

**THAILAND: GURNEY'S PITTA/NICOBAR PIGEON EXTENSION**

Feb 4, 2012 to Feb 9, 2012  
Dave Stejskal & Uthai Treesucon



*The pitta may have been a no-show this trip, but our other titular species, the Nicobar Pigeon, came through in spades, and we had incredible views of half a dozen of these strange birds! (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)*

"And now for something completely different." Our short extension to Thailand's south sure was something different, compared to our excellent main tour in the north. We ventured into the land of new lifers, all representative of the Sundaic avifauna of the Malay Peninsula and the Greater Sundas region. While we had gotten a taste of this avifauna at Kaeng Krachan NP far to the north at the base of the peninsula, we really immersed ourselves in it here, recording (including those just heard) more than sixty new species for the group.

There was some major disappointment on this year's extension, and that was the absence of the rare Gurney's Pitta on the tour. Our local guide Yotin had the bird pinned down eleven days before we arrived, but it disappeared into the greenery of the reserve before we gave it our first attempt. As far as I know, it hasn't been relocated yet, but I'm sure that it will resurface sometime soon; Yotin's a pretty driven guy.

There were some great finds during our time at Khao Nor Chuchi and nearby Krabi, though. At the forefront of all of the new birds seen by our group, I'd have to say that the Oriental Bay-Owl, our close Javan Frogmouth, that fantastic male Banded Pitta, multiple Brown-winged Kingfishers, stunning Red-crowned & Red-throated barbets, a scarce Fulvous-chested Jungle-Flycatcher, and a lovely Black-throated Babbler were right up there among the highlights. And the Nicobar Pigeon, of course, came through for us like a champ on the Similan Islands at the end of our foray to the south.

Again, thanks to Wat and crew for making this such an easy trip for me and Uthai to guide for all of you. From a guide's perspective, it's unbelievably important to have a solid crew that you can depend on to help make any tour a success, like this one was. Thanks again to all of you for your good companionship on this short extension and we hope to see all of you again soon!

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at [www.fieldguides.com](http://www.fieldguides.com). And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/tha12-extLIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

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## 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

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## BIRDS

### Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

**LITTLE CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax niger*)

### Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*)

**LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*)

**PACIFIC REEF-HERON** (*Egretta sacra*) – Great views of a dark adult on the mud where we caught our boat to the Similans.

**CHINESE POND-HERON** (*Ardeola bacchus*)

**STRIATED HERON** (*Butorides striata*)

### Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

**BRAHMINY KITE** (*Haliastur indus*)

**WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – That pair on the island is delightfully reliable there.

**CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE** (*Spilornis cheela*)

### Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*) – Dave M. spotted this one from the other beach on the island. Undoubtedly a migrant there.

### Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

**WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN** (*Amauornis phoenicurus*) – Including a couple of birds on the island.

### Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

**LESSER SAND-PLOVER** (*Charadrius mongolus*) – We had a nice mix of this and the next species on the coral beach after we returned to the mainland on the final day.

**GREATER SAND-PLOVER** (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

### Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

**TEREK SANDPIPER** (*Xenus cinereus*) – We had quite a few of these odd sandpipers on the rocks just offshore from the above coral beach.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

**GRAY-TAILED TATTLER** (*Tringa brevipes*) – Two or three of these were nice to see with the above Tereks.

**WHIMBREL (SIBERIAN)** (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*)

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa lapponica*)

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*) – The most common shorebird on the rocks just offshore on the final day.

**RED-NECKED STINT** (*Calidris ruficollis*)

### Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)



*A paranoid glance over his shoulder confirms this Brown Wood-Owl's suspicions... there is someone watching him! (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)*



**COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*) – The few distant terns that we saw from the boat as we came and went from the Similans were probably this species.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) [I]

**SPOTTED DOVE** (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

**EMERALD DOVE** (*Chalcophaps indica*) [\*]

**ZEBRA DOVE** (*Geopelia striata*) – The birds on the peninsula here are naturally occurring and weren't introduced here.

**NICOBAR PIGEON** (*Caloenas nicobarica*) – WOWWW!!!! It's great to end this short extension with fabulous views of this very strange pigeon on the Similans. I figure there were probably 5-6 birds roaming the compound there on the morning that we left for the mainland.

**THICK-BILLED PIGEON** (*Treron curvirostra*) – A few at KNC (Khao Nor Chuchi reserve).

**GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON** (*Ducula aenea*) – Far outnumbered by the next species on the island.

**PIED IMPERIAL-PIGEON** (*Ducula bicolor*) – Just about all of the birds at this season have that beautiful pale yellow blush on the plumage.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

**VERNAL HANGING-PARROT** (*Loriculus vernalis*) [\*]

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

**MOUSTACHED HAWK-CUCKOO** (*Hierococcyx vagans*) [\*]

**BANDED BAY CUCKOO** (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) [\*]

**PLAINTIVE CUCKOO** (*Cacomantis merulinus*) [\*]

**ASIAN KOEL** (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) – One of the few resident birds on the island. They make a living parasitizing the small population of Common Hill Mynas there.

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED MALKOHA** (*Phaenicophaeus sumatranus*) – Some folks may have glimpsed these flying over the channel near our hotel, but they were mostly just heard.

**RAFFLES'S MALKOHA** (*Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*) – A couple of unresponsive birds late one afternoon at KNC may have been seen by a couple of folks.

**GREATER COUCAL** (*Centropus sinensis*) [\*]

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

**ORIENTAL BAY-OWL** (*Phodilus badius*) – YESSSS!!!! I really started having my doubts about this one showing up, but patience was the key. We all enjoyed great views of this beautiful owl near KNC.

Strigidae (Owls)

**BROWN WOOD-OWL** (*Strix leptogrammica*) – It took a little work, but we finally got a great view of this impressive owl at KNC late one afternoon.

**BROWN HAWK-OWL** (*Ninox scutulata*) [\*]

Podargidae (Frogmouths)

**JAVAN FROGMOUTH (BLYTH'S)** (*Batrachostomus javensis continentalis*) – Another bird that tested our patience on our first attempt at nightbirding. Lucky for us that he was so responsive.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

**GREAT EARED-NIGHTJAR** (*Eurostopodus macrotis*) – Mostly just heard, but a few folks got a look.

**LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus macrurus*) [\*]

Apodidae (Swifts)



*This Javan Frogmouth looks like it's had a pretty rough night, though it is likely thinking the same about us! (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)*

**SILVER-RUMPED NEEDLETAIL** (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*) – About a dozen of these spent much of the late afternoon feeding over a particular stretch of road at KNC. Great looks!

**GERMAN'S SWIFTLET** (*Aerodramus germani*) – A common bird on the peninsula.

**HOUSE SWIFT** (*Apus nipalensis*) – We had a couple of flocks at KNC.

**ASIAN PALM-SWIFT** (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)

*Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)*

**GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFT** (*Hemiprocne longipennis*) – Our flight looks on the extension at KNC improved a bit over the views we had on the main tour.

**WHISKERED TREESWIFT** (*Hemiprocne comata*) – Gaylan, at least, was able to see this one in the scope high in the canopy at KNC.

*Trogonidae (Trogons)*

**ORANGE-BREASTED TROGON** (*Harpactes oreskios*) [\*]

*Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)*

**COMMON KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*)

**BLACK-BACKED KINGFISHER** (*Ceyx erithaca*) – Just about everyone in line got a quick look at this small kingfisher as it perched above the stream at KNC.

**BANDED KINGFISHER** (*Lacedo pulchella*) – We were able to get another fancy female in the scopes on our way to the bird bath area at KNC. Great looks again!

**BROWN-WINGED KINGFISHER** (*Pelargopsis amauroptera*) – Multiple great views of this regional endemic.

**RUDDY KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon coromanda*) – A few folks in Uthai's boat may have seen this one fly across the channel, but that was about it.

**WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

**BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon pileata*)

**COLLARED KINGFISHER** (*Todiramphus chloris*)

*Meropidae (Bee-eaters)*

**RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER** (*Nyctyornis amictus*) – We probably heard 3-4 pairs of this spectacular species. [\*]

*Coraciidae (Rollers)*

**INDIAN ROLLER** (*Coracias benghalensis*)

**DOLLARBIRD** (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

*Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)*

**GOLD-WHISKERED BARBET** (*Megalaima chrysopogon*) [\*]

**RED-CROWNED BARBET** (*Megalaima rafflesii*) – We had to find just the right vantage point to view this one in the scopes as it sang high in the canopy at KNC.

**RED-THROATED BARBET** (*Megalaima mystacophanos*) – This was a catch-up species for everyone at KNC since we only heard it on the main tour.

**BLUE-EARED BARBET** (*Megalaima australis*) [\*]

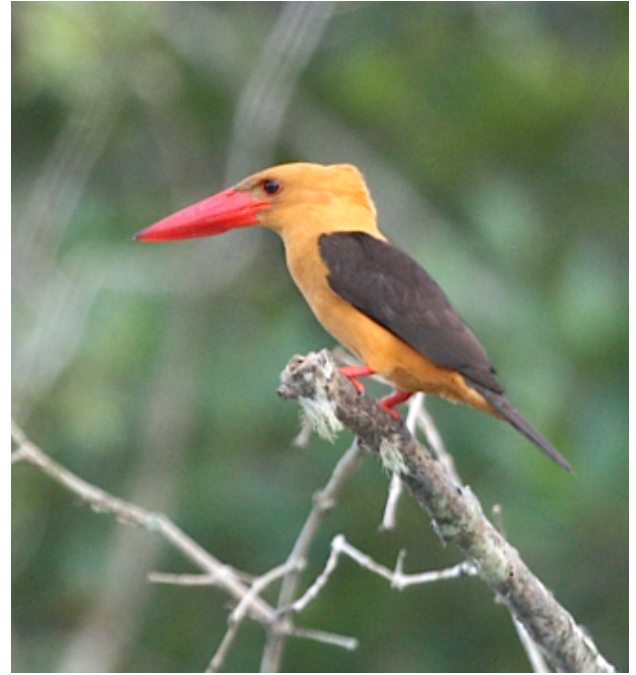
**COPPERSMITH BARBET** (*Megalaima haemacephala*) [\*]

*Picidae (Woodpeckers)*

**STREAK-BREASTED WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridanus*) – Yotin had this one staked out for us in a little rubber plantation at KNC.

**COMMON FLAMEBACK** (*Dinopium javanense*) [\*]

*Calypptomenidae (African and Green Broadbills)*



*The spectacular Brown-winged Kingfisher is restricted to mangroves in the coastal regions around the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. We were fortunate to see several of these beauties. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)*

**GREEN BROADBILL** (*Calyptomena viridis*) – Maybe glimpsed by some, but pretty much just heard this year. They're usually much more responsive. [\*]

*Eurylaimidae (Asian and Grauer's Broadbills)*

**BANDED BROADBILL** (*Eurylaimus javanicus*) [\*]

**BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL** (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*) [\*]

*Pittidae (Pittas)*

**BANDED PITTA** (*Pitta guajana*) – An exquisite species seen from the blind on the first morning at KNC. It's not a done deal yet, but it looks like Clements will likely adopt the split of this one into three species. Ours, the most beautiful of the three races, is the Malayan form and the new scientific name will be *P. irena*.

**BLUE-WINGED PITTA** (*Pitta moluccensis*) [\*]

**MANGROVE PITTA** (*Pitta megarhyncha*) – Vicki may have been the only one to see this mangrove specialist at Krabi. The birds here this year were surprisingly unresponsive.

*Acanthizidae (Thornbills and Allies)*

**GOLDEN-BELLIED GERYGONE** (*Gerygone sulphurea*) [\*]

*Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)*

**RUFOUS-WINGED PHILENTOMA** (*Philentoma pyrhoptera*) [\*]

*Aegithinidae (Ioras)*

**COMMON IORA** (*Aegithina tiphia*)

**GREEN IORA** (*Aegithina viridissima*) – Nice looks on our second morning at KNC of a singing male right above the road.

**GREAT IORA** (*Aegithina lafresnayei*) – The males here have black wings, unlike the birds we saw in the north. They often show variable amounts of black on the back and crown as well.

*Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)*

**BROWN-RUMPED MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus cantonensis*) – A catch-up bird for some folks at KNC after missing it on the main tour.

**ASHY MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

**BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE** (*Hemipus picatus*)

*Laniidae (Shrikes)*

**BROWN SHRIKE** (*Lanius cristatus*)

*Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)*

**DARK-THROATED ORIOLE** (*Oriolus xanthonotus*) – I guess that female we saw was in the middle of constructing that nest she was near. [N]

*Dicruridae (Drongos)*

**BLACK DRONGO** (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

**CROW-BILLED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus annectans*) – We heard quite a few of these in the forest at KNC, but just saw one or two.

**GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)

*Rhipiduridae (Fantails)*

**PIED FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura javanica*)

*Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)*

**BLACK-NAPED MONARCH** (*Hypothymis azurea*)

**ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER** (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) – Probably a catch-up bird for most, if not all, at KNC.

*Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)*

**LARGE-BILLED CROW (LARGE-BILLED)** (*Corvus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos*) – I know that this bird in the Malay Peninsula is supposed to be a different race than what we saw in the north on the main tour, but the distribution description in Clements suggests that the only race here is this same nominate race.

*Hirundinidae (Swallows)*



**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*)

**PACIFIC SWALLOW (PACIFIC)** (*Hirundo tahitica javanica*) – Good views in the mangroves on the first afternoon.

**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*Cecropis daurica*)

**RUFOUS-BELLIED SWALLOW** (*Cecropis badia*) – A recent split from the Striated Swallow, this one is now a Malay Peninsula endemic.

*Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)*

**PUFF-BACKED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus eutilotus*) – Great views in the scopes at KNC. A bulbul with a nice voice.

**BLACK-HEADED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

**BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus flaviventris*) [\*]

**YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

**OLIVE-WINGED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus plumosus*) [\*]

**STREAK-EARED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus blanfordi*)

**CREAM-VENTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus simplex*) – We had a couple of these new bulbuls above the road at KNC.

**RED-EYED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus brunneus*) – Probably the bulbul that we saw best at the bathing spot.

**SPECTACLED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*) – We found a responsive bird on our first afternoon at KNC after seeing it rather poorly after that.

**HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL** (*Tricholestes criniger*) – We had a very close encounter with this one at the Red-crowned Barbet spot at KNC. Quite unlike most other bulbuls that we saw in Thailand.

**OCHRACEOUS BULBUL** (*Alophoixus ochraceus*) [\*]

**GRAY-CHEEKED BULBUL** (*Alophoixus bres*) – Rather common, at least by voice, at KNC.

**YELLOW-BELLIED BULBUL** (*Alophoixus phaeocephalus*) – Man, these were flighty! We did end up with some nice scope looks on our first afternoon at KNC.

**BUFF-VENTED BULBUL** (*Iole olivacea*)

**STREAKED BULBUL** (*Ixos malaccensis*) – At least one bird came in for a bath on the final afternoon at KNC.

*Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)*

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

**ARCTIC WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus borealis*) – The calls of this bird here sound quite different from what I know in w. Alaska, so I'll have to figure out what's going on here on my future trips.

**PALE-LEGGED LEAF-WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*) – Some finally got a look at this at the bathing spot after hearing countless birds before that on the main tour.

**EASTERN CROWNED LEAF-WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus coronatus*) – If you can find a mixed insectivore flock at KNC, you'll almost certainly find this wintering species.

*Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)*

**COMMON TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

**DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus atrogularis*)

**RUFOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus sericeus*) [\*]

**ASHY TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus ruficeps*) – Nicely in the mangroves near Krabi.

*Pellorneidae (Fulvettas and Ground Babblers)*

**ABBOTT'S BABBLER** (*Malacocincla abbotti*) [\*]

**SHORT-TAILED BABBLER** (*Malacocincla malaccensis*) [\*]

**PUFF-THROATED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum ruficeps*) [\*]

**BLACK-CAPPED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum capistratum*) – A few lucky folks saw this one perched on the ground on the first morning at KNC. Otherwise, well heard.

**MOUSTACHED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron magnirostre*) – Good looks at a couple of birds along the trails at KNC.

**RUFOUS-CROWNED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron magnum*) – This one is always a little bigger than I remember it. It took a little work, but we all eventually saw it along the trail at KNC.

*Timaliidae (Babblers)*

**PIN-STRIPED TIT-BABBLER** (*Macronous gularis*) [\*]

**GRAY-HEADED BABBLER** (*Stachyris poliocephala*) – This bird came in noisily late in the afternoon just before we left the bathing spot, but few in the group saw it well (or saw it at all).

**BLACK-THROATED BABBLER** (*Stachyris nigricollis*) – This beautiful babbler performed better for us on the first afternoon at KNC.

**CHESTNUT-RUMPED BABBLER** (*Stachyris maculata*) [\*]

**CHESTNUT-WINGED BABBLER** (*Stachyris erythroptera*) – If you watched this one carefully, you could see the inflated blue air sack on the side of the neck while it sang.

*Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)*

**ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa dauurica*)

**BROWN-STREAKED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa siamensis*) – We had nice looks of a singing bird near KNC, thanks to Yotin. It really does look quite different than the closely related Asian Brown Flycatcher.

**ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** (*Copsychus saularis*)

**BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER (CHINESE)** (*Cyornis rubeculoides glaucicomans*) – At least one male was seen pretty well along the trails at KNC.

**LARGE BLUE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis magnirostris*) – That injured or sick individual that Uthai spotted appeared to be this recently recognized species. Still a poorly-known taxon.

**FULVOUS-CHESTED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis olivaceus*) – This one was a nice surprise on the hike into the bird bathing spot!

**SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN** (*Larvivora cyane*) [\*]

**BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH** (*Myophonus caeruleus*) [\*]

*Sturnidae (Starlings)*

**ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING** (*Aplonis panayensis*) – Some folks in the lead van got to see these as we made our way to KNC that first morning.

**COMMON HILL MYNA** (*Gracula religiosa*) – The birds on the Similans were the nominate subspecies *G. r. religiosa*.

**COMMON MYNA** (*Acridotheres tristis*)

*Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)*

**YELLOW-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER** (*Prionochilus maculatus*) – This and the Orange-bellied Flowerpecker seemed to be the most common flowerpeckers in the forest at KNC.

**CRIMSON-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER** (*Prionochilus percussus*) – A lovely male in the scope on our first afternoon at KNC.

**THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum agile*) – Another catch-up for some folks who missed this one on the main tour.

**ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*) – Especially common at the edge of the forest and in the disturbed areas.

**SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

*Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)*

**RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD** (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) [\*]

**PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes malacensis*)

**RED-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes rhodolaemus*) – A male made a very brief appearance on our second morning at KNC. Very similar to the Plain-throated Sunbird.

**PURPLE-NAPED SUNBIRD** (*Hypogramma hypogrammicum*) – We had an incredible close encounter with this unique sunbird along the roadside on our first afternoon at KNC.

**VAN HASSELT'S SUNBIRD** (*Leptocoma brasiliana*) – This one is the mainland form that was split from Purple-throated Sunbird.

**OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** (*Cinnyris jugularis*)

**LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera longirostra*) – Another catch-up species for some.

**SPECTACLED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera flavigaster*) – We had a brief encounter with this one on our way to catch the boat for the Similans.

**GRAY-BREASTED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera modesta*) – About as big as a Streaked Spiderhunter but much more subdued in pattern.

*Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)*

**ORIENTAL PIPIT** (*Anthus rufulus*)

*Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)*

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*)

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**MAMMALS**

**VARIABLE FLYING FOX** (*Pteropus hypomelanus*) – I'm not sure I'd want to sleep in a tent with all of these guys roosting above me in the trees. The predominant mammal of the Similans.

**COMMON TREESHREW** (*Tupaia glis*) – A surprise visitor to the bird bathing area for some.

**CRAB-EATING MACAQUE** (*Macaca fascicularis*) – Loads of these in the mangroves at Krabi.

**GRAY-BELLIED SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus caniceps*)

**SMOOTH-COATED OTTER** (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) – A pair of these was seen by about half of the group in the mangroves near our hotel that first afternoon.

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

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**Totals for the tour: 157 bird taxa and 5 mammal taxa**