



Blue-rumped Pitta (Craig Robson)

VIETNAM

7 – 28/31 MARCH 2018

LEADER CRAIG ROBSON

2018 brought the most comprehensive itinerary since our first pioneering tour here in 1991, and one thing is for sure, we see a hell of a lot more these days. In the lowlands of Cochinchina, at Cat Tien National Park, we enjoyed such mouth-watering specialities as Orange-necked Partridge, Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Green Peafowl, Blyth's Frogmouth, Blue-rumped and Bar-bellied Pittas, and Grey-faced Tit-Babbler. Our exploration of the Southern Highlands was rewarded with the likes of Hodgson's Frogmouth, Indochinese Green Magpie, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Dalat Bush Warbler, Orange-breasted, Collared, Black-hooded and White-cheeked Laughingthrushes, Vietnamese Cutia, Grey-crowned Crocias, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Black-headed Parrotbill, Vietnamese Greenfinch, and 'Vietnamese' Crossbill. The relatively little known and

unexplored Central Highlands are now an integral part of the tour. Specialities here included three relatively recently discovered endemics/near-endemics: Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush, the highly localized Golden-winged Laughingthrush, and Black-crowned Barwing, as well as the slightly more widespread Indochinese Fulvetta. We also observed a whole host of little-known local forms and potential splits, and some beauties like Golden-breasted Fulvetta and Red-tailed Laughingthrush. A range of other interesting sites in Central Annam produced White-winged Magpie, 'Annam Sultan Tit' (the black-crested form), Limestone Leaf Warbler, Sooty Babbler, Short-tailed Scimitar (or Indochinese Wren-) Babbler, and Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush. Further north, at Cuc Phuong and Tam Dao National Park's in East Tonkin, we added Malayan Night Heron, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Pied Falconet, Limestone Wren-Babbler, Grey Laughingthrush, and Short-tailed Parrotbill. As if that were not enough, we extended the tour to the Hoang Lien Son Mountains in northern West Tonkin, and lofty Fansipan. Here we enjoyed Pale-throated and Bar-winged Wren-Babblers, and 'Tonkin Fulvetta' (a local form currently lumped in White-browed), amongst a wide-range of mouth-watering Sino-Himalayan species, such as Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler.

It was also a great tour for mammals. We were lucky enough to find a Grey-shanked Douc Langur, thought to be reduced to as few as 550-700 individuals, and we also enjoyed Black-shanked Douc Langur, Red (or Buff-) cheeked Gibbon, Delacour's and Hatinh Langurs, Malayan Porcupine, and Sunda Pangolin.



A confiding Germain's Peacock-Pheasant (Craig Robson)

After leaving the airport in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), our first port-of-call was Cat Tien National Park. This is probably the best protected reserve in Vietnam, and it certainly shows these days, with markedly increasing and healthy populations of a number of birds and mammals that have sharply declined elsewhere. A lot of our time was spent along the forest edge, exploring small clearings and shady tracks, as well as extensive areas of bamboo. Green-legged (or Scaly-breasted) Partridge, Siamese Fireback, Green Peafowl, Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, and both Blue-rumped and Bar-bellied Pittas were all found without too much difficulty, while surprises included a reactive pair of rare Orange-necked Partridges. We also enjoyed the full range of South-East Asian classics, such as Orange-breasted Trogon, Banded Kingfisher, Blue-bearded Bee-eater,

Dusky and Black-and-red Broadbills, a wide range of woodpeckers, including Pale-headed, Heart-spotted, and White-bellied, and good numbers of Golden-crested Myna. With increasing temperatures, scarce large waterbirds thermalled-up into view, and we spotted Oriental Darter, Lesser Adjutant and Woolly-necked Stork. As dusk fell huge Great Eared Nightjars emerged from their day-roosts to head out across the Dong Nai River and Large-tailed Nightjars skimmed overhead. Brown Boobook and many Asian Barred Owlet showed easily as usual, and we also managed to see Collared Scops Owl and a Blyth's Frogmouth this year. Working more open areas, we found impressive flocks of Ashy-headed Green Pigeons, as well as Vinous-breasted Starling and Indochinese Bush Lark. Other good birds included Grey-faced Tit-Babbler and the cracking little Van Hasselt's Sunbird, while our mammal list got off to a great start with the likes of Red- (or Buff-) cheeked Gibbon, Black-shanked Douc Langur, Malayan Porcupine, and an incredible Sunda Pangolin which was literally covered in ants.



The lovely Collared Laughingthrush (Craig Robson)

From Cat Tien, we had a relatively easy drive to our hotel at Di Linh, pausing to sample some of the region's finest coffee en route. Based at this small town, we had the best part of two days to get to grips with the rich birdlife of the excellent forested pass referred to as Deo Nui San, along the Phan Thiet road. When we first visited this site in 1991, the road was but a dirt track, and the logistics of reaching it were a bit of a nightmare. Things could hardly be different now, with easy and quick access; though the forest has been pushed back from the roadsides. There were many specialities for us to chase here. Two regionally endemic laughingthrushes, Orange-breasted and White-cheeked both showed nicely, and we had some good views of a smart Green Cochoa. Gaudy Indochinese Green Magpies were vocal enough but typically hard to get onto, while Grey-crowned Bushtit (a split from Black-throated), Red-billed Scimitar Babbler and Black-headed Parrotbill were more obliging. Inside the forest, we saw both Vietnamese forms of Orange-headed Thrush, as well as a wintering White-throated Rock Thrush. A Collared Owlet was well appreciated through the scope. At dusk a couple of Grey Nightjars patrolled the pass and once dark, we succeeded in getting superb views of Hodgson's Frogmouth.

Moving on to Da Lat, we began our exploration of the higher levels of the Southern Highlands. In part of the huge Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park, we were taken to some excellent areas of forest where we enjoyed

stunning views of the endemic Collared Laughingthrush, while several other tricky species showed really well, such as Pygmy Cupwing (or Wren-Babbler), 'Dalat Niltava' (a potential split from Large), and White-tailed Robin. A nearby trail brought Black-crowned Fulvetta, Vietnamese Cutia, the local form of White-spectacled Warbler (a future split) and 'Annam Sunbird' (the local form of Mrs Gould's). Pygmy Flycatcher was a welcome range extension and write-in. Stands of pines brought our first Vietnamese Greenfinches and the amazing huge local form of Red Crossbill.

Ta Nung Valley came up trumps as usual with some typically vocal and easy to see Grey-crowned Crocias, and we also found Rufous-backed Sibia, 'White-spectacled Sibia' (the local form of Black-headed), and 'Langbian Sunbird' (the local form of Black-throated).

Forests surrounding Ho Tuyen Lam brought our first Necklaced Barbet (split from Golden-throated), a nice male Slender-billed Oriole, more Grey-crowned Crocias, fleeting Black-hooded Laughingthrushes, and a 'Langbian Lesser Shortwing' (yet another potential split). Nearby, we enjoyed brilliant views of the skulking Dalat Bush Warbler (recently split from Russet).

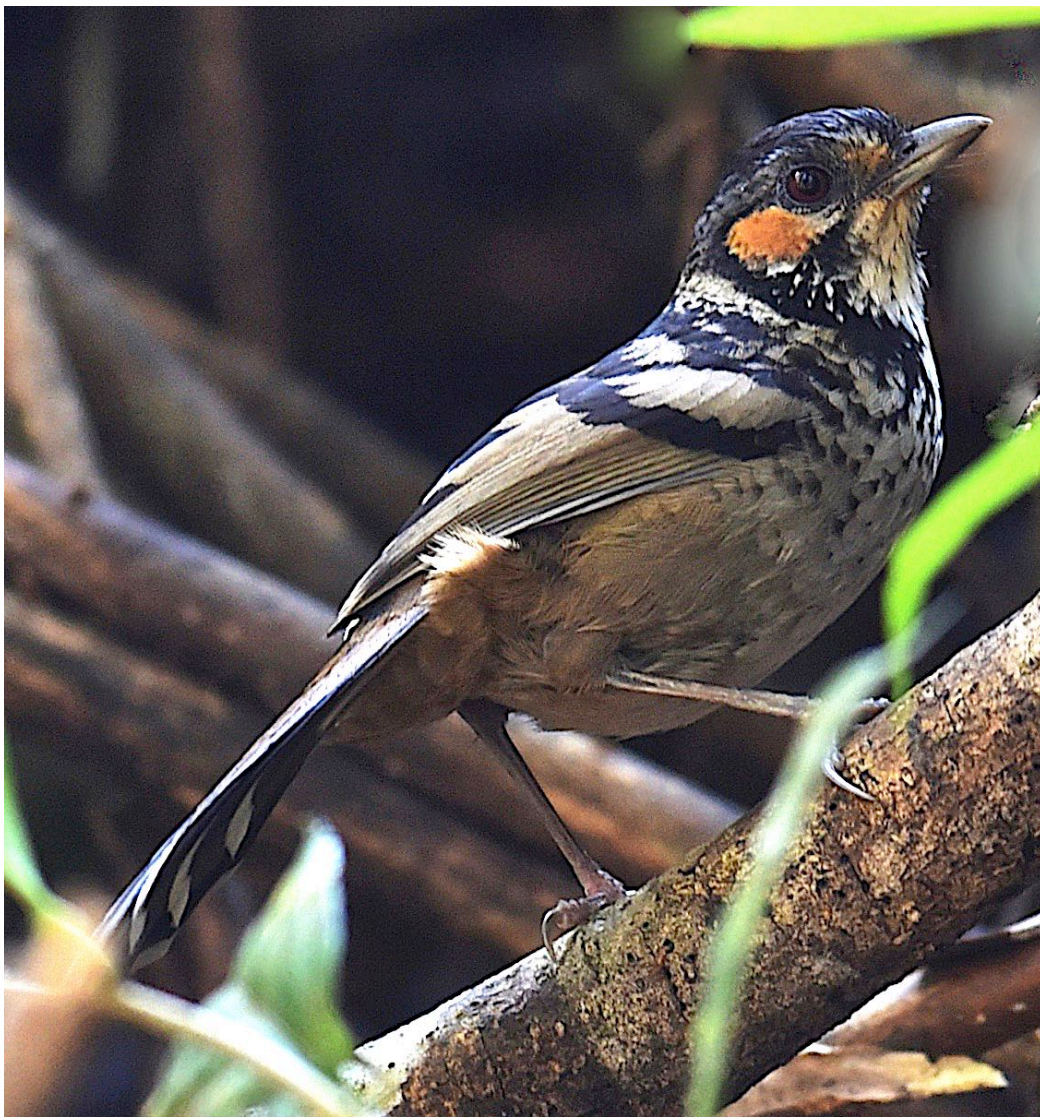


Grey-crowned Crocias (Craig Robson)

Leaving Da Lat predawn, we headed north into Dak Lak Province, with a couple of stops en route. First, a forest trail near a pass produced our first Short-tailed Scimitar (or Indochinese Wren-) Babbler, and our only

Bar-backed Partridges of the trip. At Lak Lake, we enjoyed a nice range of waterbirds, including an unexpected Northern Pintail, and White-browed Crake. Continuing on through Gia Lai Province to Kon Tum, we arrived at our upland destination of Mang Den in the early evening.

We had a full day and a morning to explore the Mang Canh area near Mang Den, birding along narrow paved and rough logging roads. The main draw here is the near-endemic Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush, which was only discovered in the 1990s. They were rather quiet again this year, but after some hard work and creativity, we ended up getting some really good views of two different individuals. Black-hooded Laughingthrush was quite common and performed much better than in the Southern Highlands. There were more Yellow-billed Nuthatches, some cracking little Rufous-faced Warblers, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, and our only Spot-throated Babbler of the tour. Apart from the birds, we were very lucky to stumble across a Grey-shanked Douc Langur, one of the rarest primates in the world and by far the rarest of the three douc species. It was sitting quietly right next to the road but soon slipped away, and we could not re-locate it.



One of our Chestnut-eared Laughingthrushes at Mang Canh (Quang Hao Nguyen)

Moving on again, we headed further north to Tu Mo Rong, just a stone's-throw away from the highest peak in the Central Highlands, Ngoc Linh. A wetland area en route, produced several scarce Wire-tailed Swallows. Based at a small hotel, we had an afternoon and a morning to explore the lower slopes of Ngoc Linh, via a narrow forest trail. Our main target was the rare and only recently discovered Golden-winged Laughingthrush, which is only known from this mountain massif. Fortunately, being naturally rather vocal, it wasn't too hard to find, and several birds eventually showed very well. Another important bird was the highly

montane-localized Indochinese Fulvetta, which we encountered at very close range on several occasions. The near-endemic Black-crowned Barwing, which we used to see at a site further north, was commoner and easy to find here as well. 'Brown-backed Sibia' (the local and potentially splittable form of Black-headed) also showed very well, as did a superb pair of Red-tailed Laughingthrushes, our first Rusty-capped Fulvetta, two superb 'Annam' Golden-breasted Fulvettas, and the unique, largely blackish-throated *uthaii* form of Stripe-throated Yuhina. A number of Ashy Wood Pigeons were well south of their documented range.



Black-crowned Barwing (Craig Robson)

After our final morning at Ngoc Linh, we headed for the coast at Lang Co. In the hotel grounds on the next morning, we added Ashy Minivet, Light-vented Bulbul, both forms of Sooty-headed Bulbul in a mixed pair, Chinese Blackbird, and Grey-capped Greenfinch.

A relatively short drive found us at Bach Ma National Park, where we began our birding along the cultivated outskirts. We followed a small flock of Masked Laughingthrushes through some Eucalyptus plantations and were also fortunate to find a lovely male Narcissus Flycatcher. Winding our way up through the attractive forests, we arrived at our well-situated accommodation. During the afternoon, we enjoyed black crested 'Annam' Sultan Tits, more views of Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, lots of Indochinese Yuhinas, and our only Red-flanked Bluetail. The well-marked *annamensis* form of Silver Pheasant also showed nicely, thanks to some smart work by our local guide, Quang.

The next stage of our Vietnamese adventure took us close to the Lao border once more, to some extensive areas of relatively undisturbed and really quite beautiful broadleaved evergreen forest in the vicinity of Deo

Sa Mu, in search of the seldom seen Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush - not so far from where Craig had rediscovered this form during his first expedition to Vietnam in 1988, and before he split it from Grey Laughingthrush in his South-East Asia field guide. The laughingthrushes themselves were not uncommon and we managed to get some good views right next to the road, despite their rather fleeting nature. There were many other good birds on show, including Jerdon's Baza, Moustached Barbet, a large group of White-winged Magpies, Alström's Warbler, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, and Silver-eared Mesia.

We continued north, and arrived at our hotel adjacent to Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park with plenty of time remaining for afternoon birding. Following a network of narrow roads through rugged forested limestone hills, during the afternoon and following day, we soon located most of our target species. Sooty Babbler and Limestone Leaf Warbler both showed very nicely, while our only flock of scarce Austen's Brown Hornbills were somewhat more distant. Asian Emerald Cuckoo was watched hunting caterpillars around some small trees, and we also enjoyed flocks of Cook's Swifts and the superb Silver-breasted Broadbill. There were also good numbers of rare Hatinh Langurs this year.



Always a crowd-pleaser; Silver-breasted Broadbill (Craig Robson)

From Phong Nha, we drove to Cuc Phuong National Park, stopping en route at Van Long Nature Reserve. Good weather conditions this year enabled us to easily scan the limestone crags for Delacour's Langurs, and we soon found several, including two small orangey-brown youngsters. With a World population thought to be in the region of just 250 individuals, it is always a joy to see this beautiful animal. Birds were a bit thin on the ground, but included Black-backed Swampphen, White-browed Crake, and Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

We had a full day and an early morning to explore Cuc Phuong, dividing our time between the Bong area, deep in the heart of the park, and open areas amidst wooded hills near the headquarters. The weather remained fine, enabling us to connect with a string of highlights, A superb Malayan Night Heron posed right in front of our vehicle, there were several neat Pied Falconets, another visible Collared Owlet, Rufous-throated Fulvetta, Limestone Wren-Babbler, Large Scimitar Babbler, White-tailed Flycatcher, Japanese

Thrush and Fork-tailed Sunbird to name but a few. However, the main highlight was probably the drumming male Red-collared Woodpecker that we managed to get multiple views of along one of the forest trails. A number of calling Slaty-legged Crakes were heard but proved a bit too elusive.



Pale-throated Wren-Babbler (Craig Robson)

We had a day and a bit to give Tam Dao National Park our best shot, and the weather was kind to us again. Most of the main targets showed very well, and we enjoyed good views of Chestnut Bulbul, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Grey Laughingthrush, David's Fulvettas, Collared Babbler, Black-chinned Yuhina, multiple close-ups of excellent little Short-tailed Parrotbills, and a stationary White-gorgeted Flycatcher. We finally caught up with Ratchet-tailed Treepie, which had evaded us up until now, and Quang spotted us a female Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, which was a most unexpected write-in.

Our final destination of the tour was Sapa in northern West Tonkin, nestled below Mount Fansipan, the highest peak in the Hoang Lien Son range. We had to dodge some pretty rank weather in search of our targets, and I think we can count ourselves as very fortunate in the end. The near-endemic Pale-throated Wren-Babbler was tracked-down without too much difficulty or uphill walking, at an easily accessible location. Nearby, we found a good range of Sino-Himalayan species, including Short-billed Minivet, White-tailed Nuthatch, Black-faced Warbler, White-collared Yuhina, Sapphire and Brown-breasted Flycatchers, Little Forktail, and Green-tailed Sunbird. A day trip via the incredible cable-car to the summit station, the longest of its kind in the world, was quite breathtaking and the weather remained fine for us all day. With stunning views and scenery, we were able to enjoy some really good birds, like the little 'Tonkin Fulvetta' (a potential split from White-browed), Bar-winged Wren-Babbler, and Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, as well as the likes of Scaly-breasted Cupwing (or Wren-Babbler), Chestnut-headed Tesia, Black-faced

Laughingthrush, White-browed Bush Robin, and Blue-fronted Redstart. On the outskirts of Sapa town, Ham Rong Gardens kept us busy with a whole range of interesting species, including Rosy Minivet, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Sulphur-breasted Warbler, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, White-browed Laughingthrush, both Vinous-throated and Ashy-throated Parrotbills, Hill Blue Flycatcher, and Black-headed Greenfinch.



'Tonkin Fulvetta' was common high up on Fansipan (Craig Robson)



Trail to the summit of Mount Fansipan (Craig Robson)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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).

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Ian spotted an unexpected male at Lak Lake.

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* (H)

Bar-backed Partridge *Arborophila brunneopectus* Heard a number of times but only seen at Deo Phi Lieng.

Orange-necked Partridge *Arborophila davidi* Two came in at Cat Tien National Park; a tough bird to see normally.

Green-legged Partridge (Scaly-breasted P) *Arborophila chloropus* A few sightings at Cat Tien NP.

Green-legged Partridge (Tonkin P) *Arborophila [chloropus] tonkinensis* (H) Distant at Cuc Phuong National Park.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* Quang found us a nice pair of *annamensis* at Bach Ma National Park.

Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi* Two by the track at Cat Tien, whilst searching for Green Peafowl.



A lovely male annamensis Silver Pheasant at Bach Ma NP (Quang Hao Nguyen)

Germain's Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron germaini* Several seen very well at Cat Tien.

Grey Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* (H) Distant at Tam Dao National Park.

Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* Easily seen in the grassland area at Cat Tien NP; 10+.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* Three at Cat Tien NP.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* Three at Cat Tien NP.
 Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*
 Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
 Malayan Night Heron (Malaysian N H) *Gorsachius melanolophus* Superb views of one on the road at Cuc Phuong.
 Striated Heron (Little H) *Butorides striata*
 Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*
 Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
 Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
 Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta*
 Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*
 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
 Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger* 10 at Ho Dankia near Dalat, and one at Lak Lake.
 Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* Three at Cat Tien.
 Western Osprey (Osprey) *Pandion haliaetus*
 Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
 Crested Honey Buzzard (Eastern H B, Oriental H B) *Pernis [ptilorhynchus] orientalis* Certainly 1 at Tam Dao NP.
 Crested Honey Buzzard (Indomalayan H B) *P. ptilorhynchus* 1 at Cat Tien NP. 3 at Bach Ma this or previous form.
 Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* Just a single at Deo Sa Mu.
 Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
 Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus [cirrhatus] limnaeetus* Occasional sightings in the south.
 Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* Two in the Mang Den-Mang Canh area.
 Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* An adult and juvenile at Cat Tien NP.
 Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
 Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
 Shikra *Accipiter badius*
 Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* One over the summit ridges at Fansipan.
 Black Kite *Milvus lineatus* Singles at Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and en route to Cuc Phuong NP.
 White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* A juvenile at Cat Tien NP.
 Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*
 Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides* (H) One vocalizing at Phong Nha-Ke Bang, and three at Cuc Phuong NP.
 White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
 White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* One seen at Lak Lake; heard at Van Long Marsh.
 Black-backed Swampphen *Porphyrio indicus* Several at Van Long Marsh.
 Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
 Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
 Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 25+ at Van Long Marsh.
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
 Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* Nine in dry fields at Cat Tien NP.
 Rock Dove (R Pigeon, Feral P) (feral) *Columba livia*
 Ashy Wood Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis* Five at Ngoc Linh. Apparently un-recorded from Central Annam.
 Red Turtle Dove (R Collared D) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
 Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
 Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*
 Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
 Zebra Dove (Peaceful D) *Geopelia striata* Small numbers in the south. A recent colonist.
 Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus* Five at Cat Tien NP.
 Ashy-headed Green Pigeon *Treron phayrei* Around 100 at Cat Tien.
 Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
 Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenurus* A couple in the south.
 Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* 24 logged at Cat Tien; relatively low numbers.
 Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*
 Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
 Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Green-billed Malkoha *Rhopodytes tristis*

Asian Koel (Common K) *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* Three or four at Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* Many seen well at Cat Tien NP.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* A couple showed in the south.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* Occasional sightings; many heard.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* Heard widely then seen at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* Singles seen at Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park and at Mang Canh.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* One seen at Ho Tuyen Lam.

Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* One seen and a couple heard at Fansipan.

Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C) *Cuculus canorus* (H) One en route from Deo Sa Mu to Phong Nha-Ke Bang.



Asian Emerald Cuckoo (Craig Robson)

Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* (H)

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* Widely heard; seen once at Cat Tien NP.

Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl *Bubo nipalensis* (H) Just the once at Cat Tien NP, but un-responsive.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* (H) One called briefly at Deo Nui San.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* Great views of calling birds at Deo Nui San and Cuc Phuong NP.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* Seen at Cat Tien (rusty-streaked *deignani*) & Love Waterfall, Fansipan.

Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata* Several seen easily at Cat Tien NP.



Collared Owlet (Craig Robson)

Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* Nice views of a female at Deo Nui San; three others heard there.

Blyth's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus affinis* A male seen and a female heard at Cat Tien NP.

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis* This huge harrier-like nightjar was easily seen at dusk at Cat Tien.

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* A pair at Deo Nui San and one near Ngoc Linh.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* Several seen easily at Cat Tien NP.

Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani*

Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* Just one from the Love Waterfall Trail, Fansipan.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* A single migrant noted at Fansipan. Probably more present.

Cook's Swift *Apus cooki* A common resident at Phong Nha-Ke Bang & Fansipan (noted breeding at latter).

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* Seen well at Cat Tien (three).

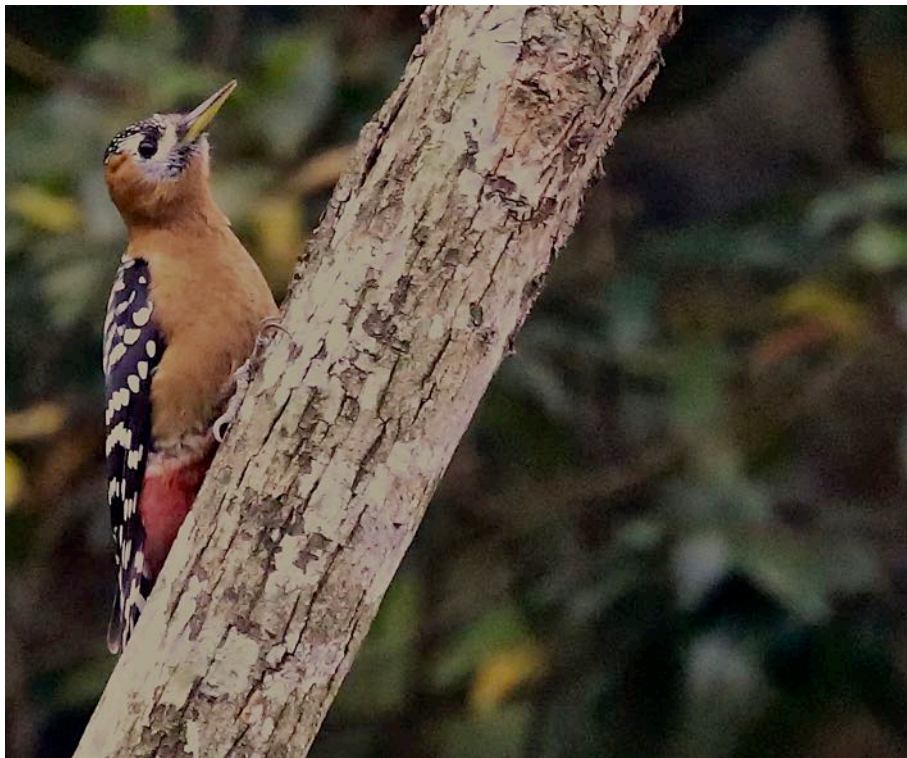
Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* Three seen at Cat Tien NP; others heard.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*
Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*
Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Several at Cat Tien NP.
Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* A couple of habituated birds at Cat Tien were the only ones noted.
Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthraceroceros albirostris*
Austen's Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus austeni* Three rather distant birds at Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP.
Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens* (H) One calling along the Love Waterfall Trail, Fansipan.
Red-vented Barbet *Psilopogon lagrandieri* A number of good sightings of this regional endemic.
Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineata*
Green-eared Barbet *Psilopogon faiostricta* Plenty of these regional endemics.
Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii* (H) A few distant birds at Tam Dao (*franklinii*).
Necklaced Barbet *Psilopogon auricularis* Small numbers in S & C Vietnam. Split from the previous species.
Indochinese Barbet (Annam B) *Psilopogon annamensis* Common in the Southern and Central Highlands.
Moustached Barbet *Psilopogon incognita* One scoped at Deo Sa Mu.
Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon [australis] cyanotis* Many authorities now split off Sundaic island forms.
Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephala*



Rufous-bellied Woodpecker at Tam Dao (Craig Robson)

Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente* Six at Cat Tien NP.
Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *D. hyperythrus* Quang spotted 1 at Tam Dao; a surprise write-in. Wintering *subrufinus*.
Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus* A couple at Ngoc Linh.
White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* A fine male at Cat Tien.
Greater Yellownape *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*
Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*
Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*

Red-collared Woodpecker *Picus rabieri* Great to see a male of this very secretive near-endemic at Cuc Phuong NP.
Grey-headed Woodpecker (Black-naped W) *Picus [canus] guerini* One at Cat Tien NP. See Notes.
Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense* A pair at Cat Tien.
Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*



Black-and-red Broadbill at Cat Tien NP (Craig Robson)

Pale-headed Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia* One showed surprisingly well from a hide at Cat Tien NP.
Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* (H)
Black-and-buff Woodpecker *Meiglyptes jugularis* (H) Just once briefly at Cat Tien.
Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucos* Three at Cuc Phuong NP.
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*
Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos* Small numbers of this beauty at Cat Tien.
Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* Scattered sightings this year.
Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* One showed very well at Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP.
Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus* Four were highly responsive at Cat Tien NP.
Blue-rumped Pitta *Hydrornis soror* Ridiculously good views of four at Cat Tien.
Blue Pitta *Hydrornis cyaneus* (H) We were very unlucky not to see it this year.
Bar-bellied Pitta *Hydrornis elliotii* Brilliant views of a pair at Cat Tien NP.
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*
Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*
Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayeii* Widespread in the lowlands. Another regional endemic that just gets into SW China.
Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*
Indochinese Cuckooshrike *Coracina polioptera* Good numbers in the south. A further regional endemic.
Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*
Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus* A pair in Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa. Probably breeding there.
Swinhoe's Minivet (Brown-rumped M) *Pericrocotus cantonensis* Scattered sightings.
Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Three at Lang Co Beach Resort.
Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* Southern & Central Highlands (*deignani*); Tam Dao (*griseogularis*).

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* Several *annamensis* in the Southern Highlands.
 Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* Small numbers in the Central Highlands and at Fansipan.
 Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*
 Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
 Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurioides* A few endemic *nigricapillus* in the south.
 Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
 White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*
 Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* Central highlands (ssp.?); Tam Dao (*ricketti*). A vireo not a babbler.
 Dalat Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* A couple in the Southern Highlands. See note for this and last species.
 Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* A single female at Ngoc Linh.
 Clicking Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius intermedius* A couple in the Southern and Central Highlands.
 Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* A nice male at Tuyen Lam.
 Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
 Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
 Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*
 Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
 Ashy Drongo *D. leucophaeus*
 Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
 Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*
 Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
 White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
 Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
 Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis* Quite a few scattered sightings.
 Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* Two at Tam Dao.
 White-winged Magpie *Urocissa whiteheadi* 13 noted en route to Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP and another three there.
 Common Green Magpie (Yellow-crowned G M) *Cissa [chinensis] margaritae* One at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP.
 Indochinese Green Magpie *Cissa hypoleuca* Two nominate race birds at Deo Nui San.
 Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*
 Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus* Two last-minute birds at Tam Dao.
 Large-billed Crow (Southern Jungle C) *Corvus macrorhynchos*
 Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* Now placed in the Stenostiridae. Not a flycatcher.
 Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* One at Ngoc Linh and several at Fansipan.
 Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* Widespread.
 Sultan Tit (Annam S T) *Melanochlora [sultanea] gayeti* Two of the black crested form at Bach Ma NP.
 Japanese Tit *Parus minor* Small numbers of *commixtus* south as far as Lang Co Beach Resort.
 Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* 7 *legendrei* in the S Highlands. Heard at Phong Nha-Ke Bang (*yunnanensis*?).
 Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* A few in the Central Highlands (*basileus*), and Fansipan (*rex*).
 Indochinese Bush Lark (I Bushlark) *Mirafraga erythrocephala* Three in open fields at Cat Tien. Regional endemic.
 Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*
 Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris*
 Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
 Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* Not uncommon around Sapa and Fansipan.
 Light-vented Bulbul (Chinese B) *Pycnonotus sinensis* Two *hainanus* at Lang Co Beach Resort.
 Sooty-headed Bulbul (Northern S-h B) *P. [aurigaster] chrysorrhoides* Centre to North of Vietnam. See note.
 Sooty-headed Bulbul (Southern S-h B) *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Center to south of Vietnam. See note.
 Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
 Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescent* Common in the Southern and Central Highlands (*sordidus*).
 Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus conradi* Common in the south. A lowland species, endemic to South-East Asia.
 Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*
 Ochraceous Bulbul *A. ochraceus* Endemic *hallae* (which most closely resembles Puff-throated) in the south.
 Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua* In the south *simulator*, in the centre *propinqua*, and at Cuc Phuong *aquilornis*.
 Mountain Bulbul (Southern M B) *Ixos [mcclellandii] tickelli* Frequent; Southern & Central Highlands (*griseiventer*).
 Ashy Bulbul ♦ (Brown-backed B) *Hemixos [flavala] remotus* A few in Southern Highlands. S Indochina endemic.

Chestnut Bulbul *Hemixos castanonotus* 12 or so nominate race birds at Tam Dao NP.
Black Bulbul (Himalayan B B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Three at wetlands near Dak To.
Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*
Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler (S-b Cupwing) *Pnoepyga albiventer* 2 seen (1 nest-building), many heard Fansipan.
Pygmy Wren-babbler (P Cupwing) *Pnoepyga pusilla* One seen very well at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP.
Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* Scattered sightings throughout.
Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* This little cracker was seen at Mang Canh (Indochinese *fulvifacies*).
Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* One at Ngoc Linh and several at Fansipan.
Mountain Tailorbird (M Leaftoiler) *Phyllergates cuculatus* A few in the south and centre; a warbler, not a tailorbird.
Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni* (H) Two singing distantly at Fansipan.
Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* One seen in Ham Rong Gardens (*dauidiana*).
Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* (H) Two singing distantly, near the summit of Fansipan.
Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* Seen a few times. A nest with 2 eggs at Ngoc Linh.
Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata* Common towards the summit of Fansipan.
Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* One very briefly at Mang Den.
Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus* A few in Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Black-throated Bushtit (Grey-crowned B) *A. [concinnus] annamensis* S & C Highlands. Nest at Deo Nui San.



Dalat Bush Warbler (Craig Robson)

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (H)
Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* Two seen near Dalat appear to be the first from South Annam.
Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

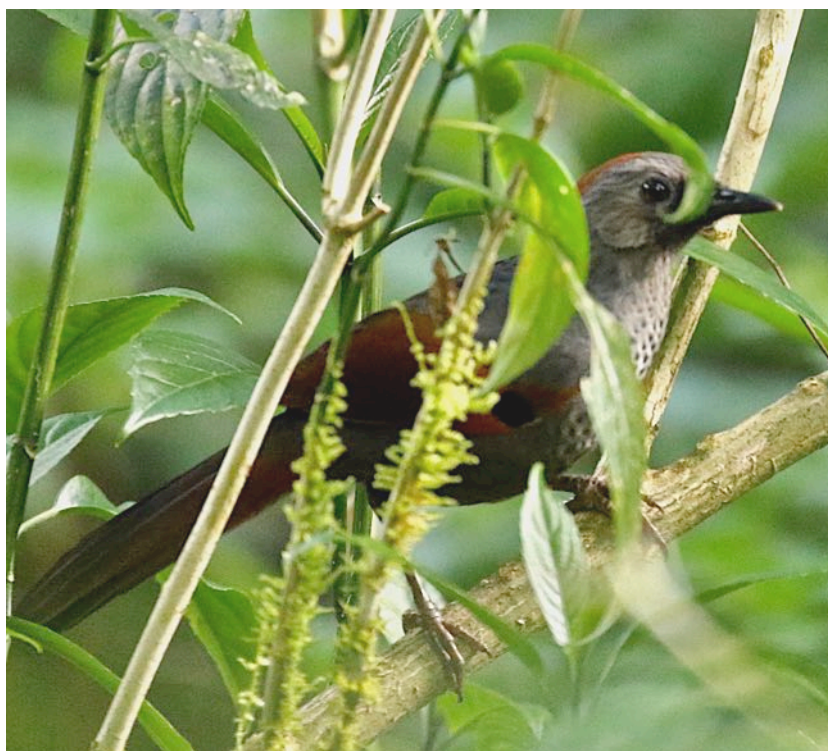
Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* One at Ham Rong Gardens.
Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*
Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
Blyth's Leaf Warbler *P. reguloides* Found at the higher levels throughout.
Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae* Scattered individuals in the north, all exhibiting tree-creeping habits.
Kloss's Leaf Warbler (White-tailed L W) *P. ogilviegranti* Common in the Southern and Central Highlands (*klossi*).
Limestone Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus calciatilis* Two seen well and also heard at Phong Nha-Ke Bang.
Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* One at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* Two at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP (*ocularis*); also one at Ngoc Linh. See notes.
Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus* Small numbers in the north.
Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentini* Just a couple in the north.
Alström's Warbler (Plain-tailed W) *Seicercus soror* One seen well in the south, and another en route to Phong Nha.
Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* Southern and Central Highlands (nest-building at latter). See notes.
Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* S & C Highlands (*annamensis*); 2 Love Waterfall (*sinensis*).
Dalat Bush Warbler *Locustella idonia* Superb views of this recent split near Dalat.
Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (H)
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (Rusty-rumped W) *Locustella certhiola* (H) One at Cat Tien NP.
Golden-headed Cisticola (Bright-headed C) *Cisticola juncidis* (H)
Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris* In the Southern Highlands (*klossi*), and the montane north-west (*superciliaris*).
Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*
Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* One seen and several heard at Cat Tien (*delacouri*).
Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*
Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*



Black-crowned Fulvetta (Craig Robson)

Large Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* A pair showed at Cuc Phuong NP.
Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus gravivox* (H) Heard at Ham Rong Gardens.
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* (H) A few *reconditus* at Tam Dao.
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler (Orange-b S B) *P. ochraceiceps* 2 *alius* at Deo Nui San; 2 nominate at Tam Dao.
Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler (White-throated S B) *P. [schisticeps] albogularis* 4 *dickinsoni* in the C Highlands.
Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (Sickle-b S B) *P. superciliaris* A single *rothschildi* near the summit of Fansipan.
Bar-winged Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis troglodytoides* Superb views of this stunner near the summit of Fansipan.
Pale-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis kinneari* Brilliant views of a singing male at Fansipan.
Sooty Babbler *Stachyris herberti* Three of these dumpy dark rock-hoppers at Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP.

Grey-throated Babbler (Northern G-t B) *Stachyris nigriceps*
Spot-necked Babbler *Stachyris striolata* A few in the centre and north.
Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps*
Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea*
Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronus gularis*
Grey-faced Tit-Babbler *Macronus kelleyi* Common at Cat Tien NP. Heard en route to Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP.
Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*
Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps* Small numbers at Ngoc Linh (*stepanyani*) and Fansipan (*exul*).
Black-crowned Fulvetta *Alcippe klossi* A pair at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP. *Pseudoalcippe* is the correct genus.
Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis* Three at Cuc Phuong (*stevensi*). *Schoeniparus* is the correct genus.
Rusty-capped Fulvetta *Alcippe dubia* 1-2 Ngoc Linh (*cui*), small numbers around Sapa and Fansipan (*genestieri*).
Mountain Fulvetta (Annam F) *A. [peracensis] annamensis* S & C Highlands and Bach Ma. Nest-building at latter.
Black-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe grotei* The common lowland nun-babbler (Phong Nha-Ke Bang & Cuc Phuong etc.).
David's Fulvetta *Alcippe davidi* The nun-babbler at Tam Dao NP (*schaefferi*).
Limestone Wren-Babbler (Greyish Limestone Babbler) *Gypsophila crispifrons* Four at Cuc Phuong (*annamensis*).
Streaked Wren-Babbler (Tonkin S W-B) *Napothera [brevicaudata] stevensi* 2 Bach Ma, 1 Phong Nha (*proximus*).
Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler (Austen's W-B) *Napothera [epilepidota] roberti* (H) A couple at Mang Den (*amyae*).
Collared Babbler *Gampsorhynchus torquatus* Two showed well at Tam Dao (*luciae*).
Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler (Indochinese Wren-B) *Jabouilleia danjoui* Five seen this year. See note.
Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*
Scaly-crowned Babbler (Indochinese B) *Malacopteron [cinereum] indochinense* A few at Cat Tien NP.
Spot-throated Babbler *Pellorneum albiventris* Just one again at Mang Canh.
Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*
Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli*



Golden-winged Laughingthrush (Craig Robson)

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*
Black-hooded Laughingthrush *G. milleti* 2 in the Southern Highlands (*nominate*); 15 in Central Highlands (*sweeti*).
Grey Laughingthrush *Garrulax maesi* Quite common at Tam Dao; 10 seen.
Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush *Garrulax castanotis* Quite common at Deo Sa Mu, with 13 seen and two heard.
Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla konkakhinhensis* Two seen very well at Mang Canh. Great bird.
Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* Four at Bach Ma.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* Singles at Bach Ma and Deo Sa Mu (*pasquieri*).
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* (H) Tam Dao (*robini*).
Black-throated Laughingthrush *Dryonastes chinensis* Small numbers at Bach Ma and Tam Dao NP's.
White-cheeked Laughingthrush *Dryonastes vassali* Frequent in Southern Highlands. Regional endemic.
White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* At least five at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa (*comis*).
Orange-breasted Laughingthrush *Stactocichla annamensis* 3 of these subtly beautiful endemics at Deo Nui San.
Scaly Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron subunicolor* (H) Several heard distantly at the upper levels of Fansipan.
Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affine* A handful high up on Fansipan (*saturatum*).
Golden-winged Laughingthrush *T. ngoclinhense* 3 of these rare endemics were eventually seen well at Ngoc Linh.
Collared Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron yersini* Superb views of seven at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP.
Red-tailed Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron milnei* A pair showed really well at Ngoc Linh (*vitryi?*).
Vietnamese Cutia *Cutia legalleni* A nice male at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP.



The kingi race of 'Brownish-backed Sibia', a potential split from Black-headed (Craig Robson)

Blue-winged Minla (B-w Siva) *Minla cyanouroptera* One at Ngoc Linh and six at Sapa/Fansipan (*wingatei*).
Blue-winged Minla (Plain M) *Minla [cyanouroptera] orientalis* Plain endemic *orientalis* was frequent in S Highlands.
Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* Two *mariae* at Ngoc Linh.
Black-crowned Barwing *Actinodura sodangorum* About a dozen seen easily at Ngoc Linh. A striking near-endemic.
Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris* Good numbers of *cunhaci* at Deo Sa Mu, and *ricketti* at Tam Dao NP.
Red-billed Leiothris *Leiothrix lutea* Several at the Love Waterfall Trail, Fansipan.
Grey-crowned Crocias *Crocias langbianis* At 3 locations; Tuyen Lam (4), Ta Ning Valley (9), and Deo Phi Lieng (3).
Rufous-backed Sibia *Heterophasia annectans* A single endemic *eximia* seen at Ta Nung Valley.
Black-headed Sibia (Brownish-backed S) *Heterophasia [desgodinsi] engelbachi* 12 *kingi* at Ngoc Linh.
Black-headed Sibia (White-spectacled S) *Heterophasia [desgodinsi] robinsoni* 15 in the Southern Highlands.
Golden-breasted Fulvetta (Annam G-b F) *Lioparus [chrysotis] robsoni* 2 of these superb little babblers Ngoc Linh.
White-browed Fulvetta (Tonkin F) *Fulvetta [vinipectus] valentinae* 30 at Fansipan, at the highest levels.
Indochinese Fulvetta *Fulvetta danisi* Seven (*bidoupensis*) at Ngoc Linh. An extremely local species.
Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora webbiana* A flock of at least 15 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Ashy-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora alphonsiana* At least one noted with the latter.
Black-throated Parrotbill (Black-eared P) *Suthora [nipalensis] beaulieui* (H) Frustratingly only heard at Ngoc Linh.

Short-tailed Parrotbill *Neosuthora davidiana* Superb views this year at Tam Dao; at least ten (*tonkinensis*).
Grey-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus gularis* Six *laotianus* in the Mang Den area.
Black-headed Parrotbill (B-crowned P) *P. margaritae* At least 9 of these near-endemics in the Southern Highlands.
Indochinese Yuhina (Chestnut-collared Y) *Yuhina torqueola* Good numbers at Bach Ma & Tam Dao NP's.
Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* Three endemic *uthaii* at Ngoc Linh, with distinctive blackish throat.
White-collared Yuhina *Yuhina diademata* About eight in the Fansipan area.
Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta* Plenty at Tam Dao.



Dark-throated uthaii form of Stripe-throated Yuhina (Craig Robson)

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*
Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*
Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* A handful in the Southern Highlands.
White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* Two singles at the lower slopes of Fansipan
Yellow-billed Nuthatch *Sitta solangiae* A couple in both the Southern and Central Highlands.
Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus* Good this year at Cat Tien NP, with 16 logged.
Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
Great Myna (White-vented M) *Acridotheres grandis* Six just outside Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP.
Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* (NL)
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Vinous-breasted Starling (V-b Myna) *A. [burmannicus] leucocephalus* Best seen at edge of Cat Tien NP (12).
Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*
White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis*
Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica*
Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* Male resident *innotata* & wintering *aurimacula* together at Deo Nui San.
Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (H) Singing birds at Ngoc Linh and at Tam Dao.
Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* A male at Bach Ma NP, and good views of some on the road at Cuc Phuong NP.
Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus* Just one at Lang Co Beach Resort.
Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis* A male at Deo Nui San and another bird at Ngoc Linh.
Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* A pair along the Love Waterfall Trail, Fansipan; an expected write-in.
Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* Several at Ngoc Linh and one along the Love Waterfall Trail.
White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Anthipes monileger* Seen nicely at Tam Dao; heard at Bach Ma NP.
Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* Widespread. The unusual race/morph *klossi* at Cat Tien.
Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* Good numbers in Central Highlands.
Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas* A pair at Ham Rong Gardens.
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*
White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concretus* A couple at Cuc Phuong NP, as usual.
Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* Three at Ngoc Linh, and also heard at Fansipan.
Large Niltava (Dalat N) *Niltava [grandis] decorata* Two of this endemic in the Southern Highlands.
Small Niltava *Niltava macratoria* A male seen at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*
Lesser Shortwing (Langbian L S) *Brachypteryx [leucophris] langbianensis* Seen once at Tuyen Lam.
White-browed Shortwing (Himalayan S) *Brachypteryx [montana] cruralis* (H) Once near the summit of Fansipan.
Siberian Blue Robin *Larvivora cyane* Great views at Cat Tien NP. Another mealworm lover.
Rufous-tailed Robin *Larvivora sibilans* One showed really nicely in Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* (H)
White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura*
White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus* A cracking male, at high elevation, at Fansipan (*yunnanensis*).
Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* One at Bach Ma, near the summit.
Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* Nice views of a pair at a waterfall near Sapa.
Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* Two at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP.
White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* (H) Once at Deo Sa Mu.
Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* (H) Two at Deo Nui San.
Blue Whistling Thrush (Black-billed W T) *Myophonus [caeruleus] caeruleus* One seen at Ham Rong Gardens.
Blue Whistling Thrush (Yellow-billed W T) *Myophonus [caeruleus] flavirostris* Widespread.
Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* A superb male at Bach Ma NP.
Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* A male at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP.
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophliata* One along the Love Waterfall Trail, Fansipan.
Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla*
Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hypertyra*
Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
Sapphire Flycatcher *Ficedula sapphira* A couple of female-types at Fansipan.
Pygmy Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* 2 Bi Doup Nui Ba NP. Unexpected write-in. Apparently new to S Annam.
Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* A male at the higher levels of Fansipan.
Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* Three at Deo Loxo, and small numbers Sapa/Fansipan.
White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* One at a waterfall near Sapa.
Blue Rock Thrush (Eastern B R T) *M. [solitarius] philippensis* All blue *pandoo* & chestnut-bellied *philippensis*.
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* A pair near Sapa.
White-throated Rock Thrush *Monticola gularis* A male at Deo Nui San.
Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*
Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus*
Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*
Thick-billed Flowerpecker (Modest F) *Dicaeum [agile] obsoletum* One tail-wagging at Cat Tien NP.
Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* Three at Cat Tien NP.
Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum*
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *D. ignipectus*
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*
Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* Two at Lang Co Beach Resort.

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum* Widespread. Thought to be close to the spiderhunters now.
Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana* What a little cracker. Several at Cat Tien NP.
Olive-backed Sunbird (Ornate S) *Cinnyris [jugularis] ornatus* Widespread; see note.
Mrs Gould's Sunbird (Scarlet-breasted S) *Aethopyga [gouldiae] dabryii* Good numbers in C Highlands (race?).
Mrs Gould's Sunbird (Annam S) *Aethopyga [gouldiae] annamensis* Frequent in the Southern Highlands.
Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* A male at Ngoc Linh (race ?), and three birds at Fansipan (*koelzi*).
Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* A few at Cuc Phuong NP.
Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* Several *ochra* in the Central Highlands.
Black-throated Sunbird (Langbian S) *Aethopyga [saturata] johnsi* Several of these gems in Southern Highlands.
Crimson Sunbird (Greater C S) *Aethopyga [siparaja] seheriae* Many, south to Bach Ma (*tonkinensis* & *mangini*).
Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*
Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* 3+ at Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP (female feeding fledged young).
Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus* Eight in fields bordering Cat Tien NP. The name belies its beauty.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
White Wagtail (Amur W, Chinese W) *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis* One at Love Waterfall Trail, Fansipan.
White Wagtail (Himalayan W, Hodgson's W) *Motacilla [alba] alboides* Several in Sapa/Fansipan area.
Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* Four at the outskirts of Cat Tien NP.
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
Grey-capped Greenfinch (Oriental G) *Chloris sinica* Four at Lang Co Beach Resort.
Vietnamese Greenfinch *Chloris monguilloti* 15 on the Da Lat Plateau, to which it is endemic.
Black-headed Greenfinch *Chloris ambigua* Frequent around Sapa.
Red Crossbill (Vietnamese C) *Loxia [curvirostra] meridionalis* A handful on the Dalat Plateau.



Cable-car to the summit of Fansipan (Craig Robson)

MAMMALS

Northern Treeshrew *Tupaia belangeri* One at Cat Tien.

Stump-tailed Macaque *Macaca arctoides* Four at Deo Sa Mu.

Crab-eating Macaque (Long-tailed M) *Macaca fascicularis*

Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonina* A male at Deo Sa Mu.

Grey-shanked Douc Langur *Pygathrix cinerea* We were so lucky to see this rarity in the C Highlands. See notes.

Black-shanked Douc Langur *Pygathrix nigripes* Rare south Indochina endemic. Just six at Cat Tien National Park.

Delacour's Langur (D Leaf Monkey) *Trachypithecus delacouri* At least nine, including two youngsters, at Van Long.

Hatinh Langur (H Leaf Monkey) *Trachypithecus hatinhensis* A total of seven at Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP.

Northern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon (Northern Buff-c G) *Nomascus annamensis* (H) Ngoc Linh & Bach Ma.

Red-cheeked Gibbon (Buff-c G, Yellow-c G) *Nomascus gabriellae* Three seen and many heard at Cat Tien NP.

Burmese Hare (Siamese H) *Lepus peguensis* One at Cat Tien NP.

Malayan Porcupine (Common P) *Hystrix brachyura* One at Cat Tien NP.

Brown Rat (introduced) (Norway R) *Rattus norvegicus*

Pallas's Squirrel (Belly-banded) *Callosciurus erythraeus* Races included *flavimanus* in south & *erythraeus* in north.

Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel *Dremomys rufigenis* Two at Bi Doup Nui Ba NP, and one at Bach Ma NP.

Indochinese Ground Squirrel (Berdmore's S) *Menetes berdmorei* Frequent at Cat Tien NP.

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* Two at Bach Ma NP.

Maritime Striped Squirrel (Indochinese S S, Eastern S S) *Tamiops maritimus* Widespread.

Cambodian Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rodolphei* Two at Cat Tien NP.

Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops swinhoei* One at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.

Javan Mongoose (Small Asian M) *Herpestes javanicus* A single at Cat Tien NP.

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* Small numbers at Cat Tien NP.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* Brief views of two at Cat Tien.

Sunda Pangolin *Manis javanica* Amazing close-ups of one digging into an ant-nest at Cat Tien NP.

Southern Red Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak* Eight at Cat Tien.

Sambar *Cervus unicolor* 20 at Cat Tien NP.



Indochinese Ground Squirrel (Craig Robson)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Crested Honey Buzzard (Eastern H B, Oriental H B) *Pernis [ptilorhynchus] orientalis*

Crested Honey Buzzard (Indomalayan H B) *P. ptilorhynchus*

Many authorities are now suggesting that southern resident forms of Crested Honey Buzzard be split-off from the northern migratory form (e.g. BirdLife/HBW).

Grey-headed Woodpecker (Black-naped W) *Picus [canus] guerini*

Some authorities now split Black-naped Woodpecker as a distinct species (e.g. BirdLife/HBW).

Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*

Birds in the Central Highlands are doubtfully distinct from Dalat Shrike-babbler *P. annamensis*.

Large-billed Crow (Southern Jungle C) *Corvus [macrorhynchus] macrorhynchus*

Eastern Jungle Crow *C. levaillantii* of nearby Thailand is often split-off now by some authorities, as is Southern Jungle Crow *C. macrorhynchus*. Northern continental birds become Large-billed Crow *C. japonensis* in the latter case. The distribution of Eastern and Southern Jungle Crows in Vietnam remains unclear. Literature tells us that it is the latter throughout much of the country, but logically the former should occur. Further research will no doubt clarify things.

Common Green Magpie (Yellow-crowned G M) *Cissa [chinensis] margaritae*

Yellow-crowned Green Magpie is a potential split (BirdLife/HBW), and endemic to the Southern Highlands of Vietnam.

Sooty-headed Bulbul (Northern S-h B) *Pycnonotus [aurigaster] chrysorrhoides*

Sooty-headed Bulbul (Southern S-h B) *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

On this tour we saw 'Northern' at Lang Co Beach Resort (single in mixed pair with 'Southern') and Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP (*dolichurus*) and at Tam Dao (*resurrectus*). 'Southern' was noted at Lang Co Beach Resort (single in mixed pair with 'Northern'), at Cat Tien NP, and at Lak Lake (*germani*). Minor hybridization is historically noted from zones of overlap. The split is suggested by BirdLife.

Mountain Bulbul (Southern M B) *Ixos [mcclellandii] tickelli*

Duller southern forms such as *griseiventer*, are a potential split from typical northern Mountain Bulbuls (BirdLife/HBW).

Ashy Bulbul (Brown-backed B) *Hemixos [flavala] remotus*

Brown-backed Bulbul, endemic to S Indochina, is a potential split from Ashy (BirdLife/HBW).

Black-throated Bushtit (Grey-crowned B) *A. [concinus] annamensis*

Many authorities split-off Grey-crowned Bushtit *A. annamensis* as a distinct species.

White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*

The endemic race *ocularis* differs genetically and vocally from Himalayan birds, and will eventually be split-off.

Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*

The populations in the south and centre of Vietnam have different vocalizations from Himalayan birds, and are likely to be split in future.

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler (White-throated S B) *Pomatorhinus [schisticeps] albogularis*

Three races of Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler *P. phayrei* (split from Coral-billed *P. ferruginosus* by BirdLife/HBW), *albogularis*, *orientalis* and *dickinsoni*, may in turn form a further distinct species, White-throated Scimitar Babbler *P. albogularis* (BirdLife/HBW).

Mountain Fulvetta (Annam F) *Alcippe [peracensis] annamensis*

Annam Fulvetta *A. annamensis*, an Indochinese montane endemic, is a good split from Malay Peninsula Mountain Fulvetta *A. peracensis*.

Streaked Wren-Babbler (Tonkin S W-B) *Napothera [brevicaudata] stevensi*

Tonkin Wren-Babbler *N. stevensi* is a potential split from Streaked *N. brevicaudata* (BirdLife/HBW).

Eye-browed Wren-Babbler (Austen's W-B) *Napothera [epilepidota] roberti*

Austen's Wren-Babbler *N. roberti* is a potential split from Eye-browed *N. epilepidota* (BirdLife/HBW).

Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler (Indochinese Wren-B) *Rimatar danjoui*

A good year again, with singles at Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park and Deo Phi Lieng, and two at Bach Ma NP. Strangely, some 'authorities' still call this bird Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui*, even though it has clearly been shown to be con-generic with *Rimatar* and is completely and utterly unrelated to scimitar babblers (apart from being a babbler).

Scaly-crowned Babbler (Indochinese B) *Malacopteron [cinereum] indochinense*

Indochinese Babbler *M. indochinense* is a potential split from Scaly-crowned *M. cinereum* (BirdLife/HBW).

Blue-winged Minla (Plain M) *Minla [cyanouroptera] orientalis*

Endemic Plain Minla *M. orientalis* is a potential split from Blue-winged *M. cyanouroptera* (BirdLife/HBW).

Black-headed Sibia (Brownish-backed S) *Heterophasia [desgodinsi] engelbachi*

Black-headed Sibia (White-spectacled S) *Heterophasia [desgodinsi] robinsoni*

Both Brownish-backed Sibia *H. engelbachi* (S Laos, C Annam) and White-spectacled Sibia *H. robinsoni* (S Annam) are potential splits from Black-headed *H. desgodinsi* (BirdLife/HBW).

Golden-breasted Fulvetta (Annam G-b F) *Lioparus [chrysotis] robinsoni*

Annam Golden-breasted Fulvetta *L. robinsoni* is a potential split from Golden-breasted *L. robinsoni* (BirdLife/HBW).

White-browed Fulvetta (Tonkin F) *Fulvetta [vinipectus] valentinae*

Tonkin Fulvetta *F. valentinae* is a potential split from White-browed *F. vinipectus* (BirdLife/HBW).

Vinous-breasted Starling (V-b Myna) *Acridotheres [burmannicus] leucocephalus*

Vinous-breasted Myna *A. leucocephalus* is a proposed and likely future split from Burmese Myna *A. burmannicus* (BirdLife/HBW). All *Acridotheres* species are mynas, not starlings.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*

The form *klossi*, previously assigned to Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides*, is now considered to be genetically indistinguishable from the current species.

Large Niltava (Dalat N) *Niltava [grandis] decorata*

Dalat Niltava *N. decorata* is a potential split from Large *N. grandis* (BirdLife/HBW).

Lesser Shortwing (Langbian L S) *Brachypteryx [leucophris] langbianensis*

Langbian Lesser Shortwing *B. langbianensis* is a potential split from Lesser *B. leucophris* (BirdLife/HBW).

White-browed Shortwing (Himalayan S) *Brachypteryx [montana] cruralis*

Himalayan Shortwing *B. cruralis* is a potential split from other forms of the former White-browed *B. montana* (BirdLife/HBW).

Blue Whistling Thrush (Black-billed W T) *Myophonus [caeruleus] caeruleus*

Blue Whistling Thrush (Yellow-billed W T) *Myophonus [caeruleus] flavirostris*

Nominate black-billed Chinese birds are a potential split from the yellow-billed races of Blue Whistling Thrush (BirdLife/HBW).

Blue Rock Thrush (Eastern B R T) *M. [solitarius] philippensis*

Eastern Blue Rock Thrush *M. philippensis* has been proposed as a distinct species by some authorities, and would include all regional races.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker (Modest F) *Dicaeum [agile] obsoletum*

Indian subcontinent *agile* might be split-off in future, leaving residual forms as Modest Flowerpecker *D. obsoletum* (BirdLife/HBW).

Olive-backed Sunbird (Ornate S) *Cinnyris [jugularis] ornatus*

Widespread sightings; even near the summit cable-car station, Fansipan, at some 2950m elevation - massively higher than any previous South-East Asia sighting. One was nest-building at Cuc Phuong NP. Races *flammaxillaris* in Southern areas and *rhizophorae* in Northern areas. Many authorities are now dividing-up the former Olive-backed Sunbird into as many as six species (e.g. BirdLife/HBW).

Mrs Gould's Sunbird (Scarlet-breasted S) *Aethopyga [gouldiae] dabryi*

Mrs Gould's Sunbird (Annam S) *Aethopyga [gouldiae] annamensis*

There is potential for splitting-up the current Mrs Gould's Sunbird *A. gouldiae* into at least three species (BirdLife/HBW). Vietnamese birds would become Scarlet-breasted Sunbird *A. dabryi*, apart from endemic Annam Sunbird *A. annamensis* in the Southern Highlands.

Black-throated Sunbird (Langbian S) *Aethopyga [saturata] johnsi*

The extremely distinctive endemic Langbian Sunbird *A. johnsi* is a long overdue split from Black-throated *A. saturata*.

Crimson Sunbird (Greater C S) *Aethopyga [siparaja] seheriae*

Some authorities (e.g. BirdLife/HBW) propose splitting Asia-wide populations of Crimson Sunbird *A. siparaja* into three species: Greater Crimson Sunbird *A. seheriae* (most of mainland Asian range), Lesser Crimson Sunbird *A. siparaja* (Sundaic Region), and Sulawesi Sunbird *A. beccarii* (Sulawesi).

Red Crossbill (Vietnamese C) *Loxia [curvirostra] meridionalis*

The extremely distinctive endemic Vietnamese Crossbill *L. meridionalis* is a long overdue split from Red Crossbill *L. curvirostra*.

Grey-shanked Douc Langur *Pygathrix cinerea*

A presumed male showed itself all too briefly by the road at Mang Canh. This critically endangered primate has a very limited range in southern Central Annam, and is by far the rarest of the three species of douc langur. The total wild population is estimated to be only 550-700 individuals.

APPENDIX 1 - Top 5 birds of the tour

- 1st **Silver-breasted Broadbill**
- 2nd **Bar-bellied Pitta**
- 3rd **Collared Laughingthrush**
- 4th **Golden-winged Laughingthrush**
- 5th **Pale-throated Wren-Babbler**

APPENDIX 2 - Other fauna & flora recorded

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Garden Lizard (G Fence L) *Calotes versicolor* Cat Tien etc.

Neon Blue Dragon *Calotes bachae* At least one at Cat Tien.

Chinese Glass Lizard *Ophisurus herterti* Bach Ma NP.

Spotted Gliding Lizard *Draco maculatus* Cat Tien. Yellow throat-fan with pale grey tip.

Flat-tailed Gecko *Cosymbotus platyurus* One of the house geckos.

Spiny-tailed Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* The other house gecko!

Tockay Gecko (Tokay G) *Gekko gekko* Cat Tien etc.

Speckled Forest Skink *Mabuya macularia* Along the Crocodile Lake Trail, Cat Tien.

King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* On the road to Ngoc Linh.

Red-necked Keelback *Rhabdophis subminiatus* Tam Dao.



Chinese Glass Lizard at Bach Ma (Craig Robson)

BUTTERFLIES

Psyche *Leptosia nina* Cat Tien etc.

Yellow Orange Tip *Ixias pyrene* Cat Tien etc.

Great Orange Tip Cat Tien etc.

Common Wanderer *Pareronia anais* Cat Tien etc.

Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia*

Magpie Crow *Euploea radamanthus*

Large Faun *Faunis eumeus*

Grey Pansy Cat Tien etc.

Clipper Cat Tien etc.

Common Sailer Cat Tien etc.