmese Yuhina and Chin Hills Wren-Babbler. In addition to these sparkling headliners we found a great array of special birds, such as at Bagan where we found Rain Quail, Laggar Falcon, Vinous-breasted Starlings and Pied Harrier, plus numerous Sand Larks and White-tailed Stonechat along the Irrawaddy river. In the rich forest habitats that lie between the Irrawaddy and the Chin Hills we found White-eyed Buzzard, Black Baza, White-rumped Falcon, Alexandrine, Blossom-headed

and Grey-headed Parakeets, and Burmese Nuthatch. On Mount Victoria we enjoyed a splendid female Hodgson's Frogmouth, Grey-sided Thrush, Black-bibbed Tit, Crested Finchbill, Spot-breasted and Black-throated (or Buff-chested) Parrotbills, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Spotted Elachura, Crimson-faced Liocichla, Grey Siberia, Black-headed Shrike Babblers, Streak-throated and Rusty-fronted Barwings, Assam Laughingthrush, Broad-billed Warbler, Brown Bush-warblers, Fire-tailed Sunbirds and Spot-winged Grosbeak. Along forested ridges at Mindat we saw Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, another Mt Victoria Babax and Scaly-breasted Cupwing. In the Shan State in the east of the country, at Inle Lake we saw Chinese Grassbird, Collared Mynas, Cook's Swift and numerous Jerdon's Bushchats, and in the mountain forests around Kalaw we found Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Slender-billed Oriole, Black-breasted Thrush, Dark-backed Siberia, White-browed Laughingthrush, Blunt-winged Warbler and Black-headed Greenfinch. We recorded a total of 372 species.



White-throated Babbler

Our tour began at midday when we gathered at our hotel, and our first foray was to the impressive Shwedagon Pagoda in downtown Yangon where a short stroll around the garden produced some Ashy Minivets, Jungle Myna, Coppersmith Barbet and Olive-backed Sunbird, our first endemic in the shape of the demure Irrawaddy Bulbul, along with the all blackish *insolens* race of House Crow with its comedy calls. Once into the pagoda complex, we found the main pagoda shrouded in bamboo scaffolding, but nevertheless we enjoyed the circular walk around all the small shrines, a great place for people-watching, but the only birds were the swarms of House Swifts that nest inside many of the buildings here.

After this pleasant start to our tour, we began the birding in earnest the next morning with a visit to Hlawga Park. We spent the first hours birding outside the main park where we found numerous Racket-tailed Treepies, Siberian Rubythroat, Rufescent Prinia, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, many Black-naped Orioles, Irrawaddy, Black-headed and Black-crested Bulbuls, Crested Honey Buzzard, Bronze-winged Jacana, Greater and Lesser Coucals, a Daurian Starling, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, Little Spiderhunter, and finally our target of Davison's Bulbul, the white-eyed endemic taxon that is surely a good split from Stripe-throated Bulbul. Entering the 'park' as it grew ever hotter, we saw Dark-sided and Asian Brown Flycatcher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Red Junglefowl, Two-barred Warbler and Asian Openbills, before we retreated to the city and positioned ourselves for an afternoon flight to Bagan. Surprisingly the flight left on time, and

we reached Bagan with enough time to visit a pagoda stood by the Irrawaddy where two Laggar Falcons sat on the lofty spires. We reached our hotel at sundown, a well-appointed lodge set in the bush like a little piece of Africa.

The next day we set ourselves the hard task of finding Jerdon's Minivet and Hooded Treepie, two of the harder to find endemics. We walked around the dry bushy country not finding either, but the other local specialities obliged and we saw Vinous-breasted Starlings, Burmese Bushlark, Burmese Collared Dove, endemic White-throated Babblers, plus we flushed several Rain Quail that gave reasonable looks, and also found Yellow-streaked Warblers, Indian Roller, Siberian Rubythroat and Yellow-eyed Babbler. The dry heat became more intense so we paused in a restaurant overlooking the river with a view of the muddy shore, casually observing shorebirds along the edges that included Wood Sandpipers and Temminck's Stint. Later in the day we ventured down to the jetty and onto a boat for a leisurely cruise along the Irrawaddy, even though it was still 37C! We headed for an area of cultivation where we found several White-tailed Stonechat, a smart male Pied Harrier, Black-winged Kites, Richard's and Red-throated Pipits, Oriental Skylarks, Baya Weaver and more Rain Quails. Along the margins of the river we saw numerous Sand Larks, Little Ringed Plover, Small Pratincoles, Ruddy Shelduck, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Pied Kingfisher and River Lapwings. We chugged homeward with the setting sun, with a welcome breeze to cool things down.



Burmese Bushlark



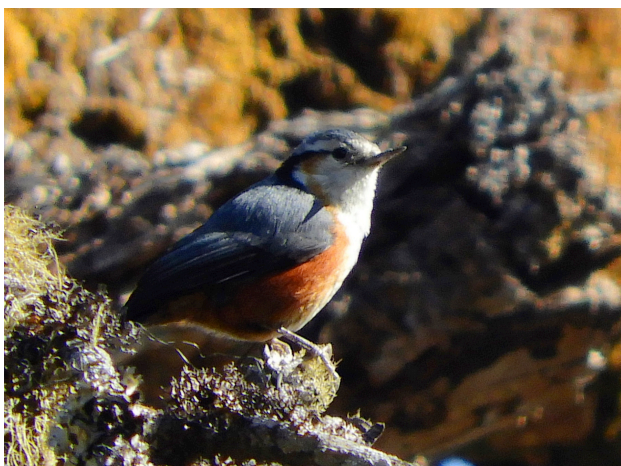
Jerdon's Minivet

We made a further attempt to find Jerdon's Minivet around one of the pagodas in the early morning, and managed to glimpse one flying over the bushes, which then disappeared. Walking back to our vans we spotted a pair of Minivets which also then disappeared into the distance, however right by our waiting vehicles we suddenly found no less than six, three pairs together, dropping down to feed in a scrappy field! Wow! You lucky people! The best birds are always the ones that make you wait.

We began our westward journey towards the Chin Hills, crossing the Irrawaddy at the small market town of Chauk. We made a stop in an area of fields where we searched for Hooded Treepie, finding none yet we saw another Jerdon's Minivet! As the heat began to build, we made several short stops in dry woodland that yielded Shikra, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, and a distant lump perched on a treetop on the horizon turned out on closer inspection to be our target bird in this habitat - a White-rumped Falcon. We continued through much degraded forest to the village of Saw where we had a splendidly local Burmese lunch, and then began to drive uphill. A Blue-bearded Bee-eater was a nice surprise, and once we reached 1900m on Mt Victoria we took advantage of the more temperate climate and spent the last couple of hours birding near to our hotel, where we found a Spotted Elachura, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Black-throated Bushtit, Crested Finchbill, Flavescent Bulbul, and Rufous-bellied and Stripe-breasted Woodpeckers.

We headed up to the upper reaches of the forest on Mt Victoria, where rather worryingly there were several forest fires smoldering away – the existence of the habitat on this isolated mountain looks ever more precarious. We began in the open pine parkland where we saw Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Brown-capped Laughingthrush, White-browed Fulvettas of the race *riponi*, Brown Bush Warbler, Bar-tailed Treecreeper,

Black-bibbed Tit and Burmese Bushtits. Continuing to the top of the road we found Fire-tailed Sunbirds, Red-tailed Minla and eventually saw our first of the flagship endemic here – White-browed Nuthatch, feeding around the mossy branches in the tops of the big forest evergreens. We had super views of Chin Hills Wren Babbler in roadside herbage, and had a glimpse of Broad-billed Warbler. Warblers abounded particularly Buff-barred Warbler, along with Blyth's Leaf Warbler and Ashy-throated Warblers. We also found Grey Sibia, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Striated Bulbuls, Assam Laughingthrush, Spot-breasted Parrotbill and Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler together in a mixed flock, Dark-sided, Slaty-blue and Little Pied Flycatchers, Himalayan Bluetails, Blue-fronted Redstart, and Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush. We had a picnic lunch at the roadside, then continuing downhill through the rich evergreen forest we saw Mountain Hawk Eagle, Black Eagle, Black-headed and Blyth's Shrike Babblers, Chestnut-flanked White-eyes, Yellow-cheeked Tit, White-tailed and Chestnut-vented Nuthatches (for a three Nuthatch day), Hume's Treecreeper, Rufous-bellied Niltava, and Yellow-bellied Fantail. On the return leg we paused once more and found Himalayan Buzzard, Streak-throated Barwing and Green Shrike Babbler. Quite a day!



White-browed Nuthatch



Mt. Victoria Babax

Our second day began at mid elevations near our hotel, and our first birds were a pair of Crimson-faced Liocichlas, followed by views of a pair of Rusty-capped Fulvetta, a pair of Chin Hills Wren-Babblers that posed alongside each other, and a glimpse of a Striped Laughingthrush. A Mountain Bamboo Partridge noisily called from a thicket but remained unseen, and along a trail through scrub and grass we found a male Stripe-breasted Woodpecker Grey-crowned Warbler, Brown-flanked Bush-Warbler, White-throated Fantail, and enjoyed some good views of Mountain Tailorbird. We moved uphill into the evergreen forest and spent the remainder of the morning there, finding Grey-chinned Minivet, Yellow-browed Tit, Barred Cuckoo Dove, and a flock of furtive Grey-sided Thrush staying high in the big trees. The cicadas were in full flow today and the noise was deafening, with predictable consequences for the birding, but after midday we continued birding the scrub and secondary forest, finding Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, plus we heard two Hodgson's Frogmouths calling in the middle of the afternoon! The last of the day was spent at lower levels in trashy habitat where we had a great view of a pair of Striped Laughingthrush, a handsome Black-throated Prinia, and a Russet Bush Warbler that ran about on the ground like a mouse. After dinner we returned to where we had heard the Frogmouths, and after a while we were rewarded with good views of a smart female Hodgson's Frogmouth, sat in a roadside tree. Hurrah!

A third morning saw us arriving at the highest levels at dawn, where a frost covered the grass in places. We had great views of cheeky Brown Bush Warblers, Aberrant Bush Warbler, and Yellow-browed and Black-bibbed Tits. We scoured the scrubby slopes for Mount Victoria Babax, and eventually our guide Mr. Htay located some for us, and we had a good views of four of these handsome birds. We also had good looks at White-browed Nuthatch, Bar-tailed (at a nest) and Hume's Treecreepers, and a Broad-billed Warbler presented himself. We continued down into the rich evergreen forests on the northern slope and found Streak-throated Barwing, Golden-throated and Great Barbets, and Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers. The heat built up again as did the cicada noise, but after the midday lull we located a busy little flock of Black-throated (or Buff-chested) Parrotbills in the bamboo, gorgeous little gems that never fail to thrill me. We found Little

Buntings, a male Spot-winged Grosbeak and a trio of Yellow-breasted Greenfinches, and the day closed with a nice view of an Asian Barred Owlet.

We left our lodgings before dawn and drove down to the village of Saw at the foot of the mountain. Here we visited the family home of our guide Mr. Htay, where his mother, sister and brother in law were waiting for us with snacks and tea, and we parked ourselves on their verandah, being repeatedly reassured that every morning the Hooded Treepie would come and sit in the big bamboo next to the house. We sat and waited. And waited more, and then getting ever-itchy feet we thought perhaps we should stroll up across the field behind the house. As we did so, some Blossom-headed Parakeets perched up nicely, then suddenly a pair of Hooded Treepies launched themselves into a bare tree next to us and gave excellent views, and even stayed long enough for all to gather and see them. Hurrah! As Htay said, he never misses it! From here we headed off down the road towards Mindat, pausing in some dry forest where we saw Grey-headed, Alexandrine and Red-breasted Parakeets, Lineated Barbet, Black-hooded Oriole, Rufous Treepie, Crested Serpent Eagle, and by a bridge we saw some splendid Wire-tailed Swallows, before reaching Mindat town for lunch. As Mt Victoria gets more popular and developed, we opted to visit the extensive and less disturbed forests in the Mindat area as mitigation. In the afternoon we explored some trashy habitats on the hillsides above town, finding Large Hawk Cuckoo, Long-tailed Broadbill, Silver-eared Mesia, Grey-crowned Warbler, and heard a distant Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler.



Spot-breasted Parrotbill

At dawn we were driving up into the high forests along the road to Matupi. A first short stop provided some great views of Spot-breasted Parrotbills, and then we continued up to a sidetrack and walked along a high ridge that offered stunning panoramic views of Mt Victoria and the high country surrounding us. We had a good look at Brown-capped Laughingthrush, then a proper look at the normally shy Yellow-billed Magpie that circled us. Bird of the day was probably a superb Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler that sat and poop-pooped at us from a roadside bush, while nearby a Mount Victoria Babax was duetting with his partner. Further

explorations here produced Stripe-throated Yuhina, a pair of Whistler's Warblers, and an obliging Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler, Fire-tailed Sunbird and Rufous-bellied Woodpecker. In the skies were Black Eagles and Himalayan Buzzard, and we returned to grassy slopes near Mindat where we spent a long time looking for a vocal Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler, which just would not show itself. We ended the day with the consolation prize of some Striped Laughingthrushes.

We left Mindat and drove back down to the lowlands, pausing at a bridge where we saw River Lapwing, plus a remarkable gathering of Greater Coucal, then in degraded forest we had a busy hour with Blossom-headed, Grey-headed, Alexandrine and Red-breasted Parakeets, Grey-capped and Rufous Woodpeckers, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Crested Treeswift, Large Cuckooshrike, Scarlet Minivet, Crimson Sunbird, Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta and a fearless Asian Barred Owlet. Further stops in lowland dry forest provided Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Black-naped Monarch and a Radde's Warbler, as it grew hotter and quieter. A final stop under a noon sun we found Indian Rollers gathered around a small wildfire, Black Baza, White-eyed Buzzards, and finally we found Neglected (or Burmese) Nuthatch to make five Nuthatch species for the trip – possibly the only tour where that it is possible? After a Burmese lunch at a wayside restaurant we headed on down to the Irrawaddy and back up to Bagan. A final sortie around one of the pagodas provided some last looks at White-throated Babblers and Burmese Bushlarks, Burmese Collared Dove, Irrawaddy Bulbuls, many Vinous-breasted Starlings and a Eurasian Wryneck in the fields. We checked into our well-situated hotel, as night fell Indian Nightjars become vocal and we quickly found one nearby, while Spotted Owlets yelped from the garden trees.



Black-throated (or Buff-breasted) Parrotbill

A leisurely start allowed us to appreciate the environs of our delightful Bagan hotel in daylight, and then it was off to the airport for a short flight to Heho in Shan State. We drove down to Lake Inle where we checked into another very pleasant hotel, this time situated on the lakeshore. Here we boarded two long-tail boats for a day of fun on the water. We sped across the calm lake to the southern end for some lunch in a rather excellent restaurant, with a few birds along the way that included Garganey, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Chinese and Indian Pond Herons in breeding dress, and our first views of the curious leg-rowers for which the lake is

famous. In the afternoon we visited an excellent waterbird colony with numerous nesting Asian Openbill, Little Cormorants, Glossy Ibises, Intermediate Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons. In nearby fields we saw Citrine Wagtail and Pin-tailed Snipe, then crossing to the north side of the lake and its extensive swampy habitats we saw Indian Spot-billed Ducks, Wood Sandpipers, Grey-headed Swampheens, Purple Heron and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas in breeding dress. We ventured down undisturbed creeks where we found Jerdon's Bushchats, Indian Reed Warblers, Striated Grassbirds, Black-winged Kites and Eastern Marsh Harrier, and as the sun set behind the hills we found a furtive Chinese Grassbird. We were thrilled to see a gathering of at least 34 Collared Myna coming down to roost along with Pied Myna and Vinous-breasted Starlings. A superb place for birding, and a stunning landscape to be in.

We returned in the early morning to the marshy creeks, where we had some cracking views of a co-operative Chinese Grassbird, posing on some burnt stems. We also saw Eastern Marsh Harrier, Yellow Bittern, a fly-by Ruddy-breasted Crake, Bluethroats, Rosy Pipit, Black-browed Reed Warblers and a sneaky but vocal Spotted Bush Warbler.



Chinese Grassbird

After returning to dry land we drove the short distance to Kalaw, where we enjoyed a splendid lunch in an old colonial era house near to our hotel where avocado lovers were really able to indulge themselves. We set off in the afternoon to an area of wooded hills, where we found some very obliging Burmese Yuhinas, plus Spectacled Barwing, White-browed Scimitar Babblers and a very shiny Asian Emerald Cuckoo. Further explorations found a pair of Chinese Francolin sauntering across a field, Brown-breasted and Black Bulbuls, White-browed Laughingthrushes, Black-headed Greenfinch, Japanese Tit, Hill Prinia, Burmese and Long-tailed Shrikes, Eurasian Jay of the white-faced *leucotis* form, and large gatherings of noisy Black-collared Starlings.

Our final day's birding was a full day walk to a patch of evergreen forest that surrounds the Yayayekan reservoir. We began briskly with some fine Slender-billed Orioles in the pines, White-browed Laughingthrushes and a Great Spotted Woodpecker of the race *cabanisi* (surely the southernmost GSW in the world?). As we reached the evergreen forest we saw Greater Flamebacks, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Hill

Blue Flycatcher, Marten's Warbler, Ashy and Mountain Bulbuls, and a lovely Silver-breasted Broadbill. We also found White-bellied Erpornis, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Golden Babbler, Slaty-bellied Tesia and a Crested Serpent Eagle. We reached the dam where we paused, as a hot lunch of fish curry was brought up to us by the hotel staff, and while we sat in this shady spot we saw Dark-backed Sibia, Silver-eared Laughingthrush, and a surprise Blunt-winged Warbler in the bushes. Also here we saw both Oriental and the recently split Swinhoe's White-eye, Puff-throated Babbler and some showy Silver-eared Mesias. Strolling back in the afternoon the birding was much quieter, but we saw a pair of Blue-bearded Bee-eaters, while Blue-throated and Blue-eared Barbets stayed out of reach as they called from the canopy. We completed our walk as dusk approached, a round trip of 11.5km.

The next morning we left our pleasant hotel after breakfast and drove to Heho airport, from where we flew to Yangon where our tour ended. We had enjoyed an altogether splendid trip with all the endemics seen and a big trip total. Big thanks of course to our guide Mr. Htay Ngwe who did a splendid job, and Mr. Saw who ensured our trip all went to plan.



Dawn on Inle Lake



Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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

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

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

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

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* A few seen at Hlawga Park.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Good numbers along the margins of the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* A small flock seen near our hotel at Inle Lake

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* A small number seen near the above group.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* A good number on the Irrawaddy at Bagan, a few at Inle Lake.

Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* A surprising view of a pair strolling in a field at Kalaw. Also heard Bagan.

Rain Quail ◊ *Coturnix coromandelica* Multiple birds seen in flight at Bagan, and in fields by the Irrawaddy.

Mountain Bamboo Partridge ◊ *Bambusicola fytchii* (H) Heard on Mt Victoria, fairly close but still invisible.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* A few seen at Hlawga, another larger group crossed the road near Saw.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Several seen in Hlawga park.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* Some at Hlawga, and a colony observed at close quarters on Inle Lake.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Great to see these in good number and nesting in a mixed colony at Inle Lake.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* A handful seen along the marshy creeks at Inle Lake.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen at Hlawga, also at Inle Lake

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* Quite a number of these seen in breeding plumage at Inle Lake

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* Also seen in breeding plumage at Inle Lake, plus others unassigned.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* Commonly encountered in suitable habitat.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (NL) A couple seen along the way.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* A few noted around Inle Lake.

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea [alba] modesta* A small number at Inle Lake.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Not uncommon around Inle where they were nesting, with black bills

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Many at Inle, others seen along our route.

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger* Numerous at Inle where they were nesting, also seen on the Irrawaddy.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* A single seen at Bagan.

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* A single soaring over Hlawga.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Fairly numerous around Inle also seen around Bagan.

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Singles often encountered over the western hills and forests.

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* Three vocal birds seen over forest near Kazunma.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* A few seen in lowland forests west of the Irrawaddy.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipaensis* Singles over Mt Victoria and the Mindat hills.



Laggar Falcon



Black Eagle

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis* A couple over Mt Victoria, three over the forests near Mindat.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* A few seen in lowland forests.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* A single at Kalaw

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* Some nice examples at Inle Lake.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* A male and two females seen on our Irrawaddy cruise at Bagan.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* A couple seen over Yangon.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus [migrans] lineatus* A single seen over fields along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

White-eyed Buzzard ♦ *Butastur teesa* Three individuals seen in lowland forests near Kazunma.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* Singles at Mt Victoria, near Mindat, and Kalaw

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* One at Hlawga, one near Saw.

Black-tailed Crake ♦ *Porzana bicolor* (H) Heard near Yayayekan at Kalaw, but a disappointing response!

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* Heard at Inle where one was seen flying across a channel.

Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* Several seen at Inle Lake.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* A couple seen at a roadside pond near Heho.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* At least ten seen on Inle Lake.

Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone* (H) Heard distantly at the northern end of Inle Lake.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* A flock of 20+ at Inle Lake.

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii* Seen along the Irrawaddy banks, and also on rivers near Saw.
Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* A single flew over at Inle Lake.
Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* Several seen in the Bagan area.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* A few along the river at Bagan, a single on a river near Mindat.



Pheasant-tailed Jacana

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* Good numbers on Inle Lake, some in full plumage and 'crowing'.
Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* A single juvenile seen at Hlawga.
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* A couple of distant birds along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.
Little Stint *Calidris minuta* A couple seen along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.
Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura* Three seen around the margins of Inle Lake
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Singles at Bagan and near Saw.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* A couple of distant birds along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.
Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea* A small number seen along the sandy shores of the Irrawaddy at Bagan.
Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* A small number only at Inle Lake.
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Just a couple seen on Inle Lake.
Rock Dove *Columba livia* Commonly available.
Ashy Wood Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis* A couple flew by on Mt Victoria, one perched up near Mindat.
Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* Three seen in the Kalaw area.
Burmese Collared Dove ♦ (Eurasian C D) *Streptopelia [decaocto] xanthocyclus* At Bagan See note.
Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Seen at Hlawga, then more around Kalaw.
Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* The default Dove, seen daily except in good montane forest.
Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall* A couple seen at mid elevations on Mt Victoria.
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus* Four seen at Hlawga.
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron apicauda* One seen perched high in a big tree at Yayayekan.
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenurus* One seen on Mt Victoria, eleven seen near Saw in atypical habitat.
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* (NL) Two seen near Saw.
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* Widespread sightings, 10+ on a river bed near Mindat, many at Inle Lake.
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* One at Hlawga, a couple more at Inle Lake.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis* Singles seen at Mt Victoria and Kalaw
Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* Often heard, seen in Yangon by the Shwedagon pagoda.
Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* Vocal and visible around Kalaw with several males seen.
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* A couple seen at Kalaw.
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* (H) Heard at Yayayekan.
Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* Often heard in the Chin Hills with two seen.
Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* (H) One heard at Bagan.
Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* One definite seen on Mt Victoria plus a couple of probables.
Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C) *Cuculus canorus* One seen on Mt Victoria, others heard. Just arrived!
Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* A couple of singles seen, one on Mt Victoria, another near Saw.
Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* Rather numerous at Bagan with at least ten in a day.
Hodgson's Frogmouth ♦ *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* A great view of a female on Mt Victoria. See note.



Hodgson's Frogmouth (photo by M. Holyoak)

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* (H) Heard singing near our hotel on Mt Victoria.
Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus* A reasonable view of one near our hotel at Bagan.
Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* Two seen in lowland forest near Saw.
Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris* Few over Mt Victoria, many over Kalaw.
Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* Common in the lowlands.
Cook's Swift ♦ *Apus cooki* In fairly good numbers in the Shan state localities.
House Swift *Apus nipalensis* Numerous around the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon.
Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* Fairly common in the dry lowland forests.
White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* Regularly encountered.
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Three along the banks of the Irrawaddy at Bagan.
Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* One seen near Saw, a pair in the forest at Yayayekan.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* Seen commonly in dry country around Bagan and westwards.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* Fairly regular in dry open country.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti* A single at Htay's house in Saw.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* A few seen along the way.



Asian Emerald Cuckoo

Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens* A couple of shy individuals on Mt Victoria.

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus* A couple in the dry lowland forests.

Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii* Several nice sightings on Mt Victoria, heard often there.

Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiaticus* (H) Heard on a few occasions, notably at Yayayekan.

Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon duvaucelii* (H) One heard at Yayayekan.

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus* Seen well in Yangon, odd singles seen elsewhere.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* A nice example seen in a dry field at Bagan.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus* A single in dry woodland near Saw.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* Quite common on Mt Victoria.

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker ♦ *Dendrocopos atratus* A male showed well on Mt Victoria.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* A male of the race *cabanisi* in pine woods near Kalaw. See note.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* (H) Heard a couple of times in the dry lowlands forests.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* At least one at Yayayekan, with a Pin-tailed Green Pigeon!

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* A brief view of one at Yayayekan, heard on Mt Victoria.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* A great look at one in dry forest near Saw.

White-rumped Falcon ♦ *Polihierax insignis* A male sat on a distant treetop in dry forest near Kazunma.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Some singles seen around Bagan and elsewhere.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* The briefest of looks of a calling bird on Mt Victoria.

Laggar Falcon ♦ *Falco jugger* Two sat high on a pagoda spire at Bagan were a welcome sight.

Grey-headed Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula finschii* Good looks at many in the lowland dry forests, particularly around Saw.

Blossom-headed Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula roseata* Some nice examples seen in the dry forests around Saw.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* A few seen in the Saw area.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* Some good views of these big fellows in the Saw area.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* Three seen at Bagan.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* A pair seen at some range near Mindat.

Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* A nice surprise to see this beauty at Yayayekan.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* Seen at Yayayekan.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* Two seen in the pine woods near Kalaw.

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* Regular sightings along our route.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* Notably common and all in breeding plumage, such as at Hlawga and around Bagan.

Jerdon's Minivet ♦ *Pericrocotus albifrons* The best birds make you sweat for them! Seven in a morning... See note.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* A pair in dry forest near Kazunma.

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* A couple of pairs in the evergreen forest on Mt Victoria.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* Regularly sightings on Mt Victoria, also in the pines at Kalaw.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* In good number around Kalaw, also seen near Saw.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Three in big trees at the Shwedagon pagoda.

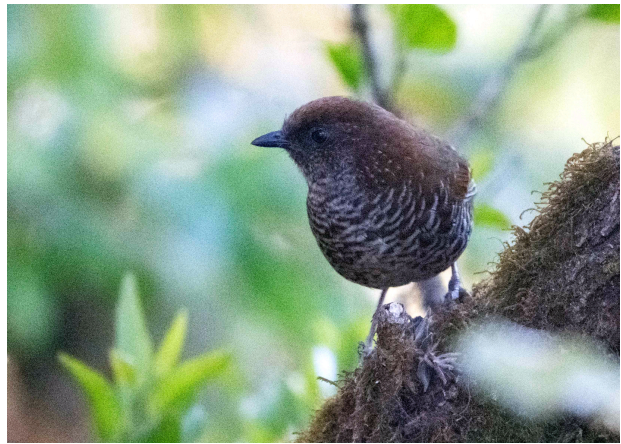
Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei* Five birds seen in lowland forest near Saw.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Lalage melaschistos* Seen at Hlawga and on a couple of days on Mt Victoria.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* A few scattered sightings along the way.



Burmese Shrike (photo by M. Holyoak)



Brown-capped Laughingthrush (photo by M. Holyoak)

Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurioides* A single at Bagan, numerous in the pine woods around Kalaw.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* Odd singles of the *tricolor* race, one nominate at Inle Lake.

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* A single seen at Yayayekan.

Black-headed Shrike-Babbler ♦ *Pteruthius rufiventer* At least three seen on our first morning on Mt Victoria.

Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* Seen on Mt Victoria and at Kalaw, heard more frequently.

Green Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* Seen on three days on Mt Victoria.

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* Good views of several of these pine specialists near Kalaw.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* In good number at Hlawga.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* Odd birds seen in the lowland dry forest.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* Heard on Mt Victoria, several seen at Yayayekan.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Commonly encountered in open country.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* Frequently encountered in forest.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* A few seen around Kalaw.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* One seen at Yayayekan.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* Regular sightings along our route.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* Just a couple of sightings in lowland dry forest.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* A couple seen on Mt Victoria, a couple at Kalaw.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* Just a single, in dry forest near Saw.

Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis* A male singing at Yayayekan.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Two seen in the pine woods near Kalaw. See note.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* Glimpses on Mt Victoria, a good show by one near Kalaw.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* (H) Heard near Saw and Kalaw.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* Not uncommon in the dry lowland forests.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* (H) Heard only on Mt Victoria and near Kalaw.

Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia* An impressive number (15+) at Hlawga.

Hooded Treepie ♦ *Crypsirina cucullata* After failing to find it at Bagan, we had a great look at Saw. See note.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* The endemic race *insolens* common in many places. See note.

Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus leuallantii* Frequent sightings.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus* Seen on three days on Mt Victoria.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* Two seen on our first afternoon on Mt Victoria.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* Five in one day in the Mt Victoria forests.

Black-bibbed Tit ♦ *Poecile hypermelaenus* Three individuals seen in pine on the upper reaches of Mt Victoria.

Japanese Tit *Parus minor* Several seen at Kalaw, even in the hotel garden.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* A single on Mt Victoria.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Machlolophus spilonotus* A single on Mt Victoria, two at Yayayekan

Burmese Bush Lark ♦ *Mirafra microptera* Numerous and showy around Bagan.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* Seen in fields along the Irrawaddy, and around grassy hill clearing near Mindat

Sand Lark ♦ *Alaudala raytal* Common along the shores of the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

Crested Finchbill ♦ *Spizixos canifrons* Remarkably common on Mt Victoria, also on the Mindat side and at Kalaw.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* Not uncommon in the montane evergreen forests on Mt Victoria.

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* Seen only at Hlawga.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* Seen at Hlawga and at couple of places in the dry lowland forest.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* Numerous at Hlawga, also in Shan state.

Brown-breasted Bulbul ♦ *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* Three seen near Kalaw.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* Frequent sightings throughout except in good forest.



Ayeyarwady Bulbul (photo by M. Holyoak)



Davison's Bulbul

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus [finlaysoni] davisoni* 'Davison's Bulbul', nice looks at three at Hlawga.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavesceus* Seen regularly in hill forest.

Ayeyarwady Bulbul (Irrawaddy B) *Pycnonotus blanfordi* Very common in the dry zone lowlands and Yangon.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii* Not uncommon at Yayayekan.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flava* A couple seen at Yayayekan.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* Only seen around Kalaw where they were quite numerous and vocal

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis* A few seen along the banks of the Irrawaddy.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* A few seen around Inle Lake.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Encountered typically near to water, with some of the rusty-bellied *tytleri* race at Inle.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Nice views by a bridge near Mindat, also a couple in Shan state.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* A good number seen over Mt Victoria.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* A few small flocks seen along our route.

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* Several seen near Kalaw were assumed to be this taxon.

Scaly-breasted Cupwing *Pnoepyga albiventer* A nice example seen in the forests above Mindat.

Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla* (H) Heard on Mt Victoria.

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliosus* (H) Heard in bamboo between Saw and Bagan.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus* Some good looks at one or two along a side trail on Mt Victoria.

Broad-billed Warbler ♦ *Tickellia hodgsoni* Rather sneaky, with a couple seen on two days on Mt Victoria.

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* At least one seen and others heard on Mt Victoria.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* A few seen in the high elevation bamboo on Mt Victoria.

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* (H) Heard on Mt Victoria and also near Mindat.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* Good views of two at Yayayekan.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata* One seen poorly, others heard, on Mt Victoria.

Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus* Several sightings on Mt Victoria, also at Yayayekan.

Burmese Bushtit ♦ *Aegithalos sharpei* Several birds seen well on two days on Mt Victoria.

Buff-barred Warbler (Orange-b Leaf W) *Phylloscopus pulcher* Numerous in the high forests on Mt Victoria.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* A small number seen on Mt Victoria.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* A small number noted at mid-elevations on Mt Victoria.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* Few about, seen at Yayayekan and heard elsewhere.

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii* Commonly encountered in the dry zone, a few on Mt Victoria.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Singles seen briefly near Saw and at Yayayekan.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* A few seen at Inle, also at Kalaw

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* (H) One heard on Mt Victoria.

Grey-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus tephrocephalus* Some nice examples seen well on Mt Victoria.

Whistler's Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus whistleri* A pair seen well in the high forests near Mindat.

Martens's Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus omeiensis* Heard on Mt Victoria, seen in the forest at Yayayekan.

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* Seen well at Hlawga, also at Yayayekan.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus castaniceps* A single seen on Mt Victoria at 'Frogmouth corner'.



Blyth's Leaf Warbler



Brown Bush Warbler

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* Frequent encounters on Mt Victoria, where they were vocal.

Davison's Leaf Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus intensior* Several seen well at Yayayekan.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* Odd birds seen on Mt Victoria.

Clamorous Reed Warbler (Indian R W) *Acrocephalus stentoreus* Quite obvious and noisy in the Inle swamps.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* Three seen in tall grass in the Inle swamps.

Blunt-winged Warbler ♦ *Acrocephalus concinens* A surprise to find one at Yayayekan, a good view in the bushes.

Thick-billed Warbler *Arundinax aedon* One seen at Hlawga, also noted at Yayayekan.

Brown Bush Warbler ♦ *Locustella luteoventris* Some great looks at some of these on Mt Victoria.

Spotted Bush Warbler ♦ *Locustella thoracica* A single skulker at Inle Lake.

Russet Bush Warbler *Locustella mandelli* One seen running on the ground in the scrub and grass on Mt Victoria.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* Several seen perching prominently and singling loudly at Inle and Kalaw.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* A few seen in fields along the banks of the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

Brown Prinia ♦ *Prinia polychroa* Vocal birds seen well at Bagan and Kalaw.

Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* A couple seen on Mt Victoria.

Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris* Three seen in the Kalaw area, split from the above species some time ago.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* seen well at Hlawga, also in the dry lowland forest.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii* Common in the Bagan area.
Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Not uncommon in the reedy swamps at Inle Lake.
Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* Odd birds seen along our route.
Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* Regular sightings in typical habitat.
Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis* Heard in the woods at Hlawga, seen at Yayayekan.
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys* (H) Heard near Kalaw.
Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler ♦ *Pomatorhinus maclellandi* (H) Frustratingly heard only, near Mindat.
White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* Several seen around Kalaw
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* Regular sightings in the forest on Mt Victoria.
Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler ♦ *Pomatorhinus superciliosus* An excellent sight of one near Mindat. See note.
Chin Hills Wren-Babbler ♦ *Spelaeornis oatesi* Some excellent views of these cuties on Mt Victoria. Heard Mindat.



Chin Hills Wren Babbler



Scaly-breasted Cupwing

Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* Seen in the forest at Yayayekan.
Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronus gularis* A number of these seen in lowland forest near Saw.
Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata* Good views at Hlawga, another at Yayayekan.
Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps* Two seen in the evergreen forest on Mt Victoria.
Rusty-capped Fulvetta ♦ *Alcippe dubia* Two seen fairly well on our first morning on Mt Victoria.
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala* Several showed well in woodland between Mindat and Saw.
Yunnan Fulvetta ♦ *Alcippe fratercula* (H) Heard at Yayayekan.
Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* (H) Heard at Hlawga.
Chinese Grassbird ♦ (C Grass-babbler) *Graminicola striatus* Great views of a confiding bird at Inle Lake.
Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps* Singles seen near Saw and at Yayayekan.
Striated Babbler ♦ *Turdoides earlei* (LO) A leader-only view along the Irrawaddy near Bagan.
White-throated Babbler ♦ *Turdoides gularis* Many of these endearing birds around Bagan, tame around our hotel.
Mount Victoria Babax ♦ *Babax woodi* Four seen well after much searching on Mt Victoria, one seen well near Mindat.
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* Two seen en route from Mindat to Saw.
White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* Multiple birds seen well around Kalaw.
Striped Laughingthrush ♦ *Trochalopteron virgatum* Seen very well in scrub on Mt Victoria, also near Mindat.
Brown-capped Laughingthrush ♦ *Trochalopteron austeni* Just a few on Mt Victoria, also seen near Mindat.
Assam Laughingthrush ♦ *Trochalopteron chrysopteron* Common by voice on Mt Victoria, several seen .
Silver-eared Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron melanostigma* A single bird seen at Yayayekan.
Blue-winged Minla (B-w Siva) *Minla cyanouroptera* Just two or three seen on Mt Victoria.
Bar-throated Minla (Chestnut-tailed M) *Minla strigula* Quite showy at higher elevations on Mt Victoria.
Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* A few seen on Mt Victoria in mixed feeding flocks.
Red-faced Liocichla ♦ (Crimson-faced L) *Liocichla phoenicea* Good views of three of these skulkers on Mt Victoria.
Rusty-fronted Barwing ♦ *Actinodura egertoni* Not uncommon on Mt Victoria.
Spectacled Barwing ♦ *Actinodura ramsayi* Some nice examples seen around Kalaw.
Streak-throated Barwing ♦ *Actinodura waldeni* Three or more seen at higher elevations on Mt Victoria.

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris* Quite showy at Yayayekan, also seen at Mindat
Grey Sibia ♦ *Heterophasia gracilis* Numerous in the higher forests on Mt Victoria, a couple seen on the Mindat side.
Dark-backed Sibia ♦ *Heterophasia melanoleuca* Good views of a pair at our picnic site at Yayayekan.
White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus* Not uncommon high up on Mt Victoria, also near Mindat. Race *ripponi*.
Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* Seen in dry country on three occasions.
Black-throated Parrotbill ♦ (Buff-breasted P) *Suthora [nipalensis] ripponi* Two flocks encountered. See note.
Spot-breasted Parrotbill ♦ *Paradoxornis guttaticollis* Two on Mt Victoria were rather brief, good views near Mindat
Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* Not uncommon on Mt Victoria, also seen near Mindat.
Burmese Yuhina ♦ *Yuhina humilis* Great views of a pair near Mindat, vocal and showy. A near-endemic.



Silver-eared Mesia

Burmese Yuhina

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* Seen at higher elevations on Mt Victoria and near Mindat.
Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* A small flock on Mt Victoria, also near Mindat.
Swinhoe's White-eye *Zosterops simplex* Four or more seen at Yayayekan. See note.
Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* At least a couple seen and heard singing at Yayayekan.
Spotted Elachura ♦ (S Wren-Babbler) *Elachura formosa* One furtive bird seen on Mt Victoria. Heard near Mindat.
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* Not uncommon on Mt Victoria.
Burmese Nuthatch ♦ (Neglected N) *Sitta neglecta* The fifth Sitta species of the tour, one seen near Kazunma.
White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* At least three seen on Mt Victoria.
White-browed Nuthatch ♦ *Sitta victoriae* The star endemic, we saw several at high elevation on Mt Victoria.
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* A pair in dry forest near Saw, another two at Yayayekan.
Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana* Several in the higher elevation pine on Mt Victoria, a nest found also.
Hume's Treecreeper *Certhia manipurensis* Not uncommon in the evergreen forest on Mt Victoria, and quite vocal.
Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* (LO) A leader only sighting near Saw.
Great Myna (White-vented M) *Acridotheres grandis* Numerous around Inle and Kalaw.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* Common around Bagan and Yangon.

Collared Myna ♦ *Acridotheres albocinctus* A remarkable count of 34 birds gathering to roost at Inle Lake.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Common in lowland and open habitats.

Vinous-breasted Starling ♦ *Acridotheres burmannicus* In good numbers in the lowlands and around Bagan.

Black-collared Starling ♦ *Gracupica nigricollis* Numerous and noisy around Kalaw, many seen gathering to roost.

Pied Myna (Asian P Starling) *Gracupica contra* Six or so seen at Inle Lake.

Daurian Starling (Purple-backed S) *Sturnus sturninus* A single at Hlawga, a surprise find and a write-in.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica* A small number seen around Kalaw.

Black-breasted Thrush ♦ *Turdus dissimilis* A male singing from a pine at Kalaw.

Grey-sided Thrush ♦ *Turdus feae* A dozen lurking in big evergreen trees on Mt Victoria.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* At least one identified with the flock of the above on Mt Victoria.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis* A few seen along our way in typical habitats.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* Three seen at Yayayekan, also heard at Hlawga.

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* Regular sightings in the hill forests. A summer visitor.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* One seen at Hlawga.

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas* At least three seen at Yayayekan.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* A couple of males seen in the evergreen forest on Mt Victoria.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* (H) Heard in the evergreen forest on Mt Victoria.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus* Regular sightings in the hill forests.



Black-collared Starling (photo by M. Holyoak)

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Three or more seen at Inle Lake.

Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* Two seen at Hlawga, another female seen at Bagan.

Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* Not uncommon at higher elevations on Mt Victoria.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii* A single female seen on Mt Victoria.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiate* Frequent sightings on Mt Victoria and in the forests near Mindat.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* A small number of these winter visitors seen along our way.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* A few seen in the forests on Mt Victoria.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* Quite numerous if skulky on Mt Victoria.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* A few of these handsome fellows still lingering on Mt Victoria.

White-capped Redstart (W-c Water-r) *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* (H) Heard at Yayayekan.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* Several seen on Mt Victoria, also near Mindat.

Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* Two or three birds in Shan state were likely to be this species.

White-tailed Stonechat ♦ ***Saxicola leucurus*** At least six of these bright fellows along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Regular sightings in open country

Jerdon's Bush Chat ♦ ***Saxicola jerdoni*** A speciality of Inle Lake, we saw many on both days there.

Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus* Fairly numerous around 'forest edge'.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* Seen on three days, in the dry lowland forests.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* Numerous and vocal at Yayayekan.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* Odd birds seen on Mt Victoria and at Yayayekan.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* Several seen at Hlawga, another at Bagan.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis* Good views of a pair at Hlawga.

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus* A few seen in the dry lowland forests.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* A few seen in the Yangon area.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* Multiples seen on Mt Victoria and near Mindat.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* At least three seen at Yayayekan.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* A single seen in dry woodland near Saw.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* Common at higher elevations on Mt Victoria, busy at flowering bushes.



Fire-tailed Sunbird

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra* Another write-in from Hlawga, a single seen there.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* A single seen at Yayayekan.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Frequently encountered.

Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus* Numerous at Bagan and in the dry lowlands.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Numerous in the Yangon area.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* A group of 30 in crops near Bagan.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* A flock seen at Hlawga.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Seen at Bagan and also at Inle lake

Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi* Seen along the Irrawaddy at Bagan and at Inle

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* A single on the river at Bagan.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* A few seen around Mindat

White Wagtail (Baikal W) *Motacilla [alba] baicalensis* A couple of singles seen.

White Wagtail (Amur W) *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis* One in fields near Kazunma.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* Four seen coming out of the fields along the Irrawaddy at Bagan.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* Some singles seen along our route.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Seen quite commonly in the hill forests.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* A couple of calling birds seen flying over at Inle Lake.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* A couple at Bagan, and dozens flying over at dusk at Inle Lake.

Spot-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas melanozanthos* A nice male showed well in pines on Mt Victoria.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* A few seen on Mt Victoria.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Chloris spinoides* A trio seen in pines on Mt Victoria.

Black-headed Greenfinch ♦ *Chloris ambigua* Several seen in the pines around Kalaw, mostly flying over...

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* A group of three seen on Mt Victoria.



Jerdon's Bushchat



Collared Myna



Wire-tailed Swallow

MAMMALS

Rhesus Monkey *Macaca mulatta* Hmm... many at Hlawga.

Western Hoolock Gibbon *Hoolock hoolock* (H) Heard on Mt Victoria.

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus* Some on Mt Victoria thought to be this species.

Finlayson's Squirrel (Variable S) *Callosciurus finlaysonii* A couple of bright russet animals at Yayayekan.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus* Most commonly seen, especially in the lowlands.

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamias maclellandii* A few seen on Mt Victoria.

Hog Deer *Axis porcinus* Some tame ones at Hlawga.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Burmese Collared Dove ♦ (Eurasian C D) *Streptopelia [decaocto] xanthocyclus* Several seen around Bagan, they are not split yet by IOC but they show clear differences to Eurasian Collared Dove with the big yellow eyering and rather darker plumage.

Hodgson's Frogmouth ♦ *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* Its very helpful if they are awake and calling in the daytime! As one of the older stakeouts on Mt. Victoria had suffered 'habitat modification', I was happy to find a new place where we got a good view of a female.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* An unusual sight to see such a familiar (to European birders at least) species here, perhaps the southernmost tip of its range. We saw a male of the race *cabanisi*, which some propose as splitting off as Chinese Pied Woodpecker *D. cabanisi*.

Jerdon's Minivet ♦ *Pericrocotus albifrons* The prize is always so much sweeter when there is a bit of effort and stress involved! Seven in a morning, with six together was unprecedented. It also more or less conformed to the theory of 'the bird is always in the car park'.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* HBW fancies this as a split - White-faced Jay, *G. leucotis*.

Hooded Treepie ♦ *Crypsirina cucullata* Having failed to find it at more traditional sites, we were assured by Htay that we would find it near his village, however I did not expect that we would be treated to potential ringside seat at his mother's house. A great view eventually, and very pleasing. A very pleasant way to do it, and an insight into rural village life in Burma.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* The endemic race *insolens* apart from its appearance has a different call, which I liken to the 'Screamapillar', in series 13 of The Simpsons, 'The Frying Game' episode number 290.

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler ♦ *Pomatorhinus superciliosus* As the bamboo habitat on Mt Victoria may no longer hold this species, it seems easier to find on the Mindat to Matupi road. We had an excellent view, and actually it was a lifer for Htay.

Black-throated Parrotbill ♦ (Buff-breasted P) *Suthora [nipalensis] ripponi* We were lucky enough to find two flocks, one of my favourite birds and so cute. The Black-throated Parrotbill is sometimes split, this *riponii* taxon being named 'Buff-breasted Parrotbill'.

Swinhoe's White-eye *Zosterops simplex* What was Japanese White-eye has been recently split, with the original Japanese White-eye one being called Warbling White-eye, and this one being split off as Swinhoe's or Chinese White-eye.



Chinese Grassbird



Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon



Burmese Collared Dove (photo by M. Holyoak)



Clamorous Reed Warbler

