



ULTIMATE VIETNAM TOUR REPORT 2025

2 - 26 March 2025

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Vietnam is one of the most bird-rich countries in South-East Asia as it has a great variety of habitats from coastal mudflats and lowland rainforests to misty forests in higher altitudes reaching above 3100m asl. at Fansipan which is the highest point of Indochina.

As usual we were birding as many habitats and regions of the country as possible during our tour following a carefully planned itinerary which yielded more than 460 recorded bird species on this year's tour.

Starting with the endangered Nordmann's Greenshank and localised White-faced Plover at the Mekong Delta's coastal part we headed to the famous Cat Tien National Park where Germain's Peacock-pheasant, Siamese Fireback, Green Peafowl, Black-and-buff, Heart-spotted and Pale-headed Woodpeckers, Bar-bellied and Blue-rumped Pittas, Grey-faced Tit-Babbler and Van Hasselt's Sunbird were all seen. Moving to Di Linh where Black-crowned Parrotbill and White-cheeked Laughingthrush were seen before reaching Dalat. In the Dalat region Silver Pheasant, Collared Laughinthrush, Vietnamese Cutia, Grey-crowned Crocias, Dalat Bush Warbler, Black-crowned Fulvetta and Vietnamese Greenfinch was seen along many other great species.

Near Mang Den we luckily managed to see Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Red-vented and Necklaced Barbets before moving on to Tu Mo Rong.

From Tu Mo Rong village we went up to Ngoc Linh mountain where the endemic Golden-winged Laughingthrush was enjoyed together with Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Indochinese Fulvetta and Black-crowned Barwing.

Stopping at Lang Co and Bach Ma we reached Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park collecting Masked Laughingthrush, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler and Austen's Brown Hornbill on the way. At Phong Nha Sooty Babbler was performing outstandingly and we also found Limestone Leaf Warbler and White-winged Magpies with Red-shanked Doucs and Hatinh Langur being the mammal highlights here. Around Cuc Phuong we managed to see Red-collared Woodpecker, Annam Limestone Babbler, White-tailed Flycatcher, Tonkin Partridge and Indochinese Green Magpie. Outside Cuc Phuong at the Van Long Nature Reserve Delacour's Langurs were showing well this year. Our last site on the main tour was around Tam Dao where Grey Laughingthrush and Short-tailed Parrotbill were our main targets both seen very well.

The extension to Fansipan was a great success again where we had great views of Pale-throated Wren-Babbler as our prime target. On the top of Fansipan we had incredible views of Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Hill Partridge, White-browed (Tonkin) Fulvetta and Golden Parrotbill. Lower down, around Sa Pa town we found Spectacled Barwing, Crested Finchbill, Ashy-throated and Vinous-throated Parrotbills, Brown-breasted Flycatcher and Little Forktail.

Our tour departed at the planned time in the early morning from Ho Chi Minh City to head southeast to the coastal area in the Mekong Delta, where we birded the sandpit near Tan Thanh village to find a great selection of shorebirds including the endangered Nordmann's Greenshank, Far Eastern Curlew and the localised White-faced Plover. Although the main aim was to see Spoon-billed Sandpiper, our luck was not with us this time, we were seeing some other shorebirds such as Red-necked Stint, Tibetan Sand Plover, Greater Sand Plover and Common Redshank. One step further in the coast we found Chestnut-tailed Starling, Golden-bellied Gerygone, Plain-backed Sparrow and Malaysian Pied Fantail in a small patch of wooded area.

After a lunch break, we started our journey north to reach Cat Tien National Park by the end of the day. We crossed the river separating the national park from the outside world in the dark and finished the day with dinner in the local restaurant inside. In Cat Tien after some initial early morning roadside birding where we saw Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Blue-eared Barbet, Blue-bearded Bee-eater and enjoyed great views of a Southern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon family, we changed our focus onto some ground dwelling specialties from a hide, where not much after we entered a pair of Blue-rumped Pittas were feeding in front of us. Soon after the main star of the hide, a pair of Bar-bellied Pittas hopped onto the stage and stole the show for quite some time. Siberian Blue Robin, White-rumped Shama, Abbot's Babbler and Indochinese Blue Flycatcher were the supporting cast here. Later the day we tried another hide where a Green-legged Partridge appeared shortly after we arrived and we were lucky to see a male Germain's Peacock-Pheasant as well not much after. While eagerly waiting at the hide a White-browed Piculet was spotted and Siberian Blue Robin, Stripe-throated and Streak-eared Bulbuls were frequently visiting the area. As one key species was missing at this hide for the first try, we came back a day later and finally had a male Siamese Fireback coming in to feed for a short time.

Birding in between the national park's old and huge trees the forest was gifting us with some great sightings including Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo, Large Hawk Cuckoo, Banded Broadbill, Blue-winged and Golden-fronted Leafbirds, Collared Falconet and Blue-eared, Green-eared and Coppersmith's Barbets. The localised Grey-faced Tit-Babbler was seen several times and we had great views of the handsome Orange-breasted Trogon and a surprise Little Bronze Cuckoo was also found feeding near the trail. Visiting the eastern side of the forest from the headquarters where bamboo is dominating the vegetation we found Yellow-bellied Warbler, heard distant Orange-necked Partridge and had great looks at a responsive Pale-headed Woodpecker. Further down the road a flowering tree was attracting a great selection of Sunbirds including Crimson, Brown-throated, Ornate, Ruby-cheeked and the special Van Hasselt's following each other around the canopy. Our first Black-and-buff Woodpecker was seen here giving us great views. To try Orange-necked Partridge again, another morning we decided to visit a hide where they used to show themselves in early mornings but we were unlucky with them this time, however Blue-rumped Pitta was showing well and a Blue-winged Pitta was heard calling near-by, tough it refused to come out from the dense vegetation.

We dedicated a day to visit the Crocodile Lake in the heart of the national park. Spotting a family of Black-shanked Doucs from the truck taking us to the trailhead was a good start of the day. During the trek on the paved trail leading us to the lake we saw our first Black-naped Monarchs, Greater Yellownape, a shy pair of Heart-spotted Woodpeckers, a few Little Spiderhunters, Pale-legged Leaf Warbler and a selection of Bulbuls including Black-headed and Grey-eyed ones. Arriving at the lake we soon were enjoying a good set of Siamese Crocodiles which were reintroduced here and are doing very well at this spot. On the edge of the wetland Grey-headed Swampphen, Bronze-winged Jacana and White-browed Crake were seen, Oriental Darters were drying themselves on dry branches around, a huge Stork-billed Kingfisher and Common Kingfishers were seen and we had nice looks at a few Asian Golden Weavers. A couple Cotton Pygmy Goose were spotted on the water, Grey-headed Fish Eagle was hanging around and Indochinese Rollers and Black-and-red Broadbills

were changing each other on a close by tree all enjoyed from the local ranger station's shady balcony. After a few cold drinks and a lunch complemented with a short break we decided to trek back to the 'main road' enjoying a Dusky Broadbill halfway as a nice surprise along the trail. Reaching the road, we were checking the treetops from a more open viewpoint and spotted several Thick-billed Green Pigeons and after some time finally an Ashy-headed Green Pigeon was scoped as well.

We paid a visit to the western side of the national park where a mosaic of more open habitat patches gave us Vinous-breasted Myna, Red-collared Dove, Indochinese Roller, White-throated Kingfisher and our main target here the magnificent looking Green Peafowl. A short walk into paddyfields where Zitting Cisticola was common, we reached a patch of fallow field where Red-wattled Lapwing was seen and we flushed a skulking Lanceolated Warbler. The option for comfortable night excursions took us out in the dark a few times here and we managed to see several Sambar Deer, a Common Palm Civet. Blyth's Frogmouth was playing with us and was not showing itself, so did an Oriental Bay Owl after answering once to our tape. On the other side, we had fabulous views of Great Eared Nightjars and a Brown Boobook.

On our last morning in Cat Tien we decided to visit the bamboo patches again for our missing partridge, which was not even calling in the area this time. On the other hand, we found Large-tailed Nightjar on roost, added White-crested Laughingthrush and Orange-necked Green Pigeon to our list, saw another Black-and-buff Woodpecker, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Vernal Hanging Parrot and another Siamese Fireback on the trail to end our stay here.

From Cat Tien we drove to Di Linh where we had some time in the afternoon for some birding. Starting at more open habitats we soon tracked down the endemic Annam Prinia and had great views of a close Burmese Shrike for the first time. Later, in the forest of Deo Nui San pass we found our first White-cheeked Laughingthrushes, the local grey-crowned form of Black-throated Bushtits and saw the endemic Black-headed Parrotbill. We stayed out until dark and saw Large-tailed and Grey Nightjars hunting above us and heard Hodgson's Frogmouth calling but it refused to come close.

In the morning, some scanning from the hotel terrace produced a small flock of White-shouldered Starlings, several Vinous-breasted Mynas and a few Black-collared Starlings. Going back to Deo Nui San pass where a distant calling Vietnamese Cutia consumed some time but remained unseen here. Seeing our first Swinhoe's and Grey-chinned Minivets, Chestnut-vented Nuthatches, Indochinese Barbets, Red-headed Trogon, white-faced Eurasian Jays were highlights here. A Silver-breasted Broadbill along the road was a great sighting and we found again Black-headed Parrotbills and had Yellow-vented Green Pigeon and Black-chinned Yuhinas added to our list before moving on. After a few hours' drive we reached the busy city of Dalat where we visited a hilltop for an afternoon birding soon seeing some key species of the area, including the endemic Dalat Bush Warbler and Vietnamese Greenfinch while other good ones were also showing well such as Siberian Rubythroat, Barred Buttonquail, Clicking Shrike-Babbler, Chestnut-capped Babbler and the smart Green-backed Tit. A noisy Grey-crowned Crocias was heard nearby but stayed hidden.

The upcoming two days were carefully planned as a tight schedule had to be kept visiting some fantastic hides in the area of Dalat and birding in some great forests.

At our first hide we were lucky to see a group of Silver Pheasants of the annamensis race coming in quietly and staying for several minutes around. A shy Dark-sided Thrush was a great surprise showing very well, so as a Siberian Thrush. The usually skulking Lesser Shortwing of the langbianensis race was easily seen well, while Large Niltava, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, White-tailed Robin, Black-headed Sibilias and Mountain Fulvettas were constantly hanging around. Later the day we changed hides and descended down to a well-hidden one in a nearby valley where spending some time yielded in fantastic looks at the beautiful endemic Collared Laughingthrush and our first Grey-cheeked Warbler. Climbing back from the valley we were lucky to find a pair of another endemic specialty, Vietnamese Cutia as they were quietly feeding on the main branches of the nearby trees. After a short lunch break at our bus and seeing a Mountain Hawk-Eagle we headed to try our luck at a third hide where the endemic Black-crowned Fulvetta came in soon and a Spotted Forktail was enjoyed as well. To finish our day, we went back to the first hide and were lucky as a male Blue Pitta came to visit the feeding site just in perfect time not much after we arrived. After a busy and lucky day with birding we had an unlucky finish and were heading back to the city of Dalat for an unplanned visit to one of the private clinics before returning to our hotel.

Our second day in Dalat we visited the famous Ta Nung Valley in the morning where Blue-winged Minla, Silver-eared Mesia, the local forms of Mrs. Gould's and Black-throated Sunbirds were seen in the windy and unpleasant weather but Grey-crowned Crocias was only calling in the distance. As we did not see good chances finding more birds here, we decided to visit the forests around the Tuyam Lam lake and luckily we soon heard the now familiar call of Grey-crowned Crocias. The first ones refused to come close but we were lucky to

find another two birds feeding in a valley near the road. In addition, we had Rufous-backed Sibia, White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler and Mugimaki Flycatcher seen as well here. For the afternoon we chose to drive to the top of Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park where our main aim was to find the local meridionalis form of Red Crossbills which we soon did and we enjoyed the views of four individuals here before the weather turned more serious forcing us to leave.

We left Dalat city in the early morning and had a short stop at Deo Phi Leng's nice forest where Necklaced Barbet, Black-headed Parrotbill and our first Mountain Imperial Pigeon was seen.

Driving further our next stop around midday was at Lak Lake where White-shouldered Starling and Vinous-breasted Mynas were seen again, Pied, White-throated and Common Kingfishers lined up on sticks in the water, Coppersmith's and Lineated Barbets were seen well in the gardens before having our lunch in the local restaurant.

As we still had a long drive ahead, we departed soon after lunch and only stopped for birding near Pleiku later, where a few Richard's Pipits, Grey-breasted Prinia were seen and an Indochinese Bush Lark was flushed from the ground in the last rays of light. At the end we arrived at Mang Den after a long day mostly spent in the bus.

In the morning we left our hotel to visit the vicinity of Mang Canh where our prime target was the very localised Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush. The population of the species heavily declined in recent years caused by the heavy trapping pressure and currently only two individuals are known to remain in accessible areas in the region. The two individuals left however sometimes visit a feeding spot. We planned our stay in the area around the habit of the birds and we divided our forces leaving Quang at the hide and us going around birding in the area, so if the birds appear at the hide Quang will notify us and we can just hurry back to see the birds.

Our first day we birding produced some great species including great views of Grey-headed Parrotbill, Pale Blue and Hainan Blue Flycatchers, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Rufous-faced Warbler etc. and we heard Black-hooded Laughingthrush which were not responsive at all.

Our second day we had the same tactic and birding along the road produced some good birds such as Red-vented and Necklaced Barbets, Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler, Maroon Oriole, Silver-backed Needletail, Bay Woodpecker, a fantastic male Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher and the black-crested gayeti form of Sultan Tit. We almost lost our hope when Quang called us to hurry back to the hide. It took us frustrating 10 minutes to get back and sat down quietly waiting for a few minutes to see a female Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush hopping on the ground in the back of the feeding site – what a bird and what a great relief. It was not over yet, as a few minutes later the male turned up – glorious moments making our team instantly cheering for the upcoming part of the day. We went back to the hotel, packed and after some birding around the town we departed. A short stop along the way at the Dak To wetlands where we saw Eastern Yellow Wagtail and Wire-tailed Swallow and at the end of the day we arrived at the small town of Tu Mo Rong.

From Tu Mo Rong we early morning drove up to the trailhead on Ngoc Linh where we trekked up the mountain in the magnificent forest interior. Crossing ginseng gardens in the forest and lush galleys we arrived at a feeding site where as soon as we arrived, we enjoyed the presence of the very localised endemic Golden-winged Laughingthrush only discovered recently. Complementing our list of Laughingthrushes Red-tailed ones arrived in front of us taking our breath away. The show was not over yet as soon Black-crowned Barwing was also performing just a few meters from us. In the meantime, Brown-crowned Scimitar-Babbler, Rusty-capped and Rufous-winged Fulvettas, Snowy-browed Flycatcher and a Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher were all around. With some patience and luring it close we were lucky to spot an Indochinese Fulvetta as well, a species which was very hard to get until a few years ago this area opened for birders. After a while we hiked further up the trail and saw Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Black-faced Warbler and Green-tailed Sunbird and spotted more of both Laughingthrush species on the trail before returning to the hide for a packed lunch and for some more views at these incredible looking birds.

As we started heading down stopping for birds along the way we found Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Green Shrike-Babbler, Ashy-throated Warbler and White-spectacled Warbler. Back at the road we finished the day with some roadside birding seeing a Rufous-bellied Eagle, a Stripe-breasted Woodpecker and a busy flock provided short views of Bar-throated Minla and White-winged Magpie for some of us. Next morning, we came back for some roadside birding at Ngoc Linh seeing a Blue-and-white Flycatcher, Black Bulbuls, Long-tailed Broadbill, an Eastern Crowned Warbler and Black-crowned Barwing once more before leaving the area. After a long drive we arrived at Lang Co later in the afternoon still having some time for birding in the garden of our hotel. During an easy walk around, we found Asian Palm Swifts, Chinese Blackbirds, Japanese Thrush, Masked Laughingthrush and a Daurian Redstart. We repeated the birding in the morning around the hotel adding Brown-throated Sunbird and Oriental Greenfinch to our list before checking out.

A short drive to a nearby wetland site where we couldn't find Light-vented Bulbul soon so we headed towards Bach Ma where we started birding around the top. Walking along the road we found White-browed Shrike-babbler, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Blue Whistling Thrush, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, good numbers of Indochinese Yuhina, Grey-cheeked Warbler and heard our first Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler. In the afternoon we spent some time around the top seeing White-throated Needletail, Eastern Red-rumped Swallows, Asian House Martins and had memorable views of Long-tailed Broadbills and Orange-breasted Leafbirds. After dinner we took our chance and decided to have a longer night walk along the road from the top. We soon found a roosting White's Thrush, Hainan Blue Flycatcher and heard a distant Hodgson's Frogmouth. Further down we had great views of Mountain Scops Owl, and heard a Brown Wood Owl calling. Searching for the Wood Owl resulted in finding a roosting Silver Pheasant, but no owls...

In the morning we did a short roadside birding further up finding a Black-throated and a Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush and a few Silver-eared Mesias. After checking out the weather turned into less pleasing but we still managed good looks at a Streaked Wren-Babbler. Some further walk in the rain we only had Crimson Sunbird and White-throated Needletail seen once more. As the weather stayed quite miserable later during the day, we only had a short birding before reaching Khe Sanh in the Dakrong Nature Reserve where a few more Crimson Sunbird, Black-browed Fulvettas and Asian Fairy Bluebirds and a few Rhesus Macaques were seen.

After spending a night in Khe Sanh town and having a great lao dinner we were ready to take a long drive along the Laos border with birding stops on the way to reach Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park at the end of the day. During our journey along the border several stops were fruiting and we had nice views of the tricky Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, we saw several Crested Mynas, a White-gorgeted Flycatcher, Moustached Barbet, Red-vented Barbet, a group of at least seven Austen's Brown Hornbill and finally we found a responsive Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler (also called as Indochinese Wren-Babbler) which were coming close to us and at the end it turned out that they were three individuals together moving in the dark understorey, but giving reasonable looks for every one of us at the end. The same spot also gave our only Buff-breasted Babbler seen on the tour and not much further we managed to see the skulking Spot-necked Babbler as well. A noisy pair of White-winged Magpies were only heard before we gave up birding for the day to arrive in Phong Nha town.

The karst formations in Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park provide habitat for several specialties amongst them two birds, namely the Limestone Leaf Warbler and the more interesting Sooty Babbler. We were birding in the rain for the morning but still managed fantastic views of the Sooty Babblers as this time they were hanging around the road. After some search a Limestone Leaf Warbler was singing back and was spotted feeding further up. A distant wet Oriental Hobby was waiting on a stick for the rain to stop. A feeding flock along the road had Little Bronze Cuckoo, Black-naped Monarch, Scarlet Minivet, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Sultan Tit, White-bellied Erpornis, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher and a great surprise Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher. Walking further down the road another flock had Large Woodshrike, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Swinhoe's Minivets, Scarlet Minivets and Great Iora. The main bridge above the river provides a great lookout point and a good fruiting tree this time gave us nice views of the striking Asian Fairy Bluebirds which were hanging around together with Black-crested and a Red-whiskered Bulbul. We drove to a spot Quang knew to find a family of Red-shanked Doucs above the road. While enjoying the Doucs a single Hatinh Langur was found only a few minutes' walk away, making us switch sites and enjoy the other great looking Langur of the area.

We had lunch at the restaurant near the entrance of the Paradise Cave and a short midday break, which was followed by walking around the area hearing Large Scimitar-Babbler and seeing some more common, already seen birds again. To finish the day, we went back to the road section we tried in the morning but now without the rain. Distant White-winged Magpies were heard and after some time we managed to find them and had scope views of five birds moving together. As the last sighting here, a Pied Falconet was spotted on a tree top by Andy and was seen in the scope by everyone just before it left and disappeared. Going back to Phong Nha town we stopped at the rice fields along the way where a set of White-throated Kingfishers, some Crested Mynas, Zitting Cisticolas, Wood Sandpipers and surprisingly a few Masked Laughingthrush were seen.

From Phong Nha it was a long drive to our next base, Cuc Phuong. We left in the early morning to arrive in the afternoon at the Van Long Nature Reserve. The large wetland with cliffs behind gave us a few new birds for our trip including an Eastern Marsh Harrier, Yellow Bitterns and a Cinnamon Bittern, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, a flock of Garganey, Red-throated Pipits, more than a hundred Asian Openbill and our previously missed Light-vented Bulbul, but most importantly we were lucky to see the critically endangered Delacour's Langurs on the cliff. Leaving the wetlands, we arrived at Cuc Phuong National Park in dark.

Our full day in Cuc Phuong we left early from the headquarters and drove further in the park. In the lights of our bus, we spotted Malayan Night Heron along the road in front of us and enjoyed watching them for a few minutes before continuing. We started birding with first lights in the park seeing Rufous-throated Fulvetta at the first stop. Walking further in the forest we managed to see the tricky Red-collared Woodpecker and had great views of Annam Limestone Babblers before a late breakfast. Finishing our breakfast, we went to try the local hide, where a dozen Japanese Thrush were waiting for us immediately. Soon a Black-breasted Thrush was spotted amongst the Japanese and a Rufous-tailed Robin was hopping in front of us. A female White-tailed Flycatcher, a Small Niltava and a Fujian Niltava were seen from the hide before Tonkin Partridges (the local form of Green-legged Partridge) turned up. We had better views of Rufous-throated Fulvetta and were patient enough to see the beautiful Indochinese Green Magpie which finally came in. In the late afternoon a walk around the headquarters produced Plain Flowerpecker and Crimson Sunbird.

We decided to go out for some night birding and managed to see a Collared Scops Owl and Brown Boobook, while a Lesser Shortwing and Rufous-tailed Robins were found roosting. We had a short morning birding Cuc Phuong seeing the smart Fork-tailed Sunbird, Bay Woodpecker, Greater Yellownape, Sultan Tits, Black-browed Fulvettas, Scaly-crowned Babbler, Bianchi's Warbler, Hainan Blue Flycatchers and Red-headed Trogon before departing after an early lunch. Late afternoon we reached the foothills of Tam Dao and during a short walk near the local pagoda we found Pale-footed Bush Warbler before arriving at our hotel at the city above for two nights stay.

Before breakfast we climbed up the steps of Tam Dao to enjoy the best activity of the day. After trying the suitable areas, we were enjoying views of a responsive Short-tailed Parrotbill, our main target here. We walked down for breakfast and took the challenge to climb back here for the rest of the morning, which turned out to be a great decision. We were lucky to carefully lure in a flock of Grey Laughingthrush and enjoyed them around us for several minutes. We found more Bianchi's Warblers, Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babblers, David's Fulvettas, Golden Babblers, Chestnut Bulbul and Claudia's Leaf Warbler. At the park under we saw Red-billed Blue Magpies, which were still hanging around in the afternoon when we came back for an easy birding seeing a Grey-backed Shrike as well thanks to Andy. At night we enjoyed our last dinner of the main tour at a good local restaurant in the busy city.

Part of our group not joining us on the Fansipan extension decided to stay up here for the morning and not come down with us to bird the lower areas of the hill in the morning, thus we sadly had to say goodbye to each other after breakfast. The lower parts in the morning had some new birds for us in the forms of Sulphur-bellied Warblers and Radde's Warblers and we also enjoyed nice looks at Pin-striped Tit-Babblers, Sooty-headed Bulbul, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher and heard the nice song of Spot-necked Babblers before moving on towards Sa Pa.

We arrived at Sa Pa for a late lunch and after a short break we went out birding to the Silver Waterfall. We were very lucky to find a pair of Little Forktails not too shy, we also spotted a group of Yellow-browed Tits, a couple Plumbeous Water Redstart, our first Whiskered Yuhinas and managed great views of a Pygmy Cupwing. It was our big day, in the morning after breakfast we took the cable car – which holds several Guinness-records – to take us to the top of Fansipan, the top of Indochina.

On the top the weather was a bit chilly and the wind was not helping us either, nor the mist coming and going but we took the challenge and went down on a trail led by a local who installed a feeding station on the side of the mountaintop. We spent a few hours in the hide having some magnificent views of such great species as Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, a Hill Partridge pair, a male Himalayan Shortwing, several Black-faced Laughingthrush, a male White-browed Bush Robin, White-browed (Tonkin) Fulvettas, we had poor views of a Bar-winged Wren-Babbler and we were lucky to bump into a flock of Golden Parrotbills. Walking back to the top region where we saw Aberrant Bush Warbler, Chestnut-headed Tesia and Scaly-breasted Cupwing to end our session on the top, taking the last cable car down in the afternoon. At the bottom we had a short walk to finish the day and saw Grey Bushchat, Hill Prinia and a few Olive-backed Pipits.

Next morning, we took a trail near Sa Pa taking us through a few small valleys and hills and reaching the habitat where we had great views of a Pale-throated Wren-Babbler. Walking back, we saw Sapphire Flycatcher, White-collared, Whiskered and Stripe-throated Yuhinas on a fruiting bush and singing Davison's Leaf Warbler. After an unplanned late breakfast, we went up to the Hom Rong gardens in the town where we luckily found Ashy-throated and Vinous-throated Parrotbills, a Brown-breasted Flycatcher, Blue-winged Minlas, Brown-breasted and Light-vented Bulbuls, Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, Black-throated Bushtit, Green-backed and Cinereous Tits and Buff-barred Warbler.

In the afternoon we went for an easy roadside birding and surprisingly found a singing Spectacled Barwing which we soon had reasonable views of. Calling Great Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet and Golden-throated Barbet were heard around, a male Rufous-bellied Niltava was seen, an unexpected Osprey flying over and Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush were the birds here.

Our last morning's birding we tried again the same section of road we did previously but the windy weather was somehow making it less enjoyable and productive than we expected. However, we managed to see a Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Brown-breasted Bulbul, a few Whiskered Yuhinas, a Broad-billed Warbler and a pair of Crested Finchbills closing our tour nicely.

BIRDS OF THE MAIN TOUR

1st: Bar-bellied Pitta

2nd: Red-tailed Laughingthrush

3rd: Long-tailed Broadbill

4th: Indochinese Green Magpie & Siamese Fireback

5th: Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush & Collared Laughingthrush

BIRDS OF THE FANSIPAN EXTENSION

1st: Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler

2nd: Golden Parrotbill

3rd: Pale-throated Wren-Babbler & Himalayan Shortwing

4th: Spectacled Barwing

5th: Hill Partridge

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).

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P.(Eds). **2024. IOC World Bird List (v14.2)**.

Where the subspecies seen is/are known, these are often given in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

BIRDS

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* Three seen at Crocodile Lake in Cat Tien.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Hill Partridge ◊ *Arborophila torqueola* A lovely pair seen on Fansipan, ssp. *griseata*.

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* Heard-only.

Bar-backed Partridge ◊ *Arborophila brunnepectus* Heard-only.

Orange-necked Partridge ◊ *Arborophila davidi* Endemic. Heard-only.

Silver Pheasant ◊ *Lophura nycthemera* Three forms seen, *annamensis* near Dalat, *beli* in Bach Ma and *berliozii* near the Laos border.

Siamese Fireback ◊ *Lophura diardi* A male performing in Ca Tien.

Green Peafowl ◊ *Pavo muticus* Common in Cat Tien.

Green-legged Partridge ◊ *Tropicoperdix chloropus* Seen in Cat Tien.

Green-legged Partridge ◊ (Tonkin P) *Tropicoperdix [chloropus] tonkinensis* Seen in Cuc Phuong.

Germain's Peacock-Pheasant ◊ *Polyplectron germaini* Endemic. A male at a feeding site in Cat Tien.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis*

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Hodgson's Frogmouth ◊ *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* Heard-only.

Blyth's Frogmouth ◊ *Batrachostomus affinis* Heard-only.

Edible-nest Swiftlet (Germain's S) *Aerodramus [fuciphagus] germani*
White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*
Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*
Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*
Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*
Cook's Swift ◊ *Apus cooki*
House Swift *Apus nipalensis*
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*
Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*
Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*
Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*
Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides*
Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* Head-only.
Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* Heard-only.
Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturates* Heard-only.
Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*
Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*
Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*
Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Zebra Dove (introduced) *Geopelia striata*
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus*
Ashy-headed Green Pigeon *Treron phayrei* Seen in Cat Tien.
Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
Yellow-vented Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron seimundi* Seen near Di Linh.
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus*
Ruddy-breasted Crake *Zapornia fusca* Leader-only bird near Phong Nha.
White-browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinereus*
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* One seen near Dalat.
Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
Tibetan Sand Plover *Anarhynchus atrifrons*
Greater Sand Plover *Anarhynchus leschenaultii*
Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*
White-faced Plover ◊ (Swinhoe's P) *Anarhynchus dealbatus* One seen on the coast at Tan Thanh.
Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*
Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Far Eastern Curlew ◊ *Numenius madagascariensis* Two individuals seen at the coast at Tan Thanh.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*
 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
 Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
 Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
 Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
 Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
 Nordmann's Greenshank ◊ *Tringa guttifer* At least three seen very well at Tan Thanh.
 Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
 Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
 Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
 Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
 Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
 Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*
 Asian Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
 Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
 Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*
 Cinnamon Bittern *Botaurus cinnamomeus* A bird fishing at Van Long Nature Reserve seen.
 Yellow Bittern *Botaurus sinensis* Several individuals at Van Long NR.
 Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 Malayan Night Heron ◊ *Gorsachius melanolophus* Great views on early morning drives at Cuc Phuong.
 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
 Striated Heron (Little H) *Butorides striata*
 Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*
 Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta*
 Medium Egret *Ardea intermedia*
 Eastern Cattle Egret *Ardea coromanda*
 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
 Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
 Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
 Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
 Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
 Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis*
 Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* A single individual at Ngoc Linh was seen.
 Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*
 Crested Goshawk *Lophospiza trivirgata*
 Shikra *Tachyspiza badia* Only a non-leader sighting at Mang Canh.
 Besra *Tachyspiza virgata*
 Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* One individual seen at Van Long NR.
 Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
 Oriental Bay Owl ◊ *Phodilus badius* Heard-only in Cat Tien.
 Brown Boobook (B Boobook) *Ninox scutulata*
 Collared Owlet *Taenioptynx brodiei* Heard-only.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* Great views at Bach Ma.

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* Heard-only.

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* Finally one seen at Cuc Phuong.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* Heard-only.

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* A few heard and one seen well in Cat Tien.

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*

Austen's Brown Hornbill ◇ (Northern Brown H) *Anorrhinus austeni* A group of seven seen near the Laos border.

Indochinese Roller *Coracias affinis*

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* A female seen in Cat Tien.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* Seen at Lang Co in the afternoon.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctornis athertoni* Nice views in Cat Tien.

Asian Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*

Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens* Heard-only around Sa Pa.

Red-vented Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon lagrandieri* Several seen, best views at Mang Canh.

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus*

Green-eared Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon faiostrictus*

Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii* Heard-only around Sa Pa.

Necklaced Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon auricularis*

Indochinese Barbet ◇ (Annam B) *Psilopogon annamensis*

Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiaticus* Heard-only around Sa Pa.

Moustached Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon incognitus*

Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon cyanotis*

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*

Heart-spotted Woodpecker ◇ *Hemicircus canente* A pair seen in Cat Tien.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus*

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus* A single individual seen at Ngoc Linh.

Greater Yellownape *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*

Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*

Red-collared Woodpecker ◇ *Picus rabieri* A responsive bird seen at Cuc Phuong.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*

Pale-headed Woodpecker ◇ *Gecinulus grantia* Seen very well in Cat Tien.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

Black-and-buff Woodpecker ◇ *Meiglyptes jugularis* Some great views in Cat Tien.

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caeruleus* A roadside bird seen in Cat Tien.

Pied Falconet ◇ *Microhierax melanoleucos* One individual scoped in Phong Nha – Ke Bang NP.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*

Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* Best seen at Bach Ma.

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus* A single individual seen well in Cat Tien.

Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* Di Linh had the only individual we found.

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*

Rusty-naped Pitta ◇ *Hydrornis oatesi* Heard-only.

Blue-rumped Pitta ◇ *Hydrornis soror* Two pairs seen from Cat Tien hides.

Blue Pitta ◇ *Hydrornis cyaneus* A male seen from hide at Dalat, ssp. *willoughbyi*.

Bar-bellied Pitta *Hydrornis elliotii* Fantastic views in Cat Tien.

Blue-winged Pitta ◇ *Pitta moluccensis* Heard-only in Cat Tien.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayei*

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* A few seen at Mang Canh.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*

Swinhoe's Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

Rosy Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus roseus* Leader-only at Cuc Phuong and near Sa Pa.

Oriental Cuckooshrike *Coracina javensis*

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Lalage melaschistos*

Indochinese Cuckooshrike *Lalage polioptera*

Green Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* Seen briefly on Ngoc Linh.

White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*

White-browed Shrike-babbler ◊ (Dalat S-b) *Pteruthius [aeralatus] annamensis*

Clicking Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius intermedius*

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* Only a non-leader bird near Dalat.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

Malaysian Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher ◊ *Terpsiphone affinis* Best seen at Mang Canh.

Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* One individual seen at Tam Dao.

Eurasian Jay ◊ (White-faced J) *Garrulus [glandarius] leucotis*

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* A small group seen at Tam Dao.

White-winged Magpie ◊ *Urocissa whiteheadi* A group of five seen at Phong Nha – Ke Bang NP.

Indochinese Green Magpie ◊ *Cissa hypoleuca* Great views in Cuc Phuong.

Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*

Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus*

Large-billed Crow (Southern Jungle C) *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* Nice views around Sa Pa.

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*

Sultan Tit ◊ (Annam S T) *Melanochlora [sultanea] gayeti*

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus*

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

Green-backed Tit ◊ (Langbian T) *Parus [monticolus] legendrei* Great views near Dalat.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Machlolophus spilonotus*

Indochinese Bush Lark ◊ *Plocealauda erythrocephala* Brief views only near Pleiku.

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*

Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*

Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua*

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

Chestnut Bulbul ◊ *Hemixos castanonotus*

Mountain Bulbul (Southern M B) *Ixos mcclllandii*

Black Bulbul (Himalayan B B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Black-headed Bulbul *Brachypodius melanocephalus*

Black-crested Bulbul *Rubigula flaviventris*

Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons* A pair seen near Sa Pa.

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus conradi*

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*

Brown-breasted Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* A few seen around Sa Pa.

Light-vented Bulbul (Chinese B) *Pycnonotus sinensis*

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

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

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

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Eastern Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Scaly-breasted Cupwing (S-b Wren-Babbler) *Pnoepyga albiventer* Great views on Fansipan.

Pygmy Cupwing (P Wren-Babbler) *Pnoepyga pusilla*

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliosus*

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*

Black-faced Warbler ◊ *Abroscopus schisticeps* A responsive individual seen on Ngoc Linh.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus* Heard-only.

Broad-billed Warbler ◊ *Tickellia hodgsoni* One individual seen near Sa Pa.

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* A single bird seen in the Homrong Gardens at Sa Pa.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus*

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata* Nice views on Fansipan.

Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Hemitesia pallidipes* Seen well near Tam Dao.

Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus*

Black-throated Bushtit ◊ (Grey-crowned B) *Aegithalos [concinnus] annamensis*

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*

White-spectacled Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus intermedius*

Grey-cheeked Warbler *Phylloscopus poliogenys*

Bianchi's Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus valentini*

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes*

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus castaniceps*

Limestone Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus calciatilis* A singing bird seen in Phong Nha – Ke Bang NP.

Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti*

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae*

Kloss's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*

Davison's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus intensor*

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* Heard-only.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*

Dalat Bush Warbler ◇ (Vietnamese B-w) *Locustella idonea* Great views near Dalat.

Zitting Cisticola (Double Z C) *Cisticola [juncidis] tinnabulans*

Golden-headed Cisticola (Bright-headed C) *Cisticola exilis*

Annam Prinia ◇ *Prinia rocki* A pair seen at Di Linh.

Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*

Indochinese Fulvetta ◇ *Fulvetta danisi* A close bird on Ngoc Linh.

White-browed Fulvetta ◇ (Tonkin F) *Fulvetta [vinipectus] valentinae* Great views on Fansipan.

Grey-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis gularis* A responsive pair seen well at Mang Canh.

Black-headed Parrotbill ◇ (Black-crowned P) *Paradoxornis margaritae* Nice views at Di Linh and north to Dalat.

Short-tailed Parrotbill ◇ *Suthora davidiana* Great views at Tam Dao.

Golden Parrotbill ◇ *Suthora verreauxi* Fantastic views of a small flock on Fansipan.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Suthora webbiana* A mixed flock with the following species at Sa Pa.

Ashy-throated Parrotbill ◇ *Suthora alphonsiana* A mixed flock with the previous species at Sa Pa.

White-collared Yuhina ◇ *Parayuhina diademata* A few individuals around Sa Pa.

Indochinese Yuhina ◇ (Chestnut-collared Y) *Staphida torqueola* A few dozen seen at Bach Ma.

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

Stripe-throated Yuhina ◇ *Yuhina gularis*

Swinhoe's White-eye *Zosterops simplex*

Indian White-eye (Oriental W-e) *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*

Grey-faced Tit-Babbler ◇ *Mixornis kelleyi* Many seen in Cat Tien.

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Mixornis gularis*

Golden Babbler *Cyanoderma chrysaeum*

Rufous-capped Babbler *Cyanoderma ruficeps*

Bar-winged Wren-Babbler ◇ *Spelaeornis troglodytoides* Brief views of a singing bird on Fansipan.

Pale-throated Wren-Babbler ◇ *Spelaeornis kinneari* Fantastic views near Sa Pa.

Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler ◇ (White-throated S B) *Pomatorhinus phayrei*

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler ◇ (Sickle-b S B) *Pomatorhinus superciliaris* A fantastic pair seen on Fansipan.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* Several seen at Tam Dao.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

Large Scimitar Babbler *Erythrogenys hypoleucos* Heard-only.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*

Sooty Babbler ◇ *Stachyris herberti* Great views at Phong Nha – Ke Bang NP.

Spot-necked Babbler ◇ *Stachyris striolata* Several heard, a pair seen near the Lao border.

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

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Schoeniparus castaneiceps*

Black-crowned Fulvetta ◇ *Schoeniparus klossi* Seen from a hide near Dalat.

Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Schoeniparus rufogularis* Nice views in Cuc Phuong.

Rusty-capped Fulvetta ◇ *Schoeniparus dubius*

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli*

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*

Streaked Wren-Babbler ◇ *Gypsophila brevicaudata* Great views in Bach Ma.

Annam Limestone Babbler ◇ *Gypsophila annamensis* Near-endemic. Fantastic views in Cuc Phuong.

Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler ◇ (Austen's W B) *Napothera epilepidota*

Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler ◇ (Indochinese Wren-Babbler) *Napothera danjoui* Two heard in Bach Ma and finally a small group seen near the Lao border.

Black-browed Fulvetta ◇ *Alcippe grotei*

David's Fulvetta ◇ *Alcippe davidi*

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

Vietnamese Cutia ◇ *Cutia legalleni* A pair seen near Dalat.

Grey-crowned Crocias ◇ *Laniellus langbianis* Two birds seen in a feeding flock near Dalat.

Black-faced Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron affine* A few individuals seen on Fansipan.

Red-tailed Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron milnei* Fantastic views on Ngoc Linh.

Collared Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron yersini* Nice views of a pair near Dalat.

Golden-winged Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron ngoclinhense* Great views on Ngoc Linh.

Black-headed Sibia ◇ (Brownish-backed S) *Heterophasia desgodinsi*

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

Blue-winged Minla *Actinodura cyanouroptera*

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

Bar-throated Minla *Actinodura strigula*

Spectacled Barwing *Actinodura ramsayi* A singing bird seen near Sa Pa, ssp. *yunnanensis*.

Black-crowned Barwing ◇ *Actinodura sodangorum* Great views on Ngoc Linh.

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris*

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* Heard-only.

Rufous-backed Sibia ◇ *Leioptila annectens* Seen near Dalat, ssp. *eximia*.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* One seen in Bach Ma, ssp. *pasquieri*.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

Black-hooded Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax millet* Heard-only.

Grey Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax maesi* A group of at least 8 seen at Tam Dao.

Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax castanotis* A noisy flock of more than a dozen along the Laos border.

Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush ◇ *Ianthocincla konkakhensis* A pair seen at the feeding site at Mang Den are the last known birds in the area.

White-cheeked Laughingthrush ◇ *Pterorhinus vassali* Several seen at Di Linh and around Dalat.

Black-throated Laughingthrush ◇ *Pterorhinus chinensis*

Masked Laughingthrush ◇ *Pterorhinus perspicillatus* A pair seen at Lang Co and a few more around Phong Nha.

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* Common around Dalat, ssp. *grisiventris*.

Golden-crested Myna ◇ *Ampeliceps coronatus* Fair numbers in Cat Tien.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* Heard-only.

Great Myna (White-vented M) *Acridotheres grandis*

Crested Myna ◇ *Acridotheres cristatellus* Best seen along the Laos border and in Phong Nha.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Vinous-breasted Myna ◇ (V-b Starling) *Acridotheres leucocephalus* Best views at Di Linh.

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*

White-shouldered Starling ◇ *Sturnia sinensis* A small flock at Di Linh and another few at the Lak Lake.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica*

Dark-sided Thrush ◇ *Zoothera marginata* One coming at a feeder near Dalat.

White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea* Seen in Bach Ma.

Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica* A female at a feeder near Dalat.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina*

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*

Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* A few in Cuc Phuong.

Japanese Thrush ◇ *Turdus cardis* A few at Lang Co and many more in Cuc Phuong.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* A migrating bird seen in Bach Ma.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher ◇ *Muscicapa muttui* One individual seen in Sa Pa.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

White-tailed Flycatcher ◇ *Leucoptilon concretum* A female seen in Cuc Phuong.

Fujian Niltava ◇ *Niltava davidi* Females at a feeders in Mang Canh and Cuc Phuong and a male on a trail in Cuc Phuong seen well.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* A male seen near Sa Pa.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* Only a female seen at a feeder in Cuc Phuong.

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

Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*

White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Anthipes monileger*

Pale Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis unicolor* Nice views on a singing male near Mang Den.

Chinese Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis glaucicomans* Leader-only male in Cuc Phuong.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* Both *klossi* and *hainanus* races seen.

Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher *Cyornis brunneatus* A single individual on migration seen in Phong Nha – Ke Bang NP.

Indochinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis sumatrensis* Common in Cat Tien.

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura*

Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* A nice pair seen near Sa Pa.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* One individual turned up at a hide near Dalat.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* Heard-only.

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

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

Himalayan Shortwing *Brachypteryx cruralis* Fantastic views on Fansipan.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris* A roosting bird found in Cuc Phuong.

Lesser Shortwing ◊ (Langbian L S) *Brachypteryx [leucophris] langbianensis* Good views near Dalat.

Siberian Blue Robin *Larivora cyane*

Rufous-tailed Robin ◊ *Larivora sibilans* Seen at Lang Co and Cuc Phuong.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* Several seen, ssp. *annamensis*.

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophitata* One seen on Ngoc Linh.

Sapphire Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula sapphira* A pair and a male seen near Sa Pa.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus* Great views on Fansipan, ssp. *yunnanensis*.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* A female and a male seen near Sa Pa.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Grey Bush Chat (G Bushchat) *Saxicola ferreus*

Pied Bush Chat (P Bushchat) *Saxicola caprata*

Amur Stonechat (Stejneger's S) *Saxicola stejnegeri*

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis moluccensis*

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Orange-bellied Leafbird ◊ (Greyish-crowned L) *Chloropsis [hardwickii] melliana* Several seen, best views in Bach Ma.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker (Modest F) *Dicaeum agile*

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum*

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana*

Ornate Sunbird *Cinnyris ornatus*

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

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird ◊ (Annam S) *Aethopyga [gouldiae] annamensis* A cracking male seen near Dalat.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*

Fork-tailed Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga christinae* good looks at a male in Cuc Phuong.

Black-throated Sunbird ◊ (Langbian S) *Aethopyga [saturata] johnsi* Seen well around Dalat.

Crimson Sunbird (Greater C S) *Aethopyga siparaja*

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Plain-backed Sparrow ◊ *Passer flaveolus* One seen at the Mekong Delta.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Asian Golden Weaver ◊ *Ploceus hypoxanthus* A few seen in Cat Tien.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (Manchurian W) *Motacilla [tschutschensis] macronyx*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

White Wagtail (Swinhoe's W) *Motacilla [alba] ocularis*

White Wagtail (Amur W) *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis*

White Wagtail (Himalayan W) *Motacilla [alba] alboides*

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Oriental Greenfinch (Grey-capped G) *Chloris sinica*

Vietnamese Greenfinch ◊ *Chloris monguilloti* Nice views around Dalat.

Black-headed Greenfinch ◊ *Chloris ambigua*

Red Crossbill ◊ (Vietnamese C) *Loxia [curvirostra] meridionalis* A small group seen near Dalat.

Mammals

Shrew Gymnure *Neotetracus sinensis*

Northern Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*

Lesser Indo-Malayan Chevrotain (L Chevrotain) *Tragulus kanchil*

Northern Red Muntjac *Muntiacus vaginalis*

Sambar *Rusa unicorn*

Northern Smooth-tailed Treeshrew *Dendrogale murina*

Northern Treeshrew *Tupaia belangeri*

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

Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonina*

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

Red-shanked Douc *Pygathrix nemaus*

Black-shanked Douc *Pygathrix nigripes*

Delacour's Langur (D Leaf Monkey) *Trachypithecus delacouri*

Hatinh Langur (H Leaf Monkey) *Trachypithecus hatinhensis*

Southern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon (Yellow-c G) *Nomascus gabriellae*

Pallas's Squirrel (Belly-banded S) *Callosciurus erythraeus*

Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel *Dremomys rufigenis*

Indochinese Ground Squirrel *Menetes berdmorei*

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

Cambodian Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rodolphii*

Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops swinhoei*

Brown Rat (introduced) *Rattus norvegicus*



White-cheeked Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



White-browed Fulvetta (image by Dáni Balla)



White-browed Bush Robin (image by Dáni Balla)



Vietnamese Cutia (image by Dáni Balla)



Sultan Tit ssp. gayeti (image by Dáni Balla)



Stripe-breasted Woodpecker (image by Dáni Balla)



Streaked Wren-Babbler (image by Dáni Balla)



Spectacled Barwing (image by Dáni Balla)



Southern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon (image by Dáni Balla)



Sooty Babbler (image by Dáni Balla)



Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (image by Dáni Balla)



Silver-breasted Broadbill (image by Dáni Balla)



Silver Pheasant ssp. annamensis (image by Dáni Balla)



Short-tailed Parrotbill (image by Dáni Balla)



Rufous-tailed Robin (image by Dáni Balla)



Rufous-faced Warbler (image by Dáni Balla)



Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Red-tailed Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Red-collared Woodpecker (image by Dáni Balla)



Pygmy Cupwing (image by Dáni Balla)



Phong Nha (image by Dáni Balla)



Pale-throated Wren-Babbler (image by Dáni Balla)



Orange-breasted Trogon (image by Dáni Balla)



Nordmann's Greenshank (image by Dáni Balla)



Mountain Scops Owl (image by Dáni Balla)



Malayan Night Heron (image by Dáni Balla)



Little Forktail (image by Dáni Balla)



Indochinese Yuhina (image by Dáni Balla)



Golden-winged Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Green-backed Tit ssp. legendrei (image by Dáni Balla)



Grey Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Indochinese Green Magpie (image by Dáni Balla)



Golden Parrotbill (image by Dáni Balla)



Germain's Peacock Pheasant (image by Dáni Balla)



Ferruginous Flycatcher (image by Dáni Balla)



Dusky Broadbill (image by Dáni Balla)



Dark-sided Thrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Dalat Bush Warbler (image by Dáni Balla)



Collared Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Blue-rumped Pitta (image by Dáni Balla)



Black-headed Parrotbill (image by Dáni Balla)



Black-faced Laughingthrush (image by Dáni Balla)



Black-crowned Barwing (image by Dáni Balla)



Black-and-buff Woodpecker (image by Dáni Balla)



Bar-bellied Pitta (image by Dáni Balla)



Banded Kingfisher (image by Dáni Balla)



Austen's Brown Hornbill (image by Dáni Balla)



Annam Limestone Babbler (image by Dáni Balla)