

**A LIST OF BIRDS and other WILDLIFE
RECORDED IN
VIETNAM**

19th November to 12th December 2002

Compiled by

K. David Bishop

**Leaders: K. David Bishop
Susan D. Myers**

VIETNAM 2002

Our thanks to Chuck Braun, Bert Brown, Eli Elder, Peter Gilchrist, Joy Gilman, Bill Mueller and Alexa Sulak for their fine company and sharing with us such an especially distinctive tour of Vietnam. We loved every moment!

Vietnam is not Bhutan. It didn't knock me off my feet like Bhutan does – but then to be honest there are few trips in that class. Vietnam, however, grows on me. In fact a great deal. I am becoming increasingly entranced by all that Vietnam has to offer. Perhaps the single most outstanding factor is the combination of the genuine, understated charm of the people and how safe one feels. I love some of the landscapes; the soaring karst formations that rise vertically from the emerald rice-fields are especially magical. And tucked away in their folds are some glorious forests. Our days at Cuc Phuong immediately spring to mind and I dearly wish we had longer to explore more of those beautiful woods that had already been so generous to us.

No trip list tells it all, although a list of 392 including so many localized, little known and infrequently seen species is not a bad indicator. In many ways each and every individual bird, mammal, frog, reptile, butterfly or 'bug' is a highlight in itself. BUT I shall not forget Peter's description after returning from the loop-trail and seeing his 'life defining' Orange-headed Thrush; I was overjoyed by the delightful experience we all enjoyed with a very confiding male Bar-bellied Pitta – and at virtually our first effort!; the 'troop' of six Great Hornbills perching then flying then perching again as they moved slowly through the forest – what a way to begin our tour; the birdiness of Nam Cat Tien national park – we could have easily used another couple of days there; and the anticipation of the unknown in the hills of Sa Pa in which we were not disappointed despite the fog.

Anyone who has traveled to Asia will tell you that the food can be outstanding. As we were to discover this was never far from the truth and some of the sumptuous meals we were treated to such as at the Furama in Danang; consistently at the lovely Metropole in Hanoi and perhaps best of all the Victoria in Sa Pa added immeasurably to the gastronomic pleasure of our tour. Add to this a deep cultural history which, albeit outside our western ken, was brought alive by the immensity of The Citadel in Hue and the magnificence of the various imperial tombs. This is a country that has a great deal to offer.

For me this tour was encapsulated by the constant guffaws of laughter that emanated throughout the bus; Chuckles' Panda story and the camaraderie of our inadvertent sleep-aboard in the Red River Delta when a rapidly dropping tide stuck us fast until the early hours of the morning

Our next tour in early 2004 will be slightly longer but divided in two parts so that we have a little more time at each location. However, if you can only take a couple of weeks vacation this tour structure this will easily permit you to do so. If you have never been to south-east Asia or even if you have been there several times before, never mind, come and join Susan and myself on what promises to be a very exciting trip to Vietnam. Perhaps we'll break 400 next trip and maybe catch up with the seemingly ethereal Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler!!!!

We just cannot wait to return to Vietnam.

David Bishop
Susan Myers

Diary

2002

- 19th Nov. – AM Saigon Botanical Gardens; PM city tour and birding in the grounds of the Reunification Hall.
- 20th Nov. – All day drive to Dalat with regular birding stops along the way.
- 21st Nov. – AM Forest surrounding Ho Tuyen Lam reservoir; PM Ta Nung Valley.
- 22nd Nov. – AM Forest surrounding Ho Tuyen Lam reservoir.
- 23rd Nov. – AM Ta Nung Valley; PM drive to Nam Cat Tien National Park.
- 24th Nov. – AM Headquarters area and Uncle Dang's trail; PM C3 area.
- 25th Nov. – AM Dac Lua area; PM C3 fishponds.
- 26th Nov. – AM road to Dac Lua; PM boat trip along Dong Nai River.
- 27th Nov. – AM headquarters earlier; PM drive to Saigon, fly to Danang.
- 28th Nov. – AM Danang; PM drive to Bach Ma National Park.
- 29th Nov. – Bach Ma National Park.
- 30th Nov. – AM Bach Ma NP; PM drive to Hue.
- 1st Dec. – The Citadel, Tien Mu Pagoda, Min Mang's Tomb, Tu Hieu Temple, Hue area.
- 2nd Dec. – AM Tu Duc's Tomb; PM fly to Hanoi.
- 3rd Dec. – AM drive Hanoi to Cuc Phuong National Park; PM Cuc Phuong.
- 4th Dec. – Road from park entrance to Bong sub-station.
- 5th Dec. – AM road from park entrance to Bong sub-station and loop trail; PM Primate rehabilitation centre.
- 6th Dec. – AM road from park entrance to Bong sub-station and valley trail; PM Van Long Reserve.
- 7th Dec. – Xuan Thuy reserve, Red River Delta.
- 8th Dec. – Drive to Hanoi.
- 9th Dec. – Drive to Sa Pa.
- 10th Dec. – AM Fansipan (c. 1500m); PM Hamrong Botanical Gardens.
- 11th Dec. – Fansipan.
- 12th Dec. – Drive Sa Pa to Hanoi.
- 13th Dec. – Tour ends.

NOTES

Species marked in bold are endemic to Indochina (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam with a few species spilling into extreme eastern Thailand and southern Yunnan, China).

T - Globally threatened

HTL = Ho Tuyen Lam

CT = Nam Cat Tien National Park

CP = Cuc Phuong National Park

XT – Xuan Thuy

NON-PASSERINES

1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Several including some individuals in breeding plumage HTL; c. 20 Yen Quang Lake reservoir, CP; 6 in non-breeding plumage XT.
2. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Widespread and locally common (by far the most frequently encountered large waterbird in Vietnam); recorded virtually daily except on the Langbian Plateau where seemingly absent; >500 in coastal we rice-fields between the Hai Van Pass and Hue.
3. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 6 Dac Lua area, CT; 2 Hai Van Pass to Bach Ma; 2 Bach Ma to Hue; a flock of c. 60 roosting on a small island within one of the Yen Quang Lake reservoirs, CP; common XT.
4. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 4 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 4 Hanoi airport to city; several in and around Van Long reserve; 10 XT.
5. Great Egret *Casmerodius (Egretta) alba* 1 & 2 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 1 Dong Nai R., CT; c. 10 Hai Van Pass to Bach Ma; 2 Bach Ma to Hue; c. 10 Hanoi to CP; several in and around Van Long reserve; common XT.
6. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* 2 Dac Lua area, CT; c. 20 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 1 Dong Nai R., CT.
7. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Notably uncommon throughout Vietnam: 2 Dalat to CT; c. 50 flying to roost, C3 fish-ponds, CT – by far the largest number I have observed at one site of this species in Vietnam; c. 15 CT to Saigon; several Hanoi to CP.

8. Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* Widespread, locally common and seen almost daily except on the Langbian Plateau; nearly all individuals seen were in non-breeding plumage, however, one or two individuals in the north showed vestiges of breeding plumage.

Chinese Pond Heron is a scarce to local resident in E Tonkin and this conforms to our observation of several birds with vestiges of breeding plumage in the Red River Delta at Xuan Thuy. Elsewhere, the identity of pond herons was problematic. Chinese Pond Heron is a widespread winter visitor throughout Vietnam whilst Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa* is a common breeding resident in Cochinchina (south Vietnam). However, because there are currently no criteria for safely separating these two species whilst in non-breeding plumage the identity of all pond herons observed, especially those individuals seen south of central Vietnam (Danang) must remain unresolved. In conclusion, the only birds identified to species were those Chinese Pond Herons we saw at Xuan Thuy, East Tonkin. However, it is very likely that all the other pond herons we recorded in the north were also Chinese Pond Herons. Conversely, in Cochinchina, in the far south, such as around Nam Cat Tien, the weight of evidence appears to point to the birds we observed being Javan Pond Herons but we cannot be certain. Elsewhere, such as in central Vietnam the specific identity of the pond herons remains anyone's guess.

9. Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa* For a discussion of the veracity of our records of this species, see under Chinese Pond Heron.
10. Little (Striated, Green or Mangrove) Heron *Butorides striatus* 1 HTL; 1 C3 fish-ponds, CT.

NOTE: The A.O.U. now treat North America populations of the *Buteroides* superspecies as a separate species: Green-backed Heron *B. virescens*. *B. striatus* continues, for the time being, to apply to the rest of this widespread superspecies.

11. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* c. 20 flying from their roost in CT across the Dong Nai R. to presumably neighbouring rice-fields.
12. Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 1 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 1 adult seen well in flight, Van Long reserve.
13. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* Two in flight over the forest near the entrance to Uncle Dang's trail, CT; 2 in flight over our accommodations; 3 perched above a roadside pool within forest along the track to Dac Lua, CT. A declining species in SE Asia.
14. Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilus javanicus* One in flight over forest near the entrance to Uncle Dang's trail, CT. A globally threatened species.
15. Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the entire tour. A flock of 40-60 permitted superb 'scope studies from fairly close range, XT. A globally threatened species.
16. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* c. 60 Van Long reserve; hundreds XT.

17. Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* One on a pond within wet rice-fields near CP; 10 Van Long reserve; c. 20 XT.
18. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Hundreds, XT.
19. Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta* 50+, XT.
20. Garganey *Anas querquedula* c. 50 Yen Quang Lake reservoir, CP.
21. Common Teal *Anas crecca* Common, Yen Quang Lake reservoir, CP.
22. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* One near a reservoir *en route* to Dalat; 1 HTL on both days; 3 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 1 over Danang city park.
23. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* One seen during the drive back to our accommodations, CT. Possibly Susan only.
24. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* One in flight over forest near Heavens' rapids, CT; 1 en route to Sa Pa.
25. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Singles near Bao Loc on two days; great 'scope views in coastal wet rice-fields between Hai Van Pass and Bach Ma NP.
26. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* One immature in flight near C3 fish-ponds, CT; 1 adult C3 fish-ponds, CT.
27. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* Fabulous views of two adults in flight along the Dac Lua track, CT; great looks at a single adult in flight, C3 fish-ponds, CT.
28. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* By far the most frequently encountered large raptor; 1 HTL; 1 'Ta Nung Valley'; 1 heard CT; 1 adult Dac Lua area, CT; 1 imm. C3 Fish-ponds, CT; 2 over Dac Lua track, CT; 1 near accommodations, CT; superb 'scope studies of 2, CP.
29. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* Five Hanoi airport; c. 20 hunting over 'dwarf' mangroves, XT.

NOTE: There has been and probably will be much dispute as to whether the 'marsh harriers' of Europe and Asia should be treated as one or two species. The evidence is inconclusive either way and in consequence we prefer to treat the two, generally clearly identifiable taxa, as good species so that more exact information is available for future studies of this group.

30. Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* Good, close looks as an adult female quartered low mangroves alongside our boat, XT.

31. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* One adult displaying over forest on steep slopes at the southern edge of the Langbian Plateau; 1 displaying over forest near Dac Lua, CT; fabulous, lengthy study of an adult as it perched for more than an hour in an exposed snag above the forest at the edge of the Bong Sub-station clearing.
32. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* One taking a small lizard at the edge of pine forest alongside HTL reservoir; 1 imm. female Dac Lua area, CT; 1 female hunting and perching within a grove of Eucalypts at the periphery of Tien Mu Pagoda; 1 Tu Duc's tomb; great looks at an adult female, Yen Quang Lake reservoir, CP.
33. Besra *Accipiter virgatus* One adult seen in flight within 'dwarf' mangroves, XT.
34. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* One sub-adult in pine forest, HTL; a total of 3 within market-gardens, Langbian Plateau on the road to the Ta Nung Valley; 2 hunting within pine forest, Tu Duc's tomb.
35. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* One *en route* to the Langbian Plateau.
36. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* Fabulous views of a pair of birds as they were challenged by a Peregrine Falcon and attended their nest on impressive limestone karst cliff face. This only the third record for Vietnam and almost certainly the first breeding record.
37. Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucos* Wonderful 'scope studies of this great little raptor; 1 adult perched in the top of an exposed dead tree at the edge of forest clearing at exactly same site I have observed this species on several previous occasions, CP. This is a very local and rarely seen species.
38. Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* One pair, Van Long reserve; 1 *en route* to Hanoi.
39. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Two Van Long reserve being chased off by a pair of Bonelli's Eagles.
40. Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* Heard at very close quarters within the dense long-grass understorey of pine woodland, HTL.
41. Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* Heard on two days at high elevations, Bach Ma.
42. Bar-backed Partridge *Arborophila brunneopectus* Several heard on forested ridges surrounding HTL.
43. Scaly-breasted Partridge *Arborophila chloropus* Several pairs heard duetting daily and glimpsed on two occasions, CT.

44. **Annam Partridge** *Arborophila merlini* One heard once at c. 500 m elevation, Bach Ma. A globally threatened species.
45. Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii* One or two heard, CP.
46. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* Two gorgeous males feeding unconcernedly along a track within tall grassland, C3 area, CT; a total of 12 along the road to Dac Lua, CT; 2 near our accommodations, CT; 2 on the track up the mountain, Bach Ma; 1 female flushed from within the forest, CT.
47. Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* One male and 2 females seen by our guide Ho, HTL; great looks at a male and a female along the loop trail, CT for those who braved the loop trail.
48. **Germain's Peacock Pheasant** *Polyplectron germaini* Undoubtedly one of **THE** highlights of the tour. Heard several times daily, CT and on one occasion a superb male responded so confidently that everyone was able to enjoy long lingering looks at this truly spectacular species. A globally threatened species.
49. Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata* Single males heard on two days at lower elevations, Bach Ma. A globally threatened species.
50. Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* Several males heard calling from the bamboo-covered slopes above Dac Lua, CT; fabulous views of a fully plumaged male perched in an exposed dead tree and silhouetted against a fiery setting sun, CT. Yet another globally threatened species.
51. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* Four Dac Lua area, CT; 1 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 2 Van Long reserve.
52. Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* Four seen in flight, Van Long reserve.
53. White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* At least ten, mostly in flight, Van Long reserve.
54. Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* Two flushed from rank regrowth, C3 fish-ponds, CT.
55. Common Coot *Fulica atra* Five, Van Long reserve.
56. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* One in non-breeding plumage, city park pond, Danang; 2 in wet rice-fields *en route* to CP; 1 Van Long reserve.
57. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Approx. 50, XT.
58. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* Common, XT.
59. Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* Six seen very briefly in a distant wet rice-field near Bach Ma.

60. Red-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus indicus* Eight C3 fish-ponds, CT.
61. Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Singles seen on two days along the road from the park entrance to the Bong sub-station including superb views of one bird that just stood, seemingly for ages, permitting lengthy studies by us all.
62. Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* One of the real surprises of the tour; 4 Dec. a single bird flushing and running in the ditch at the interface of the road and damp broad-leaved forest along the road to the Bong Sub-station. Possibly the first record for E Tonkin.
63. Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* Two, possibly this species, Dac Lua area, CT.
64. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* At least ten in flight showing a conspicuous white trailing edge to the flight feathers, wet rice-fields, Hai Van Pass to Bach Ma.
65. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 200+ XT.
66. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 100+, XT.
67. Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* At least six, XT including good 'scope studies of the confusingly large, long-billed female (strongly resembles Eastern Curlew).
68. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Four in wet rice-fields between Bach Ma and Hue; 2+ XT.
69. Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Two in wet rice-fields between Bach Ma and Hue; common XT.
70. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Two in wet rice-fields between Hanoi and CP; c. 30 XT.
71. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Seven in wet rice-fields between Hai Van Pass and Bach Ma; 10+ Bach Ma to Hue; 6 Hanoi to CP; common XT.
72. Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* Outstanding 'scope study of at least one individual in non-breeding plumage. A globally threatened species.
73. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* One Dac Lua area, CT; 1 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 2 Hai Van Pass to Bach Ma; 1 Bach Ma to Hue; 3 Hanoi to CP.
74. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* More than 50 in wet rice-fields between Bach Ma and Hue.
75. Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos* One Dac Lua area, CT; 1 C3 fish-ponds, CT; 2 in the Danang city park; 2 Hai Van Pass to Bach Ma; 3 Hanoi to CP; common XT.
76. Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* Eight in flight over XT.

77. Sanderling *Calidris alba* Great, close looks at several individuals in non-breeding plumage, XT.
78. Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Common, XT.
79. Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Notably common, XT. Rare or, at best, uncommon elsewhere in SE Asia.
80. Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* At least 10 provided superb 'scope studies, XT.
81. Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* Several individuals seen well, XT.
82. Vega Gull *Larus vegae* At least one individual looked convincing for this species, XT.
83. Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* Common, XT.
84. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* 20+ in wet rice-fields between Bach Ma and Hue; >40 XT.
85. Spotted Turtle Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* Notably sparse compared to elsewhere in the Oriental region almost certainly as a result of trapping for the deplorable cage-bird trade. Recorded: Saigon; HTL; CT; Bach Ma; The Citadel, Hue; >CP.
86. Red-collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Common with a maxima of c. 30 in open country, CT.
87. Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall* Four, Bach Ma NP.
88. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* One heard HTL; 1 CP.
89. Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* Impressively common with 10-100+ recorded daily, CT.
90. [Pink-necked/Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron vernans/bicincta* Several seen in flight in the Dac Lua area, CT]
91. Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* 1-10 seen daily, CT; 1-2 seen on two days, CP.
92. Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* Totals of 10 & 15 seen on two days, HTL.
93. Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis* Fabulous 'scope views of a single bird in steep hill forest near Bao Loc; heard and seen commonly, daily, CT.
94. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* Wonderful to see this handsome parakeet still so common at CT with 60 – 150+ seen daily, especially as flocks went to roost; a single bird in flight over Bong sub-station was a surprise.
95. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax* One heard Saigon Botanical Gardens.

96. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* Singles heard briefly on two days, CT.
97. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* Heard HTL; heard daily CT.
98. Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* Heard Saigon Botanical Gardens; 1 heard CT.
99. Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus* Great 'scope views of an adult male, HTL; 1 heard CT.
100. Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* One male heard and seen in flight high over the canopy of tall evergreen forest.
101. Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* Outstanding 'scope study of a single very territorial adult, CT.
102. Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* One male attending the fruiting fig *Ficus* sp, CT.
103. Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis* Thanks to some fine work by Susan Myers we all enjoyed wonderful 'scope views of two birds at the edge of steep hill forest near Bao Loc; 1 HTL; singles seen most days CT.
104. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* Heard daily CT; 1 seen Bach Ma NP; heard Tu Duc's tomb, Hue; 1 seen well, CP.
105. Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* Two seen well C3 area, CT; 2 C3 fish-ponds area, CT; 4 XT.
106. Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* One heard CT.
- NOTE:** Most authorities now treat this as a separate species from the Common (Eurasian) Scops Owl although Sibley & Monroe (1993), based on a personal communication from Joe Marshal, decided to lump them once again. However, the Oriental Bird Club checklist follows King (pers comm) who emphatically states that these two taxa have very different voices. Whether this is sufficient for treatment as a separate species is unclear.
107. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodei* Heard commonly Bach Ma NP and CP.
108. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* Heard HTL; CT; commonly CP.
109. Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata* Superb views of a single bird and several others heard and glimpsed, CT.
110. Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* The sight of hundreds of these 'harrier-like' nightjars sailing out over the grasslands and adjoining Dong Nai River at dusk will remain one of the enduring memories of this wonderful tour, CT.

111. Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* A single male seen well in flight, CT.
112. Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* 1-4 seen daily, CT.
113. **Indochinese Swiftlet** *Collocalia rogersi* Just a single bird seen well in flight over the forest, CT.

NOTE: The taxonomy of Asian swiftlets remains one of the biggest problems facing modern day ornithologists working in the Oriental Region. It seems that every publication presents a new view of the state of things and this doesn't help settle the matter. Currently Clements lists swiftlets of the edible-nest group in Vietnam as Indochinese Swiftlet *C. rogersi*, which is split from Germain's Swiftlet *C. germaini*, which is split from Edible-nest Swiftlet *C. fuciphaga*!

114. Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* Two seen well, CT.
115. Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* Recorded at scattered localities: HTL; common CT; The Citadel and Tu Duc's tomb, Hue; >Sa Pa.
116. Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* One over the karst formations of the Van Long reserve.
117. Little Swift *Apus nipalensis* Saigon Botanical Gardens; c. 20 >Langbian Plateau.

NOTE: Treated by Clements as separate from African populations, viz: House Swift *A. affinis*.

118. Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* Heard daily, CT but notably shy and difficult to see.
119. Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* Moderately common with six seen on one day, Bach Ma NP; 2-6 seen and heard daily, CP.
120. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Widespread and seen almost daily; low numbers in the south but notably common in lowland areas of the north such as *en route* to CP and Sa Pa.
121. Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* Heard daily and a male seen on one occasion, CT; 1 heard Bach Ma NP.
122. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* Heard on several occasions from along the Dong Nai R., CT.
123. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* Widespread and moderately common except on the Langbian Plateau.
124. Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* A maxima of six at C3 fish-ponds area, CT; 1 over the Dong Nai R.; 1 city park, Danang; six between Bach Ma NP and Hue including some fine 'scope views.

125. Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Two C3 fish-ponds, CT; 6 along the Dong Nai R.
126. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* One very shy pair within tall evergreen forest, HTL; heard daily CT.
127. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* Great 'scope views of a single bird, Dac Lua area, CT.
128. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti* Two at the edge of steep hill forest near Bao Loc taking a moth and being hassled by an Ashy Drongo; 10-40 seen daily, CT.
129. Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* Seen daily in modest numbers, CT.
130. Dollarbird *Eurystomous orientalis* Seen daily in modest numbers but large numbers (50+) seen as they hawked over grasslands at dusk near C3, CT.
131. Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthraceros albirostris* 2-20 seen and heard daily, CT.
- NOTE:** Most authorities now treat the pied hornbills of southern Asia as one species *Anthracoceros albirostris* (including *convexus*) except for *A. coronatus* of southern India and Sri Lanka.
132. Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* One of the highlights of a great tour; a group of 6-8 in flight and perching as they fed a fruiting tree in steep hill forest near Bao Loc; 1 heard CT.
133. **Red-vented Barbet** *Megalaima lagrandieri* One immature, CT; several heard CP and one seen in the canopy where thanks to some great 'scope work by Susan we all enjoyed superb views of this peculiar Indochinese endemic.
134. Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata* 1-2 seen including good 'scope views, Dac Lua area, CT.
135. Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta* Great looks at single birds including one feeding at fruiting *Ficus* sp thanks to some great spotting by Eli, CT; 1 CP.
136. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii* Heard in steep hill forest near Bao Loc; a total of 12 seen and heard Bach Ma NP including some really great 'scope views.
137. Black-browed Barbet *Megalaima oorti* Several heard and seen HTL including good 'scope views of 1-2 individuals.
138. Moustached Barbet *Megalaima incognita* One seen well but briefly, CP.
139. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis* Heard >Langbian Plateau; 1-2 heard or seen daily, CT.
140. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* Several provided great 'scope views Saigon botanical gardens; 1 in the grounds of the Tien Mu Pagoda.

141. Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* One seen all too briefly with a mixed species flock, HTL.
142. White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea* One pair calling and drumming, CT; 1 with a mixed species flock, CP.
143. Grey-capped Woodpecker *Picoides canicapillus* One heard HTL; 2 seen daily including great 'scope views of two birds, one with a large mixed species flock, CP.
144. White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* One heard, CT.
145. Lesser Yellownappe *Picus chlorolophus* One heard CP.
146. Greater Yellownappe *Picus flavinucha* One heard CT.
147. Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus* 1-2 seen daily in forest near our accommodations, CT.
148. Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* Great 'scope looks at a female within pine forest, HTL.
149. Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense* Wonderful looks at single males on three days, CT.
150. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* One female in pine woodland, HTL; 1 female seen and several others heard, CT; several heard and seen CP.
151. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* Pairs and single heard and seen on two days, CT; 1-2 seen and heard daily CP including great views of a pair on our last full day.
152. Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente* One drumming in bamboo, CT.
153. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* One heard and then flew in in response to our tape, CT.
154. **Bar-bellied Pitta** *Pitta elliotii* Undoubtedly one of the highlights of our tour was the incredibly obliging male which came bounding in to our tape and then hopped out in front of everyone – AMAZING!, several heard daily, CT; as many as 10 heard daily, CP.
155. Blue-rumped Pitta *Pitta soror* Several heard, CP.
156. Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus* Two pairs seen superbly on two days and several others heard on other days, CT.
157. Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus* Several heard daily and then finally we nailed a gorgeous individual with great 'scope views, CT.

158. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* 1 group heard CP.
159. Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* Yet another tour highlight with two groups of 15 and 10 and another group of 8 the following day being very confiding and putting and a totally endearing show, CP. This is surely THE place to see this demure species.
160. **Indochinese Bushlark** *Mirafra marionae* At least one seen several times in song-flight, open areas at Dac Lua, CT.
161. Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor* Several over limestone karst crags, Van Long reserve.
162. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Surprisingly recorded at only a few sites in modest numbers in the south: 2 Saigon Botanical Gardens; Ta Nung Valley; CT; Danang; >Bach Ma; Bach Ma NP.
163. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* Common, CT; 2 Danang.
164. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* Almost certainly this species >Dalat; around Danang and >Bach Ma NP; around Hue; >Sa Pa.

NOTE: The closely related *Hirundo daurica* and *H. striolata* are currently widely treated as separate species with resident *daurica* confined to north and west of the Brahmaputra River and *striolata* confined to the south and east. Resident populations are generally distinctive and easy to separate in the field, however, migrant populations of *daurica* that move south during the Palearctic winter are very difficult to separate from several resident populations of *striolata* including those we encountered in Vietnam.

165. Striated Swallow *Hirundo striolata* Several seen daily over forest, CT.
166. Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* Eli's bird! A single adult and juvenile seen nicely in the grounds of the Reunification Hall; 1 on the Dac Lua track, CT.
167. White (Pied) Wagtail *Motacilla alba* Two at Danang city park; singles heard on two days, Bach Ma NP; notably common with >60 counted in one area of wet rice-fields, Hanoi to CP; 1 CP; 6 Van Long reserve; several XT.
168. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* One in wet rice-fields, near CP.
169. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Widespread and present in low numbers except CP and XT where seemingly absent.
170. Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* 1 CP reservoir.
171. Paddyfield Pipit *anthus rufulus* A single bird in open habitat near Dac Lua, CT.

NOTE: The best that can be said of this species complex is that it is a mess. Apparently all of the different groups that comprise the *novaeseelandiae* complex have separate evolutionary histories and thus should be treated as separate species. However, until someone, I believe Per Alstrom is in the process of doing so, publishes a detailed review of this species complex we will follow Robson's SE Asia Field Guide.

172. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* One, Bach Ma NP; 2 The Citadel, Hue; 1 Tu Duc's tomb; 2 >CP; two groups of 4, CP; several on the slopes of Fansipan.

173. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Two, presumably winter migrants, Saigon Botanical Gardens; heard grounds Reunification Hall; 1-2 almost daily, CT – also presumably winter migrants.

174. Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* Two seen nicely, CT.

175. Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* Heard HTL where presumably resident sub-species *robinsoni*; superb 'scope views of the lovely male of the sub-species *nigellicauda*, CP.

176. Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei* 1-2 daily, CT.

NOTE: Ripley, as he did with so many Asian taxa, lumped anything remotely alike under one species. This obscured a great deal of our understanding of speciation and biogeography in the region. Fortunately various people are beginning to unravel these huge 'species' and revealing some interesting and complex species patterns. This is one of them. *Coracina macei* is widely distributed throughout India and South-east Asia but is replaced by insular populations in the Greater Sundas, the Philippines and Wallacea with *C. novaehollandiae* now restricted as a breeding species to Australia.

177. Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina poilioptera* Good 'scope studies of a single male, Saigon Botanical Gardens.

178. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos* Several individuals seen most days, CP.

179. Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* One Dac Lua area, CT. A flock of c. 20 seen all too briefly in flight behind the interpretation centre, Bach Ma NP may well have been Swinhoe's Minivets.

180. [Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis* See under Ashy Minivet.]

181. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* Several seen, usually with mixed species flocks, HTL and Ta Nung Valley.

182. Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* 2-4 seen daily HTL and Ta Nung Valley. **NOT Short-billed Minivet as identified at the time.**

183. Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* Several seen daily including a flock of c. 50, shortly after dawn, at the forest edge, Bong Sub-station, CP.
184. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* Excellent 'scope study of a pair, Saigon Botanical Gardens; 2 Ta Nung Valley; common, CP.
185. Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus* Moderately common Ta Nung Valley; 1-2 on two days, CT.
186. Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* One, CT.
187. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus* Two in steep hill-forest near Bao Loc; 2 HTL; common Ta Nung Valley; common with 6-10 daily, CT; 6 CP.
188. Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* Two HTL; moderately common, CT; 2 grounds of the Tien Mu Pagoda; notably common, CP; >Sa Pa.
189. Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthornus* Notably common with 20-30 daily in scrubby secondary woodland and lightly wooded grassland, Fansipan.
190. Light-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* Six in secondary woodland just outside Tu Duc's tomb; good looks at 10, XT.
191. Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* 2-6 on two days, HTL.
192. Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* Six at the base of the Langbian Plateau; 1-2 daily, CT; 1 Bach Ma NP; 4 CP.
193. Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens* Ten on both days, HTL.
194. Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi* Common Saigon Botanical Gardens and grounds of the Reunification Hall; 2 CT.
195. Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus* Common, CP.
196. Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus* Common, Bach Ma NP.
197. Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua* Moderately common, CT.
198. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* Common, 15-20 on both days, HTL.
199. Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mccllellandii* Moderately common, HTL and Ta Nung Valley.
200. Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* Common, 10-30+ daily, HTL and Ta Nung Valley; 60+CP.

NOTE: Asian populations of black bulbuls are widely treated as a separate species from that in Madagascar. Asian Black Bulbuls thus change their scientific name to *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*.

201. Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella* Great looks at a pair in steep hill-forest near Bao Loc; 2 Ta Nung Valley; 2+ seen or heard daily, CT; superb 'scope views of several males in a flock of 6+ attending a fruiting fig tree, CP.
202. Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* 2-6 seen daily, usually with mixed species flocks, CT; 4 Bach Ma NP; common CP.
203. Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* One male, CT.
204. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* A total of 30, Bach Ma NP; good looks at a single male, CP.
205. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* Common, Saigon Botanical Gardens; 1 grounds of the Reunification Hall; 1 >Langbian Plateau; 6 CT; 1 grounds of the Tien Mu Pagoda.
206. Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayeri* Impressively common and conspicuous, CT; c. 10 CP.
207. White-throated Rock Thrush *Monticola gularis* Good looks at a handsome male thanks to some great spotting by Bill, CT.
208. Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* One female, Bach Ma NP; 1 male of the sub-species *philippensis* in the grounds of Min Mang's tomb.
209. Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* One seen well and several others heard and/or glimpsed, Bach Ma NP; fabulous looks at one bird as it permitted us to take in all its details, several others seen and heard, CP.
210. Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* "Life defining" views of two of these gorgeous birds on the loop trail and then another single bird put on an incredible show, permitting wonderful, lengthy 'scope views of a very obliging individual along the valley trail, CP.
211. Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* One male and 1 female, Bach Ma NP.
212. [Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima* After further consideration we feel that the small *Zoothera* thrush that we all studied at length during our wonderful 'thrush' morning along the road to the Bong Sub-station was in fact Chinese Thrush and NOT Plain-backed Thrush.]
213. Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* Probably this species flushed from the roadside on several occasions, Bach Ma NP; 2-4 seen superbly daily including some great 'scope studies, CP.
214. Grey-backed Thrush *urdus hortulorum* Excellent looks at a single female and possibly 1-2 males, CP.

215. Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* One Bach Ma NP; impressively common, 20-50+ including some outstanding, 'scope studies, CP.
216. Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* A total of eight in coastal scrub, Bach Ma NP to Hue; 40+ in the grounds of The Citadel, Hue; common, 4-20 daily, CP; several XT.
217. Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* At least six seen well as they fed at a fruiting tree but several hundred other thrushes seen and heard, of which a large proportion were probably this species, Bach Ma NP; 2 CP.
218. Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* One female, CP. Possibly the second ever record for Vietnam.
219. Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* After further consideration we feel that the most likely identity of the small 'Zoothera' thrush that we all studied at length during our wonderful 'thrush' morning along the road to the Bong Sub-station was in fact Chinese Thrush and **NOT** Plain-backed Thrush.
220. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* Heard commonly, HTL, Ta Nung Valley; CP.
221. Rufous-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* Single seen on two days in flight across the road, CP.
222. Siberian Blue Robin *Erithacus cyane* Several heard HTL, NCT.
223. Orange-flanked Bush-Robin *arsiger cyanurus* Notably common with as many as 10 seen on one day, Bach Ma NP.
224. Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* Heard daily CT and three seen in scrub along the Dong Nai R. at the edge of CT; 3 pairs in the grounds of the Citadel, Hue; several Ming Mang's temple and Tu Duc's tomb grounds; common, CP.
225. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* Notably shy and difficult to see with only one or two glimpsed but several heard daily, CT; 1 Bach Ma NP; much more easily seen and much less shy with as many as 20+ recorded daily, CP.
226. Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* Fabulous looks at a very handsome male in Danang city park. The first record for Central Annam.
227. White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* One handsome bird along a small stream c. 750 m, Lao Cai to Sa Pa.
228. Plumbeous Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* One female on the lower slopes of Fansipan; good looks at a fine male, >1200m, Fansipan.

229. White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides* A single female within a market-garden on the outskirts of Sa Pa was a good record.
230. Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* Totally fabulous views of a very confiding individual at the base of a Cau Thac Bac waterfall, c. 1200m, Fansipan.
231. Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* Several heard and glimpsed, Bach Ma NP.
232. White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* Two seen beautifully on two days, Bach Ma NP; 1-2 seen and/or heard, CP.
233. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* Widespread and moderately common, seen in most open country sites.
- NOTE: Confirmation of the appropriateness of splitting this taxon from Common Stonechat *S. rubecula* is detailed in Urquart's (2002) excellent new book on The Stonechats.
234. Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* One female on both days, HTL; several males on both days, Fansipan.
235. Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyanoventer* Heard commonly, HTL and Ta Nung Valley.
236. Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* Several heard and 1-2 glimpsed, CP.
237. Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* Great looks at two birds as they 'ticked' from within dense scrub just outside the grounds of Tu Duc's tomb.
238. Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* One heard Danang city park.
239. Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* Two Dac Lua area, CT.
240. Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* Two seen well in dense scrub along the Dong Nai R., CT.
241. Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon* Two in dense scrub along the Dong Nai R., CT.
242. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus* Two Ta Nung Valley.
243. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* One Saigon Botanical Gardens; 2 > Langbian Plateau; common CT; common Bach Ma NP; Hue area; CP.
244. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis* Moderately common, CT.
245. Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* Good looks at as many as 10 in scrubby grassland, Fansipan.

246. Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Three Danang city park; 3 in the grounds of The Citadel.
247. Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* One, Fansipan.
248. Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* Four, Fansipan.
249. Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* A single bird in scrub, Fansipan. **NOT** Pallas's Warbler as surmised.
250. Yellow-browed (Inornate) Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* Widespread and common except CT, XT and Sa Pa area.
251. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Singles seen well on two days, CT.
252. Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* Excellent looks at several of this distinctive species, CT.
253. Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 1-2 seen daily, HTL, Ta Nung Valley.
254. Emei Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus emeiensis* Two birds seen moderately well in the grounds of Tien Mu's Pagoda. Quite likely this species, however, I have no cognizant previous experience of this recently described species and its winter grounds are very poorly known.
255. White-tailed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni* One seen well, Fansipan.
256. Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus* 2-3 seen very well including 'scope views, CP.
- NOTE:** The recent paper in the journal Ibis (1999) 141, pp 545-568 reviews what it considers to be a species group of not one but five species. This taxonomy presents one of the major challenges in Oriental birding.
257. White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* One HTL.
258. Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* Three with mixed species flocks, HTL.
259. Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* 1-2 daily, HTL.
260. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Two in the grounds of the Citadel, Hue.
261. Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* Several heard HTL; good looks at c. 6 Ta Nung Valley; 6 Fansipan.
262. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* One HTL; 1 CT.

263. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Two Dac Lua area, CT; common XT.
264. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* Three in the grounds of the Citadel, Hue; >CP.
265. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* Two Saigon Botanical Gardens; 1 >Langbian Plateau; 1-4 most days CT.
266. Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* One male, Bach Ma NP.
267. Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* Two Saigon Botanical Gardens; 2 CT; 4+ Danang city park; 1 the grounds of the Citadel, Hue; common Tu Duc's tomb grounds.
268. Rufous-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula solitarius* One within tall evergreen forest, HTL.
269. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* Four Ta Nung Valley; 1 CT.
270. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* 2-4 daily including great 'scopes of the male, HTL.
271. Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* Excellent views of both the handsome male and female, CP.
272. Vivid Niltava *Niltava vivida* Single males and females seen daily, Fansipan.
273. White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concreta* Several heard and seen but difficult to see well. Heard daily and one male seen briefly, CP.
274. Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* Superb views of singing males, CT.
275. Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* One in steep hill-forest near Bao Loc; good looks at 3 Ta Nung Valley.
276. Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicacapa ceylonensis* Common HTL; Ta Nung Valley; heard Bach Ma NP; moderately common, CP.
277. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* Moderately common, HTL and Ta Nung Valley; several heard and seen, Bach Ma NP; 1-2 daily, CP.
278. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* Moderately common but difficult to see well, CT.
279. Asian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* Fine looks at a group of four including a stunning silver male, CT.
280. Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* Heard daily and 1-2 seen, CT.
281. Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli* Singles on two days, CT; notably common and conspicuous, Bach Ma NP; 1 CP.

282. Spot-throated Babbler *Pellorneum albiventre* One singing and seen briefly within dense scrub, HTL.
283. Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps* Fine looks at two birds as they foraged in the dense leaf-litter right in front of us, CT; several heard and seen, CP.
284. Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum* 8+ Bach Ma NP; good looks a several flocks of 5-10, CP.
285. Large Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* Many heard but never seen, CP.
286. White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* One pair seen well Ta Nung Valley; commonly seen and heard, Bach Ma NP; heard CP.
287. Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* One heard by everyone at close quarters but probably only seen by Susan, Fansipan.
288. **Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler** *Jabouilleia danjoui* Two heard on two days, Bach Ma NP; 2 heard, CP.
289. Limestone Wren Babbler *Napothera crispifrons* A maxima of 8 seen at two sites, eventually by everyone, provided some great views. The white-throated morph provided confusion for a few interesting minutes. CP.
290. Streaked Wren Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata* Fabulous views of two very confiding individual, Bach Ma NP.
291. Eye-browed Wren Babbler *Napothera epilepidota* Great looks at this little sprite, HTL.
292. Pygmy Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* One heard Bach Ma; 1 heard Fansipan.
293. Spotted Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis formosus* One heard, Fansipan.
294. Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps* Six HTL; 2 Ta Nung Valley; 1-2 seen or heard daily, Bach Ma NP.
295. Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea* One with a mixed species flock, Bach Ma NP.
296. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* A total of 4 seen, CP.
297. Striped Tit Babbler *Macronus gularis* Common at the edge of steep hill-forest near Bao Loc; common, seen and heard daily, CT; very common, CP.

298. **Grey-faced Tit Babbler** *Macronus kelleyi* Common, 15 – 20 - seen and heard daily, CT. Notably similar to *M. gularis* but looks more slender and sleek and rather paler. Upon close inspection the pale grey face is distinctive and contrasts with the pale yellow, virtually unstreaked underparts and warm brown upperparts. Unlike *M. gularis* this sp. lacks a pronounced superciliary and rich brown cap which contrasts strongly with the duller brown back and wings. In addition this sp. forages actively at 2-4 m, almost like a frenetic nuthatch, in groups, gleaning among saplings, horizontal branches, vine tangles and leaf clusters. Conversely *M. gularis* tends to occur in smaller numbers and forages sluggishly, low in dense thickets or the leafy canopy of midstorey trees.
299. Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata* Six or more seen well in grassland, Dac Lua area, CT.
300. Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* Two in grassland, Dac Lua area, CT.
301. Silver-eared Mesia *eiothrix argentauris* Two with a mixed species flock, HTL.
302. White-browed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* One male, Ta Nung Valley; 1 pair, Bach Ma NP.
303. Chestnut-fronted Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus* Superb views of a male, Ta Nung Valley.
304. Spectacled Barwing *Actinodura ramsayi* Common and several seen very well, Fansipan.
305. Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* 2 - 4 seen daily, HTL and Ta Nung Valley; common, 12-20 daily, Fansipan.
306. Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula* At least thirty of these lovely birds, often together with Blue-winged and Red-tailed minlas, Fansipan.
307. Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* Excellent looks at one flock of 8 plus several others, Fansipan.
308. Streak-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe cinereiceps* Good looks at a single skulking individual in dense bracken thicket, Fansipan.
309. Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis* Excellent looks at a very territorial pair, Bach Ma NP; common, 6-15 seen and heard daily, CP.
310. Rusty-capped Fulvetta *Alcippe dubia* One of the wonderful surprises of this trip with a group of 10 eventually providing outstanding views as they chuckled and scolded from dense roadside thicket at the edge of secondary woodland on the outskirts of Sa Pa.
311. Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala* Common, Bach Ma NP.

312. **Black-browed Fulvetta** *Alcippe grotei* Very common, CP.

NOTE: This species typifies the state of affairs regarding our understanding of the taxonomy of Oriental birds. Because so many areas, such as Vietnam have, until recently been inaccessible for so long, our understanding of the species limits of Oriental birds is basic to say the least. *Alcippe grotei* is one of the many distinctive taxa that have been overlooked and is now treated as a good species (Robson, 2000).

313. Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe peracensis* Abundant, often in large flocks of 10-120, HTL and Ta Nung Valley.

314. **Grey-crowned Crocias** *Crocias langbianensis* Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the tour. This species was only rediscovered a few years ago and we were treated to warmly satisfying 'scope studies of a pair of very territorial birds, Ta Nung Valley.

315. Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* Two flocks of 6 and 20, Bach Ma NP.

316. Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* Exceptionally common with 100 and 200 seen on two days, Fansipan.

317. Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* Two on the first day and at least 20 on the second, they provided excellent views of this large yuhina species, Fansipan.

318. White-collared Yuhina *Yuhina diademata* Two flocks of 12 and 8 at c. 1500m on Fansipan provided really excellent views of this uncommon winter migrant from China,

319. White-bellied Yuhina, *Yuhina zantholeuca* Singles on two days, HTL; 2 CT; notably common, sometimes in groups of 3-6, CP; 3 seen to our surprise at c. 1400m, Fansipan.

320. Ashy-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis alphonsianus* A fabulous find! Good looks at a flock of c. 10 in tall rank grassland with scattered shrubs, c. 1100m, just below Sa Pa.

321. Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris* Yet another tour highlight! A group of five in dense secondary growth c. 550m elevation above Lao Cai *en route* to Sa Pa provided confirmation of Susan's earlier important record from this area. A rarely seen and very special bird.

322. Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* Good looks at a group in the grounds of Tu Duc's tomb, Hue.

323. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* Very common, CT and Bach Ma NP; heard CP.

324. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* Groups of 4 seen well with mixed species flocks, Bach Ma NP.

325. **Black-hooded Laughingthrush** *Garrulax milleti* One of the fabulous Indochinese endemics seen on tour. Groups of 15 seen at HTL and the Ta Nung Valley.
326. Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* Common but difficult to see well, although we all eventually enjoyed good looks at one individual at least, Bach Ma NP; heard CP.
327. **White-cheeked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax vassali* Common HTL and Ta Nung Valley.
328. White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* Heard commonly and a few individuals glimpsed, Fansipan.
329. Great Tit *Parus major* Four, Danang city park; several in the Hue area; 2 CP.
330. Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* Heard Fansipan.
331. Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* Two, HTL; great looks at six of these striking tits, Fansipan.
332. Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* Perhaps one of the most poorly named birds in Asia! We saw just one individual very well with a mixed species flock on Fansipan.
333. Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* Good looks at the distinctive black-crowned subspecies *gayeti*, Bach Ma NP; common in CP including some truly great 'scope views.
334. **Grey-crowned Tit** *Aegithalos annamensis* A group of 6+ at the Ta Nung Valley.
- NOTE:** This is a classic case of where taxonomists loose me. On the one hand they treat the Vietnamese Greenfinch as a distinct species from the very similar Black-headed Greenfinch and yet treat this very isolated and very distinctive form of Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* as a mere subspecies. Harrap in his book on Tits etc. hints that this might be a good species and I know that Ben King is already treating it as such. If nothing else this is one for the bank and one which I strongly support.
335. Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* One, HTL.
336. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* Groups of 2 and 6, seen well CT.
337. **Yellow-billed Nuthatch** *Sitta solangiae* A total of three seen with mixed species flocks, HTL.
338. Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor* Two seen beautifully, HTL.
339. Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* Single males and females, Saigon Botanical Gardens.
340. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis* 2-4 seen daily, CT.

341. Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum* Three, Bach Ma NP.
342. Purple-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia sperata* Outstanding looks at this beautiful sunbird, steep hill-forest near Bao Loc.
343. Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis* 1-2 seen on two days, CT.
344. Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* Moderately common, HTL; 1 Bach Ma NP.
345. Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* Common, c. 1500m, Fansipan.
346. Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* Wonderful 'scope views of two males at the foot of the Langbian Plateau; moderately common, Bach Ma and CP.
347. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* Good views of both males and females, Bach Ma NP; common Fansipan.
348. Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* Sensational views of two gorgeous males, Dac Lua area, CT.
349. Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra* Singles in steep hill-forest near Bao Loc; 2 seen and several heard daily, CT; uncommon CP.
350. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* 2-6 seen daily at HTL and Ta Nung Valley; common CP.
351. Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* Great looks at two with a large mixed species flock, Ta Nung Valley.
352. Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* Great looks at two in secondary woodland at the edge of steep hill-forest near Bao Loc.
353. Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor* Two in secondary woodland at the edge of steep hill-forest near Bao Loc; common Ta Nung Valley; 1 Danang city park.
354. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* One male Danang city park; common Fansipan.
355. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* Superb views of both males and females, Saigon Botanical Gardens; 1 male the grounds of the Citadel, Hue.
356. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* 40+ Saigon Botanical Gardens.
357. Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonica* Common Danang city park; Hue area; CP; XT; Sa Pa area.

358. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* Widespread, seen most days in low numbers.
359. Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides* Great looks at 2 & 1 on two days, Langbian Plateau.
360. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* Singles seen almost daily from Danang northwards.
361. Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* One seen well HTL.
362. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Low numbers, CT; 1 Hai Van Pass; Bach Ma NP; >CP; CP; XT.
363. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* Two Saigon Botanical Gardens; 4 >Langbian Plateau; 2 HTL; common CT; CP.
364. Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans* Good 'scope views of a couple of birds on two days, CT.
365. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* Two, CT.
366. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus* 2-6 seen daily, CT.

NOTE: Dear old Ripley again. This time he lumped all the drongos from India to Melanesia and Australia as one species Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*. This was very unfortunate as the islands of Indonesia e.g. Sumatra, Sulawesi, and the Lesser Sunda Islands all support distinctive and intervening forms. Thus, despite the assertion to the contrary in the OBC checklist, I will continue to follow most recent authorities who treat Oriental birds as separate from those in Indonesia and Australasia. Thus Oriental birds become Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus* whilst Australasian birds become Spangled Drongos *D. bracteatus*.

367. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* Moderately common, 2-10 daily, CT; common CP.
368. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* 7 >Langbian Plateau; locally common, CT.
369. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Two, HTL.
370. Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* One of the real surprises of the tour with good views, albeit in the mist, of a group of four, c. 1400m Fansipan.
371. **White-winged Magpie *Urocissa whiteheadi*** Heard, CP.
372. **Indochinese Green Magpie *Cissa hypoleuca*** Heard, CP.
373. Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia* Good looks at several birds, CT where this species is notably common.

374. Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus* Excellent views of a group of six, Bach Ma NP; several seen or heard daily, CP.
375. Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchus* Heard, CT.
376. Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus* Approx. 100 seen, mostly in flight but a few perched for good 'scope views, XT.
377. White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensis* Two flocks totaling 30+ over wet rice-fields, >CP.
378. Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis* A total of 30+ at the margins of HTL one morning and several others seen there and *en route* to the Ta Nung Valley; 2 Hue area.
379. Vinous-breasted Starling *Sturnus burmannicus* Ten in the grounds of the Reunification Hall; c. 20 HTL; locally common, CT.
380. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* One with other mynas in the grounds of the Reunification hall; 1 Danang city park.
381. White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis* Six in the grounds of the Reunification Hall; 1 Danang city park.
382. Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* Six in wet rice-fields between Hai Van Pass and Bach Ma NP; 20 in wet rice-fields between Bach Ma NP and Hue;
383. Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus* Truly fabulous views of c. 15 at CP attending at fruiting fig.
384. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* One in the grounds of the Reunification Hall; heard HTL; heard daily and finally 2+ seen attending a fruiting fig, CP.
385. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Widespread and locally common except in the south.
386. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* Six Dac Lua area, Hue.
387. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* Common, CT.
388. Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Singles, Saigon Botanical Gardens and Reunification Hall; 10, CT.
389. Black-headed Greenfinch *Carduelis ambigua* 1-2 males on two days, Fansipan.
390. Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* Two females, Fansipan.

391. Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* Fabulous 'scope views of a flock of ten, in the outskirts of Sa Pa.
392. Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* A single male seen very well, lower slopes, Bach Ma. The first record for this park.

MAMMALS

1. Northern Smooth-tailed Treeshrew *Dendrogale murina* One in scrubby forest near Heaven's Rapids (while we were looking for White-crested Laughingthrushes)
2. Northern Treeshrew *Tupaia belangeri* Ta Nung Valley; CT; Fansipan.
3. Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis* CT.
4. White-cheeked Gibbon *Hylobates leucogenys* HTL.
5. Yellow-throated Marten *Martes fulvigula* CT.
6. Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* CT.
7. Small Asian Mongoose *Herpestes javanicus* Great looks at two foraging within a bamboo thicket just outside Tu Duc's tomb.
8. Wild Boar *Sus scrofa* Three CT.
9. Common Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak* CT.
10. Sambar *Cervus unicolor* CT.
11. Variable Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* Bach Ma NP; CP.
12. Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraceus* HTL; CT.
13. Variable Squirrel *Callosciurus finlaysoni* CT.
14. Laotian Squirrel *Callosciurus inornatus* Saigon.
15. Eastern Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maritimus* Saigon, HTL; Bach Ma NP.
16. Burmese Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rudolphi* CT.
17. Red-cheeked Squirrel *Dremomys rufigenis* Bach Ma NP.

18. Indochinese Ground Squirrel *Menetes berdmorei* Saigon.

Others

Northern House Gecko

Tockay Gecko CT.

Long-tailed Lizard

Calotes versicolor