



ULTIMATE VIETNAM TOUR REPORT 2026

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With the most numerous endemic species and several near-endemics in South-east Asia, Vietnam has a lot to offer for birders to visit. Birdquest's Ultimate Vietnam tour is visiting all important birding hotspots stretching from south, up to the northern edge of the country. Starting in Cat Tien which is one of the largest intact lowland rainforests remaining in the area and finishing at Mount Fansipan, the highest peak of Indochina on the extension, a great set of habitats and regions are visited during this 25 days long birding tour.

This year we did great again and recorded a total of 442 bird species with some additional local forms to be also mentioned and 24 mammal species including some of the best-looking primates.

In the southern regions we saw Nordmann's Greenshank, Great Knot, Plain-backed Sparrow and many others at the coast in the Mekong Delta. In Cat Tien's old forest, we found Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Green Peafowl, Green-legged and Orange-necked Partridge, Bar-bellied and Blue-rumped Pittas, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl, Scaly-crowned, Abbot's, Buff-breasted and Puff-throated Babblers, Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Pale-headed and Black-and-buff Woodpeckers, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Golden-crested Myna, Van Hasselt's Sunbird and many more. On the Langbiang Plateau around Dalat we connected with Vietnamese Cutia, Grey-crowned Crocias, Indochinese and Necklaced Barbets, Swinhoe's Minivet, Indochinese Green Magpie, Short-tailed and Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Black-headed Parrotbill, Slender-billed Oriole, Dark-sided Thrush, Dalat Bush Warbler, White-cheeked and Collared Laughingthrush etc.

In the central parts of Vietnam we visited Mang Den area, Ngoc Linh mountain, the Sa Mu pass region, the karst formations of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park and Cuc Phuong National Park seeing a great diversity of habitats and collecting Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, Red-

vented Barbet, Red-collared Woodpecker, Pied Falconet, Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, White-winged Magpie, Annam Prinia, Limestone Leaf Warbler, Indochinese Fulvetta, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Indochinese Yuhina, Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler, the odd looking Sooty Babbler, Rufous-throated and Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Annam Limestone Babbler, Red-tailed, Black-hooded, Masked, Black-throated and Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, Black-crowned Barwing, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, White-gorgeted Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Sunbird, a poor Pin-tailed Parrotfinch and Oriental Greenfinch to highlight a few.

The last site for the main tour was Tam Dao just north of the country capital Hanoi, where foggy weather was a bit upsetting but not stopping us finding Grey Laughingthrush, Short-tailed Parrotbill, David's Fulvetta, Bianchi's Warbler and Common Green Magpie.

During the extension to the Fansipan region we reached the top of Indochina where we found White-browed (Tonkin) Fulvetta, Scaly-breasted Cupwing, Black-faced Laughingthrush, while lower down we connected with White-collared and Whiskered Yuhina, Hill Blue and Pygmy Flycatcher, Small Niltava, 'Eastern' Spectacled Barwing, Black-faced Warbler, Davison's Leaf, Caludia's Leaf, Buff-barred, Grey-crowned and Buff-throated Warblers, White-crowned Redstart, Vinous-throated and Ashy-throated Parrotbills, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Black-headed Greenfinch, Crested Finchbill, Brown-breasted Bulbul and our main target, the Pale-throated Wren-Babbler.

Heading to Tan Thanh in the Mekong Delta early in the morning is how we started our tour to Vietnam. Arriving just when the tide was half coming on us, we only had to wait an hour until birds were pushed up on the coast to have views of them. While waiting for the tide we collected our first birds in the coastal vegetation including Asian Green Bee-eater, Golden-bellied Gerygone, Sunda Pied Fantail, Chestnut-tailed Starling and a few Plain-backed Sparrows. On the coast, Tibetan and Greater Sand Plovers and Kentish Plovers were feeding, dozens of Terek Sandpipers and Great Knots and Common Greenshanks were also easily spotted. It did not take too long to find Nordmann's Greenshank in a comfortable distance. A single Pacific Golden Plover, a Dunlin and a few Curlew Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints were found after scanning the mudflat. Caspian Terns were seen on the deck while Whiskered Terns and Gull-billed Terns were flying around. In the distance two Far-eastern Curlews were feeding comparable to orientalis Eurasian Curlews nearby.

Around noon we decided to leave the area and started our journey to reach Cat Tien, where we arrived at dinner time. To initiate exploring the park we took our first night drive in the park starting with a Brown Boobook at the headquarters and found just one Pygmy Slow Loris from the truck. On the way back we heard Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl calling from the forest, a promising start for the upcoming time here.

Early morning, we were doing some roadside birding along the main track in the park and exploring the headquarters area, where we quickly found our first Green-eared Barbet, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Thick-billed and Orange-breasted Green Pigeons, a Blue-bearded Bee-eater as it was hunting in the canopy, loud Red-breasted Parakets, Scarlet and Swinhoe's Minivets, Common and Great Iora, Large Woodshrike, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Asian Fairy Bluebird and Asian Brown Flycatcher. We then spent the rest of the morning in one of the hides where we did not have to wait too long before a male Siamese Fireback showed up in the company of two females while other birds, like Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Abbot's Babbler, Puff-throated Babbler, Buff-breasted Babbler, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Ochraceous, Stripe-throated and Streak-eared Bulbuls and one Siberian Blue Robin and a skulking Radde's Warbler were hanging around to entertain us. We suspended the hide in the middle of the day and went for a cold drink and a lunch at the restaurant. After a short break we returned to the hide, seeing the first Black-crested, Black-headed and Black Bulbuls, Black-hooded and Black-naped Orioles and Racket-tailed Treepies on the way. In the hide we were lucky enough to soon enjoy the other main target here as a pair of the near-endemic Germain's Peacock-Pheasant. We had another visit of the Siamese Fireback, this time the male showing some sign of display. Leaving the hide we found a pair of Black-and-red Broadbills near the main track and checked one of the Two-barred Warblers which were calling around before heading out to the open grassland areas of the park to spend the rest of the day birding there. From the back of a truck we did birding in comfort and saw Green Peafowl, Vinous-breasted Myna, Black-collared Starling, Burmese Shrike, Red-collared Dove and Oriental Pied Hornbills.

During a night drive we heard a Blyth's Frogmouth, which never called again after answering once to the tape in the distance; we saw Great Eared and Large-tailed Nightjars.

Our second morning started with the excitement of a large shadow perching above us in the dark at the headquarters, soon with lights put on it a Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl was looking at us holding a rat in its claws – what a start to the day. We took a ride to the bamboo dominated areas of the park and heard a distant calling Orange-necked Partridge, saw the first Yellow-bellied Warbler, found a few disturbingly skulking Blue-rumped Pittas, Little Spiderhunters, Stripe-throated, Streak-eared and Black-headed Bulbuls, a White-browed Piculet, a calling male Banded Kingfisher was spotted and managed to call in a pair of Pale-headed Woodpeckers, however – as usual –

they were never perching for too long at the same spot, but multiple flight views and several short perched views were obtained of both birds. For the afternoon we sat at the other hide of the park and were stunned by Bar-bellied Pitta and Blue-rumped Pitta appearing very soon, while Common Flameback, Green-legged Partridge, Siberian Blue Robin, White-rumped Shama were hanging around before we had to leave the hide as a storm with strong wind made it too dangerous to stay inside the forest any longer. As the weather forced a break on us we had an afternoon coffee and finished the day birding around the headquarters later in the afternoon. During the owling session after dinner, we found roosting individuals of both Pittas, Indochinese Blue Flycatchers and found Collared Scops Owl.

A drive to the trailhead and we set foot to the Crocodile Lake in the centre of the national park. The trail heading through nice forest where we found Greater Yellownappe, Laced Woodpecker, Greater Flameback, Vernal Hanging Parrot, glimpsed a Violet Cuckoo, saw Dusky and Banded Broadbills, the near-endemic Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, Woolly-necked Stork flying over above the canopy and Pale-legged Leaf Warbler, Black-naped Monarch and Little Spiderhunter before reaching the ranger station laying on the bank of the wetland. Looking over the water from a comfortable viewpoint we soon spotted the reintroduced Simease Crocodiles in the water and White-browed Crakes, Bronze-winged Jacanas and Purple Swampheens along the edge, while a single Cotton Pygmy Goose was swimming further in. An Indochinese Roller was hanging around and a Grey-headed Fish Eagle and Lesser Adjutant were seen in flight. Oriental Darters and Little Cormorants perched drying themselves were all seen before heading out after lunch. Returning to the trailhead we found a pair of Ashy-headed Green Pigeons and saw more Thick-billed Green Pigeons. As the team was exhausted and heavy rain arrived, we took the afternoon out and enjoyed some rest. Our last owling session after dinner we only found some roosting birds and spotted Collared Scops again.

On our last morning in Cat Tien, we went back to the bamboo habitat where luckily this time we saw an Orange-necked Partridge crossing the track in front of the group. Later as we tried luring it back, they responded to the call but refused to come out of the dense vegetation for a second look. We decided to start walking back and bird the old forest patch nearby where we found Scaly-crowned (Indochinese) Babblers, a Collared Falconet, Large Hawk Cuckoo, Golden-crested Myna, Grey-eyed Bulbul and bumped into a family of Black-shanked Doucs. Reaching the spot where we were about to be picked up, we saw a flighty Van Hasselt's Sunbird before returning to the headquarters to check out.

After a few hours on the road, we arrived at Di Linh in the afternoon. Birding around our accommodation we were surprised by Pin-tailed Snipes and a pair of Greater Painted Snipes, a flock of Lesser Whistling Duck and a skulking Brown-cheeked Rail which forgot to hide in the dense vegetation for a few seconds.

Despite the late time and strong wind, we went out for some initial birding at Deo Nui San where we found a Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo and got short and bad looks at two Black-headed Parrotbills as they went to roost.

We started in the dark next morning in hope of hearing some nightbirds but as wind and light rain was still hitting the area, we did not see anything. Later the weather turned better and during the morning birding we had great views of Vietnamese Cutia feeding in a flock of Swinhoe's Minivets, Chestnut-vented and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, White-bellied Erpornis, Oriental Cuckooshrike, Eurasian (White-faced) Jay and (Grey-capped) Black-throated Bushtits. A perched Yellow-vented Green Pigeon was an unusual treat. We found Black-chinned Yuhina, Flavescent Bulbul, Ashy Bulbul, Green-backed Tit, Maroon Oriole and a cooperative couple of Collared Babblers along the roadside. Taking a short trail, we had a close calling Blue Pitta which refused to come closer into view. Another trail further down the road we found a mixed flock which had a couple Black-headed Parrotbills feeding amongst other birds, finally good views of this endemic.

We enjoyed the lovely kitchen of our hosts here at lunchtime and departed towards Dalat in the early afternoon.

Arriving at Dalat we still had enough time to visit a hilltop at the edge of the town. A feeding spot here was created a few years ago and now Dalat Bush Warbler was straight on easy as we just sat in the open near by the dedicated area. Other birds here were Brown Shrike, Hill Prinia, Flavescent Bulbul, a White-cheeked Laughingthrush coming to steal some of the mealworms, the real surprise being a fantastic Siberian Rubythroat turning up a few times, melting our hearts immediately. As dawn hit the area Large-tailed and Grey Nightjars started calling everywhere and soon we saw a few birds flying around. In the dark we tried to call in Hodgson's Frogmouth but it was too windy to have a real chance.

Our first full day at Dalat we tried the hide system where early in the morning, sitting in the first hide we soon saw a Silver Pheasant pair of the local annamensis race appearing, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Mountain Bulbul, Large Niltava, Snowy-browed Flycatcher and

Mountain Fulvetta being all present around in the meantime we sat there, when Tron suddenly arrived with good news that we should rapidly change hides. And in a few minutes, we were behind another piece of net watching three of the gorgeous Collared Laughingthrush a few metres away from us, the species being endemic to the area and heavily trapped it is no longer guaranteed seeing them. Besides the Collared Laughingthrush we had a great set of birds coming in and moving around including a smart male Siberian Thrush, Rufous-throated Partridge, the local, brightly coloured *rufiventer* subspecies of Streaked Wren-Babbler, the *langbianensis* race of Lesser Shortwing, and lovely White-tailed Robin.

Breaking the wait in the hides we took a walk on a forest trail just before lunch where a small flock of Vietnamese Greenfinch was the first spotted on a pine tree before moving further in to the broadleaved forest where Hume's Treecreeper, *annamensis* White-browed Shrike-babbler, Maroon Oriole, Mugimaki Flycatcher and Black-throated Sunbird were seen. From the road we spotted a Mountain Hawk-Eagle gliding above the forest before hitting the road for a short drive to have a lunch and a coffee nearby

In the afternoon, we tried our luck with one more hide, where soon glowing green Indochinese Green Magpies were popping up from the forest background. Two shy Dark-sided Thrush and an Orange-headed Thrush were coming and going constantly, another pair of Langbian Lesser Shortwing, Black-headed Sibia of the *robinsoni* race turned up, while White-spectacled and Grey-cheeked Warblers were seen moving around. The star of the afternoon came late, but patience paid off when a Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler (or Indochinese Wren-Babbler) appeared and spent a few minutes entertaining us. We stayed out until dark seeing Grey Nightjar and heard Hodgson's Frogmouth calling on the hilltop above us.

Early in the morning we left Dalat city to arrive back into the Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park where we took a logging road in the morning for birding. One of the first birds we found was a very responsive Grey-crowned Crocias which in a few minutes produces some incredible views sitting a few metres in front of us. Further down the trail noisy Rufous-backed Sibias were seen in the canopy. On the way back we found a feeding flock of Mountain Fulvettas, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Vietnamese Cutia, White-bellied Erpornis and others and finally a Black-crowned Fulvetta answered our tape but kept going with the flock and was not seen. We went back to try for the Fulvetta from the hides, seeing again Collared Laughingthrush and other species and adding Spotted Forktail to our list but our luck with the main target now was missing.

For the late afternoon we checked some pine forest near the Tuyam Lam lake where a Rufous Woodpecker, Grey Bushchat, Green-backed Tit and grey-crowned Black-throated Bushtits were seen before moving on to broadleaved patches where we heard a distant calling flock of Black-hooded Laughingthrush just before dark. Finishing the day with some nightbirding in the wind was not optimal but we managed to see the rufous form of Oriental Scops Owl.

We packed and before leaving Dalat we stopped at Datanla where soon found a Slender-billed Oriole feeding low down on some berries. A Chestnut-vented Nuthatch showed nicely, Vietnamese Greenfinch was moving around and a flowering tree had few of the local subspecies Mrs. Gould's Sunbird including beautiful males. One more Orange-headed Thrush was spotted and an Indochinese Barbet perched eye-level was the best sight of the species so far.

As we drove north having short birding stops, we found more Grey-crowned Crocias, and a mixed flock of House Swift, Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, Asian House Martin, Edible-nest Swiftlet and a Siberian House Martin amongst them and a low-flying Crested Serpent Eagle was great to observe.

A lunch stop at the Lak Lake also provided the last birding spot for the day where we saw White-shouldered Starling, Lineated Barbet and Coppersmith Barbet being new to our trip list.

On our full day in Mang Den and Mang Canh we were mostly birding from the main road after trying Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush at the feeding spot which we failed to see, however knowing our chances were slim as there were no recent sightings from the area, sadly, the known birds probably have been trapped. From the road we found Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Black-throated Sunbird, Rufous-faced Warbler, Orange-bellied Leafbird, a great looking male Clicking Shrike-babbler, the range restricted Yellow-billed Nuthatch and some migrating Crested Honey Buzzards and Grey-faced Buzzards. Although the weather was not pleasing, we took a trail going into the forest where a small feeding flock had Rufous-faced Warbler, Golden Babbler, Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Mountain Fulvetta and White-bellied Erpornis. Reaching a clearing we found a singing Spot-throated Babbler which took some time to lure into views as it was skulking in the dense undergrowth. On the way back to our vehicle a flock of Grey-headed Parrotbill responded to our tape and came in showing well.

In the afternoon, the birding was slow and we only saw species we already had before and we stayed out until dark finding a roosting Red-headed Trogon and a Mountain Scops Owl which was a challenge to see in the tiny windows through the foliage.

Next morning, we were birding closer to Mang Den along a paved road seeing Blue-winged Minla, Silver-eared Mesia, Long-tailed and Grey-chinned Minivets.

Later we took a trail where we heard calling Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon and saw Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Golden Babbler, Necklaced Barbet, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, and we managed to call in a few loud Bay Woodpeckers. On the way back our luck found us and Black-hooded Laughingthrushes started calling not too far from the trail. After some rapid tactical positioning we were carefully luring the birds closer and after some time we even managed to call the flock above us, when we were delighted to realise that at least 5 birds were moving together in these heavily trapped areas.

Leaving Mang Den, we took a short detour to stop in a suitable habitat patch near Pleiku where we found Chestnut-capped Babblers and Annam Prinia.

Our next birding spot was at the Dakto Wetlands where we saw Wire-tailed Swallow, Asian Green Bee-eater and Paddyfield Pipits.

Finishing the long drive for the day we stopped along the road before arriving at Tu Mo Rong hearing Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, Moustached Barbet and saw Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, Flavescent Bulbul and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo.

We left early in the morning to reach Ngoc Linh Mountain from Tu Mo Rong village. The weather at the trailhead was already miserable but such circumstances were not holding us back and we took the trail to the top and slowly trekked up to the feeding spot higher up where we had all our trust in the hide we sat in. We spent our time in the hide until noon seeing such incredible birds as Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Brown-crowned Scimitar-Babbler, Rufous-winged and Rusty-capped Fulvettas, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher and the near endemic Black-crowned Barwing. But no Golden-winged Laughingthrush. So, a few of us decided to walk further up the trail where after some time we found a calling bird, but the rain, fog and wind combination was far from ideal to lure the bird closer and we had to give up soon after. As we returned to the hide for a snack lunch an Indochinese Fulvetta turned up easing our frustration. We started going down in the fantastic looking forest early in the afternoon and finished the day walking along the road at the trailhead hearing Green Cochoa in the fog, seeing Green-tailed and Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Ashy-throated Warbler, Black-headed Sibia and an unlucky Pin-tailed Parrotfinch which landed on the tarmac of the bridge arching above the river valley just when we were there. Later we took our vehicle and started going back to Tu Mo Rong stopping on the way when we left the fog behind and birded from the road in a nice weather seeing Hill Prinia, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Flavescent Bulbul, Long-tailed Shrike, a Collared Owlet and found a Collared Scops Owl on its roost in the dense bamboo.

Next morning, we left Tu Mo Rong and tried some birding along the road on Ngoc Linh, but the weather hardly changed at all since the previous day, still managed to see Grey-breasted Prinia, a Black-winged Kite, White-cheeked Laughingthrush and several Blyth's Leaf Warbler and sunbirds before we gave up on the area.

We had a long drive for the day to arrive in Da Nang in the late afternoon where we dropped a group member before arriving in Lang Co where we spent the night in a nice beach hotel.

Morning birding was done around the hotel grounds where we managed to find Masked Laughingthrush, Oriental Greenfinch, Common Iora, Brown-throated Sunbird, Oriental Magpie Robin, Sooty-headed Bulbuls and Chinese Blackbird. We had to take another road section running parallel with the coastline where we found Light-vented Bulbul, Dusky Warbler and other more common birds before returning to the hotel for breakfast.

Our original itinerary would take us to Bach Ma from Lang Co, but a landslide blocking the way to the top made us alter our plans and we skipped Bach Ma and drove straight to Khe Sanh. A coffee stop on the way produced our first seen Moustached Barbet. Some late afternoon birding at Sa Mu pass in windy conditions was quiet but we still managed to find a flock of Needletails having both Silver-backed and White-throated in the same flock. We finally managed to call in a Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, saw a Black Eagle and heard Pale-headed Woodpecker.

With the forced itinerary change we now had a full day birding the Sa Mu pass which turned out to be a fortunate change as windy conditions made birding quite slow and it took all day for us to finally find responsive Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush which at the end turned out to be very responsive and even called in another group on the other side of the road – still their skulking behaviour and the

dense vegetation made it a challenge to spot them. During the day we had great look at a cooperative White-gorgeted Flycatcher, found a small flock of White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Blue Rock Thrush was seen on roadside buildings, the bamboo had several Yellow-bellied Warblers and a passing Eastern Marsh Harrier was also spotted.

Next morning when passing the Sa Mu pass, we had no pressure and only stopped at lower elevation seeing a Black-winged Cuckooshrike, a Barred Cuckoo-Dove pair flew by and a Blue Whistling Thrush was the first for our tour. A longer drive with a few stops on the way we arrived at Phong Nha in the early afternoon. After a nice coffee we went out to search for some birds but the birding sites were very quiet, we only found a calling Oriental Hobby and we decided to go further away to try for Red-shanked Doucs as they went for roost – and we had a great sight of them.

Finishing the long day, we chose a nice restaurant in the touristy town where even the fussiest eaters found their choice of food and enjoyed some nice local beer.

Our full day in Phong Nha started with an early departure to the karst habitat. The area which was completely silent yesterday was in full birdsong and we soon managed to localise a singing Limestone Leaf Warbler, which came close and showed well for us. Finding Sooty Babbler took some time, but persistence paid off and we were treated with great views of this odd member of the babblers, two birds feeding under the roadside vegetation softly calling sometimes. Small feeding flocks were moving around and once a group of Indochinese Yuhinas turned up and we could follow them along the road. Sultan Tits were calling loud and were responsive, Scarlet Minivets were easily seen well, Cook's (Fork-tailed) Swifts were flocking in the sky. A loud Ratchet-tailed Treepie was calling on a close tree and soon crossing above the road. We had scope views of a perched Pied Falconet and watched it as it was hunting for flying insects. Distant calling White-winged Magpies were noticed in time and we were lucky to see one crossing above the road and flying with a dark background soon providing nice looks, later another two birds were also spotted one crossing again above us. The weather was warming up and we were walking further down the road a Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush and another flicked over the road later followed by two Black-throated Laughingthrush. Arriving at the central bridge we lured in a Spot-necked Babbler. We drove to a more closed patch of forest where we found Scaly-crowned Babblers before it got too warm and activity dropped significantly making us retire for a lunch and a short afternoon break. Later that day we chose to drive back to the Douc's area where we found even more of these beautiful primates. Stopping at other spots a calling Red-vented Barbet pair came to nearby trees and we once found a responsive Red-collared Woodpecker which shot by above us before disappearing forever, our tape also calling in Bay Woodpeckers from the same forest patch. To finish the day, we drove back to the centre of the park where another, closer Red-shanked Douc was enjoying the last moments of the day on a treetop. Our incredible luck found us again and another Red-collared Woodpecker was heard here. Activity was low but we decided to come back here the next day to try our luck here. We finished the day with a nice Red-headed Trogon feeding in the last rays of light in a close range.

We left before sunrise and stopped at the paddyfields at the edge of Phong Nha town seeing Great Mynas and White-shouldered Starlings emerging from their roosts. Then we drove to the woodpecker spot and soon had a response and after some careful taping both male and female birds flew out from the dark forest patch and one bird perched on a big open tree giving unusual views of this shy species. We saw Limestone Leaf Warbler once more, Great Ioras and a pair of Silver-breasted Broadbills before we went back for breakfast to the hotel to have a breakfast and check out.

A long drive during the day and we arrived at Cuc Phuong National Park by late afternoon, still time for a comfort walk where only few birds were seen as activity was just about to stop at the end of the day, still we added a Plain Flowerpecker to our trip list. After dinner a walk around the headquarters resulted in finding Blue-rumped Pitta and Japanese Thrush on roost.

In the morning we drove through the centre of the park in the dark and were birding on foot in the first light soon seeing a Fork-tailed Sunbird on the track before taking a trail up into the forest on a karst hill where our main target was Annam Limestone Babbler, which we found shortly after reaching the suitable habitat. We lured the birds closer and they were going around us, however the dark forest made them disappear easily from time to time. Walking back to have a late breakfast we found a Rufous-throated Fulvetta near the trail and enjoyed the morning chorus of several Red-vented Barbets. The rest of the morning after breakfast we spent in a nearby hide, where several Japanese Thrush, a few Black-breasted Thrush, Hainan Blue Flycatcher and Rufous-throated Fulvetta were turning up.

In the afternoon we chose to walk another trail inside the park but the forest was quiet and we only saw a distant Pied Falconet, a small flock of White-bellied Erpornis, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Black-browed Fulvetta and a Bianchi's Warbler, though the latter one was a leader-only sighting as the bird answered to our tape but stayed hidden. To finish the day, we stopped at a hotspot for White-tailed

Flycatcher where we heard a bird singing for a short time, but the rainy-windy weather made us give up on the bird for now. After dinner the optional night excursion resulted in seeing Collared and Mountain Scops Owl, roosting Blue-rumped Pittas, a Hairy-footed Flying Squirrel and a short sighting of a Pangolin crossing the road in front of the vehicle.

Wind and rain stayed with us the next morning when we tried again for the Flycatcher, without any luck, though we found more Annam Limestone Babblers before turning back to the HQ for breakfast and check-out.

Leaving Cuc Phuong, we stopped at the nearby Van Long Nature Reserve where we soon spotted Delacour's Langurs on the cliffs and scanned the area for waterbirds seeing almost a hundred Asian Openbills, all the possible white herons, Yellow Bittern, Osprey, White-browed Crake, Purple Swampphen, Plaintive Cuckoos, Siberian Stonechats, Dusky Warbler, Light-vented Bulbul, Plain and Yellow-bellied Prinia.

By night we reached a foggy Tam Dao, where dinner was due soon after we checked into our hotel.

In the morning after a warm-up walk to find coffee and having breakfast back in the hotel, we took the steps going to the radio tower. The city was hit by dense fog and strong gusts made birding even harder on the steps, which we chose to take carefully in the first half of the morning. From time to time, we heard a flock of Grey Laughingthrush and they were coming closer once reaching very close, but not coming in despite the effort we put into them. Luckily at a suitable looking bamboo patch we managed to call in two Short-tailed Parrotbills which perched for a few seconds and disappeared into the grey. Walking down the steps we found a few David's Fulvetas feeding close enough for looks and also heard Bianchi's Warbler on two spots, fortunately one being responsive enough to provide some views.

To release our frustration caused by the weather we decided to descend down the hill and after a lunch and coffee we had a short walk around a pagoda in sunshine seeing Plain Flowerpeckers, Swinhoe's White-eyes and a Grey-backed Shrike.

For the second half of the afternoon the fog cleared up on the top and we took a paved road on the ridge where some bird activity was still found. We soon bumped into a pair of Short-tailed Parrotbills, this time the views were much better. Eastern Buzzard, Crested Honey Buzzard and Eastern Red-rumped Swallows were seen passing above the ridge. On the way walking back a calling Common Green Magpie was lured into view soon and a small flock had noisy Sultan Tits. Just before giving up birding a singing flock of Grey Laughingthrushes was heard near the track, which we were soon luring closer. It took all our time and patience to get some views of the birds calling just by the road before returning back to the city for a final great dinner of the main tour.

On the last morning of the main tour fog ruined any chance of birding at Tam Dao so we decided to get lower down the hill and walked a short trail under the fog zone. A small patch of reeds had a singing Manchurian Reed Warbler only providing very brief views. We heard Red-billed Blue Magpies calling in the distance and they were heading our way just making it possible for us to see them in a few minutes. In the dense undergrowth we tried to move a singing Spot-necked Babbler into views which happened a few times using our patience.

As some time passed, we started driving back to the higher elevations in hope of disappearing fog, which – as we realised soon – did not happen. To secure some birding for the afternoon with the group members staying for the extension we said good bye for the others – who later, in the middle of the day had a transfer back to Hanoi airport – and started our journey to the foothills of Fansipan mountain.

We arrived at Sa Pa in time to have a walk at the so-called Love Waterfall, where some initial exploration of the region was giving us a few Buff-throated Warblers, Davison's Leaf Warblers, Ferruginous Flycatcher, Plumbeous Water Redstart, a Black-faced Warbler and a Rufous-bellied Niltava.

On our first full day at Sa Pa, we walked along the main road until all paperwork was done for us to enter Fansipan National Park. During the roadside birding some great birds were popping up like White-collared Yuhina, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Black-headed Greenfinch and Grey-crowned Warbler. We also managed some great views of a Pygmy Cupwing. As soon as the permits were issued, we headed onto the trail first seeing a Himalayan Cuckoo and a few Brown-backed Needletails. Fortunately, we did not have to walk very far into the forest to find our number one target of the extension, the near-endemic Pale-throated Wren-Babbler. We had a responsive individual jumping and singing around our feet for as long as we wanted. In the distance Great and Golden-throated Barbets were heard calling.

We returned into the city for lunch and a short break before heading back to the trails in the afternoon seeing Ashy-throated Warbler, two more Black-faced Warbler, Whiskered Yuhina, Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Crested Greenfinch, 'Eastern' Spectacled Barwing, Hill Blue and

Pygmy Flycatcher and Crested Finchbill.

It was time the second morning in Sa Pa to take the cable car which holds the Guinness record for being the longest one and also the one gaining the most elevation in the world. On the top clear but windy weather was teasing us and we took the tiring walk to a hide which is set up under the top. We stayed in the hide for almost three hours but only Black-faced Laughingthrush and White-browed Fulvetta turned up, thus we gave up to escape the chilly wind there and started walking back to the top, briefly seeing Chestnut-headed Tesia on the way. Arriving at the top, we were treated with dense fog, which we had to get used to recently, but took our persistence and some birding around the peak area we had great looks at a ridiculously tame Scaly-breasted Cupwing and found more White-browed Fulvetta and one more Black-faced Laughingthrush and an Aberrant Bush Warbler was only heard.

A hot coffee was a treat to have before descending down with the cablecars. In the gardens around the lower cable car station, we found Common Rosefinch and a small flock of Vinous-throated Parrotbills. We had a rapid visit at the Silver Waterfall where we found Plumbeous Water Redstart, White-crowned Redstart and a Blue Whistling Thrush. We took the lower section of the main road to walk in the late afternoon hearing Blue-throated Barbet and finding Small Niltava before we finished birding for the day.

On the last morning of the tour, we went to the Ham Rong gardens in Sa Pa, where early morning activity was great and one of the first birds we spotted was a Rosy Minivet perched on a bamboo stick. Dozens of White-eyes were moving in the canopy and after some investigation we found a few Chestnut-flanked ones. A Brown-breasted Flycatcher was singing shortly and soon seen by us. We also heard Small Niltava and saw Hill Blue Flycatcher in the area. Almost at the peak we found a Brown-flanked Bush Warbler. Green-backed Tits and Cinereous Tit were seen on the pines. We also managed to see Buff-barred and Pallas's Leaf Warblers in feeding flocks and flushed Olive-backed Pipits from the ground. It took some time but finally we found a flock of feeding Parrotbills and about checking five or six individuals we spotted two Ashy-throated amongst the Vinous-throated ones. On the way back to the hotel we stopped for a nice coffee at a restaurant with a pine tree in front where a Black-headed Greenfinch was still singing in the morning.

We checked out later in the morning to finish our tour and went back to Hanoi where everyone managed to smoothly fly home in these difficult times.

TOP5 birds of the main tour as voted by the participants:

1. Red-tailed Laughingthrush
2. Bar-bellied Pitta
3. Grey-crowned Crocias / Collared Laughingthrush
4. Vietnamese Cutia
5. Sooty Babbler

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 **AviList v2025** (AviList Core Team 2025. *AviList: The Global Avian Checklist, v2025*), this was the current version when the checklist for the tour report was created.

BIRDS

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* A pair seen at Dalat from hide.

Bar-backed Partridge ◇ *Arborophila brunneopectus* Heard-only.

Orange-necked Partridge ◇ *Arborophila davidi* A bird seen crossing the track in Cat Tien.

Silver Pheasant ◇ *Lophura nycthemera* The race *annamensis* seen at Dalat from hide.

Siamese Fireback ◇ *Lophura diardi* Great views in Cat Tien.

Green Peafowl ◇ *Pavo muticus*

Green-legged Partridge ◇ *Tropicoperdix chloropus*

Green-legged Partridge ◇ (Tonkin P) *Tropicoperdix [chloropus] tonkinensis* Heard-only

Germain's Peacock-Pheasant ◇ *Polyplectron germaini* Near-endemic. Four seen in Cat Tien.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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* Several heard and one seen at the Sa Mu Pass.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*

Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturates* Seen on the extension at Sa Pa.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus*

Ashy-headed Green Pigeon *Treron phayrei* A pair seen in Cat Tien.

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

Yellow-vented Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron seimundi* Great looks at a bird perched near Di Linh.

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda*

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenurus* Heard-only.

Zebra Dove (introduced) *Geopelia striata*

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*

Brown-cheeked Rail (Eastern Water Rail) *Rallus indicus*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Purple Swampfen (Grey-headed H) *Porphyrio [porphyrio] poliocephaluscyorn*

White-browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinereus*

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

Tibetan Sand Plover *Anarhynchus atrifrons*

Greater Sand Plover *Anarhynchus leschenaultii*

Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Far Eastern Curlew (Eastern C) *Numenius madagascariensis*

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Heard-only.

Nordmann's Greenshank ♦ (Spotted G) *Tringa guttifer*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Red-necked Stint (Rufous-n S) *Calidris ruficollis*

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* Heard-only.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

Asian Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*

Yellow Bittern *Botaurus sinensis*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Little Heron *Butorides atricapilla*

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta*

Medium Egret *Ardea intermedia*

Eastern Cattle Egret *Ardea coromanda*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

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.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Fork-tailed Swift (Cook's S) *Apus [pacificus] cooki*

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*

Edible-nest Swiftlet (Germain's S) *Aerodramus [fuciphagus] germani*

Brown Boobook (B Boobook) *Ninox scutulata*

Collared Owlet *Taenioptynx brodiei*

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus*

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia*

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia*

Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl ◇ *Ketupa nipalensis* An early morning observation in Cat Tien.

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*

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*

Crested Goshawk *Lophospiza trivirgata*

Shikra *Tachyspiza badia*

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*

Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*

Eastern Buzzard ◇ (Himalayan B) *Buteo [japonicus] burmanicus* One seen at Tam Dao.

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Indochinese Roller *Coracias affinis*

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*

Asian Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting* Seen in Cat Tien, a write in to the list.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* A male seen while calling in Cat Tien

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*

Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon cyanotis*

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

Red-vented Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon lagrandieri* Finally seen near Phong Nha.

Green-eared Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon faiostriatus*

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus*

Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii* Heard-only.

Necklaced Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon auricularis* Near-endemic.

Moustached Barbet ◊ *Psilopogon incognitus*

Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiaticus* Heard-only.

Indochinese Barbet ◊ (Annam B) *Psilopogon annamensis* Near-endemic.

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus*

Black-and-buff Woodpecker ◊ *Meiglyptes jugularis* A pair seen just before leaving Cat Tien.

Pale-headed Woodpecker ◊ *Gecinulus grantia* Shy as usual, a responsive pair moving around showing for short intervals several times was seen in Cat Tien.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*

Red-collared Woodpecker ◊ *Picus rabieri* Seen on two spots at Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park.

Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*

Greater Yellownape *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* Heard-only.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus*

Pied Falconet ◊ *Microhierax melanoleucos* Seen at Phong Nha and in Cuc Phuong.

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens*

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*

Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus* Good views in Cat Tien.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*

Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus*

Blue-rumped Pitta ◊ *Hydrornis soror* Seen in Cat Tien and Cuc Phuong.

Blue Pitta ◊ *Hydrornis cyaneus* Heard-only.

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

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea*

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

Swinhoe's Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

Rosy Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus roseus* Seen on the extension at Sa Pa.

Oriental Cuckooshrike *Coracina javensis*

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Lalage melaschistos*

Indochinese Cuckooshrike *Lalage polioptera*

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayei*

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*

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*

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* Nice views at Dalat.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Sunda Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Ashy Drongo (Chinese White-faced D) *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher ◊ *Terpsiphone affinis*

Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*

Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus* One seen at Phong Nha.

Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*

Indochinese Green Magpie ◊ *Cissa hypoleuca* Fantastic looks at a pair near Dalat from hide.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha*

White-winged Magpie ◊ *Urocissa whiteheadi* Near-endemic. Three birds seen near Phong Nha.

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

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

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

Green-backed Tit ◊ (Langbian T) *Parus [monticolus] legendrei*

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus*

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Machlolophus spilonotus* Heard-only.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*

Annam Prinia ◊ *Prinia rocki* Near-endemic. Nice views near Pleiku.

Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Zitting Cisticola (Double Z C) *Cisticola [juncidis] tinnabulans* Heard-only.

Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* Brief views of a singing bird at Tam Dao.

Dalat Bush Warbler ◊ (Vietnamese B-w) *Locustella idonea* Endemic. Ridiculous experience at feeder near Dalat.

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

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

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Siberian House Martin *Delichon lagopodum*

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Eastern Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus*

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

Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Hemitesia pallidipes* Heard-only.

Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* Heard-only.

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* Heard-only near Sa Pa.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata* Briefly seen on Fansipan.

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*

Black-faced Warbler ◊ *Abroscopus schisticeps* A few seen around Sa Pa.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* Seen in Sa Pa.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* Heard-only on Fansipan.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* Seen near Sa Pa on the extension.

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*

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* Seen near Sa Pa on the extension.

Grey-crowned Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus tephrocephalus*

Grey-cheeked Warbler *Phylloscopus poliogenys*

White-spectacled Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus intermedius*

Alström's Warbler ◇ (Plain-tailed W) *Phylloscopus soror* Heard-only near Di Linh.

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* Singing birds seen at Phong Nha.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae* Seen near Sa Pa during the extension.

Kloss's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*

Davison's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus intensor* Seen near Sa Pa during the extension.

Black-headed Bulbul *Microtarsus melanocephalos*

Black-crested Bulbul *Rubigula flaviventris*

Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons* Seen near Sa Pa during the extension.

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus conradi*

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*

Brown-breasted Bulbul ◇ *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* Seen near Sa Pa during the extension.

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

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

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

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

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* Heard-only on foggy Tam Dao.

Mountain Bulbul (Southern M B) *Ixos mcclllandii*

Black Bulbul (Himalayan B B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* Heard-only in Cat Tien.

Indochinese Fulvetta ◇ *Fulvetta danisi* Near-endemic. Seen on Ngoc Linh.

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

Grey-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis gularis* Nice views of a noisy flock at Mang Canh.

Black-headed Parrotbill ◇ (Black-crowned P) *Paradoxornis margaritae* Endemic. Three birds seen in a feeding flock near Di Linh.

Short-tailed Parrotbill ◇ *Suthora davidiana* Soon near Tam Dao in the morning fog and then better again in the afternoon.

Ashy-throated Parrotbill ◇ *Suthora alphonsiana* At least two birds moving together in a flock with the upcoming species in Sa Pa.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Suthora webbiana*

White-collared Yuhina ◇ *Parayuhina diademata* A few seen near Sa Pa.

Indochinese Yuhina ◇ (Chestnut-collared Y) *Staphida torqueola* Seen in Phong Nha and Tam Dao.

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* A few seen in Sa Pa.

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* Near-endemic. Seen in Cat Tien.

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Mixornis gularis*

Golden Babbler *Cyanoderma chrysaeum*

Rufous-capped Babbler *Cyanoderma ruficeps*

Pale-throated Wren-Babbler ◇ *Spelaornis kinneri* Near-endemic. Fantastic encounter on the extension.

Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler ◇ (White-throated S B) *Pomatorhinus phayrei* Near-endemic. Seen on Ngoc Linh from hide.

Red-billed Scimitar Babbler (Orange-billed S B) *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

Large Scimitar Babbler *Erythrogonys hypoleucos* Heard-only.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*

Sooty Babbler ◇ *Stachyris herberti* At least two birds seen moving in the undergrowth at Phong Nha.

Spot-necked Babbler ◇ *Stachyris striolata* Seen at Phong Hna and at Tam Dao.

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

Collared Babbler *Gampsorhynchus torquatus* A responsive pair near Di Linh seen well.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Schoeniparus castaneiceps*

Black-crowned Fulvetta ◇ *Schoeniparus klossi* Endemic. Heard-only after many attempts.

Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Schoeniparus rufogularis*

Rusty-capped Fulvetta ◇ *Schoeniparus dubius* Nice views on Ngoc Linh from hide.

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

Spot-throated Babbler ◇ *Pellorneum albiventre* A pair seen at Mang Canh.

Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli*

Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler ◇ (Indochinese Wren-Babbler) *Napothera danjoui* One seen from hide near Dalat and a few more heard near Phong Nha.

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*

Streaked Wren-Babbler ◇ *Gypsophila brevicaudata* A pair from the local *rufiventer* race seen near Dalat.

Annam Limestone Babbler ◇ *Gypsophila annamensis* A few noisy individuals seen in Cuc Phuong.

Black-browed Fulvetta ◇ *Alcippe grotei* Best seen near Phong Nha.

David's Fulvetta ◇ *Alcippe davidi* Seen on foggy Tam Dao.

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

Grey-crowned Crocias ◇ *Laniellus langbianis* Endemic. Several seen around Dalat, the first one being very obliging.

Vietnamese Cutia ◇ *Cutia legalleni* Endemic. A few seen near Di Linh and Dalat, some nice views.

Black-faced Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron affine* Seen well on Fansipan.

Red-tailed Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron milnei* Fantastic views of this incredible bird on Ngoc Linh.

Collared Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron yersini* Endemic. Three lovely individuals seen from hide near Dalat.

Golden-winged Laughingthrush ◇ *Trochalopteron ngoclinense* Sadly heard-only.

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*

Spectacled Barwing *Actinodura ramsayi* A pair seen on the extension near Sa Pa.

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

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris*

Rufous-backed Sibia ◇ *Leioptila annectens*

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

Black-hooded Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax milleti* Near-endemic. A noisy group skulking around us for several minutes near Mang Den.

Grey Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax maesi* Skulking group at Tam Dao.

Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush ◇ *Garrulax castanotis* Two noisy groups calling each other on Sa Mu Pass.

White-cheeked Laughingthrush ◊ *Pterorhinus vassali* Near-endemic. Several dozen seen.

Black-throated Laughingthrush ◊ *Pterorhinus chinensis*

Masked Laughingthrush ◊ *Pterorhinus perspicillatus* Seen near Lang Co.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Yellow-billed Nuthatch ◊ *Sitta solangiae* Nice views at Mang Canh.

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*

Hume's Treecreeper *Certhia manipurensis*

Golden-crested Myna ◊ *Ampeliceps coronatus*

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*

White-shouldered Starling ◊ *Sturnia sinensis*

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Vinous-breasted Myna ◊ (V-b Starling) *Acridotheres leucocephalus*

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

Crested Myna ◊ *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Dark-sided Thrush ◊ *Zoothera marginata* At least two individuals at the hides near Dalat.

White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea*

Green Cochoa ◊ *Cochoa viridis* Heard-only.

Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica* A male from hide near Dalat.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina*

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*

Japanese Thrush ◊ *Turdus cardis*

Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis*

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* Only seen on the extension.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

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

White-tailed Flycatcher ◊ *Leucoptilon concretum* Heard-only.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*

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

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*

White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Anthipes monileger* Very cooperative individual seen at Sa Mu Pass.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*

Pale Blue Flycatcher ◊ *Cyornis unicolor*

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis whitei*

Indochinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis sumatrensis*

Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura*

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

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*

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

Siberian Blue Robin *Larivora cyane*

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

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*

Pygmy Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula hodgsoni* Seen on the extension.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* Seen on the extension.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* Seen on the extension.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* Seen on the extension.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Grey Bush Chat (G Bushchat) *Saxicola ferreus*

Pied Bush Chat (P Bushchat) *Saxicola caprata*

Siberian Stonechat (Amur S) *Saxicola [maurus] stejnegeri*

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Pachyglossa chrysorrhea* Heard-only.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum*

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*

Purple-naped Spiderhunter *Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum* Heard-only.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana* A male flying around and calling was seen in Cat Tien.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*

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

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

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

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*

Crimson Sunbird (Greater C S) *Aethopyga siparaja*

Fork-tailed Sunbird ◇ *Aethopyga christinae*

Ornate Sunbird *Cinnyris ornatus*

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis moluccensis*

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Orange-bellied Leafbird ◇ (Greyish-crowned L) *Chloropsis [hardwickii] melliana*

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

Pin-tailed Parrotfinch ◇ *Erythrura prasina* A single bird landed on the road for a few seconds between the group members at Ngoc Linh.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Plain-backed Sparrow ◇ *Passer flaveolus*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Oriental Greenfinch (Grey-capped G) *Chloris sinica* A few seen at Lang Co.

Vietnamese Greenfinch ◇ *Chloris monguilloti* Endemic. Small group seen near Dalat.

Black-headed Greenfinch ◇ *Chloris ambigua* Several seen during the extension.

MAMMALS

Sunda Pangolin *Manis javanica*

Pygmy Slow Loris *Xanthonycticebus pygmaeus*

Javan Mongoose (Small Asian M) *Urva javanica*

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*

Eurasian Wild Pig *Sus scrofa*

Northern Red Muntjac *Muntiacus vaginalis*

Sambar *Rusa unicolor*

Northern Smooth-tailed Treeshrew *Dendrogale murina*

Northern Treeshrew *Tupaia belangeri*

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

Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonina*

Red-shanked Douc *Pygathrix nemaeus*

Black-shanked Douc *Pygathrix nigripes*

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

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

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

Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel *Dremomys pernyi*

Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel *Dremomys rufigenis*

Indochinese Ground Squirrel *Menetes berdmorei*

Hairy-footed Flying Squirrel *Belomys pearsonii*

Cambodian Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rodolphii*

Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops swinhoei*

Brown Rat (introduced) *Rattus norvegicus*



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



Germain's Peacock-Pheasant (image by Dani Balla)



Short-tailed Parrotbill (image by Dani Balla)



Collared Laughingthrush (image by Dani Balla)



Siberian Blue Robin (image by Dani Balla)



Red-shanked Douc (image by Dani Balla)



Red-tailed Laughingthrush (image by Dani Balla)



Siamese Firebacks (image by Dani Balla)



Indochinese Green Magpies (image by Dani Balla)



Pygmy Cupwing (image by Dani Balla)



Pygmy Slow Loris (image by Dani Balla)



Silver Pheasant (image by Dani Balla)



Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler (image by Dani Balla)



Southern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons (image by Dani Balla)



Yellow Bittern (image by Dani Balla)



Sooty Babbler (image by Dani Balla)



White-spectacled Warbler (image by Dani Balla)



White-shouldered Starling (image by Dani Balla)



Blue-rumped Pitta (image by Dani Balla)



Black-and-red Broadbill (image by Dani Balla)



Black-chinned Yuhina (image by Dani Balla)



White-gorgeted Flycatcher (image by Dani Balla)



White-cheeked Laughingthrush (image by Dani Balla)



Streaked Wren-Babbler (image by Dani Balla)



Siberian Thrush (image by Dani Balla)



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



Masked Laughingthrush (image by Dani Balla)



Vietnamese Cutia (image by Dani Balla)



Vietnamese Cutia (image by Dani Balla)



Vinous-throated Parrotbill (image by Dani Balla)



White-browed Fulvetta (image by Dani Balla)



Black-crowned Barwing (image by Dani Balla)



Spot-throated Babbler (image by Dani Balla)



Mrs. Gould's Sunbird (image by Dani Balla)



Spectacled Barwing (image by Dani Balla)



Yellow-billed Nuthatch (image by Dani Balla)



Slender-billed Oriole (image by Dani Balla)



Siberian Rubythroat (image by Dani Balla)



Ashy-throated Warbler (image by Dani Balla)



Scaly-crowned Babbler (image by Dani Balla)



Scaly-breasted Cupwing (image by Dani Balla)



Rufous-throated Fulvetta (image by Dani Balla)



Sultan Tit (image by Dani Balla)



Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush (image by Dani Balla)



Red-collared Woodpecker (image by Dani Balla)



Red-headed Trogon (image by Dani Balla)



Oriental Scops Owl (image by Dani Balla)



Ngoc Linh forest (image by Dani Balla)



Limestone Leaf Warbler (image by Dani Balla)



Dark-sided Thrush (image by Dani Balla)



Ferruginous Flycatcher (image by Dani Balla)



Greater Painted Snipes (image by Dani Balla)



Indochinese Barbet (image by Dani Balla)



Indochinese Fulvetta (image by Dani Balla)



Collared Babbler (image by Dani Balla)



Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush (image by Dani Balla)



Buff-throated Warbler (image by Dani Balla)



Blue-winged Minla (image by Dani Balla)



Black-chinned Yuhina (image by Dani Balla)



Black-faced Laughingthrush (image by Dani Balla)



Black-faced Warbler (image by Dani Balla)



Black-headed Sibia (image by Dani Balla)



Annam Limestone Babbler (image by Dani Balla)



Abbot's Babbler (image by Dani Balla)