



A visit to famed Angkor was a fascinating and fun aspect to add to our birding. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

This was the second Field Guides Cambodia tour, and we had a fine time of it with a nice combination of World Heritage temple sites around Angkor Wat and spectacular endangered birds. Weather was unseasonably hot, odd for late dry season which is usually much cooler, but with no significant rain, and roads were mainly good with only a few tracks being rutted and dusty.

Our first birding afternoon saw us out in some wet paddies, with nice looks at Yellow and Cinnamon bitterns, over 70 Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, a single Bronze-naped Jacana, a bonus Watercock, and generally a nice intro to birding in Cambodia.

The Siem Reap area is of course temple central, with Angkor the centerpiece and some amazingly atmospheric and scenic jungle-covered ruins nearby, which can also be quite good for birds. Black Baza, Alexandrine and Rose-breasted parakeets, Germain's (not German's) Swiftlet, Swinhoe's Minivet, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, and Asian Barred Owlet were nice finds. The wonderful ruins at Bayon (Angkor Thom) were overrun by tourists this year, but amazingly Angkor was not crowded and we had a nice visit there. Four of the main dhammas or Buddhist teachings are Charity, Compassion, Sympathy, and Equanimity, which I also thought made fine ideals for tour guides and clients, and we did our best to live up to some of them!

The great wetland at Ang Trepeang Thmor (ATT) gave us Pin-tailed Snipe, Painted Snipe (with young), Yellow Bittern, both jacanas, and Black-backed Swamphen, with the grasslands nearby giving fine looks at Sarus Crane and a large Aquila that I think was a Greater Spotted Eagle. The very rare Eld's Deer was a good mammal tick here too, we saw a fine stag with those odd brow antlers, and several hinds with fawns.

Lake Tonle Sap was a fascinating boat ride through the floating villages and out into the swamp at Prek Toal, with Greater and Lesser adjutants, Painted Storks and luckily a single Milky Stork, plus Spot-billed Pelican, Oriental Darter, and many egrets and herons. There is now a 3-year moratorium on what was previously industrial scale fishing, so all the huge traps and nets have gone and it is back to just subsistence fishing, a much better situation for the environment at least, if only in the short-term.

Kompong Thom grassland gave us really good sightings of Bengal Florican and Pied Harrier and a forlorn pair of Sarus Crane were dancing in a fragment of wild habitat surrounded by huge paddyfields, a vision of the future I felt.

Our next stop was down in the former Khmer Rouge forest strongholds around Tmatboey in Preah Vihear Province, where it was hot but very birdy in the cooler times of day. Owls were pretty amazing here and we saw Brown Fish, Spotted Wood (and for a couple Brown Wood Owl), plus Oriental Scops-Owl. Woodpeckers are also outstanding with Great Slaty, Black-headed, White-bellied, Gray-capped Pygmy, the very uncommon Rufous, plus both Common and Greater flamebacks. The two megas here are of course Giant and White-shouldered ibises, and our guides took us to roost areas where we heard the birds calling as well as had some nice looks at these rare creatures, a highlight of the tour.

Our finale was at Kratie on the Mekong River, where we birded a paddy site for views of the rare Asian Golden Weaver and some fine looks at Watercock and White-browed Crake. The last boat trip was for the recently described Mekong Wagtail, which inhabits sandy islets in the river and even sang for us this year, with the rare Irrawaddy dolphins showing nearby and a full-fledged tourist industry now developed around seeing them (complete with Hunky Boatman Calendar at one local cafe!).

So, the Last Chance to See tour lived up to its name and we again got good looks at some very rare and hard-to-find species. Cambodia is also fascinating culturally, with good manners not yet extinct here as they are back home. Driving in the cities has some highly unorthodox techniques that wouldn't function in the west but which somehow work here, where traffic lights are there to make suggestions only. Food was also quite good, with some tasty curries and amok soups, though the deep-fried tarantulas were one taste too far this time.

Angkor is quite simply marvellous, and the nearby temples are fantastic, with Bayon absolutely gorgeous; it is amazing to think just how large, wealthy and powerful Angkor was in the 12th century. These alone make the tour worth doing, and a bit of birding is a nice sideshow here.

My thanks to the Sam Veasna Centre for organizing our schedule—one important feature of the trip is that much of the money paid goes back into conservation initiatives that give some hope for the continued survival of some very rare species, and it also helps the villagers earn income. Our local guides were excellent, and particular thanks to Johnny for his exemplary handling of our diverse requests, and his good birding skills, and also to Kum, Pur and Da who were expert, uncomplaining, and entraining drivers. Thanks also to Karen at Field Guides HQ for good logistics, we have the main tour pattern down and only need to make minor tweaks. Why not join us for what is sure to be an unforgettable experience in 2013?

--Phil in Kuranda, Queensland March 2012

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our web page at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://fieldguides.com/triplists/cab12LIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

LESSER WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna javanica*) – Two at paddies near Siem Reap and about 1500 in paddies at ATT, a very high count, then 2 at Kratie.

COMB DUCK (OLD WORLD) (*Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos*) – About 100 rather distantly in the grasslands at ATT, this is quite a rare species in Cambodia. Now split from the Knob-billed Duck of the New World too.

COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) – A female in paddies near Siem Reap and about 40 at ATT.

INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK (*Anas poecilorhyncha haringtoni*) – Just 5 day records, with 7 at Kratie and 6 at Kompong Thom the maxima.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*) – About 30 in the wet paddies at ATT, with some fine drakes in spring dress amongst them.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

CHINESE FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus pintadeanus*) – Heard at Tmatboey and Amy's car folks saw one by the roadside.

RED JUNGLEFOWL (*Gallus gallus gallus*) – Heard at Tmatboey down by the river. [*]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LITTLE GREBE (LITTLE) (*Tachybaptus ruficollis poggei*) – Six of the yellow-eyed race *poggei* at Siem Reap and ATT.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

ASIAN OPENBILL (*Anastomus oscitans*) – About 70 at Prek Toal and 20 or so at ATT.



Lesser Adjutants, Small Pratincole, and Painted Stork (Photos by guide Phil Gregory)

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK (*Ciconia episcopus*) – Five at Tmatboey, with 3 on a tree by the river showing nicely, and 2 on a trepeang there.

LESSER ADJUTANT (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – About 3 of this rare bird gave great views at Prek Toal, and 7 were seen at Tmatboey. One in a field en route to ATT was unexpected.

GREATER ADJUTANT (*Leptoptilos dubius*) – One of the mega-rarities of the trip, we had about 3 distantly at Prek Toal, which required clambering up a ladder to a platform to see via the scope. Happily one flew over the platform and the boat later, much to the delight of those who had not ventured up to the platform.

MILKY STORK (*Mycteria cinerea*) – This is a very rare species in Cambodia with just odd pairs and hybrids in Painted Stork colonies. Jonny picked us up a flying bird at Prek Toal and everyone got nice flight views, it looked like a good one too with a nice clean breast and white underwing coverts.

PAINTED STORK (*Mycteria leucocephala*) – Odd sightings around Kompong Thom, and then about 150 in the colony at Prek Toal, and some nice ones of about 40 birds at ATT.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

INDIAN CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) – Seventy at Prek Toal and probably this species in the distance at ATT.

GREAT CORMORANT (EURASIAN) (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) – About 120 on Tonle Sap and a couple at Kratie.

LITTLE CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax niger*) – About 20 on the Mekong at Kratie, and 20 or so at Prek Toal.

Anhingidae (Aningas)

ORIENTAL DARTER (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – Four day records, the first at Angkor Thom, then with about 80 at Prek Toal and five at ATT, it's a pretty rare bird these days. Clements at long last splits it too!

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

SPOT-BILLED PELICAN (*Pelecanus philippensis*) – Great views of 10 at Prek Toal, with young in a nest in a bush, and 14 over ATT, this is yet another of the big, rare and declining waterbirds.

Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

YELLOW BITTERN (*Ixobrychus sinensis*) – Three singles, with a fine male in paddies near Siem Reap the best.

CINNAMON BITTERN (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) – Two in paddies at Siem Reap, and one at Kratie.

GRAY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) – Small numbers at various wetlands.

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*) – Five seen very nicely at ATT were the only ones of the trip.

GREAT EGRET (EURASIAN) (*Ardea alba alba*) – Small numbers only max. 10 on the Prek Toal day.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – Just one at ATT was the only sighting.

LITTLE EGRET (LITTLE) (*Egretta garzetta garzetta*) – Four day records, max. 10 at ATT.

CATTLE EGRET (ASIAN) (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*) – Small numbers, we had about 150 on the day at ATT as the most.

CHINESE POND-HERON (*Ardeola bacchus*) – This one we saw almost every day of the trip, with up to 70 at Prek Toal.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – Three seen on the Prek Toal day.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (EURASIAN) (*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*) – Forty at Prek Toal, and a couple at ATT, with 6 at Kratie late pm.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

WHITE-SHOULDERED IBIS (*Pseudibis davisoni*) – The local guys took us to a roost site where we had scope views of 7 birds on a big dead tree, with another 3 later. Critically Endangered, this is one of the last places to see it.



More scenes from Angkor (Photos by guide Phil Gregory)

GIANT IBIS (*Pseudibis gigantea*) – We went to a roost site pre-dawn, and heard their evocative bugling duet in the dark, which had me worried they had flown off as they are pretty wary. Happily a pair were still present and we saw them very nicely in the scope, with another coming in, though I still don't have a good photo! Four birds were flushed from a trepeang later, I counted a total of 7 for this day. This is the last place to see this very rare species, and the calls this year were marvellous.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BLACK BAZA (*Aviceda leuphotes*) – One at Angkor Thom and one at Tmatboey was it for this striking raptor this trip.

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – A nice scope view of a very grey bird at Tmatboey, the small head and banded tail helped identify it.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Just 3 day records, with 3 at ATT the most.

BLACK KITE (BLACK) (*Milvus migrans govinda*) – Just one single at the ATT grasslands, they seem curiously rare in Cambodia.

BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*) – Two records from Prek Toal, an adult and an imm., another scarce bird in Cambodia. Sorry Evelyn!

GRAY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*) – Two sightings at Prek Toal, both quite close.

CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE (*Spilornis cheela*) – Two sightings from Tmatboey.

EURASIAN MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*) – A female plumaged bird was hunting along the bamboos at ATT, quite scarce in Cambodia.

EASTERN MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus spilonotus*) – A couple at ATT, which were displaying at one point.

NORTHERN HARRIER (EURASIAN) (*Circus cyaneus cyaneus*) – A ringtail in fields en route to ATT. Now split as Hen Harrier by most.

PIED HARRIER (*Circus melanoleucos*) – Three on the ATT day including one male which naturally flew straight away from us. Another couple at Kompong Thom, with a good look at a subadult male.

SHIKRA (*Accipiter badius*) – Four day records, with some very good looks at Angkor Thom where we saw 3 birds.

RUFOUS-WINGED BUZZARD (*Butastur liventer*) – Three day records from ATT, with some nice flight views.

GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE (*Aquila clanga*) – A large *Aquila* at ATT grasslands seems likely to have been this species. A eagle at Tmatboey was intriguing and I have sent pix to the great and the good in bid to get it identified, more later.

CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE (*Nisaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis*) – A good view of one perched by the Giant Ibis trepeang at Tmatboey, heavily streaked dark beneath with a dark streaky cap.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

WHITE-RUMPED FALCON (*Polihierax insignis*) – Johnny had a great site for this rare bird en route to Tmatboey, and we had spiffing views of a pair there, in quite degraded habitat. It's clearly a pygmy falcon of sorts, indeed almost shrike-like, and most references now call it White-rumped Pygmy Falcon, a far better name.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – Some folks got to see one at Prek Toal.

Otididae (Bustards)

BENGAL FLORICAN (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) – This was great this year as we had views of them walking on the edge of unburnt grassland, then flight views of some later with the white wings a spectacular sight, I reckon we saw at last 5 males this morning. Critically Endangered, habitat degradation is a major issue as is disturbance when breeding, Cambodia is one of the best places to see it.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WHITE-BROWED CRAKE (*Porzana cinerea*) – There were a couple of sightings at Kratie paddies and everyone got to see one fly-up at one point. They were calling back in the tall reeds.

WATERCOCK (*Gallicrex cinerea*) – We did well for them this trip, with a female at Siem Reap paddies then another at Kratie before a terrific male flew right past us, complete with red forehead horn.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (BLACK-BACKED) (*Porphyrio porphyrio indicus*) – This is one of the grey-faced taxa with a black back, often split out as Black-backed Swamphen when the superspecies is divided up into 5 or 6 species. We saw them at Siem Reap paddies, ATT and Prek Toal, also very nicely at Kratie.

EURASIAN MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Just two at Siem Reap paddies, now split from the American version.

Gruidae (Cranes)

SARUS CRANE (*Grus antigone sharpii*) – A nice experience with about 40 of this rare bird at ATT grasslands, seeing them in flight as well as at rest and hearing them call. Then two close birds in a wetland fragment in a desert of rice paddies at Kompong Thom, they were even forlornly dancing in the tiny area that remained to them here. I felt it was a sobering vision of the future in SE Asia, which looks likely to become one giant rice paddy.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

RED-WATTLED LAPWING (*Vanellus indicus*) – One at ATT and 4 at Kompong Thom, amazingly few.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*) – One at Kompong Thom that afternoon, then a distant one on a sandbar in the Mekong at Kratie.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-WINGED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*) – Ten flew by at Prek Toal, then there were 4 at ATT.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) – A good experience with them at Siem Reap paddies where we saw about 70, including many flying and calling. There were about a dozen at ATT later.

BRONZE-WINGED JACANA (*Metopidius indicus*) – One at Siem Reap paddies, and 6 at ATT, it's a striking species and I had never noticed the beautiful violet wash to the upper mantle before.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – One along the river at Tmatboey.



It was fascinating to see the sap harvest at Tmatboey, where they cut a slot in the trunk, burn it, then collect the sap for use as a waterproofing on boats, on woodwork, etc. The tree somehow survives, too. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*) – A fine winter plumage bird right by the track at Kompong Thom, always a great bird to see.

COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) – Heard on a couple of days then finally one seen at Kompong Thom. It was not a great winter for shorebirds.

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*) – Just one at Siem Reap paddies on the first afternoon.

COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*) – Two at ATT and one at Kompong Thom.

PIN-TAILED SNIPE (*Gallinago stenura*) – One at Siem Reap paddies which some even got to see crouched down in the rice, 2 at ATT and finally one at Kratie. The lack of a white trailing edge is a useful flight distinction from Common Snipe.

Turnicidae (Buttonquail)

SMALL BUTTONQUAIL (*Turnix sylvaticus*) – One was seen by Mike at Kompong Thom, and Tom had a buttonquail sp. at Tmatboey.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE (*Glareola maldivarum*) – A good year for them, we had one at Siem Reap paddies, then about 30 in the grasslands at ATT and 40 at Kompong Thom, which looked likely to be beginning nesting. Finally 2 at Kompong Thom on the pm trip there.

SMALL PRATINCOLE (*Glareola lactea*) – Last year we only had very distant views, but this year we had 8 at far to moderate range, then great views of 2 on a sandy island next day on the Mekong at Kratie.

Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)

GREATER PAINTED-SNIPE (*Rostratula benghalensis*) – Amy found us this, a fine male with at least 2 juvs near ATT, a nice pick-up.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – Fifteen on the Tonle Sap trip were the only sightings.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Seen in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. [I]

RED COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) – Very few, we had about 4 on the ATT day seen from the truck, then a fine view of one that flew onto an island in the Mekong at Kratie.

SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Widespread in small numbers.

ZEBRA DOVE (*Geopelia striata*) – A few around at Siem Reap, ATT and Tmatboey, vocally quite distinct to Peaceful Dove.

PINK-NECKED PIGEON (*Treron vernans*) – A couple of singles at Tmatboey.

ORANGE-BREASTED PIGEON (*Treron bicinctus*) – One in the fruiting tree on our last morning at Tmatboey-yay! Quite hard to tell from Pink-necked, I always like to see the tail and neck patterns.

THICK-BILLED PIGEON (*Treron curvirostra*) – Three by the river at Tmatboey, which unfortunately flew before i could scope them.

YELLOW-FOOTED PIGEON (*Treron phoenicopterus*) – A good year for them and we had some fantastic views, with 4 at a trepeang then some 20+ at a fruiting tree at Tmatboey. The yellow legs and feet really stand out. This is the subspecies *annamensis*.

GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula aenea*) – Six one day and 8 the next at Tmatboey.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET (*Psittacula eupatria*) – Seen nicely at Tah Prom and again at Preah Khan, but clearly very scarce in Cambodia, nice to see wild birds and not feral stock!



Huge trees have overrun much of the ruins at Preah Khan. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

BLOSSOM-HEADED PARAKEET (*Psittacula roseata*) – Good looks at Tmatboey on 3 days, with a flock of 20 at a trepeang feeding in a flowering tree, it is a very attractive species.

RED-BREASTED PARAKEET (*Psittacula alexandri*) – About 20 at Tah Prom, they showed well, and 6 at Preah Khan. One at Tmatboey later.

VERNAL HANGING-PARROT (*Loriculus vernalis*) – One shot over en route to Tmatboey, then luckily we got one feeding at a flowering *Erythrina* next day, we saw this tiny bird really well.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

HIMALAYAN CUCKOO (*Cuculus saturatus*) – One adult flew past at Siem Reap paddies, very grey looking. On range it is presumably this species and not the otherwise inseparable on plumage Oriental Cuckoo *C. optatus*.

BANDED BAY CUCKOO (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) – One at Siem Reap paddies was presumably this species, then good views of one at the river at Tmatboey.

PLAINTIVE CUCKOO (*Cacomantis merulinus*) – Three at Siem Reap paddies, then one at ATT and singles at Tmatboey on two days.

VIOLET CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) – I saw one fly by the river, then next day we had a calling bird by the fruiting tree at Tmatboey which unfortunately flew over and away. This was a Cambodia tick for me.

ASIAN KOEL (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*) – Heard at several sites, then a nice male seen well at Tmatboey.

GREEN-BILLED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*) – A brief view of one from the boat at Prek Toal.

GREATER COUCAL (*Centropus sinensis*) – Seen well at Angkor Thom and at Prek Toal.

LESSER COUCAL (*Centropus bengalensis*) – Good views out in the paddies at Siem Reap.

Strigidae (Owls)

ORIENTAL SCOPS-OWL (*Otus sunia*) – Heard one night at Tmatboey but in a somewhat scratchy and inaccessible spot, it did not behave nicely at all, but next night we got a much nicer one that came right in and everyone (except Amy, sorry!) saw it well.

BROWN FISH-OWL (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) – A fine bird at Tmatboey sat up in the open late one afternoon, then another a couple of days later that only perched briefly before flying off. A huge bird, great to see them in daylight.

ASIAN BARRED OWLET (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) – We did well for these at Angkor Thom with 2 seen nicely, then another next day at Angkor Wat.

SPOTTED WOOD-OWL (*Strix seloputo*) – One seen nicely at a roost at Tmatboey.

BROWN WOOD-OWL (*Strix leptogrammica*) – This one was tough and a couple of folks got a brief poor flight view only, though I strongly suspect the big owl we flushed a day earlier was one of these.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus macrurus*) – One briefly at Tmatboey, and calling well.

Apodidae (Swifts)

GERMAN'S SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus germani*) – Ten at Angkor Wat with Asian Palm Swifts, coming in low over the moat and showing the small pale rump quite nicely. Formerly placed with Edible-nest Swiftlet but now split out.

ASIAN PALM-SWIFT (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) – Common and seen most days.

Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)

CRESTED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprogne coronata*) – Only seen at Tmatboey where we had up to 10 in a day and had great flight and perched views.



This gate is from the 12th century, when Angkor Wat was at the height of its power. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

COMMON KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*) – We had six day records from most wetland sites, seen well.

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – Two by the river at Tmatboey gave a good show.

BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon pileata*) – Just one at the moat at Angkor.

PIED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle rudis*) – I still can't believe how scarce these are in Cambodia, they must get persecuted a lot. We had just two singles, from Siem Reap paddies and ATT only.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

GREEN BEE-EATER (*Merops orientalis ferrugiceps*) – The chestnut-capped race was seen very nicely at Siem Reap and Kompong Thom. These Green Bee-eater taxa seem pretty darn distinct to me, be good to have some genetic data on them.

BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER (*Merops philippinus*) – Widespread in small numbers, starting at Kratie, then Kompong Thom, 30 at Prek Toal and a few at ATT.

CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER (*Merops leschenaulti*) – Good looks at Tmatboey of a couple of these beautiful birds.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

INDIAN ROLLER (*Coracias benghalensis*) – Scarce, seen near Kratie and again at Tmatboey, small numbers only.

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

EURASIAN HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*) – Mike saw one at Tmatboey.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) – One near Tmatboey then a couple perched near the river there one day. Sad how such species have become so rare with hunting and habitat destruction.

Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)

LINEATED BARBET (*Megalaima lineata*) – Vocal in forest but hard to see, we finally nailed them at Bayon and then Preah Khan and Tmatboey.

COPPERSMITH BARBET (*Megalaima haemacephala*) – Heard more than seen, we had good looks at 2 at Tmatboey on the last morning.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

GRAY-CAPPED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*) – Seen at Tmatboey only, with a couple of nice looks at this diminutive species.

RUFOUS WOODPECKER (*Celeus brachyurus*) – One briefly at Tmatboey, a tricky species. Note this is now also transferred out of the New World *Celeus* genus and into *Micropternus*.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus javensis*) – We had three separate sightings at Tmatboey and some very nice views of this big and spectacular creature with the big white wing patch.

BLACK-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Picus erythropygius*) – A great view of one at Tmatboey, always high on the wants list.

COMMON FLAMEBACK (*Dinopium javanense*) – One was seen at Tmatboey, also heard there.

GREATER FLAMEBACK (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*) – Two nice birds at Tmatboey.

GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*) – Tom found us a fine but very wary pair at Tmatboey, a spectacular species.

Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)

LARGE WOODSHRIKE (*Tephrodornis gularis*) – Also seen at Tmatboey on two days, with just one or two birds.

COMMON WOODSHRIKE (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) – A few at Tmatboey, often seen singly with the white outer



A little relaxing time on one the boat rides... (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

tail feathers being very distinctive.

Aegithinidae (Ioras)

COMMON IORA (*Aegithina tiphia*) – A couple at Tmatboey.

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina macei*) – Seen a couple of times at Tmatboey

INDOCHINESE CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina polioptera*) – A fine male at Tmatboey.

BROWN-RUMPED MINIVET (*Pericrocotus cantonensis*) – One was at Angkor Thom, then a couple for everyone at Tmatboey, known as Swinhoe's Minivet to commemorate the first collector and renamed by the Oriental Bird Club in a fit of political correctness.

ASHY MINIVET (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*) – At least one was at Bayon with Swinhoe's Minivet, but very flighty.

SMALL MINIVET (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*) – Good views near Tmatboey.

SCARLET MINIVET (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) – One was seen by some at Tmatboey.

BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (*Hemipus picatus*) – A couple of sighting of this odd somewhat Batis-like bird at Tmatboey.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

BROWN SHRIKE (*Lanius cristatus*) – A couple at Siem Reap and singles at ATT and Kompong Thom.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE (*Oriolus chinensis*) – Seen nicely at Bayon.

BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE (*Oriolus xanthornus*) – This attractive bird was seen several times at Tmatboey.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

BLACK DRONGO (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) – Quite common in the north, often seen in open country.

ASHY DRONGO (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – A few from the Tmatboey area, of an ashy -grey taxon.

HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) – Just 3 seen briefly at Tmatboey.

GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) – A few from Tmatboey and Preah Khan.

Rhipiduridae (Fantails)

WHITE-BROWED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura aureola*) – Nice looks at a couple at Tmatboey.

PIED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura javanica*) – Seen at ATT very nicely, and one at Prek Toal for some.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

BLACK-NAPED MONARCH (*Hypothymis azurea*) – Nice looks from Bayon and Tah Prom.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

BLUE MAGPIE (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*) – A couple of singles at Tmatboey, but again not very obliging.

LARGE-BILLED CROW (LARGE-BILLED) (*Corvus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos*) – Amazingly scarce, we had just 3 day records and only singles and two's observed, from Prek Toel and Tmatboey. Note this is now split as Southern Jungle Crow *C. macrorhynchos* with more northerly Large-billed as *C. japonensis*.

Alaudidae (Larks)

AUSTRALASIAN BUSHLARK (*Mirafra javanica horsfieldii*) – A couple seen at Kompong Thom and one close by at ATT.

INDOCHINESE BUSHLARK (*Mirafra erythrocephala*) – One car load saw this early one morning at Tmatboey.

ORIENTAL SKYLARK (*Alauda gulgula*) – A couple of singles near ATT in the paddies, and at Kompong Thom.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*) – A few near Siem Reap, ATT and Kompong Thom.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – Widespread in the wetland areas, one of the few fairly common passerines.

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW (*Hirundo smithii*) – One was along the navigation channel at Lake Tonle Sap.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Cecropis daurica*) – Small numbers at Tmatboey and over 40 at Kratie over the paddies there.

STRIATED SWALLOW (*Cecropis striolata*) – One at ATT showed well.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH (BURMESE) (*Sitta castanea neglecta*) – Great looks at a them in the forest as we neared Tmatboey, this is now split as Neglected Nuthatch in the revised SE Asia guide.

VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta frontalis*) – One was seen quite nicely at Tmatboey.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus atriceps*) – Four seen at Angkor Thom with the next species.

BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus flaviventris*) – A few around Angkor and two at the river at Tmatboey.

SOOTY-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*) – Small numbers from Tmatboey.

STRIPE-THROATED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus finlaysoni*) – This was seen at Prek Toal by some, and also at Tmatboey by the river by a few.

YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) – Only from Siem Reap and ATT.

STREAK-EARED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus blanfordi*) – Small numbers at Tmatboey and Kratie.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)

DUSKY WARBLER (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*) – Quite vocal and skulking at Siem Reap, Kratie and ATT.

RADDE'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*) – One by the river at Tmatboey, bathing on a sandbar.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) – Hard to see well, we got singles at Angkor and Tmatboey and they were quite vocal at the former.

GREENISH WARBLER (TWO-BARRED) (*Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus*) – Three at Angkor, and then one at Tmatboey. Usually split these days as Two-barred Greenish Warbler.

Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)

BLACK-BROWED REED-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*) – Singles at ATT, and a few at Kompong Thom on both the morning and the last afternoon, but all very skulking and hard to see well.

MANCHURIAN REED-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus tangorum*) – Hmm, well, the bird takking at Kompong Thom on the morning trip seemed to have a poorly defined head pattern, but my views were regrettably brief. It may well have been this species.

ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus orientalis*) – One seen well at Kratie.

Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)

LANCEOLATED WARBLER (*Locustella lanceolata*) – I am pretty sure this was glimpsed at Siem Reap paddies by Mike, and again at Kompong Thom, but super skulky as always.

PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (*Locustella certhiola*) – One in the drainage ditch at Kompong Thom, flitting out and showing the whitish tail tips and ochre-rump.

STRIATED GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus palustris*) – A striking and large species, we saw it well at Siem Reap, Kratie and Kompong Thom. They remind me of songlarks in their way of flight and display.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

ZITTING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola juncidis*) – Six day records, it seems not uncommon in the paddy and grassland areas.

GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA (*Cisticola exilis*) – Heard at Kompong Thom and Kratie. [*]

COMMON TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus sutorius*) – Not sure that Common is the right adjective for a species we saw just twice around Siem Reap.....once in a restaurant of all places!

GRAY-BREASTED PRINIA (*Prinia hodgsonii*) – One at Tmatboey, feeding with in trees other small birds and reminding me very much of a Lesser Whitethroat!

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA (*Prinia flaviventris*) – Just one on the Mekong at Kratie, and one at ATT.

PLAIN PRINIA (*Prinia inornata*) – Four day records, starting at Siem Reap and ending at Kompong Thom.

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes)

WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax leucolophus*) – Heard at Angkor Thom and Tmatboey. [*]

Timaliidae (Babblers)

PIN-STRIPED TIT-BABBLER (*Macronous gularis*) – Seen at Tmatboey down by the river.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa dauurica*) – A few from Angkor and Tmatboey.

ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN (*Copsychus saularis*) – Only 2 at ATT, the only record, amazingly scarce.

HAINAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis hainanus*) – Some nice sightings of males and a female from the Angkor and Bayon areas, finally got one for Judy too!

BLUETHROAT (*Luscinia svecica*) – Nice looks at Kratie paddies and Kompong Thom.

TAIGA FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula albicilla*) – Two at Angkor and one at Tmatboey, the black uppertail and rump show nicely.

WHITE-THROATED ROCK-THRUSH (*Monticola gularis*) – Yees, we heard it at Angkor Thom, and went back slightly later than intended one afternoon (after Johnny lost me and Evelyn!) Happily I heard it sing once, and we got onto it perched high in some trees, a fine plumaged bird it was too, the red underparts showed well and the small white throat.

BLUE ROCK-THRUSH (*Monticola solitarius philippensis*) – One at Angkor was developing chestnut on the belly, this race is a good candidate for a split.

STONECHAT (SIBERIAN) (*Saxicola torquatus przewalskii*) – This taxon is often now split as Eastern or Siberian Stonechat, we had a few from Kratie and Kompong Thom, also at ATT.

PIED BUSHCHAT (*Saxicola caprata*) – A handful from the early part of the trip at Kratie and Kompong Thom.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

COMMON HILL MYNA (*Gracula religiosa*) – The Common Hill Myna is decidedly uncommon, we saw two twice at Angkor Thom and that was it, great views though. Much trapped for its song and mimicry abilities.

GREAT MYNA (*Acridotheres grandis*) – Another of life's great mysteries. Why oh why did the Clements people change the accurate and well-established White-vented Myna to something called Great Myna? SE Asia Field Guides? What do they know? Grrr. We saw just a few at the Siem Reap paddies, Prek Toal and Kompong Thom.

COMMON MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Not unduly common, we saw small numbers up to 6 on some six days.

VINOUS-BREASTED STARLING (*Acridotheres burmannicus*) – An uncommon one that we did well for at Tmatboey, with 5 one day, a single the next and then 3 on the last morning there.

BLACK-COLLARED STARLING (*Gracupica nigricollis*) – Four day records with a max. of 4 per day, quite vocal in a scratchy sort of way.

WHITE-SHOULDERED STARLING (*Sturnia sinensis*) – Just two flying by as we came near to the Tmatboey turn-off.

Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)

BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*) – A few at Tmatboey.

Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)

PLAIN FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum minullum*) – A very drab flowerpecker at Tah Prohm looks likely to have been this very nondescript species.

SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) – A lovely view of a male at Angkor Thom, and another briefly at Tmatboey.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes malacensis*) – Seen a couple of times at Tmatboey, also called Brown-throated Sunbird.

PURPLE SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) – Nice looks at males at Tmatboey.

OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD (OLIVE-BACKED) (*Cinnyris jugularis flammoxillaris*) – This species was seen at Bayon and then at Prek Toel it's quite a bit duller than the Oz birds with orange pectoral tufts and has a different call.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (MANCHURIAN) (*Motacilla flava macronyx*) – Great looks at one of these at Kompong Thom. Note that all the references and the IOC class this taxon with Eastern Yellow Wagtail M. tschutschensis, and Clements is hopeless with this Old World stuff.

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla tschutschensis simillima*) – We had flybys of a couple of Flava wagtails at the paddies and ATT, not identified to subspecies.

MEKONG WAGTAIL (*Motacilla samveasnae*) – Two birds showed well on the last morning at Kratie, one even singing nicely. Where do they go in the wet season I wonder when this odd riparian habitat gets submerged? This is a newly described species that commemorates Sam Veasna the Cambodian ornithologist.

ORIENTAL PIPIT (*Anthus rufulus*) – A few at Kompong Thom, and also at ATT.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT (*Anthus hodgsoni*) – A couple at Tmatboey in the woodland there.

RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*) – Both summer and winter plumage birds showed well at Kompong Thom, and we had other fly- bys there and at ATT.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza aureola*) – One in rice paddies at Kompong Thom sat for ages for scope views, a good trip bird.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

PLAIN-BACKED SPARROW (*Passer flaveolus*) – A pair in the paddies at Siem Reap, then again by the park HQ at ATT, an uncommon bird.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*) – Widespread in small numbers.

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

STREAKED WEAVER (*Ploceus manyar*) – An adult male was seen briefly at Kratie paddies, but a flock of about 150 weavers kept way back in the reedbeds, out of i.d. range.

BAYA WEAVER (*Ploceus philippinus*) – Seen in non-breeding dress at Siem Reap paddies, ATT and at Kratie paddies, readily told by the rather plain rich buff underparts.

ASIAN GOLDEN WEAVER (*Ploceus hypoxanthus*) – This was hard this time as the weavers were keeping way back in the reedbeds at Kratie. We got one subadult male with yellow underparts sat briefly, then managed a scope view of a female with brief flight and perched views of one or two more. It's a rare species and becoming tough to find.

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

RED AVADAVAT (*Amandava amandava*) – 60+ at Kompong Thom paddies, mostly non-breeding birds but a few starting to color up. Then we saw a fine full plumaged red male at Kratie paddies next day.

WHITE-RUMPED MUNIA (*Lonchura striata*) – Just a couple of sightings around Kratie.

NUTMEG MANNIKIN (*Lonchura punctulata*) – 70 at Siem Reap paddies, one at Tmatboey and a few at Kratie.

MAMMALS

LARGE FLYING FOX (*Pteropus vampyrus*) – The big fruit bats at ATT are this species, the Large fruit-bat.

CRAB-EATING MACAQUE (*Macaca fascicularis*) – More usually called long-tailed macaque, we saw this at Bayon where they were less in evidence than in the past.

PIGTAIL MACAQUE (*Macaca nemestrina*) – One was seen briefly at Bayon late pm.

FINLAYSON'S SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus finlaysoni*) – Usually called variable squirrel it's an attractive dark red species with a white patch at the base of the tail in Cambodia. We saw them at Bayon.

CAMBODIAN FLYING SQUIRREL (*Tamiops rodolphii*) – American mammal names are just as confusing as the Clements renamings of so many species. This diminutive thing is usually called the Cambodian Striped Squirrel and I don't think it can fly! We saw just one at Tmatboey.

IRRAWADDY DOLPHIN (*Orcaella brevirostris*) – Great encounters with maybe 3 or so of them on the Mekong at Kratie, where about 40 animals provide a good living for the boatmen who take the tourists out to see them.

MUNTJAC (BARKING DEER) (*Muntiacus muntjak*) – One was seen well at Tmatboey when we were walking through the woodland, it ran with the tail curled up with the white underside showing. There are about 250 or so of them here it seems.

ELD'S DEER (*Rucervus eldii*) – This was a very pleasing find at ATT where the local guide knew where to go, we saw a fine large brow-antlered stag with a female and a young one, with about 5 more later. It's a rare and threatened species which was really good to locate.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Birds of the trip are hard to pick, with Giant Ibis surely way up there, also Painted Stork and Milky Stork, Bengal Florican, Mekong Wagtail, and the great woodpeckers and owls at Tmatboey.

The sound of the Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gekko*) at Tmatboey was terrific, a loud human sounding "Toe-kay" which can really make you jump in your room at night!

Totals for the tour: 212 bird taxa and 8 mammal taxa