

**The Birds and Mammals recorded on  
the VENT Cambodia Tour  
January 17 – February 3, 2008**



Great Slaty Woodpecker © Jim De Vries

Compiled by Susan Myers

**Leaders: Susan Myers & Dion Hobcroft**

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours  
2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1003  
Austin, TX 78746  
[www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com)**

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## Cambodia 2008

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, as well as 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.

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!

We started our Cambodia sojourn by exploring 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 in Burma, Borobodur in Java, and Ayuthaya in Thailand. 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 (despite advice to the contrary, the roads are not one little bit improved since last year), we found the place absolutely teeming with birds! We watched masses of Lesser Whistling-Ducks, big congregations of Painted and Woolly-necked storks, and a sensational 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, and we had good, long views of some skulking crakes and warblers, as well as delightful Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged jacobins.

The highlight of our tour was undoubtedly our journey into the remote parts of northern Cambodia for our three-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 exciting birds. The very attractive Rufous-winged Buzzard is still pleasingly 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. The highly sought-after White-rumped Falcon showed exceptionally well, as we had close views of three different individuals.

Our early morning walks in the cool of the day to the trapeangs (waterholes) of the woodlands north of the village in search of the amazing Giant Ibis met with great success; we saw not only good numbers

of the leviathan, but many other goodies as well. 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. The Giant Ibis certainly lives up to its name—huge, with startling pink legs and subtle, grayish wing coverts. We spent time looking at well-hidden Spotted Wood-Owls and an incredible 11 species of woodpeckers, the prehistoric Great Slaty being a particular standout. On another morning we marveled at superb scope views of the critically endangered and handsome White-shouldered Ibis on their roosting trees. In the evening we returned to our simple but 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 Painted Storks and Asian Openbills perched distantly in the inundated forest, although we had bad luck with some terrible weather on this particular day.

Our trip to the grasslands of Steung and Krahm, near the town of Kompong Thom, was fun and rewarding with incredible and multiple looks at the often elusive Bengal Florican in the long grass. Further luck with Black-necked Storks, Bluethroats, Yellow-breasted Buntings, and the enchanting Red Avadavat made this a memorable birding site. Next we journeyed further east to Kratie, a small, sleepy town 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, as well as Small Pratincole and a number of other goodies. A pod of friendly Mekong River dolphins quietly cavorted around us as we made our way back to the shore—a suitable ending to our boat trip. An afternoon outing to some nearby rice paddies was also rewarding and enjoyable, as we got to grips with a swag of prinias and some surprisingly cooperative Chestnut-capped Babblers.

After a brief respite in Phnom Penh, we relocated to the southeast near the border with Vietnam for some birding around the saltpans and a night in Kep before journeying up the mountain to Bokor. After some drama and a not-so-pleasant trip up to the plateau (due to the government unexpectedly closing all access to the national park, leading to some frantic negotiations and plotting on the part of the leaders!), we made it to our rather uninspiring accommodation for a couple of days of birding. Fortunately the food was great! The plateau was quiet, but we nevertheless had some interesting records. The birding in the hill forests on our trip back down the mountain was a highlight of the trip though, with Wreathed and Great hornbills, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Banded Bay Cuckoo, and many other evergreen forest birds.

Acknowledgments: Special thanks to you all for your great company and companionship on this thoroughly enjoyable tour. Thanks also to Laurant for his excellent organization. Our excellent drivers again proved to be indispensable.

*Susan Myers*

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## Diary

### 19 January 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.

### 20 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.

### 21 January TMATBOEY

Left early this morning visiting **Bang Maelea** en route, a temple, dating from 1100AD, north of Siem Reap. 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 lodge is comfortable and clean with the luxury of private bathrooms!

### 22-23 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 on another morning.

### 24 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, we packed up and headed on down the road back to Siem Reap for some well-earned rest and recreation! Lunched at **Koh Ker**. 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.

### 25 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 nesting Lesser Adjutants and multitudes of Painted Storks and Asian Openbills as well as big

congregations of two species of cormorant, Spot-billed Pelicans, and so on. The whole area is amazing with a huge number of birds.

**26 January      STEUNG - KOMPONG THOM**

This morning we drove out to the town of **Kompong Thom** visiting the grasslands north of the town at a village called Steung en route 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. After lunch we drove to Krahm, another area of grasslands and reservoirs for some fascinating birding in a highly endangered habitat.

**27 January      KOMPONG THOM - KRATIE**

From Kompong Thom we made the long drive to **Kratie** on the banks of the Mekong.

**28 January      KRATIE**

A full morning on the Mekong River with the wonderful and enigmatic Mekong Wagtail and the extremely rare Mekong River Dolphin. In the afternoon birded some nearby rice paddies.

**29 January      KRATIE – PHNOM PENH**

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.

**29 January      PHNOM PENH – KEP**

Drive to Kep in the far south east of the country, stopping at some saltpans to look at waders on our way through. Overnight in a really delightful hotel located right next to an excellent stand of evergreen forest.

**30 January      KEP – BOKOR**

An arduous drive up the mountain to the Bokor Plateau, birding en route. Afternoon birding in the grasslands and wooded areas.

**31 Jan – 1  
Feb              BOKOR**

Birding around Bokor.

**2 February      BOKOR – PHNOM PENH**

An excellent morning birding in the hill forest of Bokor mountain before returning to Phnom Penh.

## BIRDS

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

## NON-PASSERINES

1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
one seen at Tonle Sap.
2. **Spot-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*  
Large congregations of feeding and breeding birds on Tonle Sap and at Prek Toal; some seen distantly at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
3. Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*  
possibly the most common of the cormorants on Tonle Sap.
4. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Very common on Tonle Sap.
5. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*  
a few at Kratie.
6. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*  
Very common on Tonle Sap.
7. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
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*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor.
11. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Very common and seen almost daily.
12. Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus*  
Seen daily in good numbers throughout.
13. Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*  
Very common and seen daily.
14. Little Heron *Butorides striata*  
a few at Prek Toal.
15. Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
a few at Prek Toal.
16. Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*  
one seen well at Ang Trapeang Thmor; three at Prek Toal, one at Steung.
17. Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
one seen very well at Ang Trapeang Thmor; two seen en route to Tmatboey.
18. **Milky Stork** *Mycteria cinerea*  
super views of this very rare species feeding amongst a group of Painted Storks near Ang Trapeang Thmor.
19. Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*  
common at Ang Trapeang Thmor, Tonle Sap, Steung and Krahm.

20. Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*  
thousands at Prek Toal; also a few at Steung and Krahm.
21. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*  
A pair were seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; also some sighting near Tmatboey in Preah Vihear Province and over the grasslands of Steung and Krahm.
22. **Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus*  
just a couple seen in grassland at Steung. 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.
23. Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*  
Up to four were seen at trapeangs in the woodlands of Tmatboey and a few at Prek Toal and Steung.
24. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*  
one at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
25. **White-shouldered Ibis** *Pseudibis davisoni*  
A total of seven were seen at Tmatboey. This very exciting species is listed as Critically Endangered by BirdLife International. It occurs at a few sites in northern Cambodia, extreme southern Laos and East Kalimantan, Indonesia where there are believed to be only 20-25 individuals. 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 six 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*  
It was great to see 20 or so of this bird were seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor – now a very rare sight in Asia.
29. Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*  
In large numbers at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
30. Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*  
a few seen at Tonle Sap and Kratie.
31. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
One seen in flight on Tonle Sap; one at Steung.
32. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*  
an interesting observation of a single bird in flight on the plateau at Bokor.
33. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*  
a total of six birds were seen by some at Ang Trapeang Thmor; two were seen in flight over the Mekong River at Kratie.
34. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*  
two seen in flight en route to Tmatboey.
35. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
two at Ang Trapeang Thmor; one at Kratie.
36. Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
very common at Ang Trapeang Thmor.

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37. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus*  
Tmatboey; Tonle Sap, Mekong River.
38. Grey-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*  
one at Tonle Sap.
39. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*  
quite common around Tmatboey where seen daily.
40. Eastern Marsh-Harrier *Circus spilonotus*  
a few around 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. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*  
a couple seen at Bokor.
43. Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
between two and six birds were seen almost daily.
44. **Rufous-winged Buzzard** *Butastur liventer*  
in the province of Preah Vihear we saw this scarce bird daily.
45. Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo*  
one seen in flight over the plateau on Bokor.
46. Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*  
one bird was seen at Ang trapeang Thmor.
47. Imperial Eagle *Aquila*  
one was seen by Dion and Kaaren at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
48. Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*  
one observed perched in woodland at Tmatboey.
49. Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*  
one seen flying very low over us on the road down from Bokor.
50. **White-rumped Falcon** *Polihierax insignis*  
undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip was this superb bird with a total of three birds in woodland near Tmatboey. It is listed as 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.
51. Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*  
one or two around Angkor.
52. Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*  
one at Bokor.
53. **Chinese Francolin** *Francolinus pintadeanus*  
seen daily in grassland at Tmatboey although they are still rather shy.
54. **Chestnut-headed Partridge** *Arborphila cambodiana*  
heard daily on Bokor but only seen well by Bob as everyone else was looking the other direction!
55. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*  
heard in the bamboo-lined dry creeks at Tmatboey.
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56. Silver Pheasant *Lophura*  
one seen briefly at Bokor.
57. **Green Peafowl** *Pavo muticus*  
heard near Tmatboey.
58. **Sarus Crane** *Grus antigone sharpii*  
a brilliant flock of 20 birds flew over us at Ang Trapeang Thmor. 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.
59. Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*  
great looks one bird foraging at close range at Ang Trapeang Thmor; heard at Kratie.
60. White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*  
one bird seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
61. Watercock *Gallixrex cinerea*  
brief looks at one of this secretive bird at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
62. Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio indicus*  
at least 100 at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a couple at Kompong Thom. This is one of the species formed from the six-way split of Purple Swamphen *P. porphyrio*.
63. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
many at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
64. Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*  
two at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
65. **Bengal Florican** *Houbaropsis bengalensis blandini*  
a great success this year with one spotted almost immediately on our arrival at the Steung grasslands (good one, Frank!). We then saw a further 5-6 birds very well. This Endangered species has two disjunct populations, one in the Indian subcontinent, and another in South-East Asia in Cambodia and adjacent southern Vietnam.
66. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*  
many seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a few more at Kompong Thom and Kep.
67. Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*  
up to 20 at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a couple at Kompong Thom and Kep.
68. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
common at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
69. Small Pratincole *Glareola lacteal*  
great looks at a number of this cute bird at Kratie, where it was very common this year.
70. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; many in grasslands near Tmatboey.
71. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
recorded on sandbars on the Mekong at Kratie and in salt pans near Kep.
72. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
one or two seen near Kep.
73. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*  
many near Kep.
74. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*  
one near Ang Trapeang Thmor.
75. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
good views of a few at Krahm.

76. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
a few at Tonle Sap and at Krahm.
77. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
two on the Mekong River at Kratie.
78. Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*  
super views of this very nice wader near Kep where it was not uncommon.
79. Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*  
Tonle Sap.
80. Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*  
one on the Tonle Sap.
81. Caspian Tern  
four seen in salt pans near Kep.
82. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*  
abundant at Prek Toal/Tonle Sap.
83. Rock Dove *Columba livia*  
Ubiquitous.
84. **Pale-capped Pigeon** *Columba punicea*  
one seen briefly and distantly perched at Tmatboey.
85. Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*  
seen on most days in the dry woodlands of Ang Trapeang Thmor and Preah Vihear Province.
86. Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
seen daily throughout.
87. Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*  
one seen at Bokor.
88. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*  
heard at Tmatboey; seen at Bokor.
89. Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; a few at Tmatboey.
90. Orange-breasted Pigeon *Treron bicincta*  
one or two were seen well near the village at Tmatboey.
91. Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Trero curvirostra*  
a few seen en route to Tmatboey.
92. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus*  
great looks at a total of three birds at Tmatboey.
93. Yellow-vented Green Pigeon  
one seen and scoped on the road down from Bokor.
94. Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*  
a few seen around Tmatboey.
95. Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*  
not uncommon on the plateau at Bokor.
96. Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*  
excellent looks at this impressive parrot in the forests around Angkor, then many were also seen in the dry forests of Tmatboey.
97. **Blossom-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula roseate*  
many of this gorgeous parrot were seen around Tmatboey.

98. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*  
very common around Angkor and literally thousands seen around Tmatboey.
99. Vernal Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*  
many heard around Tmatboey and one seen at Koh Ker temple.
100. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus*  
brief but good looks at this large cuckoo as it flew across the road at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
101. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparveroides*  
heard at Bokor.
102. Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*  
close and long looks at a bird feeding in grassland at Steung.
103. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*  
one seen and scoped at Bokor.
104. Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*  
one seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor, also one at Tonle Sap.
105. Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*  
heard at Bang Maelea.
106. Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*  
heard more often than seen, we saw one at Ang Trapeang Thmor and two were spotted at Koh Ker.
107. Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*  
one at Bang Maelea; one in wetland forests of Prek Toal and two at Bokor.
108. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*  
heard frequently, we had good views of birds at Ang Trapeang Thmor, Tmatboey and Prek Toal.
109. Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*  
seen at Kratie.
110. Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*  
heard at Tmatboey.
111. Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*  
seen at Tmatboey, it gave some of us a bit of a merry chase but seen better by the other group.
112. **Spotted Wood Owl** *Strix seloputo*  
a superb bird was spotted in woodland at Tmatboey and we were able to watch him for quite some time.
113. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*  
heard at Bokor.
114. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
heard frequently and two seen at Angkor Wat.
115. Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*  
one seen by Dion and Kaaren on their Eld's Deer chase.
116. Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*  
seen around our rooms at Tmatboey.
117. Great Eared-Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*  
heard and seen from our hotel at Kep.
118. Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*  
heard at Tmatboey.
119. Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*  
heard at Tmatboey.
120. Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*  
heard at Tmatboey but couldn't be coaxed out.

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121. 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).
122. Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*  
a few were seen en route to Tmatboey and at Bokor.
123. Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*  
recorded almost throughout the rural landscape where they nest in the sugar palms that are so commonly grown.
124. House Swift *Apus nipalensis*  
Siem Reap; Kompong Thom.
125. Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*  
we saw these fabulous birds frequently in the dry forests of the north and around Kratie.
126. Pied Kingfisher  
two seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
127. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
two at Ang Trapeang Thmor; also en route to Tmatboey, at Prek Toal, Kompong Thom, Steung, Krahm.
128. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*  
one seen very briefly en route to Tmatboey.
129. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; a few at Tmatboey; Kratie.
130. Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*  
one at Angkor, another at Steung.
131. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*  
heard at Kep.
132. Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*  
this delightful bird was common around Tmatboey and Kratie.
133. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; Tonle Sap, Kratie.
134. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaultia*  
great looks at a number of this excellent bird on the sand islands of the Mekong at Kratie.
135. Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*  
very common almost throughout.
136. Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*  
a few rather unsatisfactory looks around Tmatboey.
137. Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*  
A fabulous bird was scoped as it perched in a very large tree at Tmatboey, a total of seven were recorded.
138. Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*  
a rather distant pair were seen very well on the road down from Bokor.
139. **Great Hornbill** *Buceros bicornis*  
a wonderful pair of this unforgettable bird were seen on the road down from Bokor.
140. Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineate*  
very common and seen daily around Angkor and Tmatboey. The call of this bird is certainly one of the most evocative of the Cambodian birds!
141. Moustached Barbet *Megalaima incognita*  
two birds seen and scoped at Bokor.

142. Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta*  
heard around Kep.
143. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*  
one bird scoped and watched at length on the road down from Bokor.
144. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*  
Angkor; Tmatboey.
145. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*  
a total of six were seen in the dry dipterocarp forests of Tmatboey.
146. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei*  
we saw two lovely birds in woodlands at Tmatboey.
147. Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*  
a total of three at Tmatboey.
148. Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*  
super looks at one responsive bird in burnt woodland at Tmatboey.
149. White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*  
one was seen very briefly in woodlands near Tmatboey; heard around Tmatboey.
150. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*  
a total of seven were seen at Tmatboey.
151. Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus*  
one at Tmatboey.
152. **Black-headed Woodpecker** *Picus erythropygius*  
a number of this sensational bird were seen at Tmatboey. Now 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 very glamorous bird.
153. Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*  
quite common at Tmatboey.
154. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*  
just one seen in the woodlands of Tmatboey.
155. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*  
we had memorable sightings of a group of six of this charismatic species on two occasions at Tmatboey; we were able to watch them at length as they interacted and fed. A remarkable total of eleven species of woodpecker were recorded around Tmatboey – a testament to the high quality of the habitat here.

## PASSERINES

156. **Indochinese Bushlark** *Mirafra marionae*  
seen daily at Tmatboey. One of the species resulting from the four way split of Rufous-winged Bushlark.
157. Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*  
Kratie.
158. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; Tonle Sap.
159. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
seen daily.
160. Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*  
quite common around Tmatboey and Kompong Thom.

161. Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*  
good views of the birds at Ang Trapeang Thmor suggest that they were this species rather than the migratory Red-rumped Swallow.
162. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
one observed in the grounds of Angkor Wat; of the *leucopsis* race.
163. **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.
164. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*  
one at Ang Trapeang Thmor; four at Krahm. Most appeared to belong to the *macronyx* race.
165. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
one seen at Bokor.
166. Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*  
two at Tonle Sap, a few at Kratie.
167. Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*  
one at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
168. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*  
recorded at Tmatboey.
169. Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*  
a few in the grasslands at Krahm.
170. Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei*  
a number of sightings of this excellent bird were made around Tmatboey.
171. Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina polioptera*  
up to four birds were seen daily at Tmatboey.
172. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*  
very common to abundant in the forests around Tmatboey.
173. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*  
this very attractive bird was seen in good numbers at Bokor.
174. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*  
a few seen on the road down from Bokor.
175. Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*  
common around Tmatboey.
176. Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*  
a few at Bokor.
177. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*  
a few at Ang Trapeang Thmor, Koh Ker, Kratie and Kep.
178. Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*  
many were seen around Angkor, Tmatboey and Ang Trapeang Thmor.
179. Grey-eyed Bulbul  
a few seen at Bokor.
180. Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*  
common in the forests of Bokor.
181. Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*  
not uncommon on the road down from Bokor.
182. Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*  
a few seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Tmatboey.

183. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*  
common at Ang Trapeang Thmor and around Tmatboey.
184. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*  
super views of a couple of birds of the *philippensis* race on the walls of Angkor Wat, Koh Ker, and at Kep.
185. Eyebrowed Thrush  
a few elusive birds were seen feeding in a fruiting tree on the road down from Bokor.
186. Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*  
a couple of sightings of this glamorous species at Bokor.
187. Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*  
one at Bokor.
188. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; very common in the grasslands of Kompong Thom and Steung.
189. Bright-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*  
a few heard at Tmatboey.
190. **Brown Prinia** *Prinia polychroa*  
a total of seven birds were recorded in the grassy understorey of the woodlands around Tmatboey.
191. Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*  
not uncommon at Tmatboey.
192. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*  
one seen at Prek Toal; quite common in the rice paddies around Kratie.
193. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*  
two seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; most common in the rice paddies around Kratie where we saw them in quite high numbers.
194. Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*  
one or two very sneaky birds seen at Steung.
195. Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*  
one was seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
196. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*  
common throughout.
197. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*  
many heard and three seen at Prek Toal.
198. Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
Steung and Krahm; heard at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Kratie.
199. Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*  
a couple of sightings of this very large warbler at Tmatboey.
200. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
Angkor; Tmatboey.
201. Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*  
a few around Tmatboey.
202. Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*  
one brief sighting on the road down from Bokor.
203. Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*  
many birds seen in grasslands at Steung; one at Krahm.
204. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*  
good looks at a few birds around Angkor and Bokor.

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205. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*  
up to four were seen around Angkor; one or two daily at Tmatboey.
  206. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*  
one at Angkor; one at Bokor.
  207. Hainan Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*  
one seen very well at Angkor Wat.
  208. Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae indochina*  
super looks at a male at Bang Maelea temple; heard daily at Tmatboey.
  209. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
one in the woodlands around Angkor.
  210. Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*  
great looks at a male in some breeding plumage in grasslands at Krahm.
  211. Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*  
seen and heard at a number of sites.
  212. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*  
heard in the bamboo-lined creeks at Tmatboey.
  213. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura*  
Common in open areas.
  214. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*  
similarly common in open areas.
  215. White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*  
two or three seen daily at Tmatboey.
  216. Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*  
a few sightings at Ang Trapeang Thmor; also seen at Kratie.
  217. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*  
seen and heard at Angkor and Tmatboey.
  218. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*  
seen daily at Tmatboey but they are remarkably furtive.
  219. Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*  
heard and seen in woodland on the Bokor plateau.
  220. Large Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucus*  
great views of a couple of very responsive birds on the Bokor road.
  221. White-browed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*  
fleeting but excellent looks at a bird that was attending a nest located very close to the ground and containing two bright white eggs.
  222. Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*  
heard frequently along the creeklines at Tmatboey, one was seen quite well in thick bamboo.
  223. Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*  
great views of this normally very shy bird in bamboo at Kratie.
  224. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*  
heard on the Bokor plateau.
  225. White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*  
seen on the road at Bokor.
  226. Great Tit *Parus major*  
a few at Tmatboey.

227. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*  
up to twenty of this little gem were recorded at Tmatboey.
228. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*  
this year we had two amazingly responsive birds on the road down from Bokor.
229. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*  
one at Kep.
230. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturate*  
a few sighting on the Bokor plateau.
231. Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*  
two at Prek Toal on Tonle Sap.
232. Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiatica*  
quite common in the dry woodlands.
233. Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*  
a few sightings at Angkor, Ang Trapeang Thmor, and Tmatboey.
234. Buff-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cambodianum*  
a couple of records from Bokor.
235. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*  
Angkor; Ang Trapeang Thmor; Tmatboey.
236. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*  
Kep.
237. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*  
seen in the tall woodlands around Angkor, Ang Trapeang Thmor and Koh Ker.
238. Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*  
up to six seen in the woodlands around Tmatboey.
239. **Slender-billed Oriole** *Oriolus tenuirostris*  
one interesting record from Tmatboey.
240. Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*  
very common in the forests below the Bokor plateau.
241. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*  
very common in the agricultural areas throughout.
242. **Burmese Shrike** *Lanius collurioides*  
super looks at this very smart and localized species at Tmatboey where we had high counts of 20 or more birds on a couple of days.
243. Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*  
one of the most common of the passerines in the forests of Tmatboey.
244. Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*  
two seen at Bokor.
245. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*  
recorded almost daily.
246. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*  
common, particularly around Tmatboey.
247. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*  
one seen at Bokor.
248. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*  
a few seen around Angkor this year; just one was seen at Tmatboey.

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249. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*  
one was seen on the Bokor plateau.
250. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*  
we recorded this species at Angkor and Tmatboey.
251. **Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*  
this very striking bird was seen a number of times near and around Tmatboey. Although quite wary, we had great views of a number of birds.
252. Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*  
one seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor; a total of four seen at Tmatboey.
253. Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*  
Ang Trapeang Thmor; Tmatboey; Kompong Thom grasslands.
254. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*  
seen well in the tall forests around Angkor and in the woodlands of Tmatboey.
255. 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.
256. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
very common everywhere except in Tmatboey.
257. Vinous-breasted Starling *Acridotheres burmannicus*  
quite common around Tmatboey.
258. Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*  
we found this species to be common at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Tmatboey.
259. Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*  
a few seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor.
260. White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis*  
seen briefly at Ang Trapeang Thmor; two more seen briefly at Kratie.
261. Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabaricus*  
recorded at Tmatboey with a total of only four birds.
262. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
seen at Kompong Thom.
263. Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus*  
this smart sparrow was seen at Ang Trapeang Thmor and also seen at Tmatboey.
264. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
seen near all human habitation.
265. Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*  
very common around Ang Trapeang Thmor.
266. Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*  
in good numbers at Ang Trapeang Thmor; all in non-breeding plumage.
267. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*  
nice views of this very pretty bird in the grasslands of Steung.
268. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*  
a few around Tmatboey and Kratie.

269. Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*  
recorded at Ang Trapeang Thmor and Tmatboey.
270. **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*  
one seen feeding in bamboo at Bokor.

Pileated Gibbon  
heard at Bokor.

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*  
great views of a large family group at Bokor.

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*

Indochinese Ground Squirrel *Menetes berdmorei*

Paddyfield Rat *Rattus argiventer*

Eld's Deer *Cervus eldi*  
seen by Dion and Kaaren at Ang Trapeang Thmor.

Red Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak*

Mekong River Dolphin *Orcaella brevirostris*  
on the Mekong River!

### Susan Myers

myers\_susan@yahoo.com.au

### Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1003  
Austin, TX 78746

**Tel:** 800/328-VENT(8368) or 512/328-5221

**FAX:** 512/328-2919

**E-mail:** info@ventbird.com