Field Guides Tour Report



THAILAND

Jan 14, 2012 to Feb 4, 2012 Dave Stejskal & Uthai Treesucon



This superb Long-tailed Broadbill, one of 5 gorgeous broadbill species we saw on this tour, gave us incredible close views at Kaeng Krachan National Park. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

What a fabulous trip! This year's Thailand tour again went off without a hitch, in spite of the devastating flooding throughout the country back in the fall and early winter, just before this tour. We saw little physical evidence of the floods, but we sure heard some stories from Wat, Jeed, and Uthai about how it affected them. The domestic airport near our Bangkok hotel remained closed because of the flooding, necessitating a bit more driving in town to catch our flight to Chiang Mai, but that was the only weather-related inconvenience that I can recall. Weather was typically very good with a bit of seasonally unusual rain just before the tour and during the tour in the Bangkok area. None of this really affected us, though, except for a delay in our flight getting back to Bangkok from Chiang Mai (thunderstorm delays in Bangkok).

This year's tour again took us to some of Thailand's and Southeast Asia's best sites for birding, and each produced a number of spectacular sightings not repeated elsewhere along our route. The vast littoral habitats along the western shore of the Gulf of Thailand produced a wealth of waterbirds, the rarest of which was undoubtedly our lone Spoon-billed Sandpiper among dozens of more common species. I'm not sure how long we'll be able to produce this critically endangered shorebird given that there are probably fewer than 200 birds remaining in the wild.

Khao Yai NP to the north of Bangkok was our first forested venue of the trip and introduced us to many of the common

species of the remaining mixed broadleaf forest in the middle of the country. We also enjoyed a few decidedly uncommon species in the area, including both Silver Pheasant and Siamese Fireback, and the secretive Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo, among others. Kaeng Krachan NP, our other forested site to the southwest of Bangkok, gave us a taste of an avifauna more typical of the Malay Peninsula with the likes of Crested Jay, Black-and-red Broadbill, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Greater Green Leafbird, plus many others. That Ratchet-tailed Treepie, isolated from the nearest population to the east by 100's of kilometers, was quite something, too!

In the northwest of the country, we visited several productive mountain ranges, namely Doi Inthanon, Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Angkhang, and, finally, Doi Lang. Habitats at each are slightly different and all are worthy of a visit, as we found out along our journey together. Highlights at each are hard to pick (there were so many to choose from!), but the ones that stick out in my mind are the White-rumped Falcon, Slaty-backed Forktail, Black-tailed Crake, and just the general birding scene at the summit of Doi Inthanon, the Giant Nuthatch on Doi Chiang Dao, the Hume's Pheasant and Red-faced Liocichlas on Doi Angkhang, and the confiding White-gorgeted Flycatchers and the skulking Coral-billed Scimitar-Babblers on Doi Lang. There are certainly others to choose from!

Thanks to Wat and his crew on this tour, we all enjoyed about as carefree a tour experience as you could hope for on a trip like this. They anticipated our every need, fed us like kings, and their cheeriness and desire to help never wavered for a moment. I think this tour would be quite different without them and I am forever grateful and appreciative. Thanks also to my co-leader Uthai Treesucon who never ceases to amaze me with his knowledge and skill. And thanks to all of you for joining me for this wonderful adventure to the heart of Southeast Asia. You were all wonderful travel and birding companions and I hope we all have a chance to travel together again. All the best in 2012!

--Dave

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at **www.fieldguides.com**. And to see this same triplist online, go to **http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/tha12LIST.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) – We normally see many more of these in the Bangkok/Rangsit area but I suppose that the widespread flooding has made these birds disperse.

COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE (Nettapus coromandelianus) – Only about half of the group got to see these in Rangsit before they disappeared behind the reeds.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

RUFOUS-THROATED PARTRIDGE (Arborophila rufogularis) – Nicely for most just above the buildings at the summit of Doi Inthanon.

BAR-BACKED PARTRIDGE (Arborophila brunneopectus) – These were a bit of a surprise when we visited the park headquarters at Kaeng Krachan.

SCALY-BREASTED PARTRIDGE (Arborophila chloropus) [*]

MOUNTAIN BAMBOO-PARTRIDGE (Bambusicola fytchii) – We had to flush these to get a look on Doi Chiang Dao.

RED JUNGLEFOWL (Gallus gallus) – If you saw it, that big flock on the road at Kaeng Krachan was really impressive.

SILVER PHEASANT (Lophura nycthemera) – Bill spotted this beautiful bird for us along he roadside high in Khao Yai NP.

SIAMESE FIREBACK (Lophura diardi) – A very reliable bird for us at this spot.

HUME'S PHEASANT (Syrmaticus humiae) – YESSS!!! It took us two attempts (the first yielded a "Hume's" house cat!) but what an incredible experience! We see this one on <20% of our trips here.

GRAY PEACOCK-PHEASANT (Polyplectron bicalcaratum) [*]

GREEN PEAFOWL (Pavo muticus) – This one has gotten a little tougher here over the years, but that gorgeous male performed well for us on our final morning. Now extremely local on mainland S.E. Asia.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LITTLE GREBE (Tachybaptus ruficollis)

Ciconiidae (Storks)

ASIAN OPENBILL (Anastomus oscitans) – Always easy to find in the Bangkok area. It was interesting to see them nesting again at the temple on the first afternoon.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

INDIAN CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax fuscicollis) – We had nice looks of a bird in flight over the salt pans s. of Bangkok. Not a bird that we see here every year.

LITTLE CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax niger)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

YELLOW BITTERN (Ixobrychus sinensis) – Very few this year.

BLACK BITTERN (Ixobrychus flavicollis) – That bird flushed near Rangsit was a lucky find.

GRAY HERON (Ardea cinerea)

PURPLE HERON (Ardea purpurea)

GREAT EGRET (Ardea alba)

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (Mesophoyx intermedia) – We never see that many of these.



Asian Openbills are common, even found nesting at temples. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

CHINESE EGRET (Egretta eulophotes) – The lucky folks in the back got a look at this rare bird in the mangroves near Laem Pak Bia.

LITTLE EGRET (Egretta garzetta)

CATTLE EGRET (ASIAN) (Bubulcus ibis coromandus)

CHINESE POND-HERON (Ardeola bacchus) – Some of the pond-herons that we saw in the Bangkok area were certainly the very similar Javan Pond-Heron, but these two are indistinguishable in basic plumage.

STRIATED HERON (Butorides striata)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (Nycticorax nycticorax)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

JERDON'S BAZA (Aviceda jerdoni) – A pair of birds flushed from the side of the road one morning at Kaeng Krachan NP, but not everyone got the look they wanted.

BLACK BAZA (Aviceda leuphotes) – We don't usually get it here at this season, but all three of our birds were seen at Kaeng Krachan this year.

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD (Pernis ptilorhynchus) – A single bird overhead at Kaeng Krachan NP was our only sighting.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (Elanus caeruleus)

BLACK KITE (Milvus migrans)

BRAHMINY KITE (Haliastur indus)

CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE (Spilornis cheela) – Great looks both perched and in flight. Usually the most common large raptor on this tour.

PIED HARRIER (Circus melanoleucos) – That adult male n. of Chiang Mai was simply spectacular!

CRESTED GOSHAWK (Accipiter trivirgatus) – A single bird in flight at Kaeng Krachan was surprising in that it was our only one of the tour!

SHIKRA (Accipiter badius) – It was fun watching these birds catch the emerging Wrinkle-lipped Bats near Khao Yai NP.

RUFOUS-WINGED BUZZARD (Butastur liventer) – We ended up seeing a few of these attractive raptors in the north, but the most amazing sighting was Uthai's on the lower slopes of Doi Inthanon NP.

- **GRAY-FACED BUZZARD** (Butastur indicus) Our best was the young bird on the grounds of the Kaeng Krachan HQ. The overall numbers of this migrant species have really plummeted in recent decades.
- **COMMON BUZZARD (JAPONICUS)** (Buteo buteo japonicus) There's been some splitting of this one in recent years by the Europeans, so watch for Clements to follow suit in the coming updates.
- **RUFOUS-BELLIED EAGLE** (Lophotriorchis kienerii) That last look of the adult at Kaeng Krachan was really great! **MOUNTAIN HAWK-EAGLE** (Nisaetus nipalensis) A couple of distant soaring birds this year.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

- WHITE-RUMPED FALCON (Polihierax insignis) WOWWW!!! We couldn't have asked for any better looks of that responsive male bird in the dry forest of Doi Inthanon NP. We only see this species on about a quarter of the tours here, so you all were lucky!
- **COLLARED FALCONET** (Microhierax caerulescens) The single bird on Doi Angkhang was the closest of the two sightings on the tour. This one isn't much bigger than the insects that it eats.
- **BLACK-THIGHED FALCONET** (Microhierax fringillarius) These birds have become tough to find at Kaeng Krachan, but we enjoyed fantastic looks in the scopes this year.
- **EURASIAN KESTREL** (Falco tinnunculus) Thaton is usually the place where we end up seeing this one.
- PEREGRINE FALCON (Falco peregrinus)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

- **SLATY-BREASTED RAIL** (Gallirallus striatus) One darted across the trail at Rangsit for some.
- WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN (Amaurornis phoenicurus) The Bangkok area is usually the place where we see this widespread species best.
- **BLACK-TAILED CRAKE** (Amaurornis bicolor) He was out and waiting for us this year up on Doi Inthanon. It wasn't long ago when this local species had near-mythical status.
- **BAILLON'S CRAKE** (Porzana pusilla) A surprise to see it so well in Rangsit this year.
- **RUDDY-BREASTED CRAKE** (Porzana fusca) I was hoping that the first bedraggled bird at Rangsit wouldn't be our only sighting of the tour!
- **WATERCOCK** (Gallicrex cinerea) We were really lucky to spot this one climbing up in that distant line of shrubs out in the marsh at Rangsit.



A common species in its mangrove habitat, a Collared Kingfisher gets ready to chow down on a crab dinner. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

- **PURPLE SWAMPHEN (BLACK-BACKED)** (Porphyrio porphyrio viridis) Watch for this widespread Old World species to be split into a few species, at least.
- **EURASIAN MOORHEN** (Gallinula chloropus) This one was recently split from the New World birds.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

INDIAN THICK-KNEE (Burhinus indicus) – Another result of a recent split, we had this one listed as Eurasian Thick-knee on the checklist, but the s. Asian birds are now separate from the birds to the west in Europe & n. Africa.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

- **GRAY-HEADED LAPWING** (Vanellus cinereus) Not as common as most years, but we did end up with a couple of small flocks in the n.w.
- **RED-WATTLED LAPWING** (Vanellus indicus) Great looks in the south. There's been recent work done on this species and it looks like this eastern form (V.i. atronuchalis) is deserving of species rank, so watch for that change to be adopted by Clements.
- **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** (Pluvialis squatarola)
- PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (Pluvialis fulva)
- **LESSER SAND-PLOVER** (Charadrius mongolus) There's also talk of splitting this one into two, and both forms winter in Thailand. Unfortunately, I don't think that they're identifiable in basic plumage.

GREATER SAND-PLOVER (Charadrius leschenaultii) – When the two sand-plover species are together, this one is easy to pick out.

MALAYSIAN PLOVER (Charadrius peronii) – We had a couple of pairs of this threatened plover at Laem Pak Bia.

KENTISH PLOVER (KENTISH) (Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus) – Now split from our Snowy Plover in the New World.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (Charadrius dubius) – We probably had two subspecies on the tour, with the migrant C.d. curonicus on the coast s. of Bangkok, and the resident C.d. jerdoni near Chiang Mai.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-WINGED STILT (Himantopus himantopus)

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA (Hydrophasianus chirurgus) – We were lucky to get one of these to flush at Rangsit this year, given the conditions there.

BRONZE-WINGED JACANA (Metopidius indicus) – Always the more common of the two jacana species on this tour. [N]

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON SANDPIPER (Actitis hypoleucos)

GREEN SANDPIPER (Tringa ochropus) – Some good comparisons with the above near Chiang Mai.

SPOTTED REDSHANK (Tringa erythropus)

COMMON GREENSHANK (Tringa nebularia)

MARSH SANDPIPER (Tringa stagnatilis)

WOOD SANDPIPER (Tringa glareola)

COMMON REDSHANK (Tringa totanus)

WHIMBREL (SIBERIAN) (Numenius phaeopus variegatus)
Keep track of your Whimbrels ,Äì all 3 distinctive forms might get split out.

FAR EASTERN CURLEW (Numenius madagascariensis) – A real rarity in Thailand, we saw at least a few of these big curlews mixed in with a huge flock of Eurasian Curlews near Pak Thale.

EURASIAN CURLEW (Numenius arquata)

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (Limosa limosa) – There's some recent evidence to suggest that this and the next species should be split into a couple of different species each. Both of ours were the Siberian breeding forms.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (Limosa lapponica)

GREAT KNOT (Calidris tenuirostris) – I've never seen numbers like that out on the Laem Pak Bia spit before!

SANDERLING (Calidris alba)

RED-NECKED STINT (Calidris ruficollis)

TEMMINCK'S STINT (Calidris temminckii) – A single bird near Laem Pak Bia for some.

LONG-TOED STINT (Calidris subminuta)

DUNLIN (Calidris alpina) – This one is a little humdrum for us, but it's a rarity in Thailand.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (Calidris ferruginea)

SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER (Eurynorhynchus pygmeus) – YESSSS!!!! It was discouraging to hear that only one bird was being seen here in recent weeks, and even more discouraging that it hadn't been seen yet that morning, but we ended up finding one bird among the throngs of wintering shorebirds at Pak Thale! I really hope that conservation efforts end up helping this critically endangered species.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER (Limicola falcinellus) – Great studies of this uncommon shorebird.

COMMON SNIPE (Gallinago gallinago) – We saw this and the next about as well as you can see them near the coast at Laem Pak Bia.



The Pin-striped Tit-Babbler is the mainland form of the former Striped Tit-Babbler, recently split into this species and Boldstriped Tit-Babbler of Borneo. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

PIN-TAILED SNIPE (Gallinago stenura)

EURASIAN WOODCOCK (Scolopax rusticola) – Barbara spotted this big guy skulking in the shadows up at the Doi Inthanon summit bog, giving all great views before it disappeared.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (Phalaropus lobatus) – Another local rarity in Thailand, we were lucky to see four of these put down in a pond at Pak Thale.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BROWN-HEADED GULL (Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus) – The default gull along the Thai coast.

LITTLE TERN (Sternula albifrons) – Loads of these this year along the coast.

GULL-BILLED TERN (Gelochelidon nilotica)

CASPIAN TERN (Hydroprogne caspia)

WHISKERED TERN (Chlidonias hybrida)

COMMON TERN (Sterna hirundo)

GREAT CRESTED TERN (Thalasseus bergii) – It was nice to see both of these mostly pelagic species roosting out at the Laem Pak Bia spit.

LESSER CRESTED TERN (Thalasseus bengalensis)

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (Columba livia) [I]

SPECKLED WOOD-PIGEON (Columba hodgsonii) – These birds came out with the rising sun near the Doi Inthanon summit.

ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE (Streptopelia orientalis) – These have proven to be predictable on the lower slopes of Doi Lang.

RED COLLARED-DOVE (Streptopelia tranquebarica)

SPOTTED DOVE (Streptopelia chinensis)

BARRED CUCKOO-DOVE (Macropygia unchall) – A couple of singing birds at the Silver Pheasant spot at Khao Yai that first morning there were our only ones.

EMERALD DOVE (Chalcophaps indica)

ZEBRA DOVE (Geopelia striata) – All of the birds in Thailand n. of the Malay Peninsula are thought to be derived from introduced birds. [I]



A magnificent Crested Serpent-Eagle surveys his kingdom from a lofty perch. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal) Field Guides Birding Tours • www.fieldguides.com • 800-728-4953

THICK-BILLED PIGEON (Treron curvirostra) – Some of the fruiting figs in Khao Yai NP held quite a number of these.

PIN-TAILED PIGEON (Treron apicauda) – We had to climb to the top of the temple steps to get a look at these birds perched in a distant tree. This site has been very reliable for this species in recent years.

WEDGE-TAILED PIGEON (Treron sphenurus) – We never really got the looks we wanted on Doi Chiang Dao.

MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (Ducula badia) – Only at Khao Yai NP this year.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET (Psittacula eupatria) – This big parakeet is still hanging on at the temple in Bangkok, despite the habitat being degraded every year.

GRAY-HEADED PARAKEET (Psittacula finschii) – This one has become incredibly tough to see on this tour recently. We really lucked out this year.

BLOSSOM-HEADED PARAKEET (Psittacula roseata) – A short walk up the hill really improved our looks at this local parakeet near Doi Inthanon.

RED-BREASTED PARAKEET (Psittacula alexandri) – Always the most common and widespread of the the four possible Psittacula parakeets on this tour.

VERNAL HANGING-PARROT (Loriculus vernalis) – Perched views of of this common bird are uncommon; we were lucky to see it so well so many times.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

BANDED BAY CUCKOO (Cacomantis sonneratii) – A really common voice in some areas on this tour, but not an easy one to see at all.

PLAINTIVE CUCKOO (Cacomantis merulinus)

ASIAN EMERALD CUCKOO (Chrysococcyx maculatus) – A couple of males on the tour never really stuck around for the looks that we all wanted

ASIAN KOEL (Eudynamys scolopaceus)

BLACK-BELLIED MALKOHA (Phaenicophaeus diardi) – One bird with the flock that held the pair of Ratchet-tailed Treepies at Kaeng Krachan. This malkoha is a species that we rarely see on this tour.

GREEN-BILLED MALKOHA (Phaenicophaeus tristis) – I've never had a Thailand tour that has encountered so few of these normally easy birds.

RED-BILLED MALKOHA (Phaenicophaeus javanicus) – Great looks high in the canopy at Kaeng Krachan NP. Another malkoha that we rarely see on this tour.

CORAL-BILLED GROUND-CUCKOO (Carpococcyx renauldi) – WOWWW!!!! To think that you can now "expect" to see this near-mythical bird is pretty outrageous. Of course, having said that, we'll probably start missing it on future tours!

GREATER COUCAL (Centropus sinensis)

LESSER COUCAL (Centropus bengalensis) [*]

Strigidae (Owls)

MOUNTAIN SCOPS-OWL (Otus spilocephalus) – Thank goodness this little owl stuck around so long and called for us, allowing all to get a good look in the light.

COLLARED SCOPS-OWL (Otus lettia) – I've never had such a shy Collared Scops-Owl in all of my years of guiding this tour.

ORIENTAL SCOPS-OWL (Otus sunia) [*]

COLLARED OWLET (Glaucidium brodiei) – Finally!! It took us twelve days of hearing it almost daily before we laid eyes on this little guy on Doi Chiang Dao!

ASIAN BARRED OWLET (Glaucidium cuculoides) – A little easier to see than the above species, but not by much.



An armchair tick waiting to happen: this eastern subspecies of Red-wattled Lapwing is a good candidate to be split, as it differs considerably from the 3 other western subspecies.

(Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

SPOTTED OWLET (Athene brama) – Ah, had they all been like this one!

BROWN HAWK-OWL (Ninox scutulata) - Or this one!

Podargidae (Frogmouths)

HODGSON'S FROGMOUTH (Batrachostomus hodgsoni) [*]

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus macrurus) – Nice views in the lights on the grounds of our resort near Kaeng Krachan.

SAVANNA NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus affinis) – This was the only nightbird that cooperated at all for us near Doi Inthanon.

Apodidae (Swifts)

BROWN-BACKED NEEDLETAIL (Hirundapus giganteus) – Briefly for some folks at Khao Yai NP on our first full day there.

HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET (Aerodramus brevirostris) – Numbers of this one were a little disappointing this year.

GERMAN'S SWIFTLET (Aerodramus germani) – For most folks in the coastal lowlands south of Bangkok.

PACIFIC SWIFT (Apus pacificus) – I'm guessing that all of the birds that we saw were this migrant species from the north, and not the local resident population that was just recently split from Pacific Swift (Cook's Swift, A. cooki).

HOUSE SWIFT (Apus nipalensis) – Nesting under the stairs at the temple near Chiang Dao (the temple with all of those steps).

ASIAN PALM-SWIFT (Cypsiurus balasiensis) – Almost daily on this tour

<u>Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)</u>

CRESTED TREESWIFT (Hemiprocne coronata) – Our only birds this year were on the power lines at the Chiang Mai airport.

GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFT (Hemiprocne longipennis) – A single high-flying bird late in the afternoon at Kaeng Krachan NP.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

RED-HEADED TROGON (Harpactes erythrocephalus) – The whole group never scored on this one.

ORANGE-BREASTED TROGON (Harpactes oreskios) – This exquisite trogon was seen very well at close range in Kaeng Krachan NP.



The showy Yellow-cheeked Tit is a real knockout, and we saw it incredibly well at Doi Inthanon. (Photo by guide Dave Steiskal)

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

COMMON KINGFISHER (Alcedo atthis)

BANDED KINGFISHER (Lacedo pulchella) – It took a lot more work than usual, but we all finally nailed this stunning kingfisher at Khao Yai NP.

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER (Halcyon smyrnensis)

BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER (Halcyon pileata)

COLLARED KINGFISHER (Todiramphus chloris) – We had some really memorable looks at this beautiful, widespread species.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER (Nyctyornis amictus) – Man, what a bird!!

BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER (Nyctyornis athertoni) – Not as gaudy as his close relative above, but still pretty darned nice!

GREEN BEE-EATER (Merops orientalis)

BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER (Merops philippinus)

CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER (Merops leschenaulti) – The most common and widespread bee-eater of the trip.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

INDIAN ROLLER (Coracias benghalensis) – Throughout this trip along the roadsides.

DOLLARBIRD (Eurystomus orientalis) – A single bird only at Kaeng Krachan.

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

EURASIAN HOOPOE (Upupa epops) – As usual, on the grounds of the resort at Kaeng Krachan.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL (Anthracoceros albirostris) – The most common hornbill on the tour, but even these were down in numbers this year.

GREAT HORNBILL (Buceros bicornis) – That first sighting in Kaeng Krachan when that bird flew right over our heads will stick in my memory forever!

RUSTY-CHEEKED HORNBILL (Anorrhinus tickelli) – A split from what used to be known as Brown Hornbill, we had quite a few of these in the tall forest along the stream at Kaeng Krachan NP.

WREATHED HORNBILL (Aceros undulatus) – Just a couple of birds this year, which is about average.

Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)

GREAT BARBET (Megalaima virens) – An ever-present voice in the highlands of the northwest. We enjoyed a few great looks along the way.

LINEATED BARBET (Megalaima lineata) – The first barbet that we saw away from Bangkok.

GREEN-EARED BARBET (Megalaima faiostricta) – Just in the south this year.

RED-THROATED BARBET (Megalaima mystacophanos) [*]

GOLDEN-THROATED BARBET (Megalaima franklinii) – The last of our barbet species, and remarkably difficult to see this year.

BLUE-THROATED BARBET (Megalaima asiatica) – Very common at the middle elevations in Kaeng Krachan and up in the northwest.

MOUSTACHED BARBET (Megalaima incognita) – Fabulous looks of this one on our first full morning at Khao Yai.

BLUE-EARED BARBET (Megalaima australis) – Tiny, like the next species.

COPPERSMITH BARBET (Megalaima haemacephala) – Almost everywhere in the disturbed lowlands.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

SPECKLED PICULET (Picumnus innominatus) – Finally, a good look near Doi Angkhang. It's hard to believe that this genus is actually pan-tropical.

WHITE-BROWED PICULET (Sasia ochracea) – A couple of these tiny woodpeckers presented themselves for some good looks.



However the Mugimaki Flycatcher came by its name (Mugimaki is Japanese for 'wheat-sower"?!?) it is one heck of a handsome bird! (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

GRAY-CAPPED WOODPECKER (Dendrocopos canicapillus) – Not much bigger than the piculets, this one used to be called the Gray-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker.

 $\textbf{STRIPE-BREASTED WOODPECKER} \ (\texttt{Dendrocopos atratus}) - \textbf{Almost always in pine or mixed pine/broadleaf}.$

RUFOUS WOODPECKER (Celeus brachyurus) [*]

LESSER YELLOWNAPE (Picus chlorolophus) – We found a very cooperative bird at the end of the road on Doi Chiang Dao, but it stuck to the tip top of the pines.

CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER (Picus puniceus) – This incredibly beautiful woodpecker could have given us a little better view at Kaeng Krachan - it was tough to really appreciate it up in its lofty perch above the road.

GREATER YELLOWNAPE (Picus flavinucha) – Great looks in the scope of a couple of birds on the lower section of the

Kaeng Krachan NP road.

- **LACED WOODPECKER** (Picus vittatus) If you were in the right spot on the trail at the right time, you scored a great view of this responsive, but shy bird at Khao Yai. Why the heck are these Asian woodpeckers so darned shy?!
- **BLACK-HEADED WOODPECKER** (Picus erythropygius) How lucky was that to get one of these beautiful woodpeckers up in the same tree with the Collared Falconets?
- **GRAY-FACED WOODPECKER** (Picus canus hessei) Great views in the scopes of a couple of birds along the lower road at Kaeng Krachan NP.
- **COMMON FLAMEBACK** (Dinopium javanense) That first stop in the dry forest in Kaeng Krachan on our second day in the park was a real woodpecker bonanza! We had this one, the pair of Greater Yellownapes, and a trio of Gray-faced Woodpeckers.
- **GREATER FLAMEBACK** (Chrysocolaptes lucidus) Surprisingly few of this normally common woodpecker.

BAMBOO WOODPECKER (Gecinulus viridis) [*]

- **BAY WOODPECKER** (Blythipicus pyrrhotis) Some folks may have gotten a very brief perched view of this one (another shy Asian woodpecker!), but most of us had to be satisfied with flight views.
- **BLACK-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER** (Meiglyptes jugularis) Here's a woodpecker that really behaved for us, giving everyone fab looks in the scopes.
- **HEART-SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (Hemicircus canente) Very strange-looking, but incredibly endearing at the same time

Eurylaimidae (Asian and Grauer's Broadbills)

- **BLACK-AND-RED BROADBILL** (Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos) This bizarre bird seems to be highly tied to forest streams.
- **LONG-TAILED BROADBILL** (Psarisomus dalhousiae) Unbelievable looks at a couple of close birds along the road in Kaeng Krachan NP.
- **SILVER-BREASTED BROADBILL** (Serilophus lunatus) We waited until the last day to see this one, and, even then, we just barely got it! Definitely on the decline in the past ten years or so.
- **BANDED BROADBILL** (Eurylaimus javanicus) Our first of the five strange broadbills that we saw on the tour.
- **BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL** (Eurylaimus ochromalus) One of the most exquisite birds in S.E. Asia as far as I'm concerned!

Pittidae (Pittas)

RUSTY-NAPED PITTA (Pitta oatesi) [*]

BLUE PITTA (Pitta cyanea) – Some got great looks, others not at all. You really had to be looking through just the right hole to see this skulker.

Acanthizidae (Thornbills and Allies)

GOLDEN-BELLIED GERYGONE (Gerygone sulphurea) – On our second run along the coast as we headed to Bangkok.

Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)

LARGE WOODSHRIKE (Tephrodornis gularis) – Just a couple of these in the pines on Doi Inthanon.

Artamidae (Woodswallows)

ASHY WOODSWALLOW (Artamus fuscus)

Aegithinidae (Ioras)

COMMON IORA (Aegithina tiphia)

GREAT IORA (Aegithina lafresnayei) – The larger of the two regular ioras on this tour, we got a couple of good looks during the first half of the trip.

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE (Coracina macei) – Great looks right on the Myanmar border.

BLACK-WINGED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (Coracina melaschistos)

ROSY MINIVET (Pericrocotus roseus) – A few female-plumaged birds showed themselves well in the dry forest on the lower slopes of Doi Inthanon. These winter visitors are usually in the company of the next two species.

BROWN-RUMPED MINIVET (Pericrocotus cantonensis) – Just a couple of these at Khao Yai very early on. Also called the Swinhoe's Minivet.

ASHY MINIVET (Pericrocotus divaricatus) – It was really a poor year for wintering minivets, including this species.

SMALL MINIVET (Pericrocotus cinnamomeus) – Great scope looks just before we saw our only Savanna Nightjar near Doi Inthanon.

LONG-TAILED MINIVET (Pericrocotus ethologus) – It was fascinating watching a pair of these building a nest in a pine on Doi Chiang Dao. [N]

SHORT-BILLED MINIVET (Pericrocotus brevirostris) – More of a broadleaf forest bird in the mountains than the Longtailed Minivet, which prefers the pine forest.

SCARLET MINIVET (Pericrocotus flammeus) – The most widespread and common of the many minivet species on this tour.

GRAY-CHINNED MINIVET (Pericrocotus solaris) – I'd never seen any of the minivets nesting on this tour before, so seeing two species busy constructing nests was a real thrill for me. [N]

BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (Hemipus picatus) – At all of our venues on this trip.

Pachycephalidae (Whistlers and Allies)

MANGROVE WHISTLER (Pachycephala cinerea) [*]

Laniidae (Shrikes)

BROWN SHRIKE (Lanius cristatus) – Very widespread on this trip.

BURMESE SHRIKE (Lanius collurioides) – That immature bird near Khao Yai was really an unexpected find and was the farthest south that I've ever seen it.

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE (Lanius schach)

GRAY-BACKED SHRIKE (Lanius tephronotus) – More common than usual this year.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

BLYTH'S SHRIKE-BABBLER (Pteruthius aeralatus) – White-browed Shrike-Babbler was just recently split into four and this one is the most widespread of the four.

BLACK-EARED SHRIKE-BABBLER (Pteruthius melanotis) – Just glimpsed by a few folks on Doi Lang.

CLICKING SHRIKE-BABBLER (Pteruthius intermedius) – Another result of a split. This is the mainland species and the other is restricted to Java.

WHITE-BELLIED ERPORNIS (Erpornis zantholeuca) – This one went on quite a taxonomic journey, going from it's traditional spot among the yuhinas in the babbler family (it used to be the White-bellied Yuhina) to the vireo family with the recently moved shrike-babblers.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE (Oriolus chinensis) – Just in the south this year. This bird might get split up sometime in the next couple of years, so keep track of where you see them.

SLENDER-BILLED ORIOLE (Oriolus tenuirostris) – A pine specialist, we had a few of these orioles in the mountains of the northwest.

BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE (Oriolus xanthornus) – One of these widespread orioles finally gave us a good look as we headed back to the vans.

MAROON ORIOLE (Oriolus traillii) – Our best was on Doi Chiang Dao this year.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

BLACK DRONGO (Dicrurus macrocercus)

ASHY DRONGO (Dicrurus leucophaeus) – Including a few of the white-faced migrant race D. l. leucogenis from China.

BRONZED DRONGO (Dicrurus aeneus) – Mostly in the north this year.

LESSER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO (Dicrurus remifer) – This one is the toughest drongo on the tour to get a look at.

HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO (Dicrurus hottentottus) – At all of the flowering trees - nectar is a major food source at this season.

GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO (Dicrurus paradiseus) – Common and spectacular.

Rhipiduridae (Fantails)

WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL (Rhipidura albicollis) – Only in the north this year.

PIED FANTAIL (Rhipidura javanica)

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

BLACK-NAPED MONARCH (Hypothymis azurea) – With nearly every small flock of forest birds that we encountered.

ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (Terpsiphone paradisi) – Some in the group got a very brief view of one bird with a mixed flock at Kaeng Krachan. A much easier bird to see on the extension to this tour.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

CRESTED JAY (Platylophus galericulatus) – YESSS!!! I hadn't seen this stunning corvid in many years at Kaeng Krachan, so it was a real thrill to encounter a curious pair on a little side trail one afternoon. I'm really glad to see that they're still here!

EURASIAN JAY (Garrulus glandarius leucotis)

BLUE MAGPIE (Urocissa erythrorhyncha) – A few folks in the group got a tantalizing view of a small flock that flew across the highway on our way back to Chiang Mai at the end of the tour.

GREEN MAGPIE (Cissa chinensis) – This shy bird put on a decent show along the roadside in Khao Yai one morning, but not everyone got on these striking corvids, unfortunately.

RUFOUS TREEPIE (Dendrocitta vagabunda) – Easily seen this year on the grounds of our Kaeng Krachan resort.

GRAY TREEPIE (Dendrocitta formosae) – Those flowering Erythrina trees at Angkhang really lured these corvids in for some good looks.

RACKET-TAILED TREEPIE (Crypsirina temia) – I'm glad everyone got a chance to see the blue eyes!

RATCHET-TAILED TREEPIE (Temnurus temnurus) – YESSS!!! We found the right flock that held a couple of these unique corvids, and we all came away with great views! Someday, someone will have to collect a couple of these birds on the Thai/Myanmar border and describe what is undoubtedly a new subspecies.

LARGE-BILLED CROW (Corvus macrorhynchos) – This crow is likely to be split up into at least a few species sometime soon and, as far as I can tell from the range descriptions, all of our birds were the nominate C. m. macrorhynchos subspecies.

Alaudidae (Larks)

INDOCHINESE BUSHLARK (Mirafra erythrocephala) – Great views of a singing bird at our resort grounds at Kaeng Krachan.

ORIENTAL SKYLARK (Alauda gulgula) – We lured one of these in for fantastic looks near Chiang Mai.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BANK SWALLOW (Riparia riparia)

BARN SWALLOW (Hirundo rustica)

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW (Hirundo smithii) – Great scope looks of this widespread but local species near Chiang Mai.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (Cecropis daurica) – The vast majority of the 'red-rumped' swallows that we saw on this tour were this species.

STRIATED SWALLOW (Cecropis striolata) – We found a few of these perched on the wires on Doi Inthanon, giving us some great looks at some key i.d. features.

ASIAN HOUSE-MARTIN (Delichon dasypus) – Briefly for some at Kaeng Krachan. These are usually much more common on this tour.

Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)

YELLOW-BELLIED FAIRY-FANTAIL (Chelidorhynx hypoxantha) – Extremely cute! This one was taken out of the fantail family, where it had resided forever, and was placed into a newly resurrected family called the Fairy Flycatchers.

GRAY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER (Culicicapa ceylonensis) – Very common and widespread, if you know what to listen for.

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

GREAT TIT (JAPANESE) (Parus major nubicolus) – This is another species that will likely soon be split into two or more species. Ours belongs to the eastern "Japanese" (P. m. minor) sub-group.

YELLOW-CHEEKED TIT (Parus spilonotus) – We had some absolutely stunning views of this gaudy species, especially up in the parking lot at the Doi Inthanon summit.

YELLOW-BROWED TIT (Sylviparus modestus) – Doi Lang is a great place to see this aberrant tit.

SULTAN TIT (Melanochlora sultanea) – Another stunner, we all had multiple great views in both Khao Yai and at Kaeng Krachan.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

- CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH (BURMESE) (Sitta castanea neglecta) There's been some serious talk of splitting this polytypic species up into at least a couple of birds. Two forms occur in Thailand, but their ranges in the country are disjunct. Ours was this dry dipterocarp forest type (I mistakenly had the other form on the checklist). Great views!
- **CHESTNUT-VENTED NUTHATCH** (Sitta nagaensis) Superficially similar to the Giant Nuthatch, but this one is much smaller and sounds quite different.
- **VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH** (Sitta frontalis) Great looks at this very different-looking (for N. American birders) nuthatch.
- **GIANT NUTHATCH** (Sitta magna) WOWWW!!! Fantastic looks on THREE different days on this tour! I've never done that before!

<u>Certhiidae (Treecreepers)</u>

BROWN-THROATED TREECREEPER (HUME'S) (Certhia discolor shanensis) – Another split in the works, so keep track of 'em.

Pvcnonotidae (Bulbuls)

CRESTED FINCHBILL (Spizixos canifrons) – That single bird on Doi Lang was seen incredibly well along the roadside.

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL (Pycnonotus atriceps)

STRIATED BULBUL (Pycnonotus striatus) – Stunning scope views on Doi Angkhang at very close range.

BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL (Pycnonotus flaviventris) – This species was split into three, with the mainland s.e. Asian birds retaining the name Black-crested Bulbul. The other two are now island endemics in the Greater Sundas.

RED-WHISKERED BULBUL (Pycnonotus jocosus) – Essentially extirpated now in s. Thailand due to the cage bird trade.

BROWN-BREASTED BULBUL (Pycnonotus xanthorrhous) – Sort of a cross between the Red-whiskered and Sootyheaded bulbuls. Easy on Doi Angkhang.

SOOTY-HEADED BULBUL (Pycnonotus aurigaster)

STRIPE-THROATED BULBUL (Pycnonotus finlaysoni) – A couple of memorable looks in the south.

FLAVESCENT BULBUL (Pycnonotus flavescens) – Very common in the highlands of the n.w.

YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (Pycnonotus goiavier) – In the Bangkok area only this year.

STREAK-EARED BULBUL (Pycnonotus blanfordi) – The common bulbul in the Bangkok area.

PUFF-THROATED BULBUL (Alophoixus pallidus) – At Khao Yai NP and then again in the n.w. in the foothill forest.

OCHRACEOUS BULBUL (Alophoixus ochraceus) – This look-alike replaces the above species in Kaeng Krachan and again on the extension.

GRAY-EYED BULBUL (Iole propingua) – The range of this one is essentially that of the Puff-throated Bulbul.

BUFF-VENTED BULBUL (Iole olivacea) – And the range of this one parallels that of the Ochraceous Bulbul.

BLACK BULBUL (Hypsipetes leucocephalus) – All of our birds this year were the all-black form.

ASHY BULBUL (Hemixos flavala) – We had at least three races of this widespread bulbul on the tour ,Äì one in Khao Yai NP, one in Kaeng Krachan NP, and another in the n.w. The birds in Khao Yai and in the n.w. belong to the H. f. flavala subspecies group, and the Kaeng Krachan birds to the H. f. cinereus subspecies group.

ASHY BULBUL (CINEREOUS) (Hemixos flavala cinereus) – These birds that we saw in Kaeng Krachan NP will likely be split out as Cinereous Bulbul sometime soon.

MOUNTAIN BULBUL (Ixos mcclellandii) - A common bird in the mountains of the n.w., but not always that easy to see.

Pnoepygidae (Cupwings)

PYGMY CUPWING (Pnoepyga pusilla) – Formerly known as Pygmy Wren-Babbler and now in a separate family altogether, along with the other Pnoepygas. We enjoyed a fabulous looks at a responsive bird on Doi Inthanon.

Cettiidae (Bush-Warblers and Allies)

SLATY-BELLIED TESIA (Tesia olivea) – This furtive little thing is always a pain to try and see, but we all came away with something this year.

YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER (Abroscopus superciliaris) – Always in the bamboo.

MOUNTAIN TAILORBIRD (Phyllergates cucullatus) – That bird up on Doi Inthanon gave us uncharacteristically great views. It was found fairly recently that this 'tailorbird' isn't closely related at all to the other tailorbirds and that it's much closer to the above Yellow-bellied Warbler than it is to the Orthotomus tailorbirds.

ABERRANT BUSH-WARBLER (Cettia flavolivacea) – Tough to see this shy bird working through the weeds up on Doi Field Guides Birding Tours • www.fieldguides.com • 800-728-4953

Angkhang.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)

- **DUSKY WARBLER** (Phylloscopus fuscatus) Unlike most of the other Phylloscopus warblers that we saw, this species prefers to skulk in the understory rather than work the foliage in the trees.
- **BUFF-THROATED WARBLER** (Phylloscopus subaffinis) Another wintering Phylloscopus that shuns the trees for the weeds.
- YELLOW-STREAKED WARBLER (Phylloscopus armandii) [*]
- **RADDE'S WARBLER** (Phylloscopus schwarzi) A few of these wintering birds gave us great views at Khao Yai NP.
- **BUFF-BARRED WARBLER** (Phylloscopus pulcher) These dull little leaf-warblers were around in much reduced numbers this year up on the higher mountains of the n.w.
- **ASHY-THROATED WARBLER** (Phylloscopus maculipennis) The summit of Doi Inthanon is the only site for this tiny leaf-warbler on this tour.
- **PALLAS'S LEAF-WARBLER** (Phylloscopus proregulus) A few folks got on this crisply-patterned wintering leaf-warbler along the roadside on Doi Lang.
- **CHINESE LEAF-WARBLER** (Phylloscopus yunnanensis) Further scrutiny of the same little flock that held the above Pallas's revealed one or two of these scarce wintering leaf-warblers as well.
- **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (Phylloscopus inornatus) Recorded essentially every day of the tour. Easily the most common and widespread of these confusing Phylloscopus warblers in Thailand at this season.
- **HUME'S WARBLER** (Phylloscopus humei) Very similar to the above Yellow-browed, but that call is quite distinctive.
- **ARCTIC WARBLER** (Phylloscopus borealis) One bird at Khao Yai was seen by most. There's likely to be some splitting of Arctic Warbler sometime soon, and I suspect that the bird we saw was the nominate P. b. borealis subspecies group.
- **GREENISH WARBLER** (Phylloscopus trochiloides) Only one of these was seen moderately well along the lower road on Doi Lang on our last day in the far north. There's a renewed call to split this from the next form.
- **GREENISH WARBLER (TWO-BARRED)** (Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus) This was the common form that we saw and heard throughout much of the tour until we got to the far n.w. near the end of the trip.
- **PALE-LEGGED LEAF-WARBLER** (Phylloscopus tenellipes) I think that Gary was the only one with me when this one made an appearance at Khao Yai. We sure did hear a bunch of them, though.
- **BLYTH'S LEAF-WARBLER** (Phylloscopus reguloides assamensis) This was the singing bird that we found in the mountains of the n.w. Blyth's was just recently split into three, and this is the only one of the three that breeds in the country.
- **CLAUDIA'S LEAF-WARBLER** (Phylloscopus claudiae) We spotted a few of these wintering birds in with a few of the mixed flocks that we found in the south.
- **DAVISON'S LEAF-WARBLER** (Phylloscopus davisoni) This is what we used to call the White-tailed Leaf-Warbler on this tour.
- **SULPHUR-BREASTED WARBLER** (Phylloscopus ricketti) We found a few wintering birds with the insectivore flocks in Kaeng Krachan NP.
- **PLAIN-TAILED WARBLER** (Seicercus soror) One along the roadside high in Kaeng Krachan finally gave us a look after we had heard many more earlier
- MARTENS'S WARBLER (Seicercus omeiensis) I think that the stated distribution for this one in the latest Clements update is wrong for this one. I believe that this bird, which we called Omei Spectacled Warbler for a while, is the one that sounds very Wilson's Warbler-like and winters nearly throughout the forested areas of Thailand south, at least, to the northern peninsula (Kaeng Krachan NP). Most saw this one at our last picnic lunch atop Doi Suthep outside of Chiang Mai.
- **BIANCHI'S WARBLER** (Seicercus valentini) [*]
- **CHESTNUT-CROWNED WARBLER** (Seicercus castaniceps) We enjoyed a few really nice looks at this furtive species in the n.w.

Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)

- **BLACK-BROWED REED-WARBLER** (Acrocephalus bistrigiceps) The Bangkok area is best for this one, it seems.
- **ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER** (Acrocephalus orientalis) Good looks on our first afternoon of the tour.
- THICK-BILLED WARBLER (Acrocephalus aedon) Not much to look at, but we did detect more than usual this year.

Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)

LANCEOLATED WARBLER (Locustella lanceolata) – Man, I've never had a look at this one like I did this year at our resort near Kaeng Krachan!

PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (Locustella certhiola) – Called Rusty-rumped Warbler in the field guide.

STRIATED GRASSBIRD (Megalurus palustris) – We've never had this species in the marshes around Bangkok, so finding one at Rangsit was a big surprise.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

ZITTING CISTICOLA (Cisticola juncidis)

GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA (Cisticola exilis)

COMMON TAILORBIRD (Orthotomus sutorius)

DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD (Orthotomus atrogularis) – A very common forest bird in the south.

BROWN PRINIA (Prinia polychroa) – This very local prinia gave us some great looks along the roadside on our way to the fireback spot.

HILL PRINIA (Prinia superciliaris) – Now split from the Black-throated Prinia to the west.

RUFESCENT PRINIA (Prinia rufescens) – In view at the same time as the Brown Prinia above.

GRAY-BREASTED PRINIA (Prinia hodgsonii) – The best were near the bat cave near Khao Yai NP.

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA (Prinia flaviventris) – Very common in the marshy habitats around Bangkok.

PLAIN PRINIA (Prinia inornata)

<u>Sylviidae (Old World Warblers)</u>

YELLOW-EYED BABBLER (Chrysomma sinense) – Formerly placed among the babblers in Timaliidae, this and the parrotbills have all been merged with the Sylviidae of the Old World ,Äì not very intuitive, but I guess the molecular studies support the move.

GRAY-HEADED PARROTBILL (Paradoxornis gularis) – We had no problem with this one this year on Doi Inthanon.

SPOT-BREASTED PARROTBILL (Paradoxornis guttaticollis) – Getting this one out into view for the group was like pulling teeth!

Zosteropidae (Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies)

STRIATED YUHINA (Yuhina castaniceps) – I never would have thought that the yuhinas and the white-eyes were that close, but I guess the molecular studies say otherwise. Formerly placed among the babblers.

WHISKERED YUHINA (Yuhina flavicollis) – This beautiful little yuhina gave us great looks on Doi Lang.

CHESTNUT-FLANKED WHITE-EYE (Zosterops erythropleurus) – The most abundant white-eye of the tour this year.

ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE (Zosterops palpebrosus)

JAPANESE WHITE-EYE (Zosterops japonicus)

EVERETT'S WHITE-EYE (Zosterops everetti) – A few of these were mixed in with the insectivore flocks that we found high in Kaeng Krachan NP.

Pellorneidae (Fulvettas and Ground Babblers)

BROWN-CHEEKED FULVETTA (Alcippe poioicephala) – Great views of this one at Kaeng Krachan NP.

GRAY-CHEEKED FULVETTA (Alcippe morrisonia) – Plentiful in all of the high mountains of the n.w. It'll be hard to think of this bird being in a family other than the babblers (Timaliidae).

COLLARED BABBLER (Gampsorhynchus torquatus) – A very recent split from the White-hooded Babbler (the name used in the field guide), but that one now is restricted to the north and west of this one.

RUFOUS-WINGED FULVETTA (Schoeniparus castaneceps) – Some folks saw this one bringing material to a nest under construction on Doi Inthanon. [N]

ABBOTT'S BABBLER (Malacocincla abbotti) – This nondescript babbler (or now ground-babbler) was seen well at one of the campgrounds at Khao Yai early in the trip.

BUFF-BREASTED BABBLER (Pellorneum tickelli) – This shy bird got up and out into view for all of us, which is a little uncharacteristic.

SPOT-THROATED BABBLER (Pellorneum albiventre) – It was tough trying to pin down that beautiful song in the dense understory on the hillside above the road on Doi Angkhang.

PUFF-THROATED BABBLER (Pellorneum ruficeps) – We finally got a look of this one at Kaeng Krachan NP after hearing many prior to that.

- **STREAKED WREN-BABBLER** (Napothera brevicaudata) It took some work to try to see this skulker among the vine-covered boulders outside our rooms on Doi Angkhang.
- **EYEBROWED WREN-BABBLER** (Napothera epilepidota) That was one of the easiest Eyebrowed Wren-Babblers that I've ever gotten on this tour!
- **LIMESTONE WREN-BABBLER** (Gypsophila crispifrons calcicola) This was our first "babbler" of the tour just before our arrival at Khao Yai. This race is endemic to a few locales in c. Thailand and there's talk of splitting this one into three, so keep track of 'em.

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes)

- **WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (Garrulax leucolophus) Great looks at this handsome species along the roadside at Khao Yai NP.
- **LESSER NECKLACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (Garrulax monileger) We worked way too hard for this one! They were easy again at the Kaeng Krachan HQ grounds on our last morning in the south after an absence there of a few years.
- **GREATER NECKLACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (Garrulax pectoralis) A few of these very similar laughingthrushes were with the above Lessers at the park headquarters.
- WHITE-NECKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (Garrulax strepitans) Glimpsed at Doi Inthanon only.
- **BLACK-THROATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (Garrulax chinensis) Nicely for most folks at Khao Yai NP near the Silver Pheasant spot.
- **WHITE-BROWED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (Garrulax sannio) Very good looks at this shy species on Doi Angkhang. Not many of them around this year, for some reason.
- **SILVER-EARED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (Garrulax melanostigma) A recent split from the Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (the name in the field guide). Great views on Doi Inthanon.
- **SILVER-EARED MESIA** (Leiothrix argentauris) That big flock on Doi Angkhang was the largest flock that I'd seen in Thailand in several years.
- **RUFOUS-BACKED SIBIA** (Heterophasia annectens) Not nearly as common as the next. I'm not that sure many folks ever really 'nailed' this one on the tour.
- **BLACK-BACKED SIBIA** (Heterophasia melanoleuca) The better name for this one is probably Dark-backed Sibia since the back is actually dark brown, and not black. Great views on Doi Inthanon.
- **RED-FACED LIOCICHLA (SCARLET-FACED)** (Liocichla phoenicea ripponi) Gorgeous!! We found a very responsive flock along the road on Doi Angkhang and a little work gave us all memorable looks.
- **SPECTACLED BARWING** (Actinodura ramsayi) A couple of great encounters with this snazzy species.
- **BLUE-WINGED MINLA** (Minla cyanouroptera) We finally caught up with this one on Doi Angkhang.
- **CHESTNUT-TAILED MINLA** (Minla strigula) Few of the 'babblers' on this tour are as handsome, or confiding, as this species. Great views on Doi Inthaon's summit.

Timaliidae (Babblers)

- **RUFOUS-FRONTED BABBLER** (Stachyridopsis rufifrons) We had an unusually good look at Kaeng Krachan NP.
- **GOLDEN BABBLER** (Stachyridopsis chrysaea) This and the above sound almost identical ,Äi but they sure look different.
- **PIN-STRIPED TIT-BABBLER** (Macronous gularis) The old Striped Tit-Babbler (the name in the field guide) was just recently split into two, with this one being the only form found on the mainland.
- CHESTNUT-CAPPED BABBLER (Timalia pileata) We heard a lot more of these than we saw.
- **GRAY-THROATED BABBLER** (Stachyris nigriceps) Great views on Doi Inthanon a couple of times.
- **SPOT-NECKED BABBLER** (Stachyris striolata) A pair of these shy babblers performed about as well as one could expect at Kaeng Krachan. Beautiful!
- **RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (Pomatorhinus erythrogenys) Most got a look at this one before it retreated to the weeds on Doi Chiang Dao.
- **WHITE-BROWED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (Pomatorhinus schisticeps) Wonderful looks at Kaeng Krachan near the upper campground.
- **CORAL-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (Pomatorhinus ferruginosus) A party of these played hide-and-seek with us on Doi Lang near the army checkpoint. This seems to be a really reliable site for them.

Irenidae (Fairy-bluebirds)

ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD (Irena puella) – That blue color really looks fake, like it's made out of plastic.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER (Muscicapa sibirica) – Also called the Siberian Flycatcher.

ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER (Muscicapa dauurica)

ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN (Copsychus saularis)

WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA (Copsychus malabaricus) – Several good looks in the south at this wonderful songster.

WHITE-GORGETED FLYCATCHER (Anthipes monileger) – How could you see it any better than we did?

RUFOUS-BROWED FLYCATCHER (Anthipes solitaris) – A few people got on one of these in the bamboo understory at Kaeng Krachan.

HAINAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (Cyornis hainanus) – One of the more common voices in the forest understory of Khao Yai & Kaeng Krachan. We had a few really good looks, too.

PALE BLUE-FLYCATCHER (Cyornis unicolor) – We almost broke our necks trying to get a look at this one over the road on Doi Inthanon.

BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER (BLUE-THROATED) (Cyornis rubeculoides dialilaemus) – Most folks got a gorgeous male next to the road in Kaeng Krachan.

BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER (CHINESE) (Cyornis rubeculoides glaucicomans) – I think everybody got this distinctive race of Blue-throated Flycatcher (Chinese Blue-Flycatcher) along the stream at Kaeng Krachan.

HILL BLUE-FLYCATCHER (Cyornis banyumas) – Certainly the most widespread of the blue-flycatchers on the tour.

TICKELL'S BLUE-FLYCATCHER (Cyornis tickelliae) – We just barely squeaked by with this one on the final morning of the tour.

LARGE NILTAVA (Niltava grandis) – This was the ethereal 'three blind mice' call in the highland broadleaf forests in the n.w. mountains.

SMALL NILTAVA (Niltava macgrigoriae) – It looks just like the above species, but it's about half the size.

RUFOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA (Niltava sundara) – A female right where the Hume's Pheasant had been was a lucky find.

VIVID NILTAVA (Niltava vivida) – A male up on Doi Lang was a very fortunate find. I'd thought that we'd miss it altogether this year.

VERDITER FLYCATCHER (Eumyias thalassinus) – Very widespread.

LESSER SHORTWING (Brachypteryx leucophrys) – That single bird at Mr. Daeng's place on Doi Inthanon obliged us on our second visit there. A very difficult bird to detect if it's not singing.

WHITE-BROWED SHORTWING (Brachypteryx montana) – A male just under the boardwalk in the bog behaved very nicely for us. It seems like this widespread and variable species is ripe for some splitting.

SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN (Larvivora cyane) [*]

WHITE-BELLIED REDSTART (Luscinia phaenicuroides) [*]

BLUETHROAT (Luscinia svecica)

BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH (Myophonus caeruleus eugenei) – This one is the yellow-billed breeding race.

BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH (Myophonus caeruleus caeruleus) – This is the black-billed wintering race breeding in China. Another species that seems ripe for some splitting.

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (Enicurus leschenaulti) – Not the best of looks at this one, but a few of us may have seen it perched before it flew off into the forest.

BLACK-BACKED FORKTAIL (Enicurus immaculatus) – A second look at the bridge got us the look we wanted. This pair was absent from this stretch of river for several years before they magically reappeared about six years ago.

SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL (Enicurus schistaceus) – Fabulous looks at the big waterfall in Doi Inthanon NP. If you've never seen a forktail before this trip, you're now likely hooked on them!

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT (Calliope calliope) – Nearly everyone got a look at this one, but I think that Laura may have had the most memorable encounter near Chiang Dao.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL (Tarsiger cyanurus) – Especially memorable was that close female at the White-gorgeted Flycatcher spot on Doi Lang. I'm assuming that the females that we saw were this species and not the recently split Himalayan Bluetail - I don't think that the female i.d. has been worked out yet.

LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER (Ficedula westermanni) – Several fine looks in the n.w. of this dapper little flycatcher.

TAIGA FLYCATCHER (Ficedula albicilla) – A split from Red-throated Flycatcher, replacing it to the east.

ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER (Ficedula superciliaris) – This was likely the same female that we had here the year before.

RUFOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER (Ficedula strophiata) – One of the last 'lifers' before we headed off to the airport.

MUGIMAKI FLYCATCHER (Ficedula mugimaki) – That male at Khao Yai was absolutely stunning!

SLATY-BACKED FLYCATCHER (Ficedula hodgsonii) – A male at our final picnic on Doi Suthep was the first adult male of the tour for most folks.

SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER (Ficedula tricolor) [*]

SAPPHIRE FLYCATCHER (Ficedula sapphira) – A single female bird gave us fits on that narrow trail on the steep hillside on Doi Chiang Dao.

PLUMBEOUS REDSTART (Phoenicurus fuliginosus) – Great views of this water-loving species at Doi Inthanon NP.

WHITE-CAPPED REDSTART (Phoenicurus leucocephalus) – I thought that we'd get this one at the same waterfall as the above species, but we got it at a waterfall on the other side of the mountain. Formerly called the River Chat.

DAURIAN REDSTART (Phoenicurus auroreus) – A couple of these in the n.w. was two more than we usually get on this trip.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED ROCK-THRUSH (Monticola rufiventris) – Neither of the males on Doi Angkhang stuck around for good looks before they split.

WHITE-THROATED ROCK-THRUSH (Monticola gularis) – This bird was far more cooperative than the above species at Khao Yai.

BLUE ROCK-THRUSH (Monticola solitarius) – A female in the flowering Erythrina at the Limestone Wren-Babbler spot at the start of the tour was the only one that we saw well.

STONECHAT (SIBERIAN) (Saxicola torquatus maurus) – A common open country species on this tour.

PIED BUSHCHAT (Saxicola caprata) – Ditto for this one, at least in the n.w.

GRAY BUSHCHAT (Saxicola ferreus) – A pretty common edge bird on Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Angkhang. Very shrike-like in appearance.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH (Zoothera citrina) – This was one of the bonus birds at the Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo spot in Khao Yai NP.

DARK-SIDED THRUSH (Zoothera marginata) – One at the summit bog and another at Mr. Daeng's gave everyone two chances to see this skulker.

GRAY-SIDED THRUSH (Turdus feae) – We had the briefest of looks at the summit bog on Doi Inthanon. This one has a pretty tiny world range.

EYEBROWED THRUSH (Turdus obscurus) – Good scope views at the end of the tour on Doi Angkhang.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

GOLDEN-CRESTED MYNA (Ampeliceps coronatus) – They were a long way off, but they were still quite distinctive in the scopes.

COMMON HILL MYNA (Gracula religiosa) – Most of our looks were at Khao Yai NP, as is usual.

GREAT MYNA (Acridotheres grandis) – I'll never get used to calling White-vented Myna the Great Myna.

COMMON MYNA (Acridotheres tristis)

VINOUS-BREASTED STARLING (Acridotheres burmannicus) – We saw the same two birds fly by three separate times on the grounds of our resort, but they never sat for us, darn it.

BLACK-COLLARED STARLING (Gracupica nigricollis) – The largest of the starlings on this tour.

ASIAN PIED STARLING (Gracupica contra)

CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING (Sturnia malabarica) – That big flowering Bombax tree near Mae Taeng usually hosts more of these birds than what we saw there this year.

Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)

GREATER GREEN LEAFBIRD (Chloropsis sonnerati) – Nicely in Kaeng Krachan NP. This is close to the n. limit for this species.

BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD (Chloropsis cochinchinensis) – The most widespread of our four leafbird species.

GOLDEN-FRONTED LEAFBIRD (Chloropsis aurifrons) – This was our first leafbird of the trip at the Limestone Wren-Babbler spot.

ORANGE-BELLIED LEAFBIRD (Chloropsis hardwickii) – This one usually occurs at much higher elevations than the others in Thailand.

Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)

- THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER (Dicaeum agile) Most folks caught up with this one on Doi Chiang Dao.
- **YELLOW-VENTED FLOWERPECKER** (Dicaeum chrysorrheum) One of these near our rooms at Doi Inthanon delayed our last lunch there a little, but most folks finally caught up with it.
- PLAIN FLOWERPECKER (Dicaeum minullum) Split from the Nilgiri Flowerpecker in India.
- **FIRE-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER** (Dicaeum ignipectum ignipectum) This nominate race on Doi Inthanon really does have that 'fire' on the breast, unlike the birds in Khao Yai.
- **FIRE-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER** (Dicaeum ignipectum cambodianum) Sometimes split out and called Buffbellied Flowerpecker.
- **SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER** (Dicaeum cruentatum)

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

- **RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD** (Chalcoparia singalensis) This warbler-like sunbird was seen a couple of times in the parks of the south, but maybe not to everyone's satisfaction.
- **PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD** (Anthreptes malacensis) Also called the Brown-throated Sunbird, the best was probably at the Kaeng Krachan HQ rounds.
- **PURPLE SUNBIRD** (Cinnyris asiaticus) Plenty of these in the flowering trees near our accommodations at Doi Inthanon.
- **OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** (Cinnyris jugularis)
- **GOULD'S SUNBIRD** (Aethopyga gouldiae) Plenty of these stunners up in the mountains of the n.w., but, oddly, very few this year on Doi Lang where we typically see dozens of them.
- **GREEN-TAILED SUNBIRD** (Aethopyga nipalensis) There were only a couple of full adult males on Doi Inthanon this year. We typically see many more than that.
- **BLACK-THROATED SUNBIRD** (Aethopyga saturata) This was the most common and widespread of the Aethopyga sunbirds that we saw this year.
- **EASTERN CRIMSON SUNBIRD** (Aethopyga siparaja) Only one pair? A surprisingly low number this year, for some unknown reason.
- **LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER** (Arachnothera longirostra) Recent work shows that this species will almost certainly be split into several species. Ours was the nominate subspecies and most of the split candidates are insular forms.
- STREAKED SPIDERHUNTER (Arachnothera magna) Really a handsome species if seen well.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

- **EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** (Motacilla tschutschensis) All of our birds appeared to be the gray-crowned subspecies M. t. macronyx, though I thought that I did see a dull-colored M. t. taivana at Rangsit (Clements assigns that race to Western Yellow Wagtail, but other authors don't).
- **CITRINE WAGTAIL** (Motacilla citreola) Hardly worth looking in the scope at this one since it was so darned far away near Tha Ton.
- **GRAY WAGTAIL** (Motacilla cinerea) This is usually the only one that you see on mountain/forest roads and along streams inside forest. A much longer-tailed bird that the Eastern Yellow Wagtail.
- **WHITE WAGTAIL (OCULARIS)** (Motacilla alba ocularis) At least one of these was seen well at the little dam at Mae Taeng.
- WHITE WAGTAIL (CHINESE) (Motacilla alba leucopsis) All of the rest of our White Wagtails were this black-backed
- **RICHARD'S PIPIT** (Anthus richardi) Nicely right on the shoulder of the road in Khao Yai NP.
- **ORIENTAL PIPIT** (Anthus rufulus) Also called the Paddyfield Pipit.
- **OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT** (Anthus hodgsoni) I always see this one at the edge of light forest or just walking around on the ground beneath pine trees. When they flush, they invariably fly up into the trees. I have never seen them in fields with other pipits.
- FOREST WAGTAIL (Dendronanthus indicus) A couple of these near the Kaeng Krachan HQ grounds were a surprise.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

- **LITTLE BUNTING** (Emberiza pusilla) Good looks in the weedy growth on Doi Angkhang.
- **CHESTNUT BUNTING** (Emberiza rutila) Most of us had very good looks of a couple of female-plumaged birds in the weedy growth on Doi Chiang Dao.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

COMMON ROSEFINCH (Carpodacus erythrinus) – When you find these wintering in Thailand, they're usually found in some flowering tree like an Erythrina.

BLACK-HEADED GREENFINCH (Chloris ambigua) [*]

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (Passer domesticus indicus) – At our lunch spot along the coast. No one's really sure where these coastal birds came from.

PLAIN-BACKED SPARROW (Passer flaveolus) – Good views on that first afternoon in Bangkok.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (Passer montanus)

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

BAYA WEAVER (Ploceus philippinus) – These aren't much to look at at this season, looking more like a female House Sparrow than anything else.

ASIAN GOLDEN WEAVER (Ploceus hypoxanthus) – Our best looks at this uncommon species were at Rangsit.

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

RED AVADAVAT (Amandava amandava) – I rarely get to see any adult males, so the bird with all of the female-plumaged birds at Rangsit was quite a treat.

PIN-TAILED PARROTFINCH (Erythrura prasina) – One of these rocketed out of the bamboo near the upper campground at Kaeng Krachan NP, but it wasn't much of a look.

WHITE-RUMPED MUNIA (Lonchura striata) – A few flocks here and there. Never as common as the next species on this tour

NUTMEG MANNIKIN (Lonchura punctulata) – Also called the Scaly-breasted Munia.

CHESTNUT MUNIA (Lonchura atricapilla) – Nice views for most at Rangsit.

MAMMALS

WRINKLE-LIPPED BAT (Tadarida [Chaerephon] plicata) – What a thrill to see these stream out of the cave at sundown! COMMON TREESHREW (Tupaia glis) – The individual that some saw at Doi Inthanon NP is sometimes split by

mammal taxonomists as the Northern Treeshrew. The one that we heard near Khao Yai on Day 3 was the southern form that would be know as Common Treeshrew. Both are very squirrel-like in appearance, except for that long snout.

CRAB-EATING MACAQUE (Macaca fascigularis) – Also know as the Long-tailed Macaque. Lots on the streets of Phetchaburi and a few elsewhere.

PIGTAIL MACAQUE (Macaca nemestrina) – Very common and a real nuisance at Khao Yai NP, thanks to all of the visitors who feed them.

BANDED LEAF MONKEY (Presbytis melalophos) [*]

DUSKY LEAF MONKEY (Presbytis obscura) – Great looks at Kaeng Krachan NP, including a bright orange newborn at the lower campground.

PILEATED GIBBON (Hylobates pileatus) [*]

WHITE-HANDED GIBBON (Hylobates lar) – We often have to really work to get a look at these, but we had no trouble this year in Khao Yai and at Kaeng Krachan.

BLACK GIANT SQUIRREL (Ratufa bicolor) – Your first impression is that you've seen a medium-sized black and white monkey climbing up in a tree. Then you realize your mistake when you get a better look at it and see that it's the biggest squirrel that you've ever seen!

FINLAYSON'S SQUIRREL (Callosciurus finlaysoni) – This is what Uthai and I were calling the Variable Squirrel.

GRAY-BELLIED SQUIRREL (Callosciurus caniceps) – Very widespread and highly variable, but always with a gray belly and a black tail tip.

HIMALAYAN STRIPED SQUIRREL (Tamiops macclellandi) – Some split this one and call it the Western Striped Squirrel. Very chipmunk-like in its appearance.

INDOCHINESE GROUND SQUIRREL (Menetes berdmorei) – I think that the old mammal lists called this one Berdmore's Palm Squirrel.

ASIAN RED-CHEEKED SQUIRREL (Dremomys rufigenis) [*]

YELLOW-THROATED MARTEN (Martes flavigula) – Great views of a pair of these mustelids at the checkpoint high in

Khao Yai NP.

- **BINTURONG** (Arctictis binturong) WOWWWW!!!! Not one of these strange, scarce arboreal civet relatives, but TWO! The 2nd animal that we saw at Kaeng Krachan was, I guess, a more typical sighting where it's spotted in a fig tree with ripe fruit up in the canopy.
- **SMALL ASIAN MONGOOSE** (Herpestes javanicus) A single animal out in the agricultural fields at Tha Ton was right where we saw one the year before. Also called Javan Mongoose.
- **INDIAN ELEPHANT** (Elephas maximus) I've only seen elephants a couple of times in my 16 years of doing this tour, so getting great looks at two different animals in two different parks (Khao Yai & Kaeng Krachan) was really a thrill!

MUNTJAC (BARKING DEER) (Muntiacus muntjak) – Excellent views of this small deer at Khao Yai.

SAMBAR (Cervus unicolor) – Much larger than the above, and the looks were great as well at Khao Yai.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 473 bird taxa and 20 mammal taxa