

**The Birds and Mammals recorded on  
the VENT Cambodia 2007 Tour**



Spot-billed Pelicans on Tonle Sap © Susan Myers

*compiled by*  
Susan Myers



**Leaders: Susan Myers & Dion Hobcroft**

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## Cambodia 2007

The attractions of Cambodia are many—the magic of Angkor Wat, the rare and recently rediscovered birds that can still be found in many parts of the country, and the marvelous rural landscapes that evoke childhood memories of an imagined exotic Southeast Asia. Only a few years ago the country was off limits and these birds remained unknown to the outside world; now we are amongst the first birding groups to marvel at the sight of the almost mythical Giant Ibis and White-shouldered Ibis, and many others.

One of the attractions for a birder visiting Cambodia is the chance to observe in the wild some of the rarest birds in the world. The really special bird of this trip is the Giant Ibis, which survives in good numbers in a hidden-away corner of Preah Vihear Province. But other treats like Black-headed Woodpecker, White-shouldered Ibis, and Pale-capped Pigeon are very enticing! The remarkable Tonle Sap Lake and its surroundings support large breeding populations of Greater Adjutant, Sarus Crane, Milky Stork, and Bengal Florican—birds that are approaching extinction elsewhere in Asia. This small country supports a remarkable 24 threatened bird species, a testament to the extent and quality of the forests, grasslands, and wetlands. Long may it remain so!

Our journey started in Bangkok with a morning visit to the salt pans of Khok Kam. Here we met up with Mr. Tee, a local man working hard to protect the habitat of the many waders and waterbirds that find a haven here. A very enjoyable morning of wader-watching was followed by a brief flight to Siem Reap in Cambodia's west. One of the highlights of our stay in Siem Reap was our wonderful hotel, the Angkor Village Resort—surely one of the most pleasant hotels in all of Asia!

The next morning we explored the simply amazing ruins of the ancient city of Angkor, set in forest featuring remarkably large trees and wonderful congregations of birds. Large and noisy flocks of parakeets vied for our attention with a host of forest birds and wonderful views of the temples. Angkor is one of the great archaeological sites of Southeast Asia, along with Pagan, Borobodur, and Ayuthaya. This magnificent reminder of an empire that shaped the entire region is now a major attraction for visitors to Cambodia. The Khmer Empire flourished for three centuries from 800 to 1100 AD; they ruled over most of Burma, Laos, central Vietnam, and the Malay Peninsula.

Ang Trapeang Thmor is an extensive area of wetlands centered around a thousand-year-old reservoir. After a rough drive on terrible roads (albeit much improved since last year), we found the place absolutely teeming with birds! What a treat to watch large flocks of Comb Ducks grazing on the swamps, masses of Lesser Whistling-Ducks, big congregations of Painted and Woolly-necked storks, and a small flock of the rapidly declining *sharpii* race of Sarus Crane flying across the wetlands. This sort of experience in Southeast Asia is sadly now unique to Cambodia. The lovely Pied Harrier was very evident this year.

The highlight of our tour was undoubtedly our journey into the remote parts of northern Cambodia for our two-night stay in the tiny and rustic village of Tmatboey. Our travels on dirt roads into the interior were punctuated with frequent stops for many very exciting birds. But of really special note was a wonderful White-rumped Falcon. Good spot, Nancy! The very attractive Rufous-winged Buzzard is still delightfully common in the dry dipterocarp forests of this area. In fact these are easily the best and most extensive dry dipterocarp forests surviving in Asia; this explains the presence of many of these species that are now otherwise very difficult to find or absent elsewhere in the entire region.

Up and at it early again the next morning, we made our way out to the trapeangs (water holes) of the woodlands north of the village. Walking through these bird-rich forests was a magical experience as

we encountered numerous species that are so rarely seen outside Cambodia these days: more Rufous-winged Buzzards, Lesser Adjutants, Chinese Francolin, Pale-capped Pigeons, Yellow-legged Green-Pigeons, Black-headed Woodpeckers, and numerous Burmese Shrikes. Of course, despite all these most welcome distractions, we mainly had one bird in mind—the amazing Giant Ibis! After much searching, we were all rewarded with thrilling looks at this highly endangered bird. It lived up to its name—huge, with startling pink legs and subtle grayish wing coverts.

Some late afternoon birding, and, much to our delight, we were soon marveling at superb scope views of the critically endangered and very handsome White-shouldered Ibis—on the nest, no less! In the evening we returned to our simple but very comfortable lodge to enjoy a most welcome cold beer and a delicious meal prepared by the very helpful local ladies.

Our next destination, Prek Toal on the Tonle Sap Lake, is yet another very special place. This reserve, located on the southern shores of the enormous Tonle Sap, is one of the largest waterbird colonies in Asia. After a long boat ride over the vast lake, we arrived in the core area and transferred to a small boat with electric motor to travel quietly up the small streams to a platform overlooking the breeding colonies. We were treated to great views of Greater Adjutants perched distantly in the inundated forest—now only found in Assam and Cambodia.

Our afternoon on the grasslands of Steung, north of Kompong Thom, was fun and rewarding, although only one person was lucky enough to spot an elusive Bengal Florican in the long grass. Compensation came in the form of six Black-necked Storks and the enchanting Red Avadavat. A visit to Krahm, south of Kompong Thom, and a nearby reservoir produced some more fine sightings including Spot-billed Ducks and Garganey, a number of Pintail Snipe, and a swag of waders. From there we journeyed further east to Kratie on the banks of the mighty Mekong River. Taking a boat out onto the river we soon found the delightful Mekong Wagtail, the river's only known endemic bird. A pod of friendly Irrawaddy dolphins quietly cavorted around us as we made our way back to the shore—a very suitable end to our birding in this wonderful country.

Acknowledgments: Special thanks to you all for your great company and companionship on this tough but thoroughly enjoyable tour. Great New Year's party! Of course, the enjoyment of our tour was greatly enhanced by the presence of our friend Thearith. His cheerfulness, charm, and professionalism are very much appreciated. Thanks also to Laurant for his excellent organization. Our excellent drivers again proved to be indispensable. As always Mr. Tee at Khok Kam was very helpful—he's doing a great job for visitors and for conservation at this important site.

*Susan Myers & Dion Hobcroft*

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# Diary

**30 December    ANGKOR**

Today was spent exploring **Angkor**, visiting Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom and Ta Prohm. Birding around Angkor Wat was excellent with lots of activity. Close examination of many of the temple friezes is interesting as there are depictions of Javan Rhinoceros, Asian Elephant and many birds, some of which are unidentifiable, but I could see Sarus Crane, adjutants, ibis and a few others.

**1 January        ANG TRAPEANG THMOR**

Visited **Ang Tropeang Thmor** reserve today - an extensive reservoir surrounded by woodland. The reserve is only 80 km northwest of Siem Reap - about a 3 hour drive on poor roads. Found Sarus Cranes flying across outlying grasslands and over the reservoir. This is the rare, eastern *sharpii* race of Sarus Crane, and this reserve hosts a large non-breeding flock during the dry season.

**2 January        TMATBOEY**

Left early this morning visiting **Koh Ker** en route, a temple, dating from 1100AD, north of Siem Reap. The whole area around Koh Ker is peppered with the remains of temples. The temple is sensational, the centrepiece a pyramid-like structure rising 40 m out of the forest. The view from the top shows the extent of forest cover here is still impressive. We continued on and turned off down a sandy track for another hour. The surprisingly large village of 800+ inhabitants has no electricity or amenities but our host's house is comfortable and clean with a luxurious new bathroom!

**3 January        TMATBOEY**

Next morning our local guides who know the forest intimately led of us out into the forest. We drove the first couple of kilometres in order to get into the best forest at daybreak. The forest here is a revelation - birds everywhere! At the height of the dry season, today was overcast and relatively cool, much to our relief. We walked through open dry dipterocarp forest and bamboo-lined creekbeds from *trapeang* to *trapeang* (small permanent waterholes). Eventually we spotted Giant Ibis in flight and perched allowing photo opportunities for some. In the afternoon we walked from the other end of the village through fallow rice padi and forest. We found White-shouldered Ibis on the nest.

**4 January        TMATBOEY - SIEM REAP**

We left the village early again today in search of more Giant Ibis and others. After some more very pleasant and very successful birding including more Giant Ibis, we packed up and headed on down the road back to Siem Reap for some well-earned rest and recreation!

**5 January      PREK TOAL**

Left for **Prek Toal** on Tonle Sap early this morning. The trip across the lake to the floating village of Prek Toal takes about an hour and then a further hour or so to go into the reserve. We had some good views of a pair of distant Greater Adjutants along with lots of Lessers, and multitudes of Painted Storks and big congregations of three species of cormorant, Spot-billed Pelicans, and so on. The whole area is amazing with a huge number of birds.

**6 January      KOMPONG THOM**

This morning we drove out to the town of **Kompong Thom** before visiting the grasslands north of the town at a village called Steung in the afternoon to look for Bengal Florican. We turned off the main road and travelled a few kilometres along a dirt road to an extensive area of semi-cultivation and grassland.

**7 January**      After an early breakfast we drove to Krahm, another area of grasslands and reservoirs for some fascinating birding in a highly endangered habitat.

From Kompong Thom we made the long drive to **Kratie** on the banks of the Mekong from where we looked out onto the river to see the extremely rare Irrawady Dolphin.

**8 January      KRATIE – PHNOM PENH**

We completed our birding in Cambodia with the wonderful and enigmatic Mekong Wagtail. A long drive back to the very attractive city of Phnom Penh where we had a quick spin around before relaxing at our pleasant hotel.

**9 January      Depart Phnom Penh.**

## BIRDS

(some of the star birds in **bold** - completely subjective, of course!)

## NON-PASSERINES

1. **Spot-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*  
Large congregations of feeding and breeding birds on Tonle Sap and at Prek Toal.
2. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*  
Khok Kam; very common on Tonle Sap.
3. Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*  
A few seen at Khok Kam; possibly the most common of the cormorants on Tonle Sap.
4. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Very common on Tonle Sap.
5. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*  
Very common on Tonle Sap.
6. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Very common and seen almost daily.
7. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Khok Kam; Ang Trapeang Thmor, Tonle Sap, Mekong River.
8. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; Prek Toal; Steung & Krahm.
9. Great Egret *Ardea alba*  
Very common and seen daily.
10. Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Tonle Sap; Steung & Krahm.
11. Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*  
Very common and seen daily.
12. Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*  
Seen daily in good numbers throughout.
13. Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola speciosa*  
Khok Kam.
14. Little Heron *Butorides striata*  
Three at Khok Kam; six at Prek Toal.
15. Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Khok Kam; ten at Prek Toal.
16. Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*  
Two seen well at Ang Trapeang Thmor; one at Prek Toal, Steung and Krahm respectively.
17. Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*  
common at Ang Trapeang Thmor, Tonle Sap, Steung and Krahm.
18. Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*  
one seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; thousands at Prek Toal; also seen in good numbers at Steung and Krahm.
19. **Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus*  
Six birds seen grassland at Kompong Thom. This Near-threatened species is now almost extinct throughout South East Asia except in Cambodia where small numbers continue to breed. It is threatened

by drainage of wetlands, felling of nest trees, development, encroachment of agriculture or aquaculture, overfishing, overgrazing, and hunting.

20. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*  
A pair were seen near Tmatboey in Preah Vihear Province; two soaring over the grasslands of Steung and Krahm.
21. Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*  
Up to twelve were seen at trapeangs in the woodlands of Tmatboey and a few at Prek Toal and Steung.
22. **Greater Adjutant** *Leptoptilos dubius*  
Good albeit distant views of a pair at Prek Toal. The dramatic decline of this spectacularly ugly species now sees it confined to Assam and Cambodia; it was previously widespread and common across much of South and continental South-East Asia but declined dramatically during the first half of the 20th century. It is now known to breed only in Assam, India (at least 650-800 birds), and at Tonle Sap lake, Cambodia (150-200 birds).
23. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
good looks at eight birds in flight on the far shore of Tonle Sap.
24. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; Tonle Sap; Steung.
25. **White-shouldered Ibis** *Pseudibis davisoni*  
A total of ten were seen at Tmatboey including one great bird on the nest. This very exciting species is listed as Critically Endangered by BirdLife International. It occurs at a few sites in northern Cambodia, southern Vietnam (although I believe it is gone from Cat Tien NP), extreme southern Laos and East Kalimantan, Indonesia. The isolated population in Kalimantan may be a different species. The world population may be as few as 250 so the recent observation of 108 birds in the central north of Cambodia is very good news indeed.
26. **Giant Ibis** *Pseudibis gigantea*  
A total of 11 birds were seen over two days at Tmatboey. Another critically endangered species, this highly enigmatic bird is now confined to northern Cambodia, where it is probably still fairly widespread but extremely rare, with a few birds surviving in extreme southern Laos. Its historical range spanned southern Vietnam and south-east and peninsular Thailand, where it is now extinct. Its population is estimated at 50-249 birds. Its extremely small, declining population is seriously threatened by hunting, disturbance and lowland deforestation.
27. Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*  
Swirling masses of this wildfowl were seen flying over the wetlands of Ang Trapeang Thmor; also observed at Steung and Krahm.
28. **Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
Large congregations of this bird were seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor – now a very rare sight indeed in Asia.
29. Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*  
In large numbers at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Kompong Thom.
30. Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*  
a few seen at Tonle Sap, Steung, Krahm and Kratie.
31. Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*  
six seen in flight over Khok Kam.
32. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
One seen in flight on Tonle Sap; one at Steung.
33. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*  
two superb birds perched in woodland at Angkor Wat.
34. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*  
one bird in flight en route to Tmatboey; one near Kratie.

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35. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
one at Ang Trapeang Thmor; two at Steung; two at Krahm.
36. Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
two at Tonle Sap.
37. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus*  
Khok Kam; Ang Trapeang Thmor, Tmatboey; Tonle Sap, Mekong River.
38. Grey-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*  
just one at Tmatboey.
39. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*  
quite common around Tmatboey; also seen at Steung, Krahm and near Kratie.
40. Eastern Marsh-Harrier *Circus spilonotus*  
a few around Ang Trapeang Thmor and Steung.
41. **Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*  
up to 15 en route to and at Ang trapeang Thmor including a number of superb male birds; many also at Steung and Krahm.
42. Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
between two and six birds were seen almost daily.
43. **Rufous-winged Buzzard** *Butastur liventer*  
in the province of Preah Vihear we saw this scarce bird daily with a high count of 15 on one day; one seen near Kratie.
44. Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*  
two birds were seen at Ang trapeang Thmor.
45. Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*  
one observed perched in woodland at Tmatboey.
46. **White-rumped Falcon** *Polihierax insignis*  
undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip was this superb bird – thanks to Nancy and an uncooperative Eurasian Jay! It is listed at Near Threatened by BirdLife International. Populations in Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia are potentially large, but few data are available due to a lack of fieldwork in suitable habitat. Although dry dipterocarp forest has generally suffered less degradation than evergreen forest in many areas, it is increasingly cleared and disturbed, through wood collection and burning. Given the high levels of hunting in much of its range, and the ease with which this species is shot, persecution presumably poses an additional threat. In Thailand this species was once widespread and fairly common but is now scarce throughout after an apparent decline due to clearance of open deciduous forest habitat.
47. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*  
one at Steung.
48. **Chinese Francolin** *Francolinus pintadeanus*  
three seen well briefly in grassland at Tmatboey as well as brief views of a further two.
49. Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis*  
two seen in rice stubble at Tmatboey.
50. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*  
up to six were seen in bamboolined dry creeks at Tmatboey.
51. Barred Button-quail *Turnix suscitator*  
up to eight flushed from rice stubble at Tmatboey.
52. **Sarus Crane** *Grus antigone sharpii*  
a distant flock of six seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; brilliant looks at a total of ten birds at Steung and Krahm. Another threatened species classified as Vulnerable due to the dramatic decline of the South Eastern Asian *sharpii* race which is now confined to Cambodia, extreme southern Laos, south Vietnam and eastern Myanmar. It is extinct in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and probably China.
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53. Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus*  
one seen very well on a mud stream bank at Khok Kam.
54. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*  
two seen at Khok Kam.
55. Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*  
one seen at Khok Kam; also seen at Steung and Krahm.
56. White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*  
one birds seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
57. Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio indicus*  
at least 100 at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a couple at Kompong Thom; many at Krahm. This is one of the species formed from the six-way split of Purple Swamphen *P. porphyrio*.
58. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
five at Ang Trapeang Thmor; four at Tonle Sap.
59. **Bengal Florican** *Houbaropsis bengalensis blandini*  
despite much effort, the long grass almost defeated us but at least Chris was looking in the right place at the right time and got a good look at one male bird. The Endangered species has two disjunct populations, one in the Indian subcontinent, and another in South-East Asia in Cambodia and adjacent southern Vietnam.
60. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*  
just two at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a few more at Kompong Thom and Krahm.
61. Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*  
up to 20 at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a couple at Kompong Thom.
62. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
Very common at Khok Kam.
63. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*  
very common at Khok Kam; ten in flight at Krahm.
64. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*  
one at Khok Kam.
65. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
four recorded on sandbars on the Mekong at Kratie.
66. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
many seen at Khok Kam.
67. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*  
many at Khok Kam.
68. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*  
ten at Ang Trapeang Thmor; up to 12 in anthropogenic grassland near Tmatboey.
69. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*  
ten at Khok Kam.
70. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
heard at Khok Kam.
71. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*  
one at Khok Kam.
72. Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*  
Khok Kam; Krahm.
73. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*  
Khok Kam.

74. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
Khok Kam; Krahm.
75. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*  
One at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
76. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
two at Khok Kam; up to 20 in rice padi at Krahm.
77. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
two at Khok Kam; two on the Mekong River at Kratie.
78. Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  
two were seen on mudflats at Khok Kam.
79. Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*  
one at Khok Kam.
80. Sanderling *Calidris alba*  
one at Khok Kam.
81. Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*  
Khok Kam.
82. Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*  
super views of this very nice wader at Khok Kam where it was not uncommon.
83. Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*  
up to 10 at Khok Kam.
84. Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*  
as many as 30 at Khok Kam.
85. Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*  
Khok Kam and Tonle Sap.
86. Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*  
one at Khok Kam.
87. Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*  
Khok Kam.
88. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*  
very common at Khok Kam and abundant at Prek Toal/Tonle Sap. An astounding sight of thousands of birds perched on floating weeds on the edges of the lake.
89. Rock Dove *Columba livia*  
Ubiquitous.
90. Pale-capped Pigeon *Columba punicea*  
one seen by Bernie perched at Tmatboey.
91. Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*  
two at Tmatboey.
92. Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
seen daily throughout.
93. Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*  
Khok Kam; seen on most days in the dry woodlands of Preah Vihear Province.
94. Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*  
Khok Kam; two recorded at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a few at Tmatboey.
95. Orange-breasted Pigeon *Treron bicincta*  
one or two were seen near the village at Tmatboey.

96. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus*  
ten at Tmatboey.
97. Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*  
two were seen en route to Kratie.
98. Vernal Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*  
many heard around Tmatboey and two seen around Koh Ker temple.
99. Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*  
we saw at least 20 birds in the forests around Angkor then heard many in the dry forests of Tmatboey.
100. Grey-headed Parakeet *Psittacula finschii*  
just one seen in a huge flock at Tmatboey.
101. Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseate*  
many were seen around Tmatboey.
102. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*  
very common around Angkor and literally thousands seen around Tmatboey.
103. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparverioides*  
we saw one at Angkor and another in flight at Prek Toal.
104. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*  
Heard at Tmatboey.
105. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*  
one seen at Tmatboey.
106. Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*  
Khok Kam, at least six were seen very well at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Steung; one at Kompong Thom .
107. Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*  
heard more often than seen, we saw one at Khok Kam.
108. Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*  
one at Khok Kam; one at Ang Trapeang Thmor; one in wetland forests of Prek Toal.
109. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*  
heard frequently, we had good views of birds at Tmatboey and Prek Toal.
110. Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*  
seen at Khok Kam, Ang Trapeang Thmor and Steung.
111. Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*  
heard at Tmatboey.
112. Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica*  
heard at Tmatboey.
113. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
heard frequently and two seen at Tmatboey.
114. Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*  
heard at Tmatboey.
115. Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*  
heard at Tmatboey.
116. Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*  
heard at Tmatboey.
117. Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani*  
recorded at a number of sites. The taxonomy of many swiftlets is incredibly complex and open to debate!  
In Handbook of the Birds of the World *germani* is subsumed in Edible-nest Swiftlet *A. fuciphaga*. (note: the  
inclusion of Indochinese Swiftlet on our Cambodia list is in error).

118. Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*  
recorded almost throughout the rural landscape where they nest in the sugar palms that are so commonly grown.
119. House Swift *Apus nipalensis*  
Khok Kam and Bangkok; Siem Reap; Kompong Thom.
120. Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*  
we saw these fabulous birds frequently in the dry forests of the north and around Kratie.
121. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
Khok Kam, two at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a few at Prek Toal, Kompong Thom, Steung, Krahm.
122. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*  
heard at Khok Kam.
123. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*  
Khok Kam; Tmatboey.
124. Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*  
up to 12 at Khok Kam; one at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
125. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*  
eight at Khok Kam; heard at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
126. Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*  
this delightful bird was common around Tmatboey.
127. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*  
Khok Kam; common east of Siem Reap.
128. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaultia*  
great looks at four perched birds on the banks of the Mekong at Kratie.
129. Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*  
very common almost throughout.
130. Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*  
A fabulous bird was scoped as it perched in a very large tree at Tmatboey, a total of four were recorded.
131. Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*  
a total of eight of this super bird were seen around Tmatboey.
132. Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineate*  
up to 20 were seen daily around Angkor and Tmatboey. The call of this bird is certainly one of the most evocative of the Cambodian birds!
133. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*  
Angkor; Tmatboey.
134. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*  
a total of eight were seen in the dry dipterocarp forests of Tmatboey.
135. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei*  
we saw two lovely birds at Ang Trapeang Thmor and one in woodlands at Tmatboey.
136. Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*  
one at Tmatboey.
137. Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*  
super looks at a total of four birds at Tmatboey.
138. White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*  
one was seen very briefly in woodlands near Tmatboey; heard around Tmatboey.
139. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*  
one was seen at Tmatboey.

140. **Black-headed Woodpecker** *Picus erythropygius*  
a number of this sensational bird were seen at Tmatboey. No scarce over much of its range, there is no doubt that the woodlands of Cambodia are the best place in the world to see this glamorous bird.
141. Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*  
quite common at Tmatboey.
142. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*  
up to six seen in the woodlands of Tmatboey.
143. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*  
heard at Tmatboey. A remarkable total of ten species of woodpecker were recorded around Tmatboey – a testament to the high quality of the habitat here.

## PASSERINES

144. **Indochinese Bushlark** *Mirafra marionae*  
up to six were seen at Tmatboey. One of the species resulting from the four way split of Rufous-winged Bushlark.
145. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*  
a few in the Kompong Thom area.
146. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
seen daily.
147. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*  
common at Khok Kam.
148. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*  
one at Khok Kam; quite common around Tmatboey and Kompong Thom.
149. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*  
four at Khok Kam; two at Ang Trapeang Thmor; many at Krahm. Most appeared to belong to the *macronyx* race.
150. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
one seen near Tmatboey.
151. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
two were observed in the grounds of Angkor Wat. Of the *leucopsis* race.
152. **Mekong Wagtail** *Motacilla samveasnae*  
sensational close views of this fascinating Mekong endemic as we approached numerous small sand islets and patches of vegetation in the river by boat.
153. Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*  
very common at Ang Trapeang Thmor, around Tmatboey and Kompong Thom.
154. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*  
recorded at Angkor, Tmatboey, Kratie.
155. Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*  
a few in the grasslands at Krahm.
156. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*  
seen in the tall woodlands around Angkor, Ang Trapeang Thmor and Koh Ker. Groups of juvenile and immature birds were especially conspicuous around Angkor.
157. Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*  
up to 11 seen in the woodlands around Tmatboey.

158. Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei*  
a number of sightings of this excellent bird were made around Tmatboey.
159. Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina polioptera*  
up to 12 birds were seen daily at Tmatboey and Koh Ker.
160. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos*  
one seen at Angkor Wat.
161. Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*  
one bird at Tmatboey.
162. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*  
very common to abundant in the forests around Angkor and Tmatboey.
163. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*  
this very attractive bird was seen in good numbers a few times at Tmatboey.
164. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*  
a total of 12 seen at Tmatboey.
165. Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*  
one of the most common of the passerines in the forests of Tmatboey.
166. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*  
just two at Koh Ker.
167. Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*  
common around Tmatboey.
168. Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*  
two only at Koh Ker.
169. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*  
a few at Ang Trapeang Thmor, Koh Ker and Kratie.
170. Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*  
many were seen around Khok Kam, Angkor and Ang Trapeang Thmor.
171. Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*  
four were seen at Koh Ker.
172. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*  
common around Tmatboey.
173. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*  
super views of a couple of birds of the *philippensis* race on the walls of Angkor Wat, Koh Ker, Kompong Thom.
174. Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*  
a total of four birds in non-breeding plumage were seen at a small marsh at Steung and in grasslands at Krahm.
175. Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*  
seen and heard at a number of sites.
176. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura*  
Common in open areas.
177. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*  
similarly common in open areas.
178. Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*  
up to three in grasslands at Steung and Krahm.
179. Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*  
one seen at Steung.

180. **Manchurian Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus tangorum*  
we saw one at Khok Kam and another at Steung.
181. Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*  
one was seen at Steung.
182. Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens*  
two were seen in scrubby vegetation at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
183. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*  
common throughout.
184. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*  
many heard at Prek Toal.
185. Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
Khok Kam; Steung and Krahm.
186. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
Angkor; six seen at Tmatboey.
187. Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*  
one at Tmatboey.
188. Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*  
four were seen at Angkor Wat.
189. Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*  
many birds seen in grasslands at Steung; one at Krahm.
190. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*  
Khok Kam; Ang Trapeang Thmor; Tmatboey; very common in the grasslands of Kompong Thom and Steung.
191. Bright-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*  
a few at Tmatboey; very common in the grasslands of Kompong Thom and Steung.
192. **Brown Prinia** *Prinia polychroa*  
a total of seven birds were recorded in the grassy understorey of the woodlands around Tmatboey.
193. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*  
a couple at Tmatboey.
194. Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*  
a total of four at Tmatboey.
195. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*  
heard at Perk Toal.
196. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*  
Most common at Tmatboey where we saw them in quite high numbers.
197. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*  
good looks at a few birds especially one at Kratie.
198. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*  
up to 10 were seen around Angkor; up to four daily at Tmatboey.
199. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*  
two seen on separate days at Tmatboey.
200. Hainan Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*  
one spotted by Bernie at Angkor Wat was seen well by some.
201. Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae indochina*  
super looks at a pair responding to playback in riparian vegetation at Tmatboey; heard daily at Tmatboey.

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202. White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*  
two or three seen at Tmatboey.
203. Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*  
a few sightings at Khok Kam and Ang Trapeang Thmor.
204. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*  
seen and heard at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Tmatboey.
205. Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*  
heard in woodland en route to Tmatboey.
206. Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*  
heard frequently along the creeklines at Tmatboey, one was seen quite well in thick bamboo.
207. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*  
heard at Tmatboey.
208. Great Tit *Parus major*  
one was seen in the tree over our lunch spot at Koh Ker, en route to Tmatboey.
209. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*  
up to eight were recorded at Tmatboey.
210. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*  
this year we recorded a total of 10 birds in mixed flocks at Tmatboey.
211. Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor and Tmatboey.
212. Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*  
a few sightings at Angkor, Ang Trapeang Thmor, Koh Ker and Kompong Thom.
213. Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiatica*  
quite common in the dry woodlands.
214. Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*  
just one at Koh Ker.
215. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*  
Angkor; Ang Trapeang Thmor; Tmatboey.
216. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*  
Khok Kam; very common in the agricultural areas of the northern plains.
217. **Burmese Shrike** *Lanius colluriooides*  
super looks at this very smart and localized species at Tmatboey where we had a high count of 20 birds on a couple of days.
218. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*  
recorded daily.
219. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*  
common, particularly around Tmatboey.
220. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*  
just two were seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a few seen en route to Tmatboey.
221. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*  
we recorded this species at Angkor and Tmatboey.
222. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*  
one seen in woodland en route to Tmatboey.
223. **Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*  
this very striking bird was seen a number of times at Koh Ker and around Tmatboey. Although quite wary, we had great views of a number of birds.

224. Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*  
one at Khok Kam; two or three near Koh Ker and Tmatboey.
225. Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*  
two at Khok Kam.
226. Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*  
Khok Kam; Tmatboey; Kompong Thom grasslands.
227. White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis*  
four seen with Vinous-breasted Starlings at Ang Trapeang Thmor; two more seen briefly at Krahm.
228. Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabaricus*  
recorded daily at Tmatboey with a maximum count of ten on one day.
229. Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*  
we found this species to be common at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Tmatboey.
230. Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*  
four seen at Khok Kam.
231. Vinous-breasted Starling *Acridotheres burmannicus*  
up to ten seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; quite common around Tmatboey.
232. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
very common everywhere except in Tmatboey.
233. Great Myna *Acridotheres grandis*  
recorded daily except at Tmatboey. The taxonomy is complicated! Previously this taxon was subsumed under *A. javanicus*. It is now split into *grandis* and *javanicus* but although the former is generally known as Great Myna while the latter is referred to as White-vented Myna, *grandis* is still often referred to as White-vented while *javanicus* is sometimes called Javan Myna. Not surprisingly this often leads to confusion! The former is found from Myanmar to south China and Vietnam, and the latter is found from Singapore to Bali. The populations are allopatric.
234. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*  
heard in the tall forests around Angkor.
235. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
seen at Kompong Thom.
236. Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus*  
this smart sparrow was seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor and also in good numbers at Tmatboey.
237. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
seen near all human habitation.
238. Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*  
in good numbers at Ang Trapeang Thmor; all in non-breeding plumage.
239. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*  
nice views of up to ten of this very pretty bird in the grasslands of Steung.
240. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*  
a few around Tmatboey.
241. Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*  
recorded at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Tmatboey.
242. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*  
more than 100 in the grasslands at Steung. Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International, this species winters in Cambodia and neighbouring countries. Recently severe declines have been noted in some breeding areas (e.g. Hokkaido) and concerns have been expressed over the levels of trapping at migration and wintering sites. Numbers at wintering sites appear to be declining across its range. (I have a very interesting article from a Japanese newspaper on this subject – if you're interested just drop me a line).

## MAMMALS

Northern Treeshrew *Tupaia belangeri*

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*

Finlayson's (Variable) Squirrel *Callosciurus finlaysonii sinistralis*

this race of Variable Squirrel is found in Cambodia and is characterised by a white ring at the base of the tail on a red pelage.

Cambodian Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rodolpheii*

Paddyfield Rat *Rattus argiventer*

Irrawady Dolphin *Orcaella brevirostris*

## Birds recorded at Bokor

For your interest, here is a list of the birds seen on my scouting trip to Kep on the coast and Bokor National Park in Cambodia's east near the Vietnam border. The tall forest on the slopes of the mountain makes way to stunted woodlands and meadows at higher altitudes with a very different avifauna to that of the plains and woodlands elsewhere in Cambodia.

1. Great Egret *Ardea alba*
2. Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*
3. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
4. Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*
5. Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*
6. Shikra *Accipiter badius*
7. Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis*
8. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*
9. Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
10. **Chestnut-headed Partridge** *Arborophila cambodiana*
11. Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera*
12. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
13. Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
14. Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
15. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
16. Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*
17. Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
18. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
19. Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*
20. Vernal Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*
21. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*
22. Great Eared-Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*

23. Indochinese Swiftlet *Aerodramus rogersi*
24. Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
25. Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*
26. Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
27. Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*
28. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
29. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*
30. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
31. Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*
32. Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*
33. Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta*
34. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*
35. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
36. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
37. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
38. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
39. Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
40. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
41. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
42. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*
43. Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
44. Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*
45. Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*
46. Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
47. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
48. Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
49. Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*
50. Dark-sided Thrush *Zoothera marginata*
51. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
52. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*
53. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
54. Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*
55. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
56. Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*
57. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*
58. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
59. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
60. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

61. Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*
62. Large Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*
63. White-browed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
64. Streaked Wren-Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata*
65. Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*
66. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
67. White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*
68. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*
69. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*
70. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*
71. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*
72. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*
73. Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*
74. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
75. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
76. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
77. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*
78. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
79. Yellow-breasted Magpie *Cissa hypoleuca*
80. Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus*
81. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

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