

**The Birds and Mammals recorded on
the VENT Best of Vietnam Tour
December 28, 2007- January 18, 2008**



Banded Kingfisher © Lisa Thurston

Compiled by
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Leader: Susan Myers

Best of Vietnam

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

We started off at Cat Tien National Park, a few hours drive from Saigon. This large area (80,000 ha) of southern lowland rainforest provided much fascinating birding during our stay. The long jeep drive to Dac Lua gave us many birding opportunities, including brilliant views of a male Germain's Peacock-Pheasant as he called loudly from a small mound not 10 meters from us! On our walk along the Crocodile Lake trail we saw some more great birds such as a beautiful male Banded Kingfisher and a very entertaining pair of Blue-bearded Bee-eaters; the near-endemic Gray-faced Tit-Babbler was quite common, but not easy to see; and, to finish off, we had an incredible look at a pair of stunning Bar-bellied Pittas. Exploration of other areas of the park allowed us to enjoy views of the endangered Green Peafowl, Siamese Fireback, and Red Junglefowl. For the first time we recorded six Phasianids in one day!

En route to Da Lat we birded at the excellent Di Linh Pass with superb results: Long-tailed Broadbill, many Maroon Orioles, and the very difficult Orange-breasted and White-cheeked laughingthrushes, as well as exceptional looks at the cute and highly sought after Black-crowned Parrotbill. Our next destination was the delightful highland town of Da Lat where we enjoyed sumptuous accommodation and great birding. We experienced a number of memorable moments here. A walk up Mount Lang Bian was off to a good start with a pair of Vietnamese Greenfinches encountered along the path, followed later by super views of a number of other Da Lat Plateau specialties. Multiple visits to the delightful Ta Nung Valley never failed to turn up something new, but best of all were the endemic Red-vented Barbet, the high-quality Gray-crowned Crocias, and the delightful mixed flocks. We had a good afternoon at Ho Tuyen Lam, catching up with Chestnut-vented Nuthatch and Slender-billed Oriole.

From Da Lat we drove to the seaside town of Nha Trang and then on to Da Nang and Hue in Central Vietnam, enjoying some birds and plenty of history and culture along the way. From Hue we headed up to Ha Noi and then drove to Cuc Phuong, Vietnam's oldest national park. Located in the Red River Delta, the park protects a 22,200 ha area of limestone peaks and evergreen tropical rainforest. Our explorations of the park included a walk through a semi-cleared valley, a longer walk to the 1,000 Year Old Tree (*Terminalia myriocarpa*) through many limestone crags, and exploration of the numerous trails around the headquarters. Simply birding along the park road proved to be most rewarding, however. We racked up a good number of excellent sightings. Of special note were superb and prolonged views of Pied Falconet, scope views of Asian Barred Owlet, Green-eared Barbet, Blue-rumped Pitta, some lovely Silver-breasted Broadbills, good views of White-winged Magpie and Black-breasted Thrush, Limestone Wren-Babblers, the rather odd-looking Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Crimson Sunbirds in the headquarters' gardens, a couple of rather recalcitrant Large Scimitar-Babblers, Sultan Tits, and some super-sneaky White-tailed Flycatchers.

From Cuc Phuong we struck north for our next destination, Tam Dao. This former French hill station lies north of the capital at an altitude of 930 meters. By this time the weather to our north from China had caught up with us, and we shivered through the very chilly conditions, but still managed some good birding with nice looks at a few goodies such as Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Chestnut Bulbuls, and Fork-tailed Sunbirds amongst others.

As mentioned above, apart from the terrific birding, I think it is safe to say that other highlights of our trip included the wonderful and varied scenery, the never-ending enterprise that we observed as we sped around the countryside, the sheer variety and deliciousness of Vietnamese food, and, above all, the Vietnamese themselves,

Vietnam Tour 2007

who are endlessly accommodating and friendly, and made our visit such a pleasure. Thank you all for your delightful company. I hope to see you again soon!

Susan Myers



Diary

Daily Itinerary

- 30 December Drive from Saigon to Cat Tien National Park. In the afternoon we walked the Lagerstoemia Trail, near the park headquarters, returning along the unmade road.
- 31 December Cat Tien National Park (South Annam) – morning at Da Lua some 20km drive north of the park headquarters; afternoon at the C5 ponds a 10km drive south of the park headquarters.
- 1 January Morning on the Crocodile Lake trail, afternoon on the HQ trails in Cat Tien National Park.
- 2 January Birding along the Heaven's Rapids road. Departed for the Di Linh Pass in the late morning.
- 3 January A very early start to get to the Di Linh Pass – a great birding site en route to Da Lat (South Annam). In the afternoon we made the first of a couple of visits to the Ta Nung Valley near the city of Da Lat.
- 4 January A full day on Mount Lang Bian.
- 5 January Another morning at the wonderful Ta Nung Valley.
- 6 January After a good morning at Mount Lang Bian we visited Ho Tuyen Lam in the afternoon.
- 7 January Set out on the long but enthralling drive to Nha Trang on the coast, passing through the very interesting Can Ranh salt pans.
- 8 January After a well-deserved sleep in at our hotel, we drove over the Hai Van Pass to the ancient city of Hue.
- 9 January In Hue (Central Annam) we visited Tu Duc's and Ming Manh's tombs, where the birding was very entertaining, and the evocatively named Forbidden Purple City. In the afternoon we flew to Ha Noi in north Vietnam.
- 10 January Drive to Ba Vi National Park. Overnight in Ha Noi.
- 11 January Drive to Cuc Phuong National Park. Birding around Bong and along the road.
- 12 January Another morning around Bong.
- 13 January A full day birding around Bong and Van Long Reserve in the afternoon.

Vietnam Tour 2007

- 14 January Birding in Cuc Phuong National Park.
- 15 January After a morning birding near the headquarters at Cuc Phuong National Park, we drove back to Ha Noi where we had lunch before our drive to Tam Dao (East Tonkin).
- 16 January Birded the Water Tank road and the very steep Transmitter Tower walk.
- 17 January More birding in bad weather at Tam Dao before returning to Ha Noi.
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BIRDS

NON-PASSERINES

1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
seen Ho Tuyen Lam (Da Lat).
2. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
common throughout.
3. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Da Lat, and Van Long.
4. Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*
a number of records throughout.
5. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*
just a few seen mainly in the north.
6. Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*
common and widespread.
7. Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*
very common and seen almost daily throughout.
8. Striated Heron *Butorides striata*
one en route to Nha Trang.
9. Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*
four seen at Van Long.
10. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
a very exciting bird seen well in Cat Tien National Park.
11. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
quite a few seen at Van Long Reserve.
12. Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*
just one at van Long Reserve.
13. Garganey *Anas querquedula*
up to 100 at Van Long Reserve.
14. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
seen regularly at Cat Tien National Park; three at Ho Tuyen Lam, Da Lat; one at Van Long.
15. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*
one interesting sighting in Cuc Phuong National Park.
16. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*
great looks at a number of this very striking raptor in Cat Tien National Park. There can't be many more attractive birds of prey!
17. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*
one seen at Cat Tien National Park, one at Minh Mang's tomb near Hue.
18. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
a couple of sightings as we travelled.
19. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
seen a few times exceptionally well in Cuc Phuong National Park.
20. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
one at Minh Mang's tomb, Hue; one in Cuc Phuong National Park.

21. Shikra *Accipiter badius*
one was seen in Cat Tien National Park; two in Cuc Phuong National Park.
22. Besra *Accipiter virgatus*
we saw one bird hunting below the canopy in Cuc Phuong National Park.
23. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*
superb looks at a perched bird en route to Nha Trang; also one seen very distantly in Cuc Phuong National Park.
24. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
excellent flight views of two low-flying birds in Cuc Phuong National Park.
25. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
an amazing experience as two birds harried a flock of Great Egrets right over our heads at Van Long Reserve; they came very close to actually catching a couple of egrets!
26. Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*
good looks at a bird in flight en route to Nha Trang.
27. Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucus*
this diminutive beauty was eventually seen very well in the Cuc Phuong National Park. This bird is the largest of the *Microhierax* falconets and has a fairly restricted distribution across the far north-east of India to far south China and north Vietnam. Deservedly a trip favourite!
28. Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
one at Ba Vi National Park; two at Van Long Reserve.
29. Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus*
although rather elusive, some had quite good looks at this cryptic species after a bird flushed from the roadside into a nearby field in Cat Tien National Park.
30. Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis*
heard a number of times in the Da Lat area.
31. Scaly-breasted Partridge *Arborophila chloropus*
at Cat Tien National Park frequently heard.
32. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*
a number of good sightings of males and females along the Dac Lua road, Cat Tien National Park.
33. Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi*
a gorgeous male and female seen well along the Da Lua road at Cat Tien National Park.
34. **Germain's Peacock-Pheasant** *Polyplectron germaini*
amazing close and prolonged looks at one male bird on the Dac Lua road at Cat Tien National Park. This species is endemic to southern Indochina, where it is known only from south Annam and Cochinchina, Vietnam, and southern and eastern Mondulkiri province and Ratanakiri province in Cambodia. It is regarded as Near Threatened by BirdLife International with threats including forest loss and fragmentation resulting from commercial logging and resettlement programmes (although, in recent times habitat loss has slowed in Indochina) and hunting with guns and snares, even within protected areas.
35. Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*
we found one male adult birds in grasslands around the C5 ponds at Cat Tien National Park but unfortunately the light was rather poor. This very exciting species has a small, rapidly declining and severely fragmented population, primarily owing to high hunting levels, although more locally it has suffered a reduction in the extent and quality of its habitat. Rapid decline and further fragmentation are projected to continue. Although the population was historically contiguous, there are now three disjunct populations in Java, central Indochina and in Burma, north-west Thailand and far south China. There is believed to be 5,000 to 10,000 birds in severely fragmented and scattered populations across its range.
36. Barred Button-quail *Turnix suscitator*
a pair were expertly spotted by Lisa on the C5 ponds road at Cat Tien National Park and we were able to watch them for quite some time.

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37. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
one seen by Lisa en route to Nha Trang.
 38. Black-backed Swampphen *Porphyrio indicus*
one at Van Long Reserve.
 39. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
more than 20 were recorded at Van Long.
 40. Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
a few at Van Long.
 41. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
a few at Van Long.
 42. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
not uncommon on the Can Ranh salt pans.
 43. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
very common at the Can Ranh salt pans.
 44. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
up to four recorded in Cat Tien National Park.
 45. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
two at Can Ranh salt pans.
 46. Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*
a few at the Can Ranh salt pans.
 47. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
more than 20 at the Can Ranh salt pans.
 48. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Can Ranh salt pans.
 49. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
one at the Can Ranh salt pans.
 50. Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
many at the Can Ranh salt pans.
 51. Rock Dove *Columba livia*
 52. Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
very common in Cat Tien National Park.
 53. Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
very common in Cat Tien National Park; quite common in the Central Annam area.
 54. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
gave typically fast-moving views on one occasion in the north.
 55. Pompadour Green-Pigeon *Treron pompadora*
a total of four seen in Cat Tien National Park.

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

56. Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
a few were seen almost daily in Cat Tien National Park.
57. Pin-tailed Pigeon *Treron apicauda*
heard only in the Ta Nung Valley this year.
58. White-bellied Pigeon *Treron sieboldii*
a brief fly-over view near the entrance at Cuc Phuong National Park.

59. Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
seen daily in Cat Tien National Park.
60. Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*
seen daily in the Da Lat area with a maximum count of ten.
61. Vernal Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*
many typically stratospheric views of the Infernal Hanging-Parrot with a couple of excellent scope sightings as consolation!
62. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
it's wonderful to see this glamorous bird in such profusion in Cat Tien National Park.
63. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparverioides*
one seen and scoped on Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.
64. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
fabulous scope views of a responsive bird in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat; heard daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
65. Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
excellent looks at one rather shy bird in Cat Tien National Park.
66. Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
up to two were seen in Cat Tien National Park and one in Cuc Phuong National Park.
67. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
two were recorded on different days in Cat Tien National Park.
68. Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*
two in grasslands near C5 ponds at Cat Tien National Park and one in Cuc Phuong National Park.
69. Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica*
heard near our accommodation at Cuc Phuong National Park but we were defeated by the dreaded *karaoke*!!
70. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*
another nice spot by Lisa saw us watching this little beauty in the scope at Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat; we also heard it at Cuc Phuong National Park.
71. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*
although heard frequently at many sites, we only saw one in Cat Tien National Park.
72. Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*
super views of one bird perched outside our accommodation at Cat Tien National Park.
73. Great Eared-Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*
this fabulous bird was seen almost daily in Cat Tien National Park, where it is common.
74. Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
up to three were seen in Cat Tien National Park.
75. Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*
a few were seen in the Da Lat area.
76. Indochinese Swiftlet *Aerodramus rogersi*
a few birds were seen in Cat Tien National Park.
77. Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
seen en route to Cat Tien National Park and Nha Trang.
78. House Swift *Apus nipalensis*
seen en route to Cat Tien National Park and Nha Trang.
79. Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
both males and females of this beautiful bird were seen very well in Ba Vi National Park and in Cuc Phuong National Park.

80. Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*
frustratingly only heard in Cat Tien National Park.
81. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
a number of sightings at Cat Tien National Park, Cuc Phuong National Park, Van Long, and in rural areas around Ha Noi.
82. Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella*
excellent scope views of a very cooperative male bird along the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park.
83. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*
one remarkable bird was seen on two days in Cat Tien National Park – it was seen in exactly the same spot and in the same pose on three different occasions!
84. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
seen on a number of occasions.
85. Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*
just one bird seen in roadside ponds on the Dac Lua road in Cat Tien National Park.
86. Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
two seen on in Cat Tien National Park.
87. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*
a total of six seen on three days in Cat Tien National Park, flighty but eventually we all had good looks.
88. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
a number seen en route to Nha Trang
89. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaultia*
this most attractive of the Asian bee-eaters is very common in Cat Tien National Park, with a maximum count of 50 on one day.
90. Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
very common in Cat Tien National Park; a few seen en route to Nha Trang.
91. Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
less common than the previous species but still recorded daily in Cat Tien National Park.
92. Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
recorded daily in Cat Tien National Park.
93. **Red-vented Barbet** *Megalaima lagrandieri*
brilliant looks at one bird in the Ta Nung Valley, nicely spotted by Bob. This species is found only in Vietnam and eastern Laos.
94. Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineate*
heard or seen daily in low numbers in Cat Tien National Park.
95. Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta*
one was seen very well en route to Nha Trang; up to ten seen daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
96. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*
heard on a couple of occasions in the Da Lat area, we had some excellent scope views on Mount Lang Bian and in the Hue area.
97. Black-browed Barbet *Megalaima oorti*
quite a few seen over five days in the Da Lat area where it is quite common.

NOTE: Collar (2006) has proposed that Black-browed Barbet be split into three separate species – Taiwan Barbet *M. nuchalis*, Chinese Barbet *M. faber* and Black-browed Barbet *M. oorti*. The population of *M. oorti* is found in Indochina and Malaysia and Sumatra in two disjunct populations. The form in Indochina belongs to the endemic subspecies *M. o. annamensis* and may also be a candidate for a further split in the future.

98. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*
heard daily in Cat Tien National Park; one seen in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
99. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
heard and seen daily at Cat Tien National Park and the Da Lat area.
100. White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*
one seen in Cat Tien National Park; great views of two in Ba Vi National Park; one in Cuc Phuong National Park.
101. Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
excellent prolonged scope views in Cuc Phuong National Park.
102. White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*
heard at Cat Tien National Park.
103. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*
three at Cuc Phuong National Park.
104. Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*
seen well on two occasions in Cat Tien National Park.
105. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
wonderful sightings of a pair in Cat Tien National Park; one in Cuc Phuong National Park.
106. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
a great year for this more typically uncooperative species, we had a number of outstanding close sightings on the Di Linh Pass and in Cuc Phuong National Park.

PASSERINES

107. Blue-rumped Pitta *Pitta soror*
this is a very difficult bird so we had an outstanding look, given the nature of the species, of one as it came onto the road to feed in the rain, scaring off a Bar-bellied Pitta, at Cuc Phuong National Park.
108. **Bar-bellied Pitta** *Pitta elliotii*
any Asian pitta is surely a cause for celebration and this is without doubt one of the world's most beautiful birds! Amazing views of two birds on the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park and up to five birds on the road in the rain in Cat Tien National Park. Not surprisingly this gem was voted Bird of the Trip!
109. Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus*
a male and female were seen along the jeep trail in Cat Tien National Park, they are usually observed near waterways.
110. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
some great sightings of very responsive birds on the Di Linh Pass – a real cracker!
111. Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus*
this gorgeous bird was seen really well at Ba Vi National Park, with further sightings at Cuc Phuong.
112. Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*
it took a while but eventually we got on to two excellent birds on the trails at Cat Tien National Park.
113. Dusky Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor*
quite common over the limestone karsts of Van Long reserve.
114. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
seen daily throughout.
115. Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
Cat Tien National Park; Da Lat; Cuc Phuong National Park.

116. Asian Martin *Delichon dasypus*
one on Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.
117. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
seen daily in Cuc Phuong National Park and almost daily around Tam Dao.
118. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
seen daily in the Da Lat area with a high count of 20 on one day.
119. Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
one was seen en route to Nha Trang from Da Lat.
120. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
recorded at Da Lat, Hue, Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.
121. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
two or three seen daily in Cat Tien National Park.
122. Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris*
one bird seen and scoped at Ho Tuyen Lam, Da Lat. The narrower bill and black band across the nape could be seen well.
123. Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
one spotted near the accommodation at Cat Tien National Park.
124. Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*
up to six birds were seen on the Di Linh Pass.
125. Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina polioptera*
two at Cat Tien National Park.
126. Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*
a number recorded at Cat Tien National Park.
127. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*
two seen in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
128. Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*
a few recorded in the Da Lat area.
129. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
Cat Tien National Park; Da Lat; Cuc Phuong National Park; Tam Dao.
130. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*
one at Cat Tien National Park; not uncommon in the Da Lat area.
131. Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*
two birds were recorded from Cat Tien National Park.
132. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
the most widespread of all the bulbuls we recorded, seen almost daily.
133. Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
recorded in Da Lat but very common in Cuc Phuong National Park where up to 50 were seen daily.
134. Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
one or two in Cat Tien National Park; a few daily in Central Annam and Cuc Phuong National Park.
135. Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
Cat Tien National Park.
136. Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*
quite common on the Di Linh Pass and in the Da Lat area.
137. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*
one seen by Jose in Da Lat.

138. Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*
a few seen in the Cat Tien National Park; a few recorded in Central Annam.
139. Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*
Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.
140. Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*
Cat Tien National Park – the endemic race *hallae* closely resembles Puff-throated Bulbul.
141. Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua*
two in Di Li nh area.
142. Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mccllellandii*
we saw up to eight daily in the Da Lat area; also recorded at Tam Dao.
143. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*
one or two on each visit to Ta Nung Valley.
144. Chestnut Bulbul *Hemixos castanonotus*
seen very well at Tam Dao.
145. Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
large, active and noisy flocks in the Da Lat area and at Tam Dao, including amazing views of the white-headed race along the water tank road.
146. Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*
seen very well in Cat Tien National Park, we saw a further 20 or more in the Da Lat area.
147. Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
one only seen at Bong in the Cuc Phuong National Park.
148. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*
we saw one sensational male bird on Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.
149. Common lora *Aegithina tiphia*
Cat Tien National Park; Cuc Phuong National Park.
150. Great lora *Aegithina lafresnayeii*
two recorded in Cat Tien National Park.
151. White-throated Rock-Thrush *Monticola gularis*
one immature male bird in breeding plumage was seen in pine forest in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
152. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
great views of six seen en route to Nha Trang from Da Lat; one seen at Ming Manh's tomb, Hue.
153. Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
we saw one very fleetingly in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat; and one on the Transmitter Tower trail at Tam Dao.
154. Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica*
two seen briefly along the road in the early morning gloom in Cuc Phuong National Park.
155. Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis*
a total of three were seen and scoped near the HQ at Cuc Phuong National Park.
156. Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis*
great views of up to 20 birds daily in Cuc Phuong National Park and at Tam Dao.
157. Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*
we saw up to 20 in the grounds of the Tu Duc Tomb at Hue; then seen almost daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
158. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
heard daily in the Da Lat area, one was seen well in thick forest on Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.

159. Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane*
a single bird was seen poorly in Cat Tien National Park.
160. Orange-flanked Bush-Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*
one seen along the road in Ba Vi National Park.
161. Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
seen or heard daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
162. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
one or two daily at Cat Tien National Park and Cuc Phuong National Park.
163. Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus robinsoni*
fleeting looks at a really skittish bird in the stream at Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat. This is an interesting isolated population in South Annam.
164. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura*
recorded in small numbers at Cat Tien National Park and Cuc Phuong National Park,.
165. Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*
surprisingly scarce in the Da Lat area this year, but regular at Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.
166. Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*
heard daily in the Da Lat area, we eventually had looks at a bird in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
167. Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps*
seen briefly in Cat Tien National Park.
168. Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*
one seen at the fish ponds, Cat Tien National Park.
169. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*
heard and seen daily in the Da Lat area.
170. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
seen or heard almost daily throughout.
171. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*
seen and heard daily in Cat Tien National Park.
172. Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
a few seen at Ba Vi and Cuc Phuong National Park this year.
173. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
up to six were recorded daily in the Da Lat area.
174. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
heard at Cat Tien National Park, seen Cuc Phuong National Park.
175. Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
seen or heard daily in Cat Tien National Park.
176. Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
one or two recorded on separate days at Bong in Cuc Phuong National Park.
177. Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*
common in the Da Lat area.
178. White-tailed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*
also recorded daily from Da Lat.
179. Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentine*
one or two daily at Cuc Phuong National Park.
180. Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*
a total of four from the Da Lat area.

181. Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*
four were seen in Cuc Phuong National Park.
182. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
heard in Cat Tien National Park.
183. Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*
we had some nice views of this handsome warbler in the Ta Nung Valley.
184. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*
very common in Cuc Phuong National Park.
185. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*
heard at the C5 ponds, Cat Tien National Park.
186. Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*
great views of a couple of birds on the Di Linh Pass.
187. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
very common in Cat Tien National Park; less so in Cuc Phuong National Park.
188. Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*
recorded daily in the Da Lat area.
189. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophinata*
super looks at this handsome flycatcher in Ba Vi National Park; we also saw one at Tam Dao.
190. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
excellent looks at a couple of birds in the Hue area.
191. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*
one seen in Cat Tien National Park; up to six seen daily in the Da Lat area; and a few from Cuc Phuong National Park.
192. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*
we saw this bird all too briefly at Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
193. Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi*
we had great looks at a gorgeous male bird along the road in Ba Vi National Park.
194. White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concretus*
this is never an easy bird but we did enjoy good looks at a single male during a nice stop at the Prehistoric Man caves in Cuc Phuong National Park.
195. Hainan Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*
good looks at a single bird for some on the Crocodile Lake trail in Cat Tien National Park; heard in Cuc Phuong National Park.
196. Pale Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*
one seen in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
197. Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*
a female seen well in Cat Tien National Park.
198. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
recorded daily at Da Lat and Cuc Phuong National Park.
199. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
seen daily in the Da Lat area and Cuc Phuong National Park; also recorded at Tam Dao.
200. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
up to six were recorded daily from Cat Tien National Park; heard in Cuc Phuong National Park.
201. Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*
one seen well in Cat Tien National Park.

202. Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli*
common but rather secretive this year along the Limestone Trail at Cuc Phuong National Park.
203. Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*
heard daily at Cat Tien National Park; one seen very well at Cuc Phuong National Park; four seen in Cuc Phuong National Park.
204. Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*
only one was seen on the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park.
205. Large Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*
a couple of very wily birds gave us the run around at Cuc Phuong National Park but we nailed them eventually!
206. White-browed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
great looks at one bird in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
207. Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*
four birds seen very well at Tam Dao.
208. Limestone Wren-Babbler *Napothera crispifrons*
amazing looks at up to six birds at the Prehistoric Man caves at Cuc Phuong National Park; they obligingly came right out onto the concrete walkway a number of times to feed.
209. Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*
a real crowd pleaser! one was seen well by everyone after much effort at Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.
210. Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*
seen daily in the Di Linh area.
211. Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*
two or three observed in mixed flocks at Ba Vi.
212. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*
a couple of sightings at Da Lat and Cuc Phuong National Park.
213. Spot-necked Babbler *Stachyris striolata*
sensational looks at some very responsive albeit skulking birds in Cuc Phuong National Park.
214. Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*
seen and heard daily at Cat Tien National Park and Cuc Phuong National Park.
215. **Grey-faced Tit-Babbler** *Macronous kelleyi*
at least 12 were seen along the Crocodile Lake trail at Cat Tien National Park. Quite distinctively different in morphology and behaviour from the previous species (moreso than the field guide would suggest).
216. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
one or two seen at Di Linh.
217. Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus*
one seen in a mixed flock at Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat.
218. Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*
quite common in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
219. Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis*
not terribly cooperative this year but we did see a few in Cuc Phuong National Park.
220. **Black-browed Fulvetta** *Alcippe grotei*
up to six seen on three days at Bong, Cuc Phuong National Park.
221. Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia*
a few recorded from Tam Dao.
222. Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe peracensis*
up to 10 on most days in the Da Lat area.

223. **Grey-crowned Crocias** *Crocias langbianis*
an outstanding bird seen exceptionally well in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat. This species is known from only three sites and is inferred to have a very small, declining range as a result of the destruction and degradation of its montane evergreen forest habitat. It is classified as Endangered by BirdLife International. It was previously known from only five specimens collected at two localities in 1938-1939, and then a population was found on the Da Lat plateau in 1994.
224. Rufous-backed Sibia *Heterophasia annectens*
one seen all too briefly in the Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.
225. Black-headed Sibia *Heterophasia melanoleuca*
two in the Ta Nung Valley.
226. White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*
seen daily Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.

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

227. Black-crowned Parrotbill *Paradoxornis margaritae*
superb views of a flock on the Di Linh Pass.

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

228. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*
although frequently heard in Cat Tien, this species is always very shy there and we glimpsed only one flock; later we had better looks at Cuc Phuong National Park where it is also common in the lower reaches of the park.
229. **Black-hooded Laughingthrush** *Garrulax milleti*
only heard on the Ta Nung stream trail.
230. **Grey Laughingthrush** *Garrulax maesi*
this species has a small range in south China and north Vietnam and, boy, is it hard work! A bird that is often heard but very shy, we found a group on the transmitter trail at Tam Dao.
231. **White-cheeked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax vassali*
after having quite good looks at a small flock at Di Linh Pass, we saw a couple more in the Ta Nung Valley.
232. **Orange-breasted Laughingthrush** *Garrulax annamensis*
we enjoyed brief but good looks at this exceptional skulker on the Di Linh Pass.
233. **Collared Laughingthrush** *Garrulax yersini*
another ordeal this year but alas, only very briefly glimpsed although calling so close to us!
234. Great Tit *Parus major*
a few seen in the Hue area and in Cuc Phuong National Park.
235. Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
a number of sightings on the Da Lat plateau.
236. Sultan Tit *Melanochloa sultanea*
this truly sensational bird was seen daily in Cuc Phuong National Park and at Tam Dao.
237. **Grey-crowned Tit** *Aegithalos annamensis*
we saw one or two at Mount Lang Bian, Da Lat and This race is now widely accepted as a distinct species from the Black-throated Tit *A. concinnus*.

238. Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*
we saw this species at Ho Tuyen Lam where they favour the pine forest, one sat incredibly still for a long period of time as we scoped and photographed it.
239. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*
two seen in a mixed flock on the Heaven's Rapids road at Cat Tien National Park.
240. Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor*
heard on the Da Lat plateau.
241. Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*
one recorded at Cat Tien National Park.
242. Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*
recorded at Cat Tien National Park and on the coast at Nha Trang.
243. Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*
up to four were seen daily on the Da Lat plateau. Great bird!
244. Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae*
we saw this very smart bird at Cuc Phuong National Park and Tam Dao.
245. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata johnsi*
a few sightings on the Da Lat plateau. When the sun hits these sunbirds, they really take your breath away!
246. Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*
rounding out a suite of breathtaking Asian sunbirds, we saw this little gem at Cuc Phuong National Park.
247. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*
I always think this bird shows such character, with his oversize bill and clown feet – quite common on the Da Lat plateau and a couple seen at Tam Dao.
248. Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*
one seen at Cat Tien National Park.
249. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*
common in the Tam Dao area.
250. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*
seen in Nha Trang and Cuc Phuong National Park.
251. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*
a few seen on the Da Lat plateau and in the Hue area.
252. Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*
quite common in the north.
253. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
fairly regular sightings in rural areas in the south.
254. Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*
great looks at a number of this handsome bird on the Da Lat plateau.
255. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
a few here and there in the Central Annam area.
256. Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*
regularly observed in Cuc Phuong National Park.
257. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
common in rural areas.
258. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
very common and recorded daily in the south; a few at Cuc Phuong National Park.
259. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
regularly recorded in all forested areas.

260. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
common in Cat Tien National Park.
261. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
Cat Tien National Park; Cuc Phuong National Park.
262. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
literally 100's seen in Cat Tien National Park.
263. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*
three seen in the Di Linh area.
264. Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
a group of 12 birds were eventually seen very well after giving us the real run around in Ba Vi National Park.
265. **White-winged Magpie** *Urocissa whiteheadi*
a flock of five of this restricted-range species in the lower reaches of Cuc Phuong National Park.
266. Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*
a couple of sightings in Cat Tien National Park; also seen daily in Cuc Phuong National Park.
267. Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus*
we had great looks at this unusual bird in Cuc Phuong National Park,.
268. Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
en route to Nha Trang.
269. Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*
we observed up to 50 birds on the lake shores of Ho Tuyen Lam, Da Lat.
270. Vinous-breasted Starling *Acridotheres burmannicus*
great views at Cat Tien National Park.
271. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
en route to Ba Vi National Park.
272. Gold-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus*
sensational looks at a couple of perched birds along the Heaven's Rapids trail, Cat Tien National Park.
273. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
heard at Cat Tien National Park.
274. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
seen daily except in Cat Tien National Park.
275. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*
a few seen at Tam Dao.
276. Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*
a few at Cat Tien National Park.
277. **Vietnamese Greenfinch** *Carduelis monguilloti*
great prolonged looks perched birds on Mount Lang Bian.
278. Black-headed Greenfinch *Carduelis ambigua*
great scope views along the O Quy Ho road at ; also seen by Chris behind our hotel in .

Total 278 spp

MAMMALS

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*
feral at Cat Tien National Park

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

Delacour's Langur *Trachypithecus delacouri*
this magnificent primate was seen feeding in vegetation on the limestone karsts of Van Long Reserve. Best looks ever!

Eurasian Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*
feeding in fields in Cat Tien National Park

Sambar *Cervus unicolor*
Cat Tien National Park

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*
Ta Nung Valley

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

Variable Squirrel *Callosciurus finlaysoni*
Cat Tien National Park

Eastern Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maritimus*
Da Lat

Rudolph's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rudolphi*
Cat Tien National Park

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