

VIETNAM

MARCH 13 – 31, 2010

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Best of Vietnam

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Our comprehensive tour of Vietnam is designed to cover a variety of habitats, thus allowing us to observe a range of the fascinating and unique Indochinese avifauna and other wildlife. The forests of Vietnam have been severely depleted since the end of the war, and, in fact, are still being heavily exploited, so the birding here can be a challenge at times. That said, I have noticed so much improvement in the last few years it is quite heartening. This year, although it was exceptionally dry, we had mostly excellent weather and many outstanding birding highlights. Our trip to Vietnam, as always, included not only the remarkable birdlife, but fabulous food, a varied and exotic culture, and terrific people and general atmosphere.

We started off at Cat Tien National Park, a few hours drive from Saigon. This large area (80,000 ha) of southern lowland rainforest provided much fascinating birding during our stay. We drove the Dac Lua road a number of times, which gave us many birding opportunities, including brilliant views of Siamese Firebacks at very close quarters! On our walk along the Crocodile Lake trail we saw some more great birds, with especially memorable encounters with a few stunning Bar-bellied Pittas, an amazing group of Scaly-breasted Partridges, and a couple of more challenging Germain's Peacock-Pheasants. The birding around the headquarters was also good, with a pair of Blue-bearded Bee-eaters and many parakeets, nightjars, and starlings. A little further along the road we found the near-endemic Gray-faced Tit-Babbler to be quite common, but not easy to see. Exploration of other areas of the park allowed us to enjoy views of the endangered Green Peafowl, Woolly-necked Storks, and Red Junglefowl.

En route to Da Lat we birded at the excellent Di Linh Pass with superb results: Long-tailed Broadbill, Maroon Oriole, and the endemic White-cheeked Laughingthrush. Our next destination was the delightful highland town of Da Lat where we enjoyed sumptuous accommodation and great birding. We experienced a number of memorable moments here. A walk up Mount Lang Bian was off to a good start with a pair of Vietnamese Cutia encountered along the path, followed later by super views of a number of other Da Lat Plateau specialties. Multiple visits to the delightful Ta Nung Valley never failed to turn up something new, but best of all were the endemic Gray-crowned Crocias, as well as exceptional looks at the cute and highly sought after Black-crowned Parrotbill, Indochinese Green Magpies, and the delightful mixed flocks.

From Da Lat we flew up to Ha Noi and then drove to Tam Dao. This former French hill station lies north of the capital at an altitude of 930 meters. By this time the weather to our north from China had caught up with us, and we shivered through the chilly conditions, but still managed some good birding with nice looks at a few goodies such as the shy Gray Laughingthrush, Chestnut Bulbuls, and Fork-tailed Sunbirds amongst others.

Our next destination was Cuc Phuong, Vietnam's oldest national park. Located in the Red River Delta, the park protects a 22,200 ha area of limestone peaks and evergreen tropical rainforest. Our explorations of the park included a walk through a semi-cleared valley, the 1,000 Year Old Tree trail through many limestone crags, and exploration of the numerous trails around the headquarters. Simply birding along the park road proved to be most rewarding, however. We racked up a good number of excellent sightings. Of special note were superb and prolonged views of Pied Falconet, Green-eared Barbet, some lovely Silver-breasted Broadbills, good views of White-winged Magpie, Limestone Wren-Babbler, the rather odd-looking Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Fork-tailed Sunbird, a couple of rather recalcitrant Large Scimitar-Babblers, Sultan Tits, and a superb White-tailed Flycatcher.

As mentioned above, apart from the terrific birding, I think it is safe to say that other highlights of our trip included the wonderful and varied scenery, the never-ending enterprise that we observed as we sped around the countryside, the sheer variety and deliciousness of Vietnamese food, and, above all, the Vietnamese themselves, who are endlessly accommodating and friendly, and made our visit such a pleasure. Thank you all for your delightful company. I hope to see you again soon!

Susan Myers

BIRDS

NON-PASSERINES

1. Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*
a few seen at Bird Lake, Cat Tien.
2. Scaly-breasted Partridge *Arborophila chloropus*
heard daily at Cat Tien National Park but this year we were lucky to have fabulous, long looks at this usually secretive species.
3. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*
a number of good sightings of males and females along the Dac Lua road, Cat Tien National Park; also seen at Cuc Phuong.
4. Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera*
a female flew across the road as we left Tam Dao.
5. Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi*
an undoubted trip highlight with numerous, close sightings of both males and females along the Da Lua road at Cat Tien National Park.
6. **Germain's Peacock-Pheasant** *Polyplectron germaini*
our considerable efforts were eventually rewarded with good looks at a male bird on the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park. This species is endemic to southern Indochina, where it is known only from south Annam and Cochinchina, Vietnam, and southern and eastern Mondulkiri province and Ratanakiri province in Cambodia. It is regarded as Near Threatened by BirdLife International with threats including forest loss and fragmentation resulting from commercial logging and resettlement programmes (although, in recent times habitat loss has slowed in Indochina) and hunting with guns and snares, even within protected areas.
7. Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*
we found one male adult in grasslands around the C5 ponds at Cat Tien National Park. This very exciting species has a small, rapidly declining and severely fragmented population, primarily owing to high hunting levels, although more locally it has suffered a reduction in the extent and quality of its habitat. Rapid decline and further fragmentation are projected to continue. Although the population was historically contiguous, there are now three disjunct populations in Java, central Indochina and in Burma, north-west Thailand and far south China. There is believed to be 5,000 to 10,000 birds in severely fragmented and scattered populations across its range.
8. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
seen Ho Tuyen Lam (Da Lat) and at Van Long Reserve.
9. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*
recorded at Bird Lake, Cat Tien.
10. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
one seen in flight over the river at Cat Tien.
11. Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
one seen at Bird Lake, Cat Tien.
12. Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*
great looks at a bird flushed from long grass at Bird Lake, Cat Tien.
13. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
many at Van Long.
14. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
we found many at the C5 Ponds and at Bird Lake, Cat Tien.
15. Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*
a number of records throughout.

16. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*
Bird Lake, Cat Tien; Van Long.
17. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
common at various sites.
18. Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*
common and widespread.
19. Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*
very common and seen frequently throughout.
20. Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*
one of the best sightings of the trip was this exceptionally secretive bird flushed from an area of thick riparian forest along the road at Cuc Phuong.
21. Glossy Ibis *Plegadius falcinellus*
a couple seen at Bird Lake, Cat Tien.
22. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
a very exciting bird seen well at Bird Lake in Cat Tien National Park.
23. Lesser Adjutant *Leptopilos javanicus*
a few sightings at Cat Tien.
24. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
seen regularly at Cat Tien National Park.
25. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*
a number of sightings at various locations.
26. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
one scoped at C5 Ponds, Cat Tien.
27. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
seen a few times exceptionally well in Cat Tien and Cuc Phuong National Park.
28. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
a few good sightings at Cat Tien, Tam Dao and Cuc Phuong National Park.
29. Shikra *Accipiter badius*
one was seen in Cat Tien National Park.
30. Besra *Accipiter virgatus*
one bird seen all too briefly hunting below the canopy in Cuc Phuong National Park.
31. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*
a kettle seen on their way north at Tam Dao.
32. Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
also on migration over Tam Dao.
33. Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*
fabulous looks at a perched bird at Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.
34. Collared Falconet *Microhierax caeruleus*
great looks at one in Cat Tien National Park.
35. Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucus*
this diminutive beauty was seen a number of times very well in the Cuc Phuong National Park. This bird is the largest of the *Microhierax* falconets and has a fairly restricted distribution across the far north-east of India to far south China and north Vietnam.
36. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
one briefly at Van Long Reserve.

37. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
one seen at Cat Tien.
38. Black-backed Swampphen *Porphyrio indicus*
one at Van Long Reserve.
39. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
a few were recorded at Van Long.
40. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
up to four recorded in Cat Tien National Park; one at Van Long.
41. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
one at C5 Ponds, Cat Tien.
42. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
a few at Bird Lake, Cat Tien.
43. Rock Dove *Columba livia*
44. Pale-capped Pigeon *Columba punicea*
Cat Tien National Park.
45. Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
very common in Cat Tien National Park.
46. Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
very common in Cat Tien National Park, also in the Da Lat area.
47. Barred Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia unchall*
good looks at one along the Dac Lua Road, Cat Tien.
48. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
gave typically fast-moving views on one occasion in the north.
49. Pompadour Green-Pigeon *Treron pompadora*
a total of four seen in Cat Tien National Park.

NOTE: the various taxa within the *T. pompadora* complex are considered by Rasmussen to be sufficiently morphologically distinct to warrant a four way split – Sri Lankan, Andaman, Grey-headed and Pompadour Green Pigeons (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). The Vietnam species would fall under the *T. pompadora* species.

50. Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
a few were seen almost daily in Cat Tien National Park.
51. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda*
seen at Di Linh Pass.
52. Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
seen daily in Cat Tien National Park.
53. Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*
a couple seen in the Da Lat area.
54. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
it's wonderful to see this glamorous bird in such profusion in Cat Tien National Park.
55. Vernal Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*
many typically stratospheric views of the Vernal Hanging-Parrot with a couple of excellent scope sightings as consolation!
56. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
last minute excellent scope views of a cooperative bird in Cuc Phuong National Park.
57. Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
excellent looks at two of this glamorous bird in Cat Tien National Park.

58. Asian Drongo Cuckoo *Serniculus lugubris*
a couple of excellent looks at this interesting species at Di Linh Pass and in the Ta Nung Valley.
59. Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
seen daily in Cat Tien National Park and one in the Ta Nung Valley.
60. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
three were recorded on different days in Cat Tien National Park.
61. Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*
heard in the Ta Nung Valley.
62. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*
heard frequently at many sites, we saw two in Cat Tien National Park.
63. Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*
one in Cat Tien.
64. Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*
super views of one bird perched near our accommodation at Cat Tien National Park.
65. Great Eared-Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*
this fabulous bird was seen almost daily in Cat Tien National Park, where it is common.
66. Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
up to three were seen in Cat Tien National Park, including a pair of fledglings on the road.
67. White-throated Needletail *Hirandapus caudactus*
recorded in Cat Tien National Park.
68. Silver-backed Needletail *Hirandapus cochinchinensis*
recorded at Di Linh Pass.
69. Brown-backed Needletail *Hirandapus giganteus*
a few records from Cat Tien, Di Linh Pass and Cuc Phuong.

Note: the Aerodramus swiftlets are a nightmare – please just compare the literature in Robson, the Clements checklist and Handbook of Birds of the World! Trying to piece the jigsaw puzzle, according to HBW we saw Edible-nest Swiftlets and possibly Himalayan Swiftlets, going by Robson we saw Germain's Swiftlets and Himalayan Swiftlets, according to I Clements believe that we saw the following:

70. Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*
in the north.
71. Indochinese Swiftlet *Aerodramus rogersi*
elsewhere!
72. House Swift *Apus nipalensis*
many around Saigon and Da Lat.
73. Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
many in Cat Tien National Park.
74. Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
both males and females of this beautiful bird were seen very well at Tam Dao and in Cuc Phuong National Park.
75. Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*
heard frequently with a couple of good sightings in Cat Tien National Park.
76. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
a couple of sightings at Cuc Phuong National Park, Van Long, and in rural areas around Ha Noi.
77. Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella*
heard only at Cat Tien National Park.

78. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*
one bird was seen in Cat Tien National Park.
 79. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
seen on a number of occasions.
 80. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*
great views in Cat Tien National Park, as well as in the Ta Nung Valley.
 81. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaultia*
this most attractive of the Asian bee-eaters is very common in Cat Tien National Park, where we saw it daily.
 82. Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
quite common in Cat Tien National Park.
 83. Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
recorded daily in Cat Tien National Park and Cuc Phuong.
 84. Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
recorded daily in Cat Tien National Park.
 85. Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*
something of a surprise at Ba Vi in the thick fog.
 86. **Red-vented Barbet** *Megalaima lagrandieri*
although frequently heard this bird is often hard to find, we had a brilliant scope views of one bird in Cat Tien National Park. This species is found only in Vietnam and eastern Laos.
 87. Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineate*
heard or seen daily in low numbers in Cat Tien National Park.
 88. Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta*
one was seen in Cat Tien; seen daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
 89. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*
heard on in the Da Lat area but surprisingly inconspicuous this year possibly due to the drought, seen by a couple of people on Mount Lang Bian.
 90. Black-browed Barbet *Megalaima oorti*
quite a few seen over five days in the Da Lat area where it is quite common.
- NOTE: Collar (2006) has proposed that Black-browed Barbet be split into three separate species – Taiwan Barbet *M. nuchalis*, Chinese Barbet *M. faber* and Black-browed Barbet *M. oorti*. The population of *M. oorti* is found in Indochina and Malaysia and Sumatra in two disjunct populations. The form in Indochina belongs to the endemic subspecies *M. o. annamensis* and may also be a candidate for a further split in the future.
91. Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*
one was seen at Ba Vi National Park.
 92. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*
heard and seen daily in Cat Tien National Park.
 93. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
heard and seen daily at Cat Tien National Park.
 94. Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*
superb looks at a pair in the forest at Ta Nung Valley.
 95. White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*
a pair seen really well in Cat Tien National Park; a big hit!
 96. Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
excellent views in Cat Tien and Cuc Phuong National Parks.
 97. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*
a pair at Cuc Phuong National Park.

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98. Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*
seen well on two occasions in Cat Tien National Park.
 99. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
wonderful sightings of a pair in Cat Tien National Park.
 100. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
a good year for this typically uncooperative species, although often heard it is hard to get good views of this bird as it is so flighty, but we had a few outstanding close sightings in the Da Lat area and in Cuc Phuong National Park.
 101. Black-and-buff Woodpecker *Meiglyptes jugularis*
a truly wonderful pair of birds was watched at length along the Heaven's Rapids road as they responded and foraged.
 102. Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente*
a real treat was this pair of exciting birds along the Dac Lua road.
 103. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Muelleripicus pulverulentus*
an amazing family group of six (typically this species is seen in very interactive family groups) along the Heaven's Rapids road at Cat Tien. An excellent year for woodpeckers!

PASSERINES

104. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
some great sightings of very responsive birds on the Di Linh Pass and in the Ta Nung Valley - a real cracker!
105. Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus*
this gorgeous bird was a trip highlight for many and seen really well at Cuc Phuong National Park.
106. Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*
two excellent birds on the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park.
107. Blue-rumped Pitta *Pitta soror*
this is a very difficult bird and this year we only heard it at Cuc Phuong National Park; so close!
108. **Bar-bellied Pitta** *Pitta elliotii*
any Asian pitta is surely a cause for celebration and this is without doubt one of the world's most beautiful birds! Amazing long views of a number of birds on the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park.
109. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
a few sightings in the north.
110. Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*
rather scarce this year with just one seen by a lucky few on the Da Lat plateau.
111. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
one at Ba Vi.
112. Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina polioptera*
two at Cat Tien National Park.
113. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos*
seen well at Di Linh Pass and in Cuc Phuong.
114. Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*
a few seen at Cuc Phuong and Ba Vi.
115. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
Di Linh Pass; Da Lat; Cuc Phuong National Park; Tam Dao.

116. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*
two seen in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
117. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*
seen at Cat Tien National Park; Di Linh Pass, in the Da Lat area; Cuc Phuong.
118. Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
a few sightings in Cat Tien National Park.
119. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Cat Tien National Park; Cuc Phuong National Park.
120. Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayeii*
seen well in Cat Tien and Cuc Phuong National Parks.
121. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*
a number of sightings on Mount Lang Bian.
122. Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
great looks at this very glamorous bird on the Water Tank trail at Tam Dao.
123. **White-winged Magpie** *Urocissa whiteheadi*
a pair of this restricted-range species in the lower reaches of Cuc Phuong National Park.
124. Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*
poor foggy looks at a pair on Ba Vi.
125. Indochinese Green Magpie *Cissa hypoleuca*
fantastic looks at this rather flighty but flashy bird at Ta Nung Valley.
126. Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*
a couple of good sightings in Cat Tien National Park.
127. Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus*
we had great looks at just one of this unusual bird in Cuc Phuong National Park.
128. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
seen or heard daily in Cat Tien National Park; heard in Cuc Phuong National Park.
129. Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*
very flighty on this tour, we heard them and they responded but they were skittish and never still, nevertheless good looks for most.
130. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
seen daily throughout.
131. Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
Cat Tien National Park; Di Linh Pass.
132. Grey Tit *Parus cinereus*
seen at Di Linh Pass and Ba Vi National Park. This is a recent split from Great Tit *P. major*.
133. Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
a few sightings on the Da Lat plateau.
134. Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*
this truly sensational bird was seen a number of times in Cuc Phuong National Park.
135. **Grey-crowned Tit** *Aegithalos annamensis*
we saw one or two at Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat. This race is now widely accepted as a distinct species from the Black-throated Tit *A. concinnus*.
136. Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*
we saw this species at Mount Lang Bian where they favour the pine forest.
137. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*
two seen in a mixed flock on the Heaven's Rapids road at Cat Tien National Park.

138. Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*
two birds were recorded from Cat Tien National Park.
139. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
the most widespread of all the bulbuls we recorded, seen almost daily.
140. Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
recorded in Da Lat but very common in Cuc Phuong National Park where they were seen daily.
141. Light-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*
an interesting congregation at a flowering tree in Cuc Phuong.
142. Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
seen at Ba Vi.
143. Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
Cat Tien National Park.
144. Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*
quite common on the Di Linh Pass and in the Da Lat area.
145. Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*
a few seen in the Cat Tien National Park.
146. Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*
Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.
147. Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*
Cat Tien National Park – the endemic race *hallae* closely resembles Puff-throated Bulbul.
148. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flava*
one or two on each visit to Ta Nung Valley.
149. Chestnut Bulbul *Hemixos castanonotus*
seen at Tam Dao.
150. Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii*
we saw a few in the Da Lat area; also recorded at Ba Vi.
151. Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
large, active and noisy flocks in the Da Lat area and at Tam Dao, including some brief looks at the white-headed race along the water tank road.
152. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
seen in grassland in Cat Tien National Park.
153. Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*
we had some nice views of this handsome warbler in the Ta Nung Valley.
154. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*
good views of a responsive bird at Ba Vi.
155. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*
recorded at the C5 ponds, Cat Tien National Park.
156. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*
good looks at a single bird in reeds at Van Long.
157. Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*
heard daily in the Da Lat area, we eventually had looks at a bird in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
158. Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps*
heard in Cat Tien National Park.
159. Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*
heard at Van Long.

160. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*
heard and seen daily in the Da Lat area.
161. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
seen or heard throughout.
162. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*
seen and heard in Cat Tien National Park.
163. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
recorded in the Da Lat area and Cuc Phuong.
164. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
seen Cuc Phuong National Park.
165. Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*
one seen in the Ta Nung Valley.
166. Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*
seen or heard daily in Da Lat area.
167. Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*
a total of four from the Da Lat area.
168. Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*
heard at Mount Lang Bian.
169. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
just one in Cat Tien National Park.
170. Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*
some very nice looks at a couple of birds on Mount Lang Bian.
171. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
one seen in the Da Lat area.
172. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
a pair of this very cute bird seen in the Ta Nung Valley.
173. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*
one seen at the Di Linh Pass; a few in the Da Lat area.
174. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*
we saw this bird very well a few times in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
175. Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*
one seen briefly at Ba Vi.
176. Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi*
poor looks at a female bird in the fog in Ba Vi National Park.
177. White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concretus*
this is rarely an easy bird but we enjoyed amazing long looks at a single male along the limestone trail in Cuc Phuong National Park; another trip highlight.
178. Hainan Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*
seen a number of times in Cuc Phuong National Park, an amazing songster but rather furtive.
179. Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*
a male seen well in Cat Tien National Park.
180. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
recorded daily at Da Lat and at Ba Vi.
181. Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane*
a very cooperative bird was seen a number of times along the path at Ta Nung Valley.

182. Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
seen or heard daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
183. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
one or two daily at Cat Tien National Park and Cuc Phuong National Park.
184. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura*
recorded at Van Long.
185. Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*
a few seen on Mount Lang Bian, also at Tam Dao.
186. White-throated Rock-Thrush *Monticola gularis*
a beautiful male bird in breeding plumage was seen in pine forest in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
187. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
a distant crappy view of one at Van Long.
188. Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
heard in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat; and one on the road at Cuc Phuong.
189. Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*
a sen brief look at one along the trail in the Ta Nung Valley.
190. Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*
a bird was seen feeding on the ground in the gardens at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong National Park.
191. Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis*
great views of a number of birds daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
192. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
heard daily in the Da Lat area, one was seen well in thick forest on Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.
193. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
seen at the Di Linh Pass and at Tam Dao.
194. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*
seen quite well in Cat Tien, also heard daily at Cuc Phuong National Park.
195. **Black-hooded Laughingthrush** *Garrulax milleti*
only heard on the Ta Nung stream trail.
196. **Grey Laugingthrush** *Garrulax maesi*
this species has a small range in south China and north Vietnam and, boy, is it hard work! A bird that is often heard but very shy, we found a group that showed quite well along the trail at Tam Dao.
197. Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis*
one glimpsed at Tam Dao.
198. **White-cheeked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax vassali*
after having quite good looks at a small flock at Di Linh Pass, we saw many more in the Ta Nung Valley.
199. **Orange-breasted Laughingthrush** *Garrulax annamensis*
this exceptional skulker was heard at very close quarters, and later seen by a lucky few.
200. **Collared Laughingthrush** *Garrulax yersini*
another ordeal this year but only briefly glimpsed by a couple of people although calling so close to us!
201. Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*
one seen well in Cat Tien National Park.
202. Spot-throated Babbler *Pellorneum albiventre*
this rather secretive was seen at the Di Linh Pass – the vocal gymnastics are remarkable!
203. Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*
heard daily at Cat Tien National Park and at Cuc Phuong National Park; two seen well in Cat Tien National Park.

204. Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*
only two seen on the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park.
205. Large Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*
a couple of very wily birds gave us the run around at Cuc Phuong National Park but we nailed them eventually!
206. White-browed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
great looks at a couple of birds in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
207. Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*
two sneaky birds seen at the Di Linh Pass.
208. Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*
heard at Tam Dao.
209. Limestone Wren-Babbler *Napothera crispifrons*
amazing looks at up to six birds at the Prehistoric Man caves at Cuc Phuong National Park.
210. Streaked Wren-Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata*
a group of four birds were seen well along the trail at Cuc Phuong.
211. Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*
heard daily in the Da Lat area but not responsive this year.
212. Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*
seen the Ta Nung Valley.
213. Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*
two seen well along the Water Tank Trail at Tam Dao.
214. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*
a couple of sightings at Da Lat and Cuc Phuong National Park.
215. Spot-necked Babbler *Stachyris striolata*
sensational (and entertaining!) looks at some very responsive albeit skulking birds at Tam Dao.
216. Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*
seen and heard daily at Cuc Phuong National Park.
217. **Grey-faced Tit-Babbler** *Macronous kelleyi*
a few along the Dac Lua road at Cat Tien National Park.
218. Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris*
great looks at a few birds at Tam Dao.
219. Vietnamese Cutia *Cutia legalleni*
very exciting to see this wonderful bird feeding in pine trees on Mount Lang Bian. Cutia has now been split to Himalayan Cutia *C. nipalensis* and this species.
220. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
one or two seen on Mount Lang Bian.
221. Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis*
great looks at this appealing species in Cuc Phuong National Park.
222. **Black-browed Fulvetta** *Alcippe grotei*
seen at Ta Nung Valley and Tam Dao.
223. Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe peracensis*
a couple on Mount Lang Bian.
224. **Grey-crowned Crocias** *Crocias langbianis*
an outstanding bird seen after much effort in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat. This species is known from only three sites and is inferred to have a very small, declining range as a result of the destruction and degradation of its montane evergreen forest habitat. It is classified as Endangered by BirdLife International.

It was previously known from only five specimens collected at two localities in 1938-1939, and then a population was found on the Da Lat plateau in 1994.

- 225. Rufous-backed Sibia *Heterophasia annectens*
one seen briefly in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
- 226. Black-headed Sibia *Heterophasia melanoleuca*
two in the Ta Nung Valley.
- 227. Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps*
very common on Tam Dao in large, noisy flocks.
- 228. Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*
two seen with the Striated Yuhinas on Tam Dao.
- 229. White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*
recorded at Ba Vi, Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.

NOTE: it is highly likely that the babblers are not one homogeneous group and in fact consist of a number of disparate families (see Cibois, A. *The Auk* 120(1):35–54, 2003). Recent work on this species even suggests that it is not related to any of the other groups treated as babblers in the current taxonomy. Most surprisingly initial studies suggest that White-bellied Yuhina should be placed with the corvids! Therefore, it must be removed from the *Yuhina* genus and the original genus *Erpornis* has been reinstated. (Cibois, A., *et al.* 2002. Molecular phylogenetics of babblers (Timaliidae): reevaluation of the genera *Yuhina* and *Stachyris*. – *J. Avian Biol.* 33: 380–390.)

- 230. Black-crowned Parrotbill *Paradoxornis margaritae*
superb views of a pair in the Ta Nung Valley, that we encountered a number of times.

NOTE: until recently considered to be conspecific with Grey-headed Parrotbill *P. gularis*, but now separated on the basis of morphology, plumage and vocalisations.

- 231. Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogammicum*
one seen along the Crocodile Trail at Cat Tien National Park.
- 232. Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata*
one recorded at Cat Tien National Park.
- 233. Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*
recorded at Cuc Phuong National Park.
- 234. Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*
up to four were seen on the Da Lat plateau. Great bird!
- 235. Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae*
we saw this very smart bird at Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.
- 236. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*
a few sightings on the Da Lat plateau, the endemic subspecies *johnsi* is very distinctive. When the sun hits these sunbirds, they really take your breath away!
- 237. Eastern Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*
rounding out a suite of breathtaking Asian sunbirds, we saw this little gem at Cat Tien National Park.
- 238. Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longistrostra*
recorded at Cuc Phuong.
- 239. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*
I always think this bird shows such character, with his oversize bill and clown feet – quite common on the Da Lat plateau and a couple seen at Tam Dao and Cuc Phuong.
- 240. Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*
one seen at Cuc Phuong National Park.
- 241. Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*
one seen at Cuc Phuong National Park.

242. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
two or three seen in Cat Tien National Park.
243. Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
a few recorded in Cat Tien National Park.
244. Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*
two seen on the Di Linh Pass.
245. Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*
heard in Cat Tien National Park, we saw one on the Di Linh Pass.
246. Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*
good looks at a few birds in Cuc Phuong National Park.
247. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
common in rural areas.
248. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
very common and recorded almost daily.
249. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
recorded in Cat Tien and on the Di Linh Pass.
250. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
great scope looks in Cuc Phuong National Park, we could actually see the hair crest.
251. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
Cat Tien National Park; Cuc Phuong National Park.
252. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
many seen in Cat Tien National Park.
253. Gold-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus*
sensational looks at a couple of perched birds along the Dac Lua road, Cat Tien National Park.
254. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
a few seen in Cuc Phuong National Park.
255. Vinous-breasted Starling *Acridotheres burmannicus*
brief but good views at Cat Tien National Park.
256. Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*
a few seen on the lake shores of Ho Tuyen Lam, Da Lat.
257. White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis*
excellent looks at a pair of birds perched on wires en route to Van Long.
258. Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
one was seen in Cat Tien.
259. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
many recorded in Cuc Phuong National Park.
260. Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
sensational looks at a few birds in pine forest on Mount Lang Bian.

Note: the very distinctive *meridionalis* subspecies should be regarded as a full species Vietnamese Crossbill based on its large size, large bulbous bill and vocalisations. It will almost certainly be split in the very near future.
261. **Vietnamese Greenfinch** *Carduelis monguilloti*
great looks at Ho Tuyen Lam in Da Lat.
262. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
seen daily except in Cat Tien National Park.

263. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*
a few seen at the Ta Nung Valley.

MAMMALS

Northern Treeshrew *Tupaia belangeri*
Cat Tien.

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*
Cat Tien National Park

Black-shanked Doucs Langur *Pygathrix nigripes*
this magnificent and very rare primate was seen in the forest along the Crocodile Trail at Cat Tien.

Eurasian Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*
Cat Tien National Park

Sambar *Cervus unicolor*
Cat Tien National Park

Vietnamese Zebra
this extremely rare creature (so rare it has no scientific name) was seen on the Da Lat Plateau.

Variable Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis*
Ta Nung Valley

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*
Cat Tien National Park and Da Lat

Eastern Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maritimus*
Da Lat

Rudolph's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rudolphi*
Cuc Phuong National Park

Flying Lizard *Draco* sp.

Tokay gekko

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