



The fantastic Grey Peacock-Pheasant was seen brilliantly and as a result, became our bird-of-the-trip for the main tour (Pete Morris)

THAILAND

23 JANUARY – 8/13 FEBRUARY 2020

LEADER: PETE MORRIS

As seems to always be the case, Thailand once again delivered a top-class birding experience and holiday to our intrepid group. With just about 515 species of bird recorded, we did extremely well for variety, and within that vast total were a great number of very special birds, ranging from the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, to stunning gamebirds like Ferruginous Partridge, Grey Peacock-Pheasant and Silver Pheasant, and of course incredible pittas including the superb Eared Pitta, gorgeous Blue Pitta and outrageous Malayan Banded Pittas. And that really is just scratching the surface! A few of the other much appreciated favourite species included stunning Pied Harriers, Nordmann's Greenshanks, Great Knots and Asian Dowitchers, an awesome Oriental Bay Owl, Spotted and Brown Wood Owls, superb Barred Eagle Owls, weird Blyth's and Hodgson's Frogmouths, the superb Spot-breasted Parrotbill, stunning Scarlet-faced Liocichlas, the tiny Pygmy Cupwing, the impressive Giant Nuthatch, Black-breasted, Grey-sided and incredible Dark-sided Thrushes, no fewer than four species of cracking forktails, gorgeous Ultramarine Flycatchers and an entertaining flock of Spot-winged Grosbeaks. We also saw a handful of interesting mammals including a spectacular Chinese Serow, and a rather oblivious Malayan Crested Porcupine!



Classic Thai scenery - an illuminated temple on the forested slopes above Thaton, at dusk (Pete Morris)

But it wasn't just the birds that made this such a great holiday. Everything about it was fantastic! Lovely hotels, great roads, extremely spacious and comfortable vehicles with great drivers, copious supplies of cold drinks and an excellent local guide that new how to feed us! Indeed, the legendary Thai cuisine lived up to its reputation, and we enjoyed many a sumptuous banquet! And despite Pipith's advice, I think I am living proof that it is not too difficult to put on weight despite the allegedly low-cholesterol Thai diet!!

We began the tour at Bangkok Airport from where we soon made our way south to the shores of the Gulf of Thailand, and what is surely one of the greatest shorebird spectacles on our planet. As soon as we had arrived, we were confronted by saltpan after saltpan, teeming with waders, and began to play that age old game of spot the odd one out! And of course, every now and then, half way through the game, they would all get up and fly around, and the game would have to begin again! The commonest waders were Lesser Sandpipers, and these were joined by good numbers of Kentish Plovers, a single Greater Sandplover, numerous Curlew and Broad-billed Sandpipers, and Red-necked Stints and plenty of much-wanted Great Knots. Plenty of Marsh Sandpipers joined them, but it was one with an odd beak we were looking for, and we weren't getting any luck. After a while, we moved to another pool, and here we soon found the much-wanted Asian Dowitcher which showed nicely for all. Here, Terek Sandpipers were in evidence and other species included Pacific Golden and Grey Plovers, a few Spotted and Common Redshanks, Common Greenshanks, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, and small numbers of Red Knots. Eventually, the holy grail appeared, and we then spent plenty of time grilling a fantastic and critically-endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. It was easy to lose it amongst the more numerous stints, but then that beak would point towards you again and announce its presence. We watched it for some time, analysing its feeding actions and subtle differences, before deciding it was time to go off and sample some Thai cuisine!

After lunch, we headed out on a boat trip to the sand spit at Laem Phak Bia. We passed a few herons and kingfishers on the way out, and soon found our first of two or three Chinese Egrets. We disembarked and explored the spit. Good numbers of Caspian, Greater Crested, Common, Little and Whiskered Terns and Brown-headed Gulls were at the spit, and soon we found the hoped for Malaysian Plovers and White-faced Plovers around the remote beaches at the end of the spit. Smaller numbers of commoner waders were also present. Following the successful boat trip, we then had another quick tour of some other salt pans, seeing even more waders, and our first Painted Storks. It had been a long first day, but an excellent one, which we rounded off with a fine meal and a few Singha beers!



Some shorebird highlights from our visit to the Gulf of Thailand: A fine Asian Dowitcher, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper, just part of the flock of Nordmann's Greenshanks, a fine male Malaysian Plover and the still poorly-known White-faced Plover (Pete Morris)





Sunrise at Pak Thale and a Chinese Egret from Laem Phak Bia (Pete Morris)



The following morning we were back out at the salt pans where we quickly found most of the same waders again. A 3cy (2nd winter) Pallas's Gull was a pleasant surprise, and amongst the flock of Brown-headed Gulls we picked out an unexpected Slender-billed Gull. A large roost of *orientalis* Eurasian Curlews contained a Eurasian Whimbrel and three Eastern Curlews complete with gigantic beaks. Another set of salt pans held our final major target of the area, as we were thrilled to get some great looks at upward of 100 Nordmann's Greenshanks, possibly a significant proportion of the world population of this rare bird. Moving to another area we found a new set of birds. Here, White-winged Terns graced pools that were occupied by Temminck's and Long-toed Stints and Red-wattled Lapwings. We were able to compare Little and Indian Cormorants side-by-



Eurasian Wryneck and the stout-billed Indochinese Bushlark (Pete Morris)

side and also found other new species such as Pied Myna and an unexpected Eurasian Wryneck. Our final stops found us watching localized Plain-backed Sparrows, and our first Oriental Skylarks, and we boosted our wader list further with our only Oriental Pratincole of the tour.

After an early lunch, we checked out of our pleasant hotel and made our way towards the famous Kaeng Krachan National Park. We did make a stop en route where, in the fierce heat of the day, we managed to find the stout-billed Indochinese Bushlark and a shy Indian Stone-Curlew. We arrived at Kaeng Krachan in time to begin our exploration of the area.

In total we had just shy of three days to bird the Kaeng Krachan area, and we split our time between birding the three mornings in the national park itself, and the three afternoons at various hides around the periphery of the park. It has to be said, the hides were way beyond our wildest expectations, and our three afternoon sessions yielded an unbelievable quarry of species that are really tough to see usually. Each of the hides we visited was a little different in species composition, but all were busy, and in the heat of the day, when it would have been very quiet elsewhere, they were a total revelation. The list that we saw from the hides was totally mouth-watering! A stunning male Grey Peacock-Pheasant, superb Ferruginous, Green-legged and Bar-backed Partridges,



Bar-backed Partridge showed very well indeed at Kaeng Krachan (Pete Morris)



Laughingthrushes from Kaeng Krachan. White-crested and Greater Necklaced above and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush below (Pete Morris)



a brilliant female Blue Pitta, and an unbelievable pair of Eared Pittas were the true champagne birds, but the supporting cast was strong! We frequently seemed to be surrounded by mixed flocks of Lesser and Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes that mixed freely with noisy White-crested Laughingthrushes. Chinese, Indochinese and Hainan Blue Flycatchers made appearances at various hides, and other much appreciated sightings included superb Greater Yellownapes and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, a stunning Common Green Magpie and both Large and White-browed Scimitar Babblers. Red Junglefowls and colourful Common Emerald Doves were frequent, Brown-cheeked Fulvettas omnipresent, and other notable species included Blyth's Paradise Flycatchers, Racket-tailed Treepie, confiding Puff-throated Babblers, White-rumped Shamans and much appreciated Siberian Blue Robins.



This female Blue Pitta showed brilliantly at Kaeng Krachan, as did the Grey-headed Woodpecker and Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher below (Pete Morris)





More goodies from the hides at Kaeng Krachan... the stunning Ferruginous Partridge, Hainan Blue (left) and Chinese Blue Flycatchers and the amazing Common Green Magpie (Pete Morris)





Greater Yellow-nape and Lesser Oriental Chevrotain were both seen from the hides at Kaeng Krachan (Pete Morris)



Birding in the park itself was a different kettle of fish. It was hot and dry, and the bird activity was relatively low. We tried hard for White-fronted Scops Owls, but were ultimately frustrated! Park regulations mean that looking in the dark is more or less impossible, and those that we got to call, post-dawn, we could not track down. We did find a pair of roosting Brown Hawk-Owls whilst looking for them! With perseverance, we still tracked down a good variety of species, with highlights including colourful male Asian Emerald and Violet Cuckoos, attractive Orange-bellied Trogons, Blue-bearded Bee-eaters, a sneaky little White-browed Piculet, smart Banded and Black-and-yellow Broadbills and stunning Sultan Tits. Other less exciting though good birds included Raffles and Chestnut-breasted Malkohas, a singing Banded Bay Cuckoo, Crested Serpent Eagles, Crested Honey Buzzards and Crested Goshawk, huge Great and noisy Oriental Pied Hornbills, Indochinese Rollers, localized Green-eared and Blue-eared Barbets, smart Streak-breasted Woodpeckers, Great loras, numerous species of bulbuls, smart Asian Fairy Bluebirds, subtle Sulphur-breasted Warblers, a brief flock of Golden-crested Mynas, Blue-winged Leafbirds, a single Yellow-vented Flowerpecker and some gorgeous Crimson Sunbirds. On one evening we paused to watch a large starling roost, and this contained several much-wanted Vinous-breasted



A few from our explorations in Kaeng Krachan National Park: superb Banded (left) and Black-and-yellow Broadbills; the smart Sultan Tit; a male Asian Emerald Cuckoo and a roosting Brown Hawk Owl (Pete Morris)





A superb male Orange-breasted Trogon and a Large-tailed Nightjar from Kaeng Krachan (Pete Morris)





Collared Scops Owl and Oriental Bay Owl were found on our night excursions in Kaeng Krachan (Pete Morris)

Starlings. We also made a few nocturnal excursions close to our lodge, and these proved to be extremely successful. A single Indian Nightjar was found on a road, Large-tailed Nightjars were frequently seen at close range, we tracked down an inquisitive-looking Collared Scops Owl, and, after a bit of searching, a fantastic Oriental Bay Owl, one of those true holy grail birds! We also saw a few interesting mammals, including cute Dusky Langurs, an unexpected Malayan Porcupine and, at the hides, numerous squirrels and treeshrews, and the seldom seen Lesser Oriental Chevrotain.

It had been a great stay at Kaeng Krachan, especially due to the amazing hides, but we had some a long journey ahead of us and a few birds to squeeze in, so after our final quick morning session in the park, we were off and on our way. And it was a long drive, which we first punctuated for a meal, and then for a stop at a temple where we saw thousands of Lyle's Flying Foxes and our first Lineated Barbets. A nearby wetland held numerous Baya Weavers, a few rare Asian Golden Weavers, more Plain-backed Sparrows and our only Yellow Bittern. But we were still under time pressure and soon on our way again. We managed to arrive at our last stop, another temple, just before dusk, and I have to admit, I thought we were going to run out of time. Luck was on our side however, and shortly before dusk we were watching a confiding pair of Limestone Wren-Babblers – our final target for the day.

We then had two full days to explore the mighty Khao Yai National Park, perhaps Thailand's most visited park, being close to Bangkok. The area of the park is vast, so we only really scratched the surface, particularly as we were after a rather select but difficult target list! We devoted much of our time looking for two pheasants, and both proved difficult. We eventually all saw a spectacular male Silver Pheasant, but the Siamese Fireback was somewhat more tricky, a male only showing to some of the group. Whilst looking, we did find a number of other goodies! Splendid male Blue Pittas were seen a few times, a lovely Collared Owlet peered down at us from the canopy, smart Black-throated Laughingthrushes were surprisingly confiding, Hill Blue Flycatcher was added to our list, Swinhoe's Minivets were positively common, and smart roadside birds included Red-headed Trogon, the charismatic Long-tailed Broadbill and a fine pair of Heart-spotted Woodpeckers. A lovely male White-throated Rock Thrush was a pleasant surprise, as was a strange-looking Chinese Serow (a type of goat!). We spent some time looking at the skies where Rufous-bellied and Black Eagles were found, and scrutiny of the swifts yielded some terrific views of both Brown and Silver-backed Needletails, even drinking side-by-side. On one evening we stayed by a river until dusk, and just as it looked like our luck was out, a fantastic Buffy Fish Owl made an appearance for us, and a Great Eared Nightjar cruised over! Generally speaking though, birding at Khao Yai was pretty tough! Other new species included Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Wreathed Hornbill and Moustached Barbet (both seen at nests), a sneaky Banded Kingfisher, Puff-throated and Grey-eyed Bulbuls, Hume's White-eye, Thick-billed and Fire-breasted Flower-



A spectacular Buff-breasted Fish Owl from Khao Yai and below, Silver-backed (left) and Brown Needletails (Pete Morris)





A fine male Silver Pheasant trying its best to hide at Khao Yai (Pete Morris)

peckers, and Black-throated Sunbird and we also managed more views of special birds such as Green-legged Partridge and Asian Emerald Cuckoo. Sadly though, our only encounter with the much-wanted Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo was just a brief bout of calling...

All too soon, it was once again time to move on, this time a quick transfer to the airport, ready for our flight to the north. And all in a whirlwind, following a very quick Pad Thai lunch we were whisked up to Chiang Mai in the north of the country and before we knew it, we were watching a variety of wetland birds at an irrigation project north of Chiang Mai. Here, our hoped for Jerdon's Bushchat seemed to have disappeared, but there were plenty of other things to keep us amused. A male Siberian Rubythroat running around in the open was a good distraction for starters, a male Bluethroat and our first Stejneger's Stonechats were seen well, and other species noted included Lesser Whistling Ducks, an unexpected Watercock a showy Ruddy-breasted Crake, Grey-headed Swampheens, Green Sandpipers, our first Pied Harrier and our first Black-collared Starlings. After a productive afternoon we made our way to our hotel for another banquet and more Singha beers!



Our first male Siberian Rubythroat of the tour... A special moment indeed! (Pete Morris)



Stejneger's Stonechat (left) and Grey Bushchat, two smart chats from the north (Pete Morris)

The following morning we were out early and watching a Brown Hawk-Owl in the car park before first light! The impressive Wat Tham Pa Plong was our birding destination for the first few hours of the day, and we saw a good selection of species including the hoped-for Streaked Wren-Babbler, and impressive Pin-tailed Green Pigeons. A number of other new species included the subtle Buff-breasted Babbler, Black-hooded Oriole and Sooty-headed Bulbuls. With the targets under the belt, we then made our way up to Doi Ang Khang for the rest of the day. We paused to take in our first Himalayan Buzzard and watch Cook's Swifts overhead, and then made our way to the birdy Royal Project. Here we found a number of very interesting species, not least several confiding Black-breasted Thrushes and a couple of Dark-sided Thrushes. A male Daurian Redstart was a pleasant surprise, and at a small feeding station we found White-tailed Robins, striking White-gorgeted Flycatchers, more Streaked Wren-Babblers and a female Rufous-bellied Niltava. Flowering trees held Dark-backed Sibias, bright yellow Indian White-eyes and numerous Mrs Gould's Sunbirds, and other goodies included Yellow-cheeked Tits and Blue-winged Minlas.



A male Black-breasted Thrush, and cracking Daurian Redstart from Doi Ang Khang (Pete Morris)



Streaked Wren-Babbler (above) and White-gorgeted Flycatcher and White-tailed Robin from Doi Ang Khang (Pete Morris)



After another fine lunch, we ventured out into some nearby areas of Doi Ang Khang, seeking some of the area's specialities. After a while, our number one target was in the bag, with some totally remarkable views of the incomparable Giant Nuthatch, which were seen on the same trees as fine Stripe-breasted Woodpeckers and the rather smaller Chestnut-vented Nuthatch. The gorgeous Scarlet-faced *Liocichla* was another excellent find, and other species added included Golden-throated Barbet, Long-tailed Minivet, Burmese Shrike, Brown-breasted and Flavescent Bulbuls, the grassland-loving Buff-throated Warbler, Yunnan Fulvetta, the striking Spectacled Barwing, the colourful Silver-eared Mesia and the dapper Grey Bush Chat.

Unfortunately, the government had shut down all accommodation at Doi Ang Khang which necessitated a transfer down to Fang for our overnight stay, before an early return the following morning which paid dividends with spotlight views of the rare Hodgson's Frogmouth and fleeting views of a Brown Wood Owl. The rest of the day we spent attempting to track down other new species around Doi Ang Khang. We began with the wonderful Spot-breasted Parrotbill, a pair of which showed well. For the rest of the day, we had repeat looks at many great species, but also added smart Blue-throated Barbets and Orange-bellied Leafbirds in a flowering tree, our first Grey-capped Woodpecker, smart Blyth's and Clicking Shrike-Babblers, Striated and Mountain Bulbuls,



A fine Giant Nuthatch from Doi Ang Khang (Pete Morris)

singing Davison's Leaf Warblers, smart Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babblers, Rufous-backed Sibias, drab Swinhoe's White-eyes, an unexpected male Vivid Niltava, Large Niltavas, the lovely Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher and a female Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush. Whilst we had not totally cleaned up, we had made a pretty good job of it, and the few species left we still had more chances of, so we headed back down to Fang pretty content.



Stunning Large and Vivid Niltavas from Doi Ang Khang (Pete Morris)



Mountain Bamboo Partridges showed well at Doi Lang (Pete Morris)

The next couple of days we spent on the excellent Doi Lang. Excellent that is other than two aspects... There were too many people trying to see the rare Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, and, rather inconveniently, some local folk had decided to shoot the habituated pheasants shortly before our arrival. This undoubtedly had a major impact on our chances of seeing this much-wanted target, and ultimately we failed despite putting in plenty of time and effort. It was just one of those things that wasn't meant to be this year sadly! We did however see a number of other excellent birds during our wanderings on the mountain. Particular highlights included a group of Mountain Bamboo Partridges that appeared both mornings, cheeky White-browed Laughingthrushes, some imposing Grey-backed Shrikes, some exquisite Ultramarine Flycatchers, Pale-blue, Slaty-backed, Slaty-blue and Sapphire Flycatchers, some extremely confiding Scarlet-faced Liocichlas and Silver-eared Laughingthrushes, lovely Himalayan Bluetails, more Siberian Rubythroats, a very friendly Spot-breasted Parrotbill, and finally, after much searching, a pair of Crested Finchbills. Other new species included Oriental Turtle Doves, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, a cracking Great Barbet, Grey-chinned Minivet, our first Maroon Orioles, a smart Yellow-bellied Fantail, a relatively showy Aberrant Bush Warbler, lively Black-throated Bushtits, calling Chinese and Pallas's Leaf Warblers, Hill and Rufescent Prinias, the poorly-known Buff-chested Babbler and a drab and skulking White-bellied Redstart.



Ultramarine Flycatcher was one of my personal favourites at Doi Lang (Pete Morris)



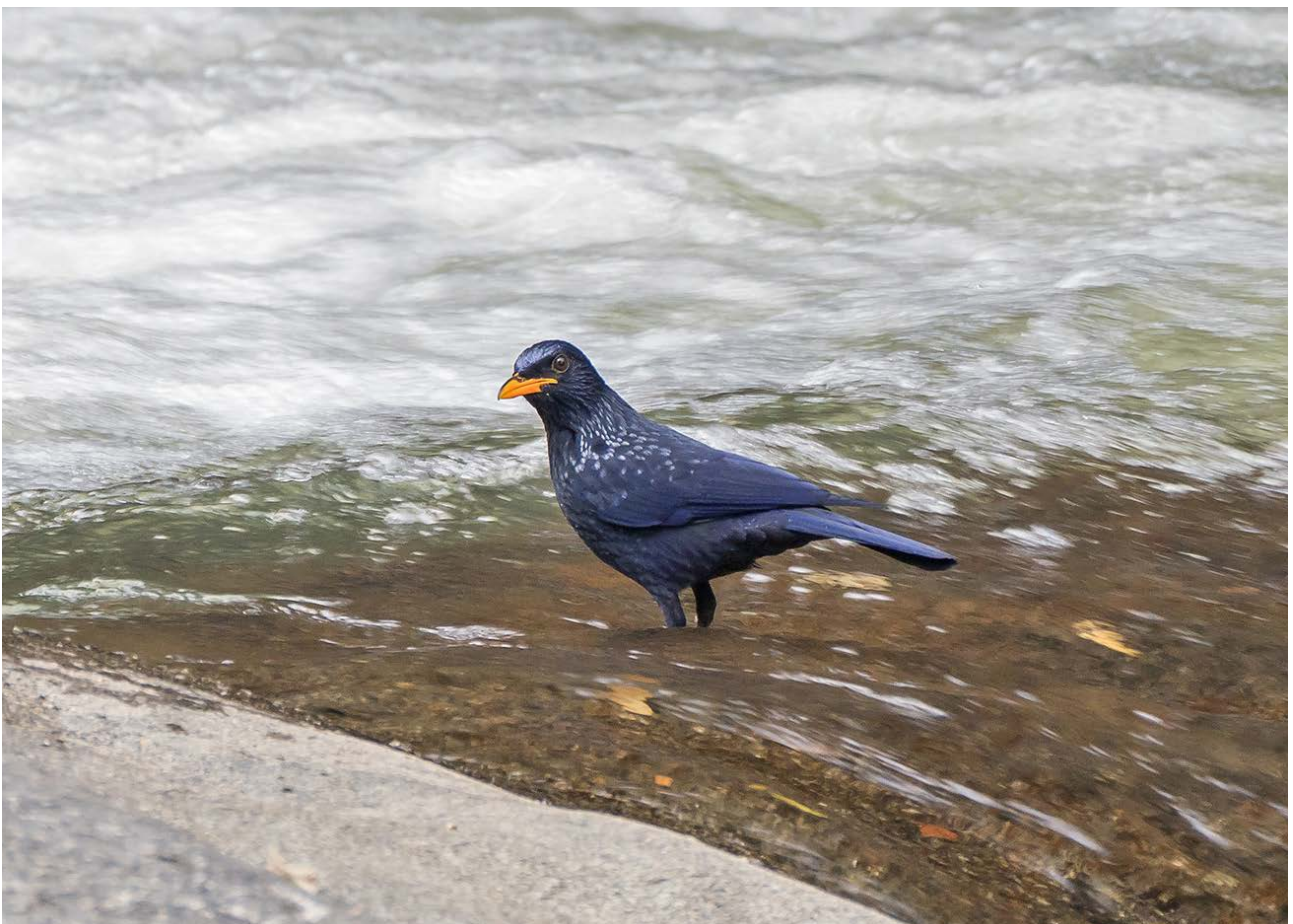
Scarlet-faced Liocichla and Silver-eared Laughingthrush at Doi Lang (Pete Morris)



We also had the time to make an afternoon and a morning visit to paddyfields around Mae Ai and Thaton. These areas provided a good number of new birds for our list, though we really could have done with a little more time looking! At Mae Ai, we saw a number of really interesting species. Perhaps best of all were some smart male Yellow-breasted Buntings, formerly a common bird in the area but now tragically Critically Endangered due to excessive hunting for food. Also here were a flock of Grey-headed Lapwings, two stunning male Pied Harriers, and, unexpectedly, at least two Mongolian Short-toed Larks. Our first Chestnut-tailed Starlings were also noted, and Red-throated Pipits were common. Around Thaton, we found a few other new species including Small Pratincoles hawking over the river, a smart Chestnut-eared Bunting, Yellow-eyed Babbler and a few Richard's Pipits.



A migrant 'black-billed' Blue Whistling Thrush (above) and a resident yellow-billed bird (below) (Pete Morris)





Forested hills at Doi Ang Khang, and one of the many spectacular waterfalls at Doi Inthanon (Pete Morris)





A few more from Doi Lang, clockwise from top left: Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Crested Finchbill, White-browed Laughingthrush, Dark-backed Sibia, Himalayan Bluetail and the charismatic Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (Pete Morris)





We saw a few Grey-backed Shrikes in the north (Pete Morris)

From Thaton, we headed back towards Chiang Mai, pausing at Fang Hot Springs as we went. Here we soon located a brilliant flock of Spot-winged Grosbeaks taking minerals from a dead tree that is frequently sprayed by the artificial geezers! It was brilliant to watch them fight their way around the branches, and whilst here, we also found our only (seen) Asian Barred Owlet of the tour and some smart white-faced Eurasian Jays! We then had another look at Mae Taeng, just in case, but other than a smart Wire-tailed Swallow, female Citrine Wagtail and a small group of Red Avadavats, little was doing. A buffet lunch in Chiang Mai followed before we made our way up to Doi Inthanon, our base for the next few nights. We began our visit with a look around an area near to our hotel where, after a short wait, we had fine views of several Blossom-headed Parakeets as well as smart Crested Treeswifts and our first Rufous Treepies of the tour.



The brilliant Spot-winged Grosbeaks from Fang (Pete Morris)



Spot-breasted Parrotbill and the skulking White-bellied Redstart - two more highlights from the north (Pete Morris)





A few shots from the paddies... the critically endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting and a couple of male Pied Harriers (Pete Morris)

We had a couple of days to explore the full altitudinal range of the magnificent Doi Inthanon. We began with a drive up towards the summit, pausing on the way to pick up a few birds. Here, as the first rays of light glanced off the tall trees, groups of Speckled Wood pigeons sat up and these were joined by rare Grey-sided and more common Eye-browed Thrushes (the latter including a partially leucistic bird with a largely white head!) catching the first warmth of the day. A busy Bay Woodpecker showed well, we found our first Short-billed Minivets, and we were also delighted to find males of both Rufous-bellied Niltava and Blue-fronted Redstart flitting about in the roadside shrubs.

A highlight for anyone visiting Doi Inthanon is a visit to the amazing boardwalk at the summit marsh. Here, in the enchanted forest, we found a fantastic variety of much-wanted birds. Seeing Ashy Wood pigeons perched up was a great bonus, and finding a confiding group of lovely Rufous-throated Partridges was perhaps the ultimate prize here. But there was plenty more from tiny yet confiding Slaty-bellied Tesias, to gorgeous Ru-



The gorgeous Rufous-throated Partridge showed superbly at Doi Inthanon (Pete Morris)



The early morning sun at Doi Inthanon enticed out the Speckled Woodpigeons and Eye-browed Thrushes, the latter with the rare Grey-sided Thrush (top left) (Pete Morris)



fous-winged Fulvettas, and Snowy-browed Flycatchers, and ground-dwelling Himalayan Shortwings and White-crowned Forktails. Meanwhile the trees were alive with flocks comprising Buff-barred and Ashy-throated Warblers, Bar-throated Minla and Mrs Gould's and Green-tailed Sunbirds.

We also spent some time penetrating the forest on tracks and side roads. Here we found another set of good-ies, perhaps the trickiest of which was the often ultra-shy White-necked Laughingthrush. Fortunately we found an obliging group this time round! Other species here included furtive Silver-breasted Broadbills, a singing

Hume's Treecreeper, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, White-throated Fantail (like so many of the small insectivorous birds, it seems so much scarcer these days), perky Grey-throated and Golden Babblers, smart Eye-browed Wren-Babblers and a fine male Small Niltava. We also explored a few of the waterfalls and rivers, and here we found the hoped-for Slaty-backed Forktail, Plumbeous Water Redstart and delightful White-capped Redstart. A pair of Scaly Thrush showed exceptionally well, and a small screen allowed us amazing views of Pygmy Cupwing and more Dark-sided Thrushes. At a lower elevation river we also found the rarely-seen Black-backed Forktail.



A stunning Dark-sided Thrush, tiny Pygmy Cupwing and Plumbeous Water Redstart from our blind at Doi Inthanon (Pete Morris)





More goodies from Doi Inthanon, clockwise from top left: the dark forests contained gems such as the rare White-necked Laughingthrush, Ashy Woodpigeon, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Hume's Treecreeper and Chestnut-tailed Minla (Pete Morris)





The female White-rumped Falcon from Mae Ping National Park (Pete Morris)

During one of our full days, we decided to make a journey further south to the excellent Mae Ping National Park. It was quite a drive, but we all agreed, well worth it. Here the huge dry deciduous forest was alive with birds early in the morning, and it didn't take us too long to track down one of our main target birds, the elusive White-rumped Falcon, a female of which showed brilliantly. Numerous Grey-headed Parakeets whizzed by, though it took all morning before everyone had achieved some great perched views! As we picked our way through the forest, woodpeckers were conspicuous, and we tracked down three much wanted species: the superb Black-headed Woodpecker, the prehistoric-looking Great Slaty Woodpecker and the excellent White-bellied Woodpecker. Burmese Nuthatch was also seen well, attending a nest, and somehow, we saw our only Plain Flowerpecker of the tour, singing away. It was getting hot and we were getting hungry, so we made our way to the nearby campground to take our breakfast. Immediately we found a cracking little Collared Falconet perched up, followed by Golden-fronted Leafbirds and Purple Sunbirds visiting a nearby flowering tree. And then, as we were packing up, a couple of Rufous-winged Buzzards got up to soar for good measure!



Collared Falconet and the seldom seen Grey-headed Parakeet from Mae Ping National Park (Pete Morris)



The stunning Green Peafowls of Pabon Hong Non Hunting area (Pete Morris)



It was really warm by now, and we made our way to our next destination, the little-known Pabon Hong Non Hunting area. This area has been set up to protect a population of the rare Green Peafowl, and although there are a few places where one can see this species in Thailand, some are re-introduced populations, whereas this population is apparently a completely wild and native population. The birds here have been well-habituated through protection and feeding, and after a bit of a wait, we were treated to a good number of both male and female trotting up the hill for their food, some even displaying. It was quite a sight, even comical in some respects, but a great treat nonetheless. Whilst waiting, we were pleased to find our only Rosy Minivet of the tour. On our way back to the hotel we called in to another area of dry forest, and although it was quiet, we did flush a surprise pair of Chinese Francolins, and back at the hotel, we finally got around to having a look at the Spotted Owlets that were living around our rooms!

With another flight to catch, that was more or less it for the birding on the main tour. Of course we tried to squeeze out every last drop of birding, adding Red-billed Blue Magpies and some Pin-tailed Snipes on the way, but it is never a good idea to miss a flight, and we headed for Chiang Mai, the main tour wrapped up.



Siberian Blue Robin - one of the best of the bunch! (Pete Morris)



A couple of shots of smart Brown-winged Kingfishers from Krabi (Pete Morris)

Not that there was really any kind of a break! We'd soon been up and down twice, and by mid-afternoon we were walking along the well-constructed mangrove boardwalk in Krabi town. The mangroves themselves were truly fantastic, but seeing many birds in them was not so easy. We could hear a Mangrove Pitta and did briefly see our first hulking Brown-winged Kingfisher, and our first Ashy Tailorbirds, whilst nearby, Rufous-bellied Swallows, endemic to the Malay Peninsula, circled over the limestone karst outcrops. As we left the mangroves we finally saw Little Spiderhunter and our first Ashy Minivets. We then made our way to another area of mangroves nearby, where, we put in some effort to secure some great views of Ruddy Kingfisher and, for most, Mangrove Pitta, though the latter continued to play hard to get.



Ruddy Kingfisher and White-chested Babbler from Krabi Mangroves (Pete Morris)



The mangroves at Krabi and Mr Dai junior. His father took me to see Masked Finfoot many moons ago!! (Pete Morris)



The following morning we were back into the mangroves, but this time by boat. As the sun rose, the mangrove channels came alive with kingfishers, and we enjoyed multiple excellent encounters with Brown-winged Kingfishers, as well as Collared, Black-capped and Common Kingfishers. Ruddy Kingfishers were also present, though somewhat more retiring, and although the voices of Mangrove Pittas belted down the channels, they were again playing hard to get until we finally found one high in a tree. Smart White-chested Babblers were more obliging as were some Streak-breasted Woodpeckers. It was like being in an enchanted world, but

it wasn't very birdy! We then headed for the coast. As Brahminy Kites circled overhead, we made our way to some sandbars that were packed with waders. Our only Lesser Crested Tern of the tour passed by, and amongst the throngs of curlews, godwits and Great Knots, we achieved some absolutely first rate views of several distinctive Nordmann's Greenshanks.



Nordmann's Greenshanks amongst Great Knot, Bar-tailed Godwits, Eurasian Curlews and Grey Plovers (Pete Morris)





Barred Eagle-Owls: adult on the left and juvenile on the right (Pete Morris)

It had been a fun morning, but once again we had plans, and after a quick pit stop and cold drink, we headed towards Khao Phra Bang Khram where a fine lunch was awaiting us. We were now in the south of the country, and something we had almost forgotten about was about to hit us... torrential rain! Fortunately it did not last too long, and once the skies cleared, we had both an adult and a juvenile Barred Eagle-Owl lined up in our scopes! A sensational start to our time here. Our next stop brought us some young Eastern Barn Owls in a nest, and then we headed to a forest patch. It was late in the day, but fairly quickly we began to add new species including a brilliant Green Broadbill, Whiskered Treeswifts, a Dark-sided Flycatcher, 'pooping' Chestnut-winged Babbler and Red-throated Barbets, as well as our first Grey-breasted Spiderhunters.

We spent the next day and the following morning exploring accessible areas of forest. It has to be said, the area had changed beyond belief since my last visit, and the tourist infrastructure and numbers visiting the Emerald Lagoon were beyond belief! We avoided all of this, and spent as much time poking around the forest fragments looking for as many new birds as we could. And we came up with a good haul of Sundaic species. Looking skyward we found Grey-rumped Treeswifts, speedy Silver-rumped Spinetails and a much-appreciated Black Baza. Nest-excavating Sooty Barbets and a tiny Rufous Piculet were new for some and we finally found some Vernal Hanging Parrots perched. Other goodies in the forest included a singing Rufous-winged Philentoma, a smart Green Iora and the sneaky Crow-billed Drongo, while a whole array of new bulbuls included shy Puff-backed Bulbuls, and forest-dwelling Yellow-bellied and Hairy-backed Bulbuls, whilst fruiting trees attracted Olive-winged, Asian Red-eyed, Spectacled and Streaked Bulbuls. Pale-legged, Arctic and Eastern Crowned Warblers joined mixed flocks, and we had some success with babbler, finding, charismatic Chest-



Green Broadbill and a delightful Short-tailed Babbler at Khao Phra Bang Kham (Pete Morris)

nut-rumped Babblers, a delightful pair of Short-tailed Babblers, and melodic Moustached and Rufous-crowned Babblers. Other new ones for our list included Yellow-breasted, Crimson-breasted and Orange-bellied Flower-peckers, Van Hasselt's and Purple-naped Sunbirds (the latter sometimes now referred to as a spiderhunter), and a couple of Yellow-eared Spiderhunters. Pre-dawn birding was quiet generally, but we did manage to track down a Collared Scops Owl and a brilliant pair of Brown Wood Owls for some great views.

It had been a productive visit, even if those Gurney's Pittas were now just a dream from the past, and having said goodbye to our lovely hosts we moved on once more. We paused at Bang Phat for another fine lunch and to explore another superb area of mangroves. Here we got some much better views of fine Mangrove Pittas,



Mangrove Pitta from Bang Phat (Pete Morris)



Black-and-red Broadbill, Chestnut-bellied Malkoha and a superb Spotted Wood Owl (Pete Morris)



and found some stunning Black-and-red Broadbills, more Crow-billed Drongos, some very obliging Chestnut-bellied Malkohas, some extremely confiding Streak-breasted Woodpeckers and Common Flamebacks and another White-chested Babbler. But as always there was more to do, so we set off again and paused the journey in a coastal park. Although we still had a fair way to go, this rounded off the day's birding very nicely, as we watched a terrific adult Spotted Wood Owl peering down at us from the canopy.

Our day and a half at Si Phang Nga National Park was also excellent. The first morning was largely spent enjoying a couple of stake-outs. The first was for the simply stunning Malayan Banded Pitta, the male of which was there before us! It really is such a jaw-droppingly beautiful species that it was extremely hard to pull ourselves away from the pair that paraded in front of us. We were then led, literally across a river and then through dense bamboo, to the spot where a Blyth's Frogmouth was roosting. How our helper had ever found that bird,



A few from Si Phang Nga: the stunning Malayan Banded Pitta, a roosting Blyth's Frogmouth, the superb Crested Jay and a brilliant Lar or White-handed Gibbon (Pete Morris)



we will never know! We also went off on the hunt for Chestnut-naped Forktails which, although shy and hard to see well, eventually put on a performance for all. In between tracking these goodies down, we spent most of our time along an easy stretch of road, though we did have one attempt at following the streambed which was less easy, but did produce an amazing Crested Jay! I guess the biggest surprise along the road was a fine male Pin-tailed Parrotfinch, and other species we encountered here included Chestnut-breasted Malkohas, a flock of Bushy-crested Hornbills on both days, a calling Helmeted Hornbill that sadly refused to come close enough to show, Banded Woodpeckers, Buff-rumped Woodpeckers, Grey-throated Babblers (a new subspecies) and a fine Forest Wagtail. We kept trying for anything new, and, just as the fat lady began to sing, some deep croaking calls alerted us to the presence of not one but two stunning Red-bearded Bee-eaters. A species that we had been looking for throughout our visit, it was a fitting finale and signalled the end of the birding for the tour.

We headed back to our fine hotel and had plenty of time to pack and wash, before our final Thai Banquet and the drive to Phuket International Airport. It really had been a marvellous trip around the country and we had enjoyed a fantastic range of Thailand's habitats, birds and food! With very comfortable conditions and the great camaraderie throughout, the tour really had delivered in all departments.



The stunning Red-bearded Bee-eater - our grand finale! (Pete Morris)



This stunning Eared Pitta was another of the tour's top highlights (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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).

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).

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

Conservation threat categories and are taken from the BirdLife website: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search>

(EW) = Extinct in the wild, **(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(EN)** = Endangered, **(VU)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

Species only seen on the Southern Thailand Extension are marked with the symbol (S)

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

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2020. IOC World Bird List (v 10.1)**. This list is updated twice annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

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



A fine rooster from Kaeng Krachan a.k.a. Red Junglefowl! (Pete Morris)

Chinese Francolin ♦ *Francolinus pintadeanus* One flushed and seen in flight near to Doi Inthanon [phayrei].
 Rufous-throated Partridge ♦ *Arborophila rufogularis* Brilliant views of a group at Doi Inthanon. Stunners! [tickelli].
 Bar-backed Partridge ♦ *Arborophila brunneopectus* Brilliant views of 4+ at Kaeng Krachan [nominate].
 Green-legged Partridge ♦ (Scaly-breasted P) *Arborophila chloropus* See note.
 Ferruginous Partridge ♦ *Caloperdix oculeus* (NT) Brilliant views of a stunning pair at Kaeng Krachan.
 Mountain Bamboo Partridge ♦ *Bambusicola fytchii* Great views of 4 on the road at Doi Lang.
 Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* Plenty seen well in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai NPs [spadiceus].
 Silver Pheasant ♦ *Lophura nycthemera* Good views of one in Khao Yai NP after plenty of searching [lewisi].
 Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi* A male at the Pha Kluai Mai campground feeding area in Khao Yai NP.
 Grey Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* Brilliant views of a stunning male at Kaeng Krachan.
 Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* (EN) At least 20, including several fine males, at Pabon Hong [imperator].
 Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* Small numbers seen at Mae Taeng Irrigation Project.
 Hodgson's Frogmouth ♦ *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* Good spotlight views of one at Doi Ang Khang [indochinae].
 Blyth's Frogmouth ♦ *Batrachostomus affinis* (S) Excellent views of a roosting male at Si Phang Nga NP.
 Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis* One seen well over the river at the park HQ in Khao Yai NP [cerviniceps].
 Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* Best views were near to Kaeng Krachan NP [bimaculatus].
 Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus* One seen on the road near to Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].
 Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* Several seen well at the Parakeet platform near to our Doi Inthanon hotel.
 Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* Seen at Kaeng Krachan NP and at Khao Phra Bang Khram [harterti].
 Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata* (S) A pair at Khao Phra Bang Khram, taking it in turns to incubate their tiny nest!
 Himalayan Swiftlet (Indochinese S) *Aerodramus [brevirostris] rogersi* A few in the north, first at Doi Ang Khang.
 Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani* Common and widespread in the south, first near to Pak Thale [nominate].
 Silver-rumped Spinetail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis* A few seen well on the extension to the south.
 Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* Excellent views of one coming down to drink in Khao Yai NP.
 Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* See note.
 Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasienis* Fairly common. First seen at Laem Phak Bia [infumatus].
 Cook's Swift *Apus cooki* Very common in the north especially at Doi Ang Khang.
 House Swift *Apus nipalensis* Seen a few times, first at the Royal Project at Laem Phak Bia [nominate].



A Crested Treeswift from Doi Inthanon and a Whiskered Treeswift on its tiny nest at Khao Phra Bang Kham, and below, Germain's Swiftlet on the left and a fine Cook's Swift (Pete Morris)



- Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis* Several seen well during the trip [*intermedius*].
- Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis* (H) One heard at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [nominate].
- Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo** ♦ *Carpococcyx renauldi* (H) (**VU**) Heard briefly in Khao Yai NP.
- Raffles's Malkoha** *Rhinortha chlorophaea* A few seen well at Kaeng Krachan NP. Also encountered in the south.
- Chestnut-breasted Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris* Seen well at Kaeng Krachan and Si Phang Nga NPs [*singularis*].
- Chestnut-bellied Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus* (**NT**) (S) Great views of two in mangroves at Bang Phat.
- Green-billed Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus tristis* A few, the first at Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].
- Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopaceus* Commonly heard, first seen at Laem Phak Bia [*malayanus*].
- Asian Emerald Cuckoo** ♦ *Chrysococcyx maculatus* Seen well at Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai and Doi Inthanon NPs.
- Violet Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* A smart male seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].
- Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii* Good scope views of one in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].
- Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus* One seen at Mae Taeng and another in Krabi [*querulus*].
- Square-tailed Drongo-cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris* Seen well in Khao Yai NP [*barussarum*].
- Large Hawk-cuckoo** *Hierococcyx sparveriioides* Singles in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai NPs. Several others heard.
- Rock Dove (Feral)** *Columba livia* 'feral' (introduced)
- Speckled Wood Pigeon** *Columba hodgsonii* Brilliant views of c15 sat up in the early morning sun at Doi Inthanon.
- Ashy Wood Pigeon** *Columba pulchricollis* Great views of 3 by the summit marsh at Doi Inthanon.
- Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis* Two or three seen on the road on the west side of Doi Lang.
- Red Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Common. First seen at Pak Thale [*humilis*].
- Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis* Common. First seen at Pak Thale [*tigrina*].
- Barred Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia unchall* A few seen in Khao Yai NP [*minor*].
- Common Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica* Several seen well, especially from the hides at Kaeng Krachan [nominate].



Common Emerald Dove and the rare Pin-tailed Green Pigeon (Pete Morris)

Zebra Dove (Peaceful D) *Geopelia striata* Common. First seen at Pak Thale.

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* Two forms: *nipalensis* first in Kaeng Krachan NP, nominate in the south.

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon ♦ ***Treron apicauda*** Great views of four perched up at Doi Chiang Dao [lowei].

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* A few seen very well in Khao Yai NP [griseicapilla].

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* A few seen, the first at the Royal Project at Laem Phak Bia [nominate].

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* Excellent views of one at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [nominate].

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* Good scope views of one at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project.

Grey-headed Swampphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* Two or three seen at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [nominate].

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Plenty at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* c10 seen at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [nominate].

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A few seen at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [poggei].

Indian Stone-Curlew *Burhinus indicus* One seen well on the journey to Kaeng Krachan.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Very common. First seen at Pak Thale salt pans.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* c50 seen at Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Grey-headed Lapwing ♦ ***Vanellus cinereus*** c25 seen well in the paddies at Mae Ai.



A flock of Grey-headed Lapwings from the north (Pete Morris)



More from Pak Thale: Broad-billed Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt and Marsh Sandpiper, and below, a fine group of Great Knot (Pete Morris)



Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* Quite common. First seen at Laem Phak Bia [*atronuchalis*].

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Fairly common at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Common at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans [nominate].

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* First seen around Laem Phak Bia [*ferdoni*].

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* Common at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans [nominate].

Kentish Plover ♦ (White-faced P) *Charadrius [alexandrinus] dealbatus* A few seen very well at Laem Phak Bia spit.

Malaysian Plover ♦ *Charadrius peronii* Good numbers (10+) seen well at the spit at Laem Phak Bia.



Brown-headed Gull and Pacific Golden Plover (Pete Morris)

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* Very common at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans [*atrifrons-group*].

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* Just odd ones noted at Pak Thale salt pans [nominate].

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Just a few at Pak Thale salt pans and at Krabi in the south [*variegatus*].

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (EN) At least 3 seen well in the large curlew roost at Pak Thale.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT) A roost of several 100s seen at Pak Thale. Also on the sand-bar at Krabi [*orientalis*].

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (NT) See note.

Black-tailed Godwit (Eastern B-t G) *Limosa [limosa] melanuroides* (NT) Common at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Just a couple seen at Pak Thale salt pans [nominate].

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (EN) Thousands seen well at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia and excellent views at Krabi.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* (NT) Small numbers in amongst the Great Knot at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* Good numbers at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans [*sibirica*].

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (NT) Good numbers at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* A few seen at a couple of sites around Laem Phak Bia.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* Small numbers seen well at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper ♦ *Calidris pygmaea* (CR) Great views of one unflagged bird at Pak Thale salt pans.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (NT) Good numbers at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Small numbers seen at Pak Thale salt pans and on the spit at Laem Phak Bia [nominate].

Asian Dowitcher ♦ *Limnodromus semipalmatus* (NT) Great views of three at Pak Thale salt pans.

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura* One seen in the paddies at Mae Ai and a couple in the paddies at Dai Lo.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Two flushed from a pool at Laem Phak Bia, also seen in the north [nominate].

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* Just small numbers seen at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Small numbers at various sites, the first at Laem Phak Bia.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* A few seen in the north the first at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Small numbers at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Common at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Small numbers at various sites, the first at Laem Phak Bia.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Small numbers at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Small numbers at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Nordmann's Greenshank ♦ *Tringa guttifer* (EN) An excellent roost of 100+ at Laem Phak Bia. Great views of c8 near Krabi.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* (NL) One near to Laem Phak Bia for everyone but me!

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea* Good numbers seen over the river at dusk at Thaton paddies.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* An adult seen well at Pak Thale salt pans. A write-in for the tour!

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* Quite common around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia

Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus* A 3cy (2w) was seen well at Pak Thale salt pans.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Several seen at Pak Thale salt pans [*affinis*].

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Several at Pak Thale and around Laem Phak Bia.



Little Cormorant on the left and the somewhat sleeker Indian Cormorant on the right, and a fine adult Black-crowned Night Heron from Laem Phak Bia (Pete Morris)



Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* Several seen at the spit at Laem Phak Bia [*cristatus*].

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* (S) One seen off the sand bar in the bay southeast of Krabi [*torresii*].

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* Common in the Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia areas. Also one at the Mae Taeng [*sinensis*].

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Common in the Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia areas [*longipennis*].

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Common in the Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia areas [nominate].

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* Two or three seen well at the Royal Project at Laem Phak Bia.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* (NT) A few seen the first around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* Quite common. First seen as we were driving out of Bangkok.

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger* Plenty seen, the first around Laem Phak Bia.

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* Good cormorant comparison views around Laem Phak Bia

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* A male seen well in a ditch in Bang Sai district on the journey to Khao Yai.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A few, the first at Laem Phak Bia [nominate].

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* A few, the first on the boat trip at Laem Phak Bia [*javanica*].

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* Many pond herons seen, largely assumed to be this species!

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* Just small numbers seen. First seen at Laem Phak Bia.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Small numbers seen around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia, and a few elsewhere [joui].

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (NL) Just one at Pak Thale for some of the group [joui].

Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta* Fairly common, first seen around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* A few seen, the first around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia [nominate].

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Fairly common, first seen around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia [nominate].

Chinese Egret ♦ *Egretta eulophotes* (VU) Great views of a couple at the spit at Laem Phak Bia.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* One at Kaeng Krachan and one seen carrying a fish over Krabi [nominate].

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* A few seen, the first noted in Kaeng Krachan NP [orientalis].

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (S) Great views of one at Khao Phra Bang Khram [syama].

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* A few seen, the first noted in Kaeng Krachan NP [burmanicus].

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* Good views of a circling bird on the west side of Doi Lang [nominate].

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* (NT) Good views of an adult at Khao Yai NP [formosus].

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis* A couple seen well in Khao Yai NP [nominate].

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* A few seen well, the first in Kaeng Krachan NP [indicus].

Shikra *Accipiter badius* A few seen well, the first in Kaeng Krachan NP. Also several in the north [poliopsis].

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (NL) One seen from the vehicle on the journey from Kaeng Krachan.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* A female seen at Mae Taeng and two brilliant males in the paddies at Mae Ai.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* A few seen at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans and Krabi [intermedius].

Lesser Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus humilis* (NT) (S) One seen briefly three times at Si Phang Nga NP.



This excellent Black Baza was our only one of the tour (Pete Morris)

Rufous-winged Buzzard *Butastur liventer* Good scope views of two circling birds at Mae Ping NP.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* A few seen in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang.

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica* Great views of three at a nest near to Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].

Oriental Bay Owl ♦ *Phodilus badius* Excellent views of one near to Kaeng Krachan NP [saturatus].

White-fronted Scops Owl ♦ *Otus sagittatus* (H) (VU) Heard on consecutive mornings in Kaeng Krachan NP but no luck.

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* Brilliant views of one near Kaeng Krachan NP. Also seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].

Barred Eagle-Owl ♦ *Bubo sumatranus* Great views of an adult and a juv. near to Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].

Buffy Fish Owl ♦ *Ketupa ketupu* Brilliant views of one along a river at dusk in Khao Yai NP [nominate].

Spotted Wood Owl ♦ *Strix seloputo* Excellent views of a roosting adult on the journey to Si Phang Nga [nominate].



More owls from Thailand... Eastern Barn Owl, Asian Barred Owlet and Brown Hawk Owl (below) and a pair of Spotted Owlets (Pete Morris)





A stunning little Collared Owlet from Khao Yai (Pete Morris)

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* See note.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* Several heard, and one seen very well at Khao Yai NP [nominate].

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* Plenty heard, and one seen well at Fang Hot Springs [bruegeli].

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* Good views of two in the hotel grounds at Doi Inthanon [mayri].

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata* A roosting pair in Kaeng Krachan. Also seen at Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon [burmanica].

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* Excellent views of a few in Kaeng Krachan NP [stellae].

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* Good views of several in Khao Yai NP [annamensis].

White-crowned Hornbill ♦ *Berenicornis comatus* (H) (EN) (S) Heard distantly at Si Phang Nga NP.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* (VU) A few seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP. Also seen at Si Phang Nga NP.

Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil* (H) (CR) (S) Heard not too far away at Si Phang Nga NP, but would not come in!

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthraceros albirostris* Fairly common, especially in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus* (NT) (S) A small flock seen in flight both days at Si Phang Nga NP.

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus* (VU) A couple of males seen in Khao Yai NP.

Indochinese Roller *Coracias affinis* Plenty seen well, the first in Kaeng Krachan NP.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* A few seen in Kaeng Krachan NP, and one at Krabi [cyanocollis].

Rufous-collared Kingfisher ♦ *Actenoides concretus* (H) (S) Heard pre-dawn, at Si Phang Nga NP, but no response.

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* A few heard, but only seen in flight at Khao Yai NP [amabilis].

Brown-winged Kingfisher ♦ *Pelargopsis amauroptera* (NT) (S) Brilliant views of several in the mangroves at Krabi.

Ruddy Kingfisher ♦ *Halcyon coromanda* Great views in the mangroves at Krabi.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* A few seen, the first at Laem Phak Bia [perpulchra].

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* A few seen, the first at Laem Phak Bia. Also a few around Krabi.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* Two forms: *armstrongi* first at Laem Phak Bia *humii* around Krabi

Blue-banded Kingfisher ◇ *Alcedo euryzona* (H) (NT) Heard along the river at Si Phang Nga, but no luck [*peninsulae*].

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting* One seen briefly along the river by the park HQ in Khao Yai NP [*coltarti*].

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* A few seen, the first at Laem Phak Bia [*bengalensis*].

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus* (S) Brilliant views of a pair at Si Phang Nga NP. Our last bird of the tour!

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* Great views in Kaeng Krachan NP. Also at Doi Inthanon and Mae Ping [*athertoni*].

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* First seen at Laem Phak Bia. Plenty seen in the north [*ferrugiceps*].

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti* A few seen, the first in Khao Yai NP [nominate].

Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens* Several heard at various sites and great views at Doi Lang and seen at Fang [nominate].

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus* Seen a few times, the first at the temple in Bang Sai district [*hodgsoni*].

Green-eared Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon faiostrictus* Several seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].



The birds keep coming! Great Barbet and Great Hornbill above, and Moustached and Golden-throated Barbets below (Pete Morris)



Golden-whiskered Barbet *Psilopogon chrysopogon* (H) (S) Heard a few times distantly at Si Phang Nga NP [laetus].
 Red-throated Barbet *Psilopogon mystacophanos* (NT) (S) Several at Khao Phra Bang Kham and Si Phang Nga NP.
 Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii* Many heard and a few seen well, especially at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].
 Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiaticus* A few heard and one in a flowering tree at Doi Ang Khang [davisoni].
 Moustached Barbet ♦ *Psilopogon incognitus* Several, including one excavating a nest, in Khao Yai NP [elbeli].
 Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon duvaucelii* Excellent views of in Kaeng Krachan NP [stuarti].
 Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus* First seen in Kaeng Krachan NP [indicus].
 Sooty Barbet ♦ *Caloramphus hayii* (NT) (S) Great views of a pair excavating a nest, at Khao Phra Bang Kham.
 Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* One seen well at the Royal Project at Laem Phak Bia, was a surprise [chinensis].
 Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis* (S) Brilliant views of a cute little male at Khao Phra Bang Kham.
 White-browed Piculet ♦ *Sasia ochracea* Good views of a male at Kaeng Krachan. Also seen at Doi Lang [reichenowi].
 Heart-spotted Woodpecker ♦ *Hemicircus canente* Good views of a pair in Khao Yai NP.
 Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus* A few seen, the first at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].
 Stripe-breasted Woodpecker ♦ *Dendrocopos atratus* Several in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].
 White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* Good views of a fine individual at Mae Ping NP [feddeni].
 Banded Woodpecker *Chrysophlegma miniaceum* (S) Two or three seen well at Si Phang Nga NP [malaccense].
 Greater Yellownape *Chrysophlegma flavinucha* Excellent views of a few around Kaeng Krachan [nominate].
 Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus viridanus* Excellent views in Kaeng Krachan NP and in mangroves in the south.



A fine Streak-breasted Woodpecker from the mangroves at Bang Phat (Pete Morris)

Black-headed Woodpecker ♦ *Picus erythropygius* Great views of a pair at Mae Ping NP [nigrigenis].
 Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* Great views of a male visiting the hides at Kaeng Krachan [hessei].
 Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense* Two forms: *intermedium* at Kaeng Krachan; nominate in the south (mangroves).
 Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* Several, first seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].
 Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* Several heard and brilliant views of a fine male at Doi Inthanon [nominate].
 Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis* (S) Excellent views at Si Phang Nga NP [grammithorax].
 Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* (VU) Six of these huge beasts at Mae Ping NP [harterti].
 White-rumped Falcon ♦ *Polihierax insignis* (NT) Brilliant views of a fine female at Mae Ping NP [cinereiceps].
 Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens* Brilliant views of one at Mae Ping NP [burmanicus].
 Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* One at Wat Phra Puttabat Noi, and a few in the north [tinnunculus-group].
 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* One seen distantly hunting the waders at Laem Phak Bia salt pans.
 Grey-headed Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula finschii* (NT) c10 seen at Mae Ping NP, with excellent views of perched birds
 Blossom-headed Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula roseata* (NT) c15 seen well near to the hotel at Doi Inthanon [juneae].
 Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis* Heard at Khao Yai [nominate]. Several seen well in the south [phileticus].
 Black-and-red Broadbill ♦ *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos* (S) Great views a pair with juvs at Bang Phat [nominate group].



The handsome Long-tailed Broadbill was seen at Khao Yai. Rufous-winged Philentoma was a prize from the south (Pete Morris)

- Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae* Great views of a flock in Khao Yai NP [nominate].
- Silver-breasted Broadbill** ♦ *Serilophus lunatus* Decent views of an elusive pair at Doi Inthanon [nominate].
- Banded Broadbill** *Eurylaimus javanicus* Excellent views of a pair in Kaeng Krachan NP [*pallidus*].
- Black-and-yellow Broadbill** *Eurylaimus ochromalus* (NT) Excellent views of a group of three in Kaeng Krachan NP.
- Green Broadbill** ♦ *Calyptomena viridis* (NT) (S) Brilliant views of a male at Khao Phra Bang Khram [*caudacuta*].
- Eared Pitta** ♦ *Hydornis phayrei* Stunning views of a brilliant pair at Kaeng Krachan. Superb birds!!
- Blue Pitta** ♦ *Hydornis cyaneus* Great views of a female in Kaeng Krachan and two stunning males in Khao Yai [nominate].
- Malayan Banded Pitta** ♦ *Hydornis irena* (NT) (S) Great views of 3 males and a female at Si Phang Nga. Incredible!
- Mangrove Pitta** ♦ *Pitta megarhyncha* (NT) (S) Great views around Krabi and in the mangroves at Bang Phat.
- Golden-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone sulphurea* Distinctive song, first seen well at Laem Phak Bia [nominate].
- Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus* Nominate first at Kaeng Krachan, *intermedius* at Si Phang Nga NP.
- Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus* Two forms: *verneyi* first at Kaeng Krachan, *annectens* in the south.
- Rufous-winged Philentoma** ♦ *Philentoma pyrrhoptera* (S) Great views of a singing bird at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].
- Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus* Several noted, the first seen in Khao Yai NP.
- Common lora** *Aegithina tiphia* First seen well at the Pabon Hong Non Hunting area [*philipi*].
- Green lora** *Aegithina viridissima* (NT) (S) Brilliant views of a fine male at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].
- Great lora** *Aegithina lafresnayei* (S) Two forms: *innonata* first at Kaeng Krachan, *lafresnayei* in the south.
- Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* Three seen quite briefly at the Pabon Hong Non Hunting area [*vividus*].
- Grey-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris* A few seen, the first on the west side of Doi Lang [*rubrolimbatus*].
- Short-billed Minivet** *Pericrocotus brevirostris* A few seen well at Doi Inthanon [*neglectus*].
- Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus* Quite a few in the north where first seen at Doi Ang Khang [*ripponi*].
- Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus* Several seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP [*semiruber*].
- Ashy Minivet** *Pericrocotus divaricatus* (S) A few seen well in the south the first at the Mangrove Boardwalk in Krabi.
- Swinhoe's Minivet** ♦ *Pericrocotus cantonensis* Great views of good numbers in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai NPs.
- Rosy Minivet** *Pericrocotus roseus* Great views of a female at the Pabon Hong Non Hunting area.
- Large Cuckooshrike** *Coracina macei* Seen in flight at Doi Lang, then better views at Mae Ping NP [*siamensis*].
- Black-winged Cuckooshrike** *Lalage melaschistos* Several seen well, the first in Kaeng Krachan NP.
- Mangrove Whistler** *Pachycephala cinerea* (H) (S) One heard a couple of times at Bang.
- Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus* A few, first seen in Khao Yai NP [*confusus?*].
- Burmese Shrike** ♦ *Lanius collurioides* Excellent views at Doi Ang Khang, including one with a blackish crown [nominate].
- Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach* A few seen, the first at Doi Ang Khang [*tricolor*].
- Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus* A few seen with the best views being at Doi Lang [nominate].
- White-bellied Erpornis** *Erpornis zantholeuca* Several noted, first seen at Kaeng Krachan [nominate].



A selection of minivets! Swinhoe's Minivet above, and male Long-tailed Minivet and a female Rosy Minivet below (Pete Morris)



Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* Common in the northwest, the first seen well at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].

Clicking Shrike-Babbler ♦ *Pteruthius intermedius* A smart pair at Doi Ang Khang were our only ones [nominate].

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trailii* A few seen in the northwest, with best views at Doi Inthanon [nominate].

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* A few in the northwest with good views at Doi Chiang Dao and Mae Ping [nominate].

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Two forms: *diffuses* first at Kaeng Krachan; *maculatus* in the south.

Slender-billed Oriole ♦ *Oriolus tenuirostris* (H) Sadly only heard a few times in the northwest [nominate].

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Common in open country, first around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia [thai].

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* See note.

Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectens* (S) Skittish but seen well at Khao Phra Bang Khram and Bang Phat.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* A few. First seen in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* A few seen in the north with some good looks at Doi Ang Khang.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* Common, first seen in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* Quite common, first seen in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* Finally seen, after some effort, at Doi Inthanon [celsa].

Malaysian Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica* First seen well at the Royal Project at Laem Phak Bia [longicauda].

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* See note.



A smart Black-naped Monarch from Kaeng Krachan (Pete Morris)

Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis* Seen well at Kaeng Krachan and also well at Si Phang Nga [nominate].
Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus* (NT) (S) Great views of a comical pair at Si Phang Nga NP [ardesiacus].
Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* A few 'White-faced Jays' seen, especially at Fang Hot Springs [leucotis].
Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* Three seen fairly briefly between Doi Inthanon and Chiang Mai [magnirostris].
Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* Seen well at Kaeng Krachan (hide) and at Doi Inthanon [nominate].
Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* A few seen at Doi Inthanon and at Mae Ping NPs [kinneari].
Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* A few in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang [assimilis].
Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia* Seen well a couple of times from the hides at Kaeng Krachan.
Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus leuallantii* Frequently seen on journeys etc.
Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus* Great views on a few occasions, the first at Doi Lang.
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* Fairly common, first in Kaeng Krachan NP [antioxantha].
Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* Many great views in Kaeng Krachan NP [flavocristata].
Japanese Tit *Parus minor* Many seen well, especially at Doi Lang [nubicolus].
Yellow-cheeked Tit *Machlolophus spilonotus* Seen well at Doi Ang Khang and again at Doi Inthanon [subviridis].



A couple of smart tits... Yellow-cheeked Tit on the left and Japanese Tit (Pete Morris)

Indochinese Bush Lark ♦ *Mirafra erythrocephala* Excellent views of a singing bird on the journey to Kaeng Krachan.
Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* Seen well in fields near to Laem Phak Bia [herberti].
Mongolian Short-toed Lark ♦ *Calandrella dukhunensis* About five in the paddies at Mae Ai. A surprise write-in!
Crested Finchbill ♦ *Spizixos canifrons* Great views of a couple in the end at Doi Lang [ingrami].

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* Seen a few times in the north, first seen well at Doi Ang Khang [*paulus*].

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* Fairly common, first seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* See note.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* Common in the lowlands of the north first seen at Mae Taeng [*emeria*].

Grey-bellied Bulbul *Pycnonotus caniventris* (NL) (S) One for some of the group at Si Phang Nga NP.

Brown-breasted Bulbul ◇ *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* Plenty seen well at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Common in the north. First seen at Mae Taeng [*klossi*].

Puff-backed Bulbul ◇ *Pycnonotus eutilotus* (NT) (S) Great views after a few attempts at Khao Phra Bang Kham.

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* Fairly common with some great views in Kaeng Krachan NP [*eous*].

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescent* Common in the north. First seen at Doi Ang Khang [*vividus*].

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* (S) A few around Krabi were the only ones [*analis*].

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus* (S) First seen in Krabi [nominate].

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus conradi* Fairly common with some great views in Kaeng Krachan NP.

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex* (S) A few seen well at Khao Phra Bang Kham [nominate].

Asian Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus* (S) A few seen well at Khao Phra Bang Kham [nominate].

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos* (S) One scoped at Khao Phra Bang Kham.

Puff-throated Bulbul ◇ *Alophoixus pallidus* Quite common in Khao Yai NP, with many seen well [*pallidus-group*].

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus* Two forms: nominate first in Kaeng Krachan NP, *sordidus* in the south.



A few bulbuls from Kaeng Krachan: Black-crested Bulbul (above) and Stripe-throated (left) and Streak-eared Bulbuls (Pete Morris)





A couple more from the great variety of bulbuls we saw... *Flavescent Bulbul* (left) and *Ashy Bulbul* (Pete Morris)

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus* (S) A couple seen well at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger* (S) A pair seen well at Khao Phra Bang Khram, others heard [nominate].

Olive Bulbul ♦ *Iole viridescens* See note.

Grey-eyed Bulbul ♦ *Iole propinqua* A few seen well in Khao Yai NP [simulator].

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii* Plenty seen in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang [tickelli].

Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis* (NT) (S) Seen well at Khao Phra Bang Khram and again at Si Phang Nga NP.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* A few seen well in Khao Yai NP [bourdellei].

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* A few at Doi Lang were the only ones.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (NL) One for some of the group at Mae Taeng.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Common and widespread,

Pacific Swallow (House S) *Hirundo tahitica* (S) Plenty in the south where first seen around Krabi town [javanica].

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* A showy bird at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [filifera].

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* Quite a few in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* A few seen, the first in Khao Yai NP [daurica-group].

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* A few, especially in the north with good views at Fang Hot Springs.

Rufous-bellied Swallow ♦ *Cecropis badia* (S) A few seen well around the outcrops at Krabi.

Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla* A few heard and stunning views at Doi Inthanon [nominate].

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliosus* Two forms: *bambusarum* at Kaeng Krachan; *sakaorum* in the south.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus* A few heard and eventually one seen well at Doi Inthanon [coronatus].

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* One seen well at the top of the west side of Doi Lang [intricatus].

Slaty-bellied Tesia ♦ *Tesia olivea* Great views of a few little stunners at Doi Inthanon [chiangmaiensis].

Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus* Great views of a few on the west side of Doi Lang [pulchellus].

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* Best views were at the summit marsh at Doi Inthanon [vegetus].

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* Great views at the summit marsh at Doi Inthanon [nominate].

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Common by voice in the north. First seen at Doi Ang Khang [mandellii].

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* Common and widespread.

Chinese Leaf Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus yunnanensis* A calling bird seen well on the west side of Doi Lang.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* A couple, including a calling bird that showed very well at Doi Lang.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Several seen well, especially in Kaeng Krachan NP.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Common and widespread in open country. First at Laem Phak Bia [robustus].

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* A few seen well at Doi Ang Khang.

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* A few seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP. Also seen in the south.

Alström's Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus soror* One seen well and heard in Khao Yai NP.

Martens's Warbler ♦ (Omei W) *Phylloscopus omeiensis* Best was at the small feeding station at Doi Ang Khang.

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* Commonly heard and a few seen.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* At least one seen and heard at Doi Ang Khang.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* See note.



Two of the special phylloscops from Doi Inthanon... Ashy-throated (eft) and Buff-barred Leaf Warblers (Pete Morris)

- Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* (S) A few seen in the south the first at Khao Phra Bang Kham.
- Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Phylloscopus castaniceps* Two forms: *youngi* in Kaeng Krachan; *collinsi* at Doi Inthanon.
- Sulphur-breasted Warbler** *Phylloscopus ricketti* A few seen well in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai NPs.
- Blyth's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides* Fairly common at Doi Inthanon [*assamensis*].
- Claudia's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus claudiae* A few seen in Khao Yai NP. Separation from Claudia's problematic.
- Davison's Leaf Warbler** ◇ *Phylloscopus intensior* Common in the north and frequently singing [*muleyitensis*].
- Oriental Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus orientalis* One briefly at Laem Phak Bia and one at Dai Lo paddies.
- Thick-billed Warbler** *Arundinax aedon* One seen briefly at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project.
- Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* One flushed at Thaton paddies [nominate].
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* A few seen, the first at Laem Phak Bia [*malaya*].
- Hill Prinia** *Prinia superciliaris* Heard and a couple seen on the west side of Doi Lang. Quite skulking [*erythropleura*].
- Rufescent Prinia** *Prinia rufescens* A few seen well on the west side of Doi Lang [*beavani*].
- Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii* A couple seen in the paddyfields around at Doi Inthanon [*ferro*].
- Yellow-bellied Prinia** *Prinia flaviventris* A few heard and seen briefly in the north. First at Mae Taeng [*delacouri*].
- Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata* A few seen in open areas. First seen at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [*blanfordi*].
- Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius* Fairly common in open areas: *inexpectatus* in the north; *maculicollis* in the south.
- Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis* Fairly common by voice, first seen in Kaeng Krachan NP [*nitidus*].
- Ashy Tailorbird** *Orthotomus ruficeps* (S) Several seen well in the mangroves at Krabi and at Bang Phat [*cineraceus*].
- Large Scimitar Babbler** ◇ *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* Great views from a couple of the hides in Kaeng Krachan [*tickelli*].
- Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus* Most easy to see and showy at Doi Lang [*celatus*].
- White-browed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* See note.
- Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps* Two forms: *yunnanensis* at Doi Inthanon; *dipora* at Si Phang Nga NP.
- Chestnut-rumped Babbler** *Stachyris maculata* (NT) (S) A lively pair seen well at Khao Phra Bang Kham [*maculata*].
- Chestnut-winged Babbler** *Stachyris erythroptera* (S) Excellent views of a few at Khao Phra Bang Kham [nominate].
- Rufous-fronted Babbler** *Stachyridopsis rufifrons* A few seen, more heard, the first in Kaeng Krachan [nominate].
- Buff-chested Babbler** *Stachyridopsis ambigua* See note.
- Golden Babbler** *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* Seen well a couple of times at Doi Inthanon [*aurata*].
- Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** *Macronus gularis* Three forms: *connectens* Kaeng Krachan; *saraburiensis* Khao Yai; *sulphureus* - north.
- Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Alcippe castaneiceps* Brilliant views of several little crackers at Doi Inthanon [nominate].
- Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe poioicephala* Common at all of the hides in Kaeng Krachan NP [*karenni*].
- Yunnan Fulvetta** ◇ *Alcippe fratercula* Fairly common in the north. First seen well at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].
- Limestone Wren-Babbler** ◇ *Napothera crispifrons* (VU) See note.
- Streaked Wren-Babbler** ◇ *Napothera brevicaudata* Excellent views at Doi Chiang Dao and at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].



The localized rufous form of Limestone Wren-Babbler, and Large (left) and White-browed Scimitar Babblers (Pete Morris)



Eye-browed Wren-Babbler *Napothera epilepidota* Great views on a couple of occasions at Doi Inthanon [davisoni].

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* A few seen, the first from the hides in Kaeng Krachan [nominate].

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis* (NT) (S) Brilliant views of a cute pair at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].

Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre* (S) Excellent views of a group at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum* (NT) (S) A tricky group seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].

White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum* (NT) (S) Great views at Krabi, and again at Bang Phat [nominate].

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps* Two forms: *acrum* at Kaeng Krachan, *euroum* in Khao Yai NP.



A couple of babblers from the hides at Kaeng Krachan: Puff-throated Babbler and Pin-striped Tit-Babbler (Pete Morris)



Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli* Best views were at Wat Tham Pa Plong on Doi Chiang Dao [*fulvum*].
Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum* (H) One heard at Khao Phra Bang Kham, but no response [*nigrocapitatum*].
Silver-eared Laughingthrush ♦ *Trochalopteron melanostigma* Great views at several sites in the north [*schistaceum*].
Bar-throated Minla (Chestnut-tailed M) *Actinodura strigula* Several smart birds seen at Doi Inthanon [*castanicauda*].
Spectacled Barwing ♦ *Actinodura ramsayi* Brilliant views on a few occasions, especially at Doi Ang Khang [n nominate].
Blue-winged Minla *Actinodura cyanouroptera* Fairly numerous in the north, the first at Doi Ang Khang [*sordida*].



More stunners, clockwise from above: Silver-eared Mesia, Spectacled Barwing, Black-throated Laughingthrush and Blue-winged Minla (Pete Morris)



Rufous-backed Sibia ◇ *Leioptila annectens* Fairly numerous in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang [*saturata*].
Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentea* Plenty in the north including some photogenic birds at Doi Ang Khang [*galbana*].
Scarlet-faced Liocichla ◇ *Liocichla ripponi* A few seen at Doi Ang Khang, then brilliant views at Doi Lang [nominate].
Dark-backed Sibia ◇ *Heterophasia melanoleuca* Common in the north. First seen at Doi Ang Khang [*radcliffei*].
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* Brilliant views at Kaeng Krachan. Often in mixed flocks [*fuscatus*].

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* See note.

White-necked Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax strepitans* Great views of a flock of c6 at Doi Inthanon. Others heard.

Black-throated Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus chinensis* Excellent views in Khao Yai NP [*chinensis-group*].

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus pectoralis* Brilliant views from the hides at Kaeng Krachan [*subfusus*].

White-browed Laughingthrush ◇ *Pterorhinus sannio* Excellent views of a small flock at Doi Lang [*comis*].

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* One seen well in a reed bed at Thaton paddies [nominate].

Spot-breasted Parrotbill ◇ *Paradoxornis guttaticollis* A pair at Doi Ang Khang, then stunning views at Doi Lang.

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* A flock seen briefly at Doi Ang Khang [*striata*].

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* (NL) A small flock at Doi Lang for some of the group.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* A few seen at Khao Yai NP and at Doi Ang Khang.

Swinhoe's White-eye *Zosterops simplex* A few seen in the north where first seen well at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].

Hume's White-eye ◇ *Zosterops auriventer* Good looks in Khao Yai NP [*tahanensis*].

Indian White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* Very yellow! Seen well at The Royal Project at Doi Ang Khang [*siamensis*].

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella* Fairly common, first seen in Kaeng Krachan NP.

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch ◇ *Sitta nagaensis* Fairly common in the northwest. First seen at Doi Ang Khang [*montium*].

Burmese Nuthatch ◇ *Sitta neglecta* Great views of a pair that were attending a nest at Mae Ping NP.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* Fairly common. First seen in Khao Yai NP [nominate].

Giant Nuthatch ◇ *Sitta magna* (EN) Brilliant views of a pair at Doi Ang Khang, and seen well at Doi Lang [nominate].

Hume's Treecreeper ◇ *Certhia manipurensis* Great views of a singing bird at Doi Inthanon [*shanensis*].

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis* A couple seen in Krabi Town, the only ones of the trip [*strigata*].

Golden-crested Myna ◇ *Ampeliceps coronatus* A flock of c10 seen in flight in Kaeng Krachan NP.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* Common in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai NPs [*intermedia*].

Great Myna (White-vented M) *Acridotheres grandis* Fairly common and widespread. Some big flocks seen.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Common and widespread [nominate].

Vinous-breasted Starling ◇ *Acridotheres burmannicus* Some great views near to Kaeng Krachan [*leucocephalus*].

Black-collared Starling ◇ *Gracupica nigricollis* Common in the north. First seen at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project.

Pied Myna (Asian P Starling) *Gracupica contra* Fairly common. First seen at Laem Phak Bia [*floweri*].



Pied Myna and Great Myna, two relatively common species... (Pete Morris)

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica* Quite a few in the north, the first in the paddies at Mae Ai [*nemoricola*].

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* (NL) (S) One seen near to our accommodation at Khao Phra Bang Kham.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* Brilliant views at Doi Inthanon. Stunner [nominate].

Dark-sided Thrush ◇ *Zoothera marginata* Two scruffy birds at Doi Ang Khang and two then stunners at Doi Inthanon.

Black-breasted Thrush ◇ *Turdus dissimilis* Great views of 10+ at The Royal Project at Doi Ang Khang.

Grey-sided Thrush ◇ *Turdus feae* (VU) One briefly at Doi Ang Khang, then brilliant views of several at Doi Inthanon.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* Good views of quite a few at Doi Inthanon, including a partially leucistic individual.

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis* Fairly common. First seen around Laem Phak Bia [nominate].

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* Great views, particularly at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai NPs [nominate].

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* (S) A few seen in the south the first at Khao Phra Bang Kham.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* One seen perched up in Kaeng Krachan NP. Many more in the south.



A stunning Scaly Thrush, a fine male White-throated Rock Thrush and White-capped Redstart (Pete Morris)



- White-gorgeted Flycatcher** ♦ *Anthipes monileger* Great views at Doi Ang Khang, Doi Lang and Doi Inthanon [*leucops*].
- Hainan Blue Flycatcher** ♦ *Cyornis hainanus* Seen very in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai NPs [nominate].
- Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor* Good views of one on the west side of Doi Lang [nominate].
- Hill Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis whitei* Two forms: *deignani* at Khao Yai; nominate at Doi Inthanon.
- Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** ♦ *Cyornis sumatrensis* A few seen in Kaeng Krachan NP [*indochina*].
- Chinese Blue Flycatcher** ♦ *Cyornis glaucicomans* Great views of a pair at Kaeng Krachan. Also seen at Si Phang Nga NP.
- Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara* Females at Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon, and a fine male at Doi Inthanon.
- Vivid Niltava** ♦ *Niltava vivida* Excellent views of a 1w male at Doi Ang Khang and another at Doi Inthanon [*oatesi*].
- Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis* A few seen well in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].
- Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae* A male seen well at Doi Inthanon [*signata*].
- Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus* Two forms: *thalassoides* first at Kaeng Krachan NP; nominate in the north.
- Lesser Shortwing** *Brachypteryx leucophris* (H) Heard at close range at Doi Inthanon, but somehow eluded us [*carolinae*].
- Himalayan Shortwing** *Brachypteryx cruralis* Excellent views of a male at the summit marsh at Doi Inthanon.
- Siberian Blue Robin** *Larivora cyane* Some great looks at all ages and sexes especially at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Our only one was seen well at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [*svecica-group*].

White-bellied Redstart *Luscinia phaenicuroides* Good views of a female at Doi Lang [*ichangensis*].

Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* Stunners, including brilliant males at Mae Taeng and Doi Lang.

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* A few seen well, at Doi Ang Khang and also at Doi Inthanon.

Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* A few seen on the north side of Doi Lang [n nominate].

Chestnut-naped Forktail ♦ *Enicurus ruficapillus* (NT) (S) A shy pair seen well along a stream at Si Phang Nga NP.

Black-backed Forktail ♦ *Enicurus immaculatus* Good views of one along a river at Doi Inthanon.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* Excellent views at Doi Inthanon.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* Great views at Doi Inthanon, especially at the summit marsh [*indicus*].

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* See note.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii* A few seen well at Doi Lang and at Doi Inthanon.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata* Singles seen at Doi Ang Khang and at Doi Lang [n nominate].

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* Fairly common and widespread, a very familiar sight and sound.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* A couple at Doi Inthanon, including a confiding male.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* A few seen well, the first at Doi Lang [*australorientis*].

Ultramarine Flycatcher ♦ *Ficedula superciliaris* A couple of stunning males seen at Doi Lang [*aestigma*].

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* A couple of females seen at Doi Lang [*diversa*].

Sapphire Flycatcher ♦ *Ficedula sapphira* A non-breeding plumaged male seen well at Doi Lang [*laotiana*].

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* Great views of a male at The Royal Project at Doi Ang Khang [*leucopterus*].

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* Great views of a male at Doi Inthanon.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* A couple of females along streams at Doi Inthanon [n nominate].

White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* Good views of a couple along the streams at Doi Inthanon.



More stunners! Another male Siberian Rubythroat, male Sapphire Flycatcher and a Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (Pete Morris)





More colour! White-rumped Shama (above) and Indochinese Blue (left) and Hill Blue Flycatchers (Pete Morris)



- Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* A few, the first, a red bellied male, at Khao Yai NP [*madoci*].
- Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris* Good views of a female in the open forest at Doi Ang Khang.
- White-throated Rock Thrush** ♦ *Monticola gularis* Brilliant views of a smart male in Khao Yai NP.
- Stejneger's Stonechat** *Saxicola stejnegeri* All stonechats assumed to be this species. Fairly common in the north.
- Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata* First seen in the paddies at Mae Ai and Thaton [*burmanicus*].
- Grey Bush Chat** *Saxicola ferreus* Quite common at a few sites in the north. First seen at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].
- Blue-winged Leafbird** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* See note.
- Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons* A few seen well at Mae Ping NP [*pridii*].
- Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii* Seen well at The Royal Project at Doi Ang Khang [nominate].
- Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker** *Prionochilus maculatus* (S) Good views at Khao Phra Bang Kham [*septentrionalis*].
- Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker** *Prionochilus percussus* (S) A male seen well at Khao Phra Bang Kham [*ignicapilla*].
- Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile* Great views at Khao Yai NP. Also seen well at Khao Phra Bang Kham [*modestum*].
- Yellow-vented Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* Forms *chrysochlore* first at Kaeng Krachan and nominate in the south.
- Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum trigonostigma* (S) Best views were around the Morakot Resort [*rubropygium*].
- Plain Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum minullum* One scoped singing at Mae Ping NP [*olivaceum*].
- Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectus* Two forms: *cambodianum* in Khao Yai NP; nominate in the north.
- Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum* A few seen well, the first in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].
- Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** *Chalcoparia singalensis* Two forms: *internota* first in Kaeng Krachan; *interposita* in the south.
- Brown-throated Sunbird** *Anthreptes malacensis* A few seen, but most common in the south [nominate].
- Van Hasselt's Sunbird** *Leptocoma brasiliana* A couple seen well at Khao Phra Bang Kham [nominate].



A tiny selection of the wonderful sunbirds and flowerpeckers we saw! Mrs Gould's Sunbird (above) and Green-tailed Sunbird, and Orange-bellied Flowerpecker (above) and Thick-billed Flowerpecker (Pete Morris)



- Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus* A few in the north with the first seen well at Mae Ping NP [*intermedius*].
- Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris jugularis* Common, first seen at the Royal Project at Laem Phak Bia [*flammaxillaris*].
- Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae* Fairly common in the northwest. First seen at Doi Ang Khang [*dabryii*].
- Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis* Several of the smart endemic *angkanensis* subspecies at Doi Inthanon.
- Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata* Two forms: *petersi* at Khao Yai; *galenae* in the north.
- Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja* We saw them well at Kaeng Krachan [form?] and in the south [*trangensis*].
- Purple-naped Sunbird (P-n Spiderhunter)** *Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum* One at Khao Phra Bang Khram [*nuchale*].
- Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra* (S) Fairly common in the south: first at Khao Phra Bang Khram [*cinireicollis*].
- Yellow-eared Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera chrysogenys* (S) Good views twice at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].
- Grey-breasted Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera modesta* (S) Several, the first at Khao Phra Bang Khram [nominate].
- Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna* Seen a few times in the north the first at Doi Ang Khang [*musarum*].
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (introduced) A few seen [*indicus*].
- Plain-backed Sparrow** ♦ *Passer flaveolus* Males seen at Laem Phak Bia salt pans and in Bang Sai district.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* Common and widespread [*malaccensis*].
- Asian Golden Weaver** ♦ *Ploceus hypoxanthus* (NT) Great views of 5+ attending nests in Bang Sai district [*chryseus*].
- Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus* A colony seen in Bang Sai district and also seen near to Chiang Mai [*angelorum*].
- Red Avadavat** *Amandava amandava* Three seen in flight, including a bright male, at Mae Taeng [*flavidiventris*].
- Pin-tailed Parrotfinch** *Erythrura prasina* (S) Good and unexpected views of a male at Si Phang Nga NP [nominate].
- Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata* Fairly common at several sites, the first at Bang Sai district [*topelae*].

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* A male seen in flight at Laem Phak Bia [*atricapilla-group*].

Forest Wagtail ◇ *Dendronanthus indicus* (S) Good views of one at Si Phang Nga NP.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* A few seen, especially in the northwest [nominate].

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* Excellent views of a bright female at the Mae Taeng Irrigation Project [nominate].

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Fairly common, first seen in Kaeng Krachan NP [nominate].

White Wagtail (Amur W) *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis* Common in the north. First seen at Mae Taeng Irrigation Project.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* A few seen well at Thaton paddies. Larger size and call obvious!

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* Common in open areas, first seen around Laem Phak Bia [*malayensis*].

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* A few seen, the first in Kaeng Krachan NP.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* Quite a few seen well in the paddies at Mae Ai.

Spot-winged Grosbeak ◇ *Mycerobas melanozanthos* Brilliant views of a stunning flock of 30+ at Fang Hot Springs.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* A few seen around Doi Ang Khang.

Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* Good scope views of a smart individual at Thaton paddies [*kuatunensis*].

Yellow-breasted Bunting ◇ *Emberiza aureola* (CR) Great views of a couple of males in the paddies at Mae Ai [nominate].



Another shot of the wonderful Green Peafowl from Pabon Hong (Pete Morris)



The amazing Chinese Serow from Khao Yai (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS

- Sunda Flying Lemur (Colugo) *Galeopterus variegatus* (S)** One seen pre-dawn at Khao Phra Bang Kham.
- Northern Treeshrew *Tupaia belangeri*** Seen well around the hides at Kaeng Krachan.
- Common Treeshrew *Tupaia glis* (S)** Just a couple seen in the south.
- Crab-eating Macaque (Long-tailed M) *Macaca fascicularis*** Seen a number of times, first at Laem Phak Bia.
- Southern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*** Some of these mean machines seen in Khao Yai NP.
- Dusky Langur *Trachypithecus obscurus*** Some great looks in Kaeng Krachan NP.
- Lar Gibbon (Common G) *Hylobates lar*** Heard a number of times then seen at Si Phang Nga NP.
- Pileated Gibbon *Hylobates pileatus*** Heard only at Khao Yai. Great calls.
- Malayan Porcupine *Hystrix brachyura*** Great views of one at Kaeng Krachan.
- Gray-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus caniceps*** Seen best from the hides at Kaeng Krachan.
- Pallas's Squirrel (Belly-banded S) *Callosciurus erythraeus*** One seen on Doi Chiang Dao.
- Finlayson's Squirrel (Variable S) *Callosciurus finlaysonii*** Seen well at Khao Yai.
- Plantain Squirrel (S) *Callosciurus notatus*** A couple seen in the south.
- Indochinese Ground Squirrel *Menetes berdmorei*** Best views were at Kaeng Krachan.
- Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*** Particularly good views at Khao Yai NP.
- Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclellandii*** Seen very well around the hides at Kaeng Krachan.
- Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*** A couple seen, 1 at Doi Ang Kang and one at Doi Lang.
- Lesser Oriental Chevrotain (L Mouse-Deer) *Tragulus kanchil*** Great views at the hides at Kaeng Krachan.
- Southern Red Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus muntjak*** A few seen at Khao Yai.
- Sambar *Rusa unicolor*** Plenty of confident individuals in Khao Yai.
- Chinese Serow *Capricornis milneedwardsii*** Brilliant views of a very tame individual in Khao Yai.
- Lyle's Flying Fox *Pteropus lylei*** Thousands seen at a colony near to Bangkok.



Black Giant Squirrel, Lyle's Flying Fox and Himalayan Striped Squirrel (Pete Morris)





A cute Dusky Langur and a Sambar Deer (Pete Morris)





Two more bits of mammal excitement... Malayan Porcupine and a Pig-tailed Macaque (Pete Morris)





The Limestone Wren-Babblers near to Bangkok are potentially a very localized endemic (Pete Morris)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2020. IOC World Bird Names v10.1. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Green-legged Partridge *Arborophila chloropus*

We saw two forms on this trip. At Kaeng Krachan, we had good views of a pair of the form *peninsularis* from one of the hides, and later we saw the nominate form well in Khao Yai.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*

We saw two forms of this highly impressive swift. In Khao Yai NP, we had excellent views of a flock of the form *indicus* coming down to drink, whilst in the south, we saw a few of the nominate subspecies at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

We saw reasonable numbers at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia salt pans, and plenty more at Krabi, and these included a flagged bird from Jiangsu in China. All the birds we saw would be from the East Asian Flyway population which is made up of the subspecies *baueri* and *menzbieri*.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica*

We encountered two different forms of this often difficult species. The form *ticehursti* was heard and seen a couple of times in flight at Doi Ang Khang. On the extension we had better luck with the form *maingayi* with a pair giving excellent views at dawn at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

We likely saw several different subspecies during the tour, but importantly we did distinguish between two very different species groups. The 'Chinese White-faced' group [*leucogenis/salangensis*] were seen well a number of times, the first in Kaeng Krachan NP, and included some very pallid birds. Most other birds seen were likely from the 'Sooty' nominate group, though subspecific identification is not straightforward.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

We likely saw three different subspecies of this widespread species during the tour. The form *galerita* was first seen well in and around Kaeng Krachan NP where they frequently visited the hides. The form *montana* was seen in the north and included a few at Mae Ping NP and the form *prophata* was seen in the south, first in the mangroves at Krabi.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris*

I believe we saw no fewer than four subspecies of this variable species during the tour. The form *negates* was first seen well in Kaeng Krachan NP. The form *johnsoni* was first seen in Khao Yai NP. The form *vantynei* was seen in the north, first at Wat Tham Pa Plong on Doi Chiang Dao. And finally, we saw a few of the form *caecillii* in the south at Si Phang Nga NP.

Olive Bulbul *Iole viridescens*

The absence of this one on our checklist caused me some confusion at first, but this is due to a revision of the species limits in the genus *Iole*. The two forms we saw, *lekhakuni* in Kaeng Krachan NP and *cinnamomeoventris* in Si Phang Nga NP were both formerly included in Grey-eyed Bulbul *I. propinqua*.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes*

Several heard in Kaeng Krachan NP and in Khao Yai NP, though none seen well. A couple seen in the south including one on the mangrove boardwalk at Krabi and one at Si Phang Nga NP. Assumed to be this species rather than the extremely similar Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *P. borealoides*, which also occurs and can only safely be distinguished by analyzing recordings of the call.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

We saw three forms of this rather charismatic species. The form *difficilis* was first seen well at the hides at Kaeng Krachan, the form *humilis* was seen and heard in Khao Yai NP and the form *riponi* was seen at Doi Lang.

Buff-chested Babbler *Stachyridopsis ambigua*

One seen and others heard at Doi Lang. At the time we recorded the birds at this site as Rufous-fronted Babblers but it seems that the birds here are now classified as the *adjuncta* subspecies of this species. The two are very similar in plumage and vocalizations, and as the scientific name (*ambigua*) suggests, it is not a universally recognized split!

Limestone Wren-Babbler *Napothera crispifrons*

Brilliant views of a pair at Wat Phra Puttabat Noi, on the journey to Khao Yai. Note that BirdLife split off the very localized form that we encountered as a separate species: Rufous Limestone-Babbler *N. calcicola*.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

We saw two forms of this charismatic species. We enjoyed brilliant views of the form *belangeri* at Kaeng Krachan NP and again at Khao Yai NP, and saw the form *diardi* in the north including at Mae Ping NP. One of the fascinating things about seeing the laughingthrushes so well in Kaeng Krachan NP was seeing how the three species nearly always go around together in a mixed flock!

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myiophonus caeruleus*

We saw two distinct forms of Blue Whistling Thrush which belong to two different 'species groups'. Several nominate black-billed birds, which are migrants from China were seen including a tame bird at Doi Lang. We also saw several yellow-billed birds from the *flavirostris*-group which were in residence around some of the streams at Doi Inthanon.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

We noted three different forms of this highly variable species. The form *serithai* was common in Kaeng Krachan NP, the form *auropectus* was common in Khao Yai NP, and the form *chlorocephala* was seen on the extension at Si Phang Nga NP.



A smart young Black-banded Keelback snake from the south (Pete Morris)



The female Eared Pitta from Kaeng Krachan (Pete Morris)

TOP 10 BIRDS OF THE TOUR

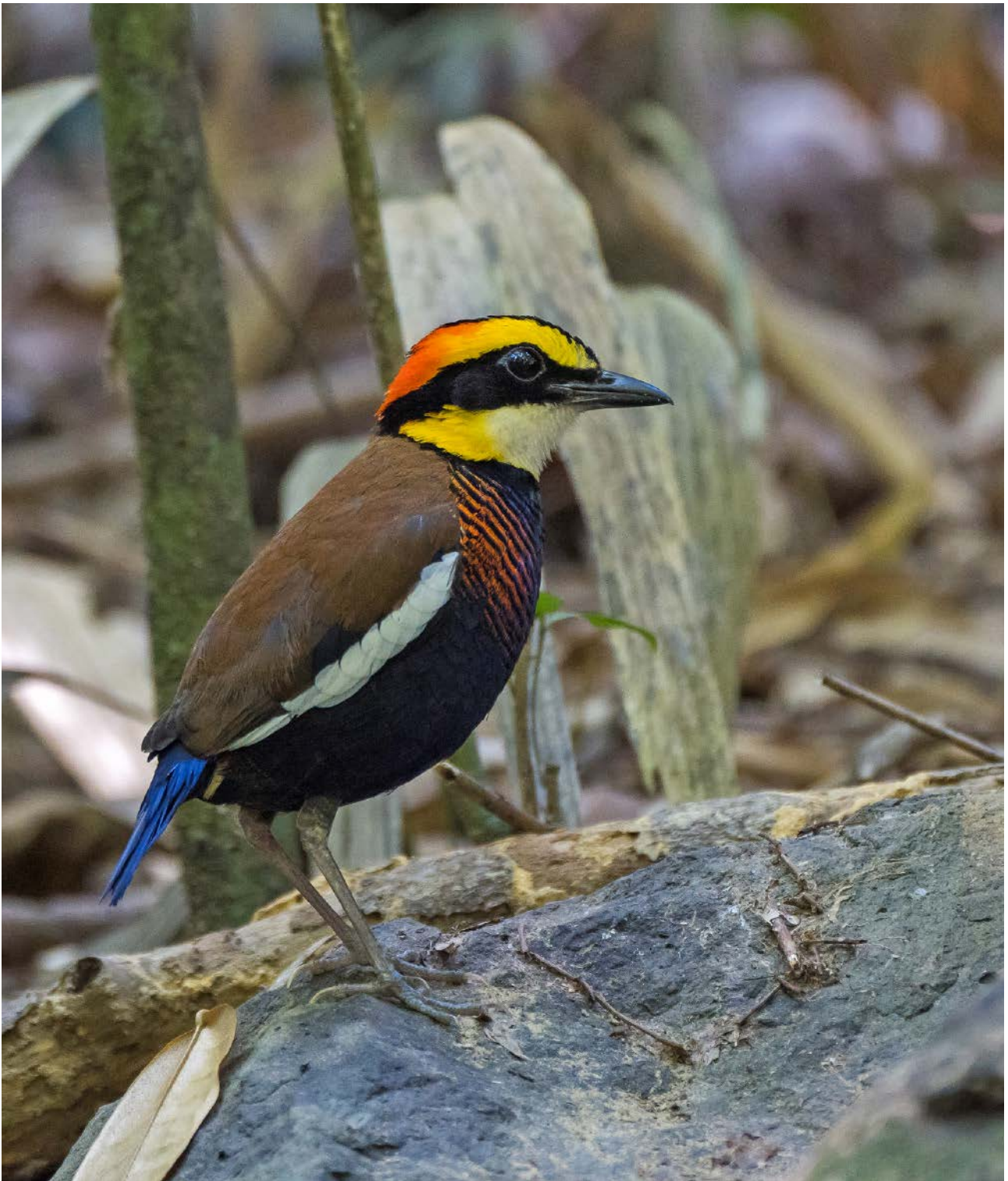
1st GREY PEACOCK PHEASANT
 2nd EARED PITTA
 3rd ORIENTAL BAY OWL
 4th Blue Pitta
 5th= Spoon-billed Sandpiper

5th= Ferruginous Partridge
 7th Egyptian Plover
 8th Silver Pheasant
 9th Buffy Fish Owl
 10th Ultramarine Flycatcher

A total of 34 species received at least one vote!



The female Blue Pitta from Kaeng Krachan (Pete Morris)



TOP 5 BIRDS OF THE EXTENSION

- 1st MALAYAN BANDED PITTA
- 2nd BARRED EAGLE-OWL
- 3rd RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER
- 4th Crested Jay
- 5th Blyth's Frogmouth