

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS

THAILAND

6th – 27th March 2015

TOUR REPORT

LEADERS: Chris Doughty and Nick Upton.

The ancient Buddhist Kingdom of Thailand is simply a superb birding destination, we saw, not recorded, but saw, a staggering 464 species of birds, which included no less than 45 species of waders, 10 species of nocturnal birds, all seen well, no less than 19 different species of woodpeckers, all 6 species of superb broadbills that occur in Central and Northern Thailand. We also observed more than our fair share of difficult to find species, such as Rufous-bellied Eagle, Scaly-breasted Partridge, Siamese Fireback, Mrs Hume's Pheasant, Watercock, Eurasian Woodcock, Asian Dowitcher, Nordmann's Greenshank, Red-necked Phalarope, Pallas's Gull, Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo, White-fronted Scops-Owl, Hodgson's Frogmouth, Rusty-naped Pitta, Dark-sided Thrush, both Lesser and White-browed Shortwings, Rufous-browed Flycatcher, White-bellied Redstart, White-tailed Robin and Large Scimitar-Babbler. We also saw several endangered species, which included Spot-billed Pelican, Chinese Egret, Milky Stork, Malaysian and White-faced Plovers, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Giant Nuthatch. The wetlands along Gulf of Siam hold the greatest concentration of egrets, terns, waders and storks, anywhere in the world and the diversity of species and sheer numbers of wetland birds, is greater than anywhere else on the planet. Vagrants add spice to any tour and our sighting of Paddyfield Warbler at Chiang Saen, was the third record for Thailand, and the first sight record for Thailand, the two previous records, were birds that had been caught in mist-nets. We also very much enjoyed watching a Common Shelduck and a Mallard, both of which, are rare vagrants to Thailand. Mammal highlights included Golden Jackal, Crab-eating Mongoose and Banded Langur. Add to this extremely polite, welcoming, and friendly local people, food second to none, and an excellent local guide, Nick Upton was extremely professional and hard working, a great birder and also great fun, all of this combined together, to make our tour to Thailand, extremely rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable.

An overnight flight from Melbourne had us arriving at Bangkok Airport, just as it was getting light. We had a few hours to kill before our onward flight to Chiang Mai, in the far north. So we had a light breakfast and enjoyed some birding from a restaurant inside the airport terminal, which overlooked a small courtyard, of gardens with neatly planted hedgerows and palm trees. During the next couple of hours we enjoyed watching White-throated Kingfisher, Feral Pigeon, both Red-collared and Zebra Doves, Pied Fantail, Oriental Magpie-Robin, both Common and White-vented Mynas, Streak-eared Bulbul and both House and Eurasian Tree Sparrows. As well as the surprise find of a White-throated Fantail, a rather bizarre place, to observe this species, but clearly that was what the bird was.

We then took a short flight to Chiang Mai, in the far north of Thailand, where we were met by our local guide Nick Upton. The atmosphere at Chiang Mai was very hazy, it was the end of the dry season, and this is traditionally the time when the local people do some burning off. It remained hazy for the next 10 days, during the whole of the time we were in the far north of Thailand. From

Chiang Mai, we drove due north and as we were driving through the town, roadside birds included Spotted Dove, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Ashy Woodswallow. A spot of roadside birding close to the village of Pang Makham Pom, produced good scope views of a splendid Banded Bay Cuckoo and an Indian Roller, we saw small flocks of Striated Swallows, as several Cook's Swifts flew overhead.

On arriving at our destination of Doi Ang Khang, we drove to a bird-feeding station at the Kings Project. As we arrived a Crested Goshawk flew above us, then we settled down at the bird-feeding station, on the edge of the forest. Our guide placed meal-worms on the ground, and we just sat back and watched the shyest denizens of the forest floor, descend on the hapless meal-worms. The next hour or so was some of the most enjoyable birding I have ever experienced. New birds included Olive-backed Pipit, Grey Wagtail, Mountain Bulbul, a superb male Rufous-bellied Niltava, Hill Blue-flycatcher, a young male Siberian Blue Robin, White-rumped Shama, the usually incredibly skulking White-tailed Robin, the very uncommon Streaked Wren-Babbler showed very well, as did the stunning Silver-eared Mesia, Blue-winged Minla and a stunning male Black-throated Sunbird. However, the species that really stole the show, was a brilliant pair of Rusty-naped Pittas, which we saw incredibly well. As we drove back to our resort, we stopped for a Blue Whistling-Thrush and on our arrival at our resort, we were greeted in the carpark, by a pair of White Wagtails. Today we also saw our first mammal of the tour, a Northern Treeshrew.

The whole of the following day was spent birding in and around Doi Ang Khang, predominantly birding the high forested ridges, near the border with Myanmar. We enjoyed a remarkable day, observing almost all of the regional specialities. We found Oriental Honey-buzzard, Eastern Buzzard, a female Asian Emerald Cuckoo, Barn Swallow, both Long-tailed and Short-billed Minivets, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, flocks of Crested Finchbills, Striated, Brown-breasted Sooty-headed and Flavescent Bulbuls, Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush, Black-breasted Thrush, Hill Prinia, Yellow-streaked, Two-barred, Buff-barred, Yellow-browed and Hume's Warblers, Little Pied and Verditer Flycatchers, Siberian Rubythroat, a beautiful male Daurian Redstart, the even more stunning White-capped Redstart, Grey Bushchat, White-crested and White-browed Laughingthrushes, the magnificent Scarlet-faced Liocichla, White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, the stunning Blyth's Shrike-Babbler, Spectacled Barwing, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, Dark-backed Sibia, Japanese Tit and the very beautiful Yellow-cheeked Tit, behaved splendidly for us. We also found Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, both Oriental and Japanese White-eyes, Brown, Long-tailed and Grey-backed Shrikes, Ashy Drongo, a large flock of Common Rosefinches and the very uncommon Spot-winged Grosbeak. As it got dark we did a little spot-lighting and were rewarded with great looks at a grey morph Collared Scops-Owl and a superb Brown Wood-Owl. As we were spot-lighting, we were treated to a tremendous spectacle, as the whole valley was filled with literally many hundreds of fireflies, the whole valley was literally lit up like a Christmas tree! Today we also enjoyed another species of mammal, the delightful Pallas's Squirrel.

We spent the following morning birding in the same area; a Golden-throated Barbet flew into a tree right next to us, a Stripe-breasted Woodpecker also flew into a nearby tree, we greatly admired a pair of Orange-bellied Leafbirds, a Rufous-backed Sibia showed particularly well, we enjoyed good close looks at the delightful Spot-breasted Parrotbill, we saw both male and female Maroon Oriole very well, and a Burmese Shrike rounded the morning off perfectly.

In the afternoon, we drove to our next resort, at the foot of Doi Lang, where we would stay for the next four nights. Later in the afternoon we drove up Doi Lang and enjoyed our first day of birding on the mountain. It produced a plethora of colourful tropical birds. A Crested Serpent-Eagle perched in a large tree, a superb male Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, was observed feeding along the

roadside, an Oriental Turtle-Dove foraged on the track ahead of us, and a male Asian Koel flew across the track. One of the highlights of the tour was a female Hodgson's Frogmouth sat on a nest, at eye-level. Other birds included a fine Lesser Yellownappe, climbing up the side of a tree, a Large Cuckoo-shrike perched in a nearby tree, a Rufescent Prinia scolded us from the undergrowth, a Slaty-backed Flycatcher popped into view, a White-gorgeted Flycatcher was greatly admired, as was the equally attractive Ultramarine Flycatcher and a Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher, flitted around in the canopy. At a feeding-station, established by the rapidly growing army of bird photographers in Thailand, we enjoyed super close looks at the beautiful Slaty-blue Flycatcher, the splendid Silver-cheeked Laughingthrush, and best of all, a female of the rarely observed White-bellied Redstart. We also encountered a small flock of unobtrusive Black-throated Tits, a few Fire-capped Tits, a wonderful Streaked Spiderhunter and a very smart looking Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo. On the drive back to our resort we observed Eastern Cattle Egret and Common Kestrel.

We spent the whole of the following day, birding on Doi Lang, which once again, yielded a huge number of new birds for us. They included an adult of the rarely encountered, Rufous-bellied Eagle, a stunning Mountain Hawk-Eagle, the huge Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, a couple of Greater Coucals, a diminutive Grey-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker, a striking pair of Grey-chinned Minivets, a Black-crested Bulbul, an Aberrant Bush-Warbler was very kind to us, and uncharacteristically, showed very well for us and we found three new species of *phylloscopus* warblers, Chinese, Blyth's and Davison's Leaf-Warblers. Other new birds included a fine Bianchi's Warbler, the stunning Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, a beautiful male Sapphire Flycatcher, the decidedly uncommon Pale Blue Flycatcher, a striking Himalayan Bluetail, a splendid Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, a few Grey-headed Parrotbills, a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, a Hume's Treecreeper, a delightful Slender-billed Oriole, Bronzed Drongo, a flock of Scaly-breasted Munias and best of all, the extremely range-restricted Giant Nuthatch. On the drive back to our resort, we observed the first of many, Chinese Pond-Herons. We also added one more species of mammal, the very attractive Western Striped Squirrel.

The following morning we birded a different section of Doi Lang, and once again, found plenty of new birds to look at. They included an immature Grey-faced Buzzard, a very fine Great Barbet, a rather manic Bay Woodpecker, a very beautiful Long-tailed Broadbill, Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike, several Scarlet Minivets, a Mountain Tailorbird, a characteristically skulking Radde's Warbler, a striking Siberian Stonechat, a male Pied Bushchat, a few Whiskered Yuhinas, a Hair-crested Drongo and a surprisingly obliging Pygmy Wren-Babbler, which showed very well indeed. Also this morning, we were watching a flock of Barn Swallows flying around a rice paddy, half way up Doi Lang. Some of them flew down to a patch of mud and started to collect it in their bills. They flew off, to some nearby small, simple huts, where there was up to six nests being built. This is one of only a handful of records of the Barn Swallow, nesting in Thailand. The vast majority of Barn Swallows are winter visitors to Thailand.

In the afternoon, we birded an area of farmland along the edge of the Kok River, at Thaton. Here we found Little Egret, a superb and very close, male Pied Harrier, which was greatly appreciated by everyone, we also saw Black-shouldered Kite, White-breasted Waterhen, Eurasian Moorhen, a splendid Ruddy-breasted Crake, several Greater Painted-snipe, a large flock of Oriental Pratincoles, a nesting pair of Small Pratincoles, Red-wattled Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Pintail Snipe, Green Sandpiper, Common Kingfisher, a couple of unusually obliging Baikal Bush-Warblers, Oriental Reed-Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Chestnut-capped and Yellow-eyed Babblers, Black Drongo, Racket-tailed Treepie, Black-collared Starling and Baya Weaver.

We spent the whole of the following day birding in the wetlands around Chiang Saen. We saw huge numbers of birds, throughout the day. New birds for the trip came thick and fast and included

large numbers of Little Grebes, a few Great Cormorants, good numbers of Great Egrets, a couple of Intermediate Egrets, large numbers of impressive Grey Herons, a few Purple Herons, lots of Asian Openbills, large flocks of Lesser Whistling-Ducks, a couple of Northern Shovellers, large flocks of Indian Spot-billed Ducks, a single Garganey, four Ferruginous Pochards, a single Black Kite, a pair of Barred Buttonquail, large numbers of Grey-headed Swampheens, Eurasian Coot, Black-winged Stilt, three stunning River Lapwings, a few Grey-headed Lapwings, a Spotted Redshank, a few Common Greenshanks, one or two Common Sandpipers, a couple of Temminck's Stints, Green-billed Malkoha, flocks of Asian Palm-Swifts, a beautiful Eurasian Wryneck, a flock of Grey-throated Sand Martins, an Eastern Yellow Wagtail, a couple of Common Ioras, Plain Prinia, Striated Grassbird, Purple Sunbird, a flock of Chestnut-tailed Starlings, and a few Red Avadavats. Vagrant birds always add spice to any tour and today we found no less than three vagrants, Common Shelduck, Mallard and Paddyfield Warbler. We ended the day at a large harrier roost of Pied and Eastern Marsh-Harriers, it was a striking end, to a great days birding.

Our last morning on Doi Lang produced a superb pair of Mountain Bamboo-Partridges, in the middle of the road, a Large Hawk-Cuckoo, Marten's Warbler, a stunning Mrs. Gould's Sunbird and several wintering Crested Buntings. In the afternoon we drove south to Doi Inthanon National Park, and during the drive, a Red-billed Blue Magpie flew across the road in front of our bus. In the late afternoon we did some birding in the grounds of our hill resort, and new birds here included a Eurasian Hoopoe, a couple of Lineated Barbets, a couple of Coppersmith Barbets, a female Blue Rock-Thrush and a couple of stunning Greater Racket-tailed Drongos. At dusk, we taped in a Spotted Owlet and a Brown Hawk-Owl.

We enjoyed a full days birding in Doi Inthanon National Park, which encompasses Thailand's highest mountain. We began with a visit to one of the many waterfalls, where we enjoyed great looks at a Slaty-backed Forktail, as three Black Bazas flew overhead. We spent most of the morning birding along trails in the lower altitude, dry deciduous forest. Here new birds included a pair of Golden-fronted Leafbirds, a singing Claudia's Warbler, a brightly coloured Sulphur-breasted Warbler, an attractive Chestnut-crowned Warbler, a pair of Large Niltavas, a rather dull female Vivid Niltava, a couple of Golden Babblers, a splendid pair of Clicking Shrike-Babblers, a few diminutive Rufous-winged Fulvettas, a male Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and a Grey Treepie. In the late afternoon we birded the moss-encrusted forest at the summit. Here we enjoyed close looks at a Rufous-throated Partridge, a female White-browed Shortwing, an Ashy-throated Warbler, a pair of Small Niltavas, several beautiful Chestnut-tailed Minlas and a splendid male Green-tailed Sunbird, along with several females. A walk around the board-walk at the Summit Marsh, proved very rewarding, with excellent, prolonged looks at the amazing Dark-sided Thrush, a stunning Chestnut-headed Tesia, and a very confiding pair of Snowy-browed Flycatchers.

An early start the following morning found us at high altitude in Doi Inthanon National Park, staring at a very large moss-encrusted old tree, just as the first rays of the morning sun, lit up the tree. Right on cue, over a dozen Speckled Wood-Pigeons flew into the tree to soak up the suns rays, as the temperature was a very low 8 degrees Celsius. We then walked the board-walk at the Summit Marsh, firstly, we found three Rufous-throated Partridges feeding directly under the board-walk, on seeing us, two of them scuttled away, but one decided to 'freeze' and we were able to see every marking on this splendid bird. A little further along the board-walk an adult male White-browed Shortwing was out in full view, hopping around in the marsh, completely unconcerned by our presence, a very rare event, for a shortwing! Continuing along the board-walk, we came to a complete stop, when we spotted a motionless Eurasian Woodcock, stood in the middle of a small bog, in the marsh. For the next 10 minutes or so, we watched the bird feeding in the marsh, once again, completely unperturbed by our presence. We continued along the board-walk and came to a

rapid halt, when we encountered a Pygmy Wren-Babbler in full song, on an exposed perch, once again, this very shy bird, made no attempt to hide, and we saw it very well indeed. Here we also found our first Yellow-bellied Fantail. We then birded a lower altitude patch of forest, which revealed Ashy Bulbul, Great Iora, Blue-throated Flycatcher and Large Woodshrike.

Following lunch and a short siesta, we drove out to a patch of scrub on the edge of the park, where our main quarry was to be the Blossom-headed Parakeet. We did not have to wait very long, before we found a good number of them. Other new birds for us here, included Plaintive Cuckoo, both Green and Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, Olive-backed Sunbird, the beautiful Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, Black-hooded Oriole, Rufous Treepie, Eastern Jungle Crow and the very attractive Plain-backed Sparrow. On returning to our lodge, we found a calling Asian Barred Owlet, close to the restaurant.

A final early morning on Doi Inthanon, found us at a small stream at dawn, where we saw a fine looking Black-backed Forktail. We then birded a patch of low altitude dry deciduous forest, where are only reward was a glimpse of a Lesser Shortwing. We then drove to Chiang Mai, and took an afternoon flight to Bangkok. In the late afternoon we birded in the grounds of the Airport Hotel and found four new species of birds for the tour, House Swift, a pair of beautiful Small Minivets, Yellow-vented Bulbul and Van Hasselt's Sunbird. Plus, a new species of mammal, the Variable Squirrel.

We left Bangkok well before dawn and managed to beat the notorious peak hour Bangkok traffic. We drove southwest to a huge area of salt-pans that line the Gulf of Thailand, at Pak Thale. Of all the many wetland areas I have visited around the globe non are as prolific for waders, as this tremendous area. Our main target bird here, was the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and in no time at all, we were enjoying great looks at two of these superb birds. Other new birds for us here and along the nearby mudflats, included four endangered Spot-billed Pelicans, Little and Indian Cormorants, Pat pointed out an endangered Chinese Egret, in full breeding plumage, we also saw Javan Pond-Heron, Painted Stork, Brahminy Kite, Slaty-breasted Rail, Pied Avocet, Pacific Golden-Plover, Grey and Kentish Plovers, literally hundreds of Lesser Sandpipers and several Greater Sandpipers, Common Snipe, both Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, several endangered Asian Dowitchers, Whimbrel, both Eurasian and Eastern Curlews, Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, up to 40 endangered Nordmann's Greenshanks, both Wood and Terek Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Ruff, Sanderling, Red-necked and Long-toed Stints, Curlew Sandpiper, many Broad-billed Sandpipers and a staggering flock of 13 Red-necked Phalaropes. Other new birds for the tour included Brown-headed Gull, Caspian, Gull-billed, Little, Whiskered and White-winged Terns, Collared Kingfisher, Indochinese Bushlark, Oriental Skylark, Zitting Cisticola, Mangrove Whistler and Asian Pied Starling. As we drove to our hotel in the small town of Phetchaburi, we found a large troop of Long-tailed Macaques, hanging around in the suburbs.

Early in the morning we birded a small pond which was encircled by reeds, not far from Pak Thale, it proved very rewarding. New birds included a couple of very uncommon Watercocks, a Lesser Coucal, flocks of Germain's Swiftlets flew overhead, a Yellow-bellied Prinia sang from the tops of the reeds, one or two Black-browed Reed-Warblers showed well, as did two, normally skulking Bluethroats, a Streaked Weaver was seen well, as were several Chestnut Munias. We then continued birding in an extensive area of salt-pans and fish ponds. We saw many of the species we had seen yesterday, plus Striated Heron, Black-headed Ibis, Black-capped Kingfisher and Common Tailorbird. In the afternoon, we took a boat out to the sandy spit of Laem Pak Bia, where new birds included a dark morph Pacific Reef-Egret, several Malaysian Plovers, a single, as yet undescribed White-faced Plover, four splendid Pallas's Gulls, a single Lesser Crested Tern, several Great

Crested Terns and hundreds of Common Terns. In the late afternoon, we birded an area of rice paddies and fish ponds, where we added Yellow Bittern, Cotton Pygmy-goose, Western Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, White-browed Crake, both Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas, a pair of Pink-necked Green-Pigeons, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Freckle-breasted Woodpecker and nesting Asian Golden Weavers, to our ever growing trip list. At dusk we drove to nearby Kaeng Krachan National Park, for a four night stay.

A full day birding in Kaeng Krachan National Park, provided us with a great many new birds for the tour. We started off in the lower section of the park, where we found a very obliging Black-thighed Falconet, perched in the top of a tall tree, a pair of delightful Red Junglefowl scratched around in the leaf litter along the edge of the road, a Thick-billed Green-Pigeon was seen well in the scope, we saw a few Common Emerald Doves, Asian Drongo-Cuckoos proved to be plentiful, we enjoyed super close looks at the beautiful Grey-rumped Treeswift, a Blue-bearded Bee-eater paid us a visit, Oriental Dollarbirds were numerous, we saw a few Oriental Pied Hornbills and a single Tickell's Brown Hornbill. Both Green-eared and Blue-eared Barbets showed well, as did Greater Yellowthroat and Greater Flameback. We found a pair of Crimson-winged Woodpeckers excavating a nest hole and we saw a pair of Great Slaty Woodpeckers in flight. Great looks at a Black-and-yellow Broadbill were much appreciated, a few Red-rumped Swallows flew overhead, a Black-headed Bulbul popped into view, along with a Stripe-throated Bulbul, and Ochraceous Buleuls were plentiful, as were a migrating flock of Black-naped Orioles, and a pair of Golden-crested Mynas showed well, in a nearby tree. We then drove back to our lodge for lunch, and while enjoying lunch we added Orange-headed Thrush and both Pale-legged and Eastern Crowned Leaf-Warblers, Black-naped Monarch and a pair of Buff-throated Babblers.

In the afternoon we drove up to the top of the mountain to do some birding, and this produced Red-headed Trogon, a pair of stunning Heart-spotted Woodpeckers, the rarely observed Rufous-browed Flycatcher, hiding deep in the undergrowth, an Asian Paradise-Flycatcher was observed in flight, we saw Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, several splendid Collared Babblers, a pair of delightful Sultan Tits and an Asian Fairy-bluebird. We then drove down the mountain and saw a few Kalij Pheasants along the roadside. As it got dark, a Great-eared Nightjar was observed in flight and we stopped for a pair of Large-tailed Nightjars in the middle of the road. New mammals today, included a few Dusky Langurs, a family group of White-handed Gibbons, a very large Asian Elephant, several Red Muntjacs, a Black Giant Squirrel and a few Grey-bellied Squirrels.

The following day we returned to the lower areas of Kaeng Krachan National Park. With a little help from tape playback we managed to get a rather reluctant Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, to fly right past us. Then followed perhaps the best sighting of the tour, we found a family party of three rarely observed White-fronted Scops-Owls at their daytime roost, deep inside the forest. We also enjoyed great scope views of a calling Red-throated Barbet, admired a Streak-breasted Woodpecker, two splendid species of broadbills, Black-and-red and Silver-breasted, we saw a few Blue-winged Leafbirds, Rufous-fronted Babbler and a Common Green Magpie. We then returned to our lodge for lunch, where we added a Dark-necked Tailorbird. In the afternoon, following a much appreciated, but all too short siesta, we returned to the lower area of the park, where we found a splendid Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, a Grey-faced Woodpecker, Common Flameback, a delightful Banded Broadbill, Forest Wagtail, Brown-backed Needletail and a Ruby-cheeked Sunbird. As we were driving back down the mountain, heading for our lodge, a Golden Jackal crossed the track, in front of us.

The following day we returned to the lower areas of Kaeng Krachan National Park and found several more new birds for the tour. An Orange-breasted Trogon, was seen well in the scope, we

enjoyed good close looks at the diminutive Black-backed Kingfisher, a pair of Great Hornbills flew over our heads, we watched a rather confiding party of five Dusky Broadbills building a nest, both Lesser-necklaced and Greater-necklaced Laughingthrushes flew across the track in front of us and a White-bellied Erpornis, was observed very well. Back to our lodge for lunch, where we found a Taiga Flycatcher. Following lunch, we spent five hours in a hide, a few metres away from a small pool of water, deep inside the forest. It was a riveting five hours, as dozens of birds and various species of squirrels came in to drink and bath. We saw them all at very close quarters and it was extremely enjoyable. New birds seen from the hide included a pair of stunning Bar-backed Partridges a pair of equally stunning Scaly-breasted Partridges, a beautiful Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher, several Abbott's Babblers, a pair of Large Scimitar-Babblers and lots of Brown-cheeked Fulvettas. New mammals included a fine Crab-eating Mongoose, which crossed the track ahead of us in the morning and a diminutive, Lesser Mouse-Deer, which came in to drink at the hide.

A final morning in Kaeng Krachen National Park, to find any birds that we were still missing. New birds during the morning included a very fine Red-bearded Bee-eater, a calling Blue-throated Barbet, a beautiful Black-and-buff Woodpecker that was excavating a nest hole, the very sombre coloured Grey-eyed Bulbul, a wintering Eyebrowed Thrush, perched high in a tree and a furtive Alstrom's Warbler. In the afternoon we drove back to Pak Thale and checked the wetlands, rice paddies and fish farms. We found a Common Sand Martin amongst a large flock of feeding Barn Swallows, and we picked out an endangered Milky Stork, amongst the many hundreds of egrets, ibis and Painted Storks. We then drove to Bangkok, where we spent the night. We added another species of mammal today, the rarely observed Banded Langur.

In the morning we visited Wat Pra Phuttabaht Noi, a splendid area of limestone cast country, where our quarry was the Limestone Wren-Babbler. In no time at all, we were watching a family party amongst the limestone outcrops. Here we also added a single Asian Brown Flycatcher. We then drove to Khao Yai National Park, for a three night stay. We spent the afternoon in the park, where we added no less than 12 new species of birds. Which included a splendid Black Eagle flying just above the tree tops, nesting Red-breasted Parakeets, we enjoyed good close looks at a Vernal Hanging-Parrot, a small flock of Himalayan Swiftlets, several Moustached Barbets, a pair of Paddyfield Pipits, a pair of very obliging Swinhoe's Minivets, both Thick-billed and Yellow-vented Flowerpeckers, several Chestnut-flanked White-eyes and a pair of beautiful Common Hill Mynas, and I was fortunate enough to see a Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo.

A day of hard work in the rather unresponsive forests of Khao Yai National Park, where the forests grudgingly gave up a Shikra which circled overhead, a pair of dazzling Siamese Firebacks, a single Silver-backed Needletail amongst a large flock of drinking Brown-backed Needletails, we glimpsed a Puff-throated Bulbul and enjoyed super close looks at the gorgeous Black-throated Laughingthrush. In the afternoon a walk along a forest track produced a fine Collared Owlet sitting directly above the track, calling as he did so, and he seemed quite happy just to sit there and look at us. Although the birding is difficult in Khao Yai, in stark contrast the mammals are plentiful and easy to see. Today we added Northern Pig-tailed Macaque, Sambar and Cambodian Striped Squirrel. We also found a huge 3 metre plus Burmese Python, spread out across the road, it is one of the five largest snakes in the world. At dusk we travelled to a spot outside the park where we observed large numbers of Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bats and smaller numbers of Javan Pipistrelles.

Another tough day in the field in Khao Yai National Park produced another good selection of both birds and mammals. New birds for the tour included three Barred Cuckoo-Doves that flew over our heads, a very close Laced Woodpecker, a splendid adult male White-throated Rock-Thrush, in full breeding plumage, a Golden-headed Cisticola and the diminutive Plain Flowerpecker. In the late

afternoon as we were gathering to go and look at the bats once more, and I found a White-rumped Munia in the garden of our lodge. At dusk we were in position to watch a mountainside in front of us. As it got dark, literally thousands of Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bats came streaming out of a cave in the mountainside and headed straight over our heads. It was a tremendous spectacle to observe, as the huge flock formed intricate patterns in the sky above our heads. An immature Shikra decided that this was too much of a good opportunity to pass up, and made several attempts to catch a bat, before finally securing his supper.

Our final morning in Khao Yai National Park, failed to add any new species to the trip list. So we continued on to Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park, for an afternoons birding. In sharp contrast to the mornings birding, we found plenty of new birds, including a stunning Black-headed Woodpecker, a pair of huge White-bellied Woodpeckers, a few Rosy Minivets, several Ashy Minivets, a rather sombre plumaged Grey-breasted Prinia, a bathing Eurasian Jay and a few handsome Vinous-breasted Starlings.

A final morning at Sab Sadao, before driving to Bangkok Airport. We found four new birds for the tour, which included a Rufous-winged Buzzard, two migrating Chinese Sparrowhawks, the rather uncommon Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike and the rather plain Brown Prinia.

SYSTAMATIC LIST

GREBES *PODICIPEDIDAE*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A common resident, which we saw well, at a number of wetlands, throughout the tour.

PELICANS *PELECANIDAE*

Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* We observed up to 40 individuals of this species, during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam. This species is a very uncommon non-breeding winter visitor to Thailand. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 8,700 – 12,000 species and unfortunately, decreasing.

CORMORANTS *PHALACROCORACIDAE*

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* A numerous breeding species, in wetlands close to Bangkok.

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* Large numbers of breeding birds were present in Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* A very uncommon non-breeding species in Thailand. We observed a small flock at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNES *ARDEIDAE*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A common breeding species and winter visitor throughout all wetland areas of Thailand.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* Pat pointed out a single bird at Pak Thale, amongst the hundreds of more common species of egrets, we found a second bird at Laem Pac Bia. This species is a very uncommon vagrant to Thailand, and this species is classified as 'Vulnerable' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 species and unfortunately, decreasing.

Pacific Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra* An uncommon breeding species in southern Thailand, a single dark morph bird was observed at Laem Pak Bia.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* A common winter visitor throughout northern Thailand and a common breeding species in the wetlands around Bangkok.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* An uncommon non-breeding winter visitor in Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions, in suitable wetland areas.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* The Cattle Egret has recently been split into two species; Western and Eastern. The one occurring in Thailand is the Eastern Cattle Egret, where it is a common non-breeding winter visitor to northern Thailand, and a common breeding visitor to the wetlands around Bangkok.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* A fairly common non-breeding winter visitor to Thailand, which we saw very well on many occasions.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* This species is an uncommon non-breeding visitor to northern Thailand and an uncommon breeding species in the wetlands around Bangkok. We saw a couple in the north, and a few in the south.

Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus* An abundant non-breeding visitor to Thailand, which we saw well on numerous occasions.

Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola speciosa* A fairly common breeding species, which is confined to the Bangkok area of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* A very uncommon non-breeding visitor throughout northern Thailand and a very uncommon breeding species throughout southern Thailand. We

observed a couple of birds while birding at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* A common breeding species throughout Thailand, it prefers to stay hidden in deep cover and we only flushed one bird, from a reedbed at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

STORKS CICONIIDAE

Milky Stork *Mycteria cinerea* A rare non-breeding vagrant to Thailand. We were very fortunate that we found a single bird at Pak Thale, in the Gulf of Siam. This species is classified as 'Endangered' in Birdlife Internationals *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be 1,500 mature individuals and unfortunately, decreasing.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* An uncommon non-breeding winter visitor and passage migrant in southern Thailand. We enjoyed several good sightings during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* A common non-breeding winter visitor and a common breeding species in the wetlands around Bangkok. We saw it very well on many occasions.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* An uncommon non-breeding winter visitor to southern Thailand, we observed small numbers while birding at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS ANATIDAE

Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* A common resident throughout all wetland areas of Thailand, which we saw well on numerous occasions.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* A rare non-breeding winter vagrant to Thailand. We were very fortunate to find a single bird along the edge of the Mekong River, close to Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

Cotton Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* A locally uncommon breeding resident throughout Thailand. We observed a small number while birding in the wetlands of Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* A very rare winter vagrant to Thailand. We were very fortunate to observe a single bird amongst many hundreds of wildfowl at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* A common non-breeding winter visitor, mainly to the far north of Thailand. We saw several large flocks, while birding at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* A common non-breeding winter visitor to Thailand. We very much enjoyed watching a large flock of 400 plus birds at Pak Thale, in the Gulf of Siam, where all the males were in superb breeding plumage. We also observed a single bird in the far north of Thailand, at Chiang Saen.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* An uncommon non-breeding winter visitor throughout Thailand. We observed a handful of birds at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

Ferruginous Pochard *Aythya nyroca* A rare non-breeding winter visitor to Thailand. We were very fortunate to observe half a dozen or so birds at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

OSPREY PANDIONIDAE

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Recently, the Osprey has been split into two species, Western

and Eastern. The Western Osprey is an uncommon non-breeding winter visitor, mainly to central Thailand. We observed a single bird very well, sat on a pole, at a large lake at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

KITES, HAWKS AND EAGLES *ACCIPITRIDAE*

- Black Baza** *Aviceda leuphotes* This beautiful raptor is an uncommon breeding resident in north west Thailand and a common passage migrant and winter visitor to central and southern Thailand. We observed three birds in flight in Doi Inthanon National Park and then we observed a second flock of three birds actually on migration, at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.
- Oriental Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* This species is an uncommon breeding resident in northern Thailand and a fairly common, but localised, winter visitor, and a common passage migrant. We enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.
- Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* A common breeding resident throughout Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.
- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* This species is a common winter visitor and passage migrant and a rare breeding resident, a little to the north of Bangkok. We observed this species on several occasions, including a few birds which were actually migrating.
- Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* A common breeding resident, which we saw well on several occasions during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Crested Serpent-Eagle** *Spilornis cheela* A common breeding resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.
- Eastern Marsh-Harrier** *Circus spilonotus* A common non-breeding winter visitor throughout Thailand. We observed up to a 100 or so birds, at a night time roost, at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand, it shared the roost, with Pied Harriers.
- Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos* The Pied Harrier is a fairly common non-breeding winter visitor, throughout the whole of Thailand. We observed a male bird along the Kok River, at Thaton, this was followed by a second male bird at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam and up to a 100 or so birds, at the night time roost at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand, which it shared with Eastern Marsh-Harriers.
- Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus* A common breeding resident, which we saw well in flight, on a few occasions.
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius* A common resident throughout northern and central Thailand and a common non-breeding, winter visitor, throughout peninsular Thailand. We observed a perched bird and then a bird catching bats at dusk, both sightings occurred in Khao Yai National Park.
- Chinese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter soloensis* This species is an uncommon passage migrant throughout Thailand. We observed two birds on migration at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.
- Rufous-winged Buzzard** *Butastur liventer* This species is an uncommon breeding resident in northern and central Thailand. We enjoyed good scope views of a single bird perched in a dead tree, close to Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.
- Grey-faced Buzzard** *Butastur indicus* In Thailand this species is a common passage migrant and winter visitor. We enjoyed good scope views of a single, immature bird, perched in a tree, on Doi Lang.
- Eastern Buzzard** *Buteo japonicus* The Common Buzzard has recently been split into three separate species, European Buzzard, Himalayan Buzzard and Eastern Buzzard. The one

occurring in Thailand is the Eastern Buzzard, where it is an uncommon winter visitor. We saw a single individual in flight on Doi Ang Khang, and this was followed by a second sighting, also of a bird in flight, at Chiang Saen.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* The Black Eagle is an uncommon resident throughout Thailand, we observed a bird fly directly above our heads, skimming the treetops, in Khao Yai National Park.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* This species is an uncommon resident throughout Thailand, we were fortunate to observe a bird in flight, while birding on Doi Lang.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* In Thailand this species is a highly localised and uncommon resident. We enjoyed two separate sightings of birds in flight, during our time on Doi Lang.

CARACARAS AND FALCONS *FALCONIDAE*

Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius* A fairly common resident of peninsular Thailand, we enjoyed good scope views of a perched individual, during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* In Thailand this species is an uncommon winter visitor, we observed a bird in flight close to Fang, in northern Thailand and this was followed by a second sighting of a bird flying along the Mekong River, close to Chiang Saen.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* The Peregrine Falcon is an uncommon resident and winter visitor throughout Thailand, which we saw well on a few occasions.

PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS *PHASIANIDAE*

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* An uncommon resident in northern Thailand, whose numbers are much reduced by over hunting. We enjoyed super close looks at this very attractive species, on two separate occasions, during our time in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Bar-backed Partridge *Arborophila brunneopectus* An uncommon resident in northern and central Thailand, we very much enjoyed watching a pair at very close quarters, at the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Scaly-breasted Partridge *Arborophila chloropus* A common but inconspicuous resident of northern and central Thailand, we enjoyed a pair at very close quarters, from the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Mountain Bamboo-Partridge *Bambusicola fytchii* This species is an uncommon resident in the far north of Thailand. We were fortunate to enjoy good looks at a pair of birds, in the middle of the track, early one morning, on Doi Lang.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* A common resident throughout Thailand, but much reduced in recent times in northern Thailand, due to excessive hunting. We saw it well in central Thailand on many occasions.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* A locally common resident of northwestern Thailand, where we enjoyed several good looks, during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Siamese Fireback *Lophura diardi* An uncommon and localised resident throughout northern and central Thailand, whose numbers are now much reduced, due to excessive hunting. We enjoyed a few very good sightings in Khao Yai National Park.

Mrs Hume's Pheasant *Syrnaticus humiae* A rare breeding resident in the far north of Thailand, along the border with Myanmar. We were very fortunate to observe both male and female birds, while birding on Doi Lang.

BUTTONQUAIL *TURNICIDAE*

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* A common resident throughout Thailand, a pair of birds

ran across the track in front of our vehicle, while we were birding at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS *RALLIDAE*

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* This species is a common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* A common resident, which we saw well on many occasions.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* A common resident and wintering species, which we saw well on several occasions.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* An uncommon breeding species of central and southern Thailand. We saw a few birds very well, in a flooded field at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* In northern Thailand this species is an uncommon summer breeding visitor, and it is an uncommon resident breeding species, in central and southern Thailand. We watched two immature birds at a small dam, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Grey-headed Swampfen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* An uncommon breeding resident of the larger, less disturbed wetlands of Thailand. We observed large numbers at Chiang Saen, in the far north of the country.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* A common resident throughout northern and central Thailand, and a common winter visitor throughout central and southern Thailand. We enjoyed many good sightings at scattered wetlands throughout the tour.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* An uncommon winter visitor to Thailand. We observed small numbers at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

JACANAS *JACANIDAE*

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* A common resident and winter visitor, we observed small numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* A common resident throughout Thailand, we enjoyed several good sightings at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

PAINTED-SNIPES *ROSTRATULIDAE*

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* A common resident, we saw it well along the Kok River, at Thaton and again at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

STILTS AND AVOCETS *RECURVIROSTRIDAE*

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* A fairly common resident and winter visitor, which we saw very well on many occasions.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* An uncommon winter visitor to Thailand, we were fortunate to enjoy watching a sizable flock, while birding at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

COURSERS AND PRATINCOLES *GLAREOLIDAE*

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* A very common summer breeding visitor to Thailand, we very much enjoyed watching several large flocks, throughout the course of the tour.

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea* This species is an uncommon resident in northern Thailand and an uncommon winter visitor to central Thailand. We observed small numbers breeding along the Kok River, at Thaton and this was followed by a second sighting along the Mekong River, close to Chiang Saen.

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS *CHARADRIIDAE*

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii* An uncommon breeding visitor to northern and peninsular

Thailand. We observed small numbers at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* A common winter visitor to the far north of Thailand and an uncommon winter visitor to central and southern Thailand. We observed small numbers at Chiang Saen, in the far north, and small numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* A common resident, which we observed well, throughout the lowland areas of Thailand.

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* A common winter visitor, which we saw well at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Another common winter visitor, which we saw well during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* A common and widespread winter visitor throughout Thailand, and a local and uncommon breeding resident along the northern rivers of Thailand. We observed many wintering birds, during our time in both northern and central Thailand.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* A common winter visitor to Thailand, where we observed small numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

White-faced Plover *Charadrius dealbatus* This newly-split species is still very poorly-known owing to historical confusion over its identification. There is insufficient information on its distribution, and is therefore listed as Data Deficient by Birdlife International. It is known to breed along the south coast of China, and winter in Thailand, Malaysia and Sumatra. It is without question a very uncommon bird, and we were very fortunate to observe a single bird fairly well, during our time at Laem Pak Bia.

Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii* A highly localised and uncommon resident of peninsular Thailand. We saw a few birds in the scope, during our time at Laem Pak Bia.

Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus* An extremely common winter visitor to coastal areas of southern Thailand. It proved to be extremely common at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam, where we observed literally thousands of birds.

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii* Another common winter visitor, we observed small numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES *SCOLOPACIDAE*

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* A very uncommon winter visitor to Thailand, predominantly in the far north. We were extremely fortunate, to observe a single bird feeding in a small bog, while birding along the board-walk, at the Summit Marsh, in Doi Inthanon National Park. It was undoubtedly, one of the great highlights of the tour.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* A common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand, we observed a couple of birds along the Kok River, at Thaton and a couple of subsequent sightings at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* A very common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand. We enjoyed super close looks at a single bird at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* This species is an uncommon passage migrant in Thailand, where we observed a flock of 20 or so birds at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam. This species is classified as 'Near-Threatened' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be 23,000 mature individuals and unfortunately, decreasing.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* A fairly common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand, we observed large numbers, some in full-breeding plumage, at Pak Thale, on the

Gulf of Siam.

- Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* A fairly common winter visitor to the wetlands around Bangkok and peninsular Thailand. We observed good numbers, while birding at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* A common winter visitor to coastal areas of Bangkok and peninsular Thailand. We saw good numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* This species is a fairly common winter visitor to Thailand, we observed large numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis* The Eastern Curlew is a rare passage migrant through Thailand. We observed small numbers along the coast at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* An uncommon winter visitor to coastal areas of central and peninsular Thailand. We saw small numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* An extremely common winter visitor throughout Thailand, which we saw well on numerous occasions.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* A fairly common winter visitor, we saw a couple of birds along the Kok River, at Thaton, in the north of Thailand.
- Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* A fairly common winter visitor, we saw small numbers at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand, and much larger numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* A common winter visitor, we also observed small numbers at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand, and much larger numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Nordmann's Greenshank** *Tringa guttifer* A rare winter visitor to peninsular Thailand. We observed up to 40 individuals at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam. This species is classified as 'Endangered' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 330 – 670 individuals and unfortunately, decreasing. Alexander von Nordmann (1803-1866) was a Finnish born zoologist, who collected extensively in southern Russia. He went to Berlin in 1827, and in 1832 became a professor at Odessa, finally becoming Professor of Zoology at Helsinki University in 1849.
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* A very common winter visitor throughout Thailand, we saw very large numbers, many in full-breeding plumage, during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* An extremely common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand. We observed large numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* Mainly a common winter visitor to the wetlands of Bangkok and peninsular Thailand. It breeds in small numbers in central Thailand. We saw large numbers during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* A uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant to coastal areas of Thailand. We observed a single flock of half a dozen or so species at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris* An uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to coastal areas of Thailand. We observed surprisingly high numbers of this species at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* A fairly common winter visitor to coastal Thailand. We observed good numbers of birds, all in winter plumage, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.
- Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis* An extremely common winter visitor to coastal areas of Thailand. We enjoyed watching large flocks of this species at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of

Siam.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* A common winter visitor throughout northern and central Thailand. We observed a few birds at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand, and this was followed by many more sightings at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam. Coenraad Jacob Temminck (1778-1858) was a Dutch ornithologist, illustrator and collector. He was appointed the first Director of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, in Leiden, in 1820 and held that post until his death. He was a wealthy man who had a very large collection of specimens and live birds. His first task as an ornithologist was to catalogue his father's very extensive collection. His father was Jacob Temminck, for whom Le Vaillant collected specimens.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* A common winter visitor throughout Thailand. We enjoyed watching large numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* A common winter visitor to coastal Thailand. We saw fairly large numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* A very rare passage migrant and winter visitor to Thailand. We enjoyed very close looks at two individuals, in non-breeding plumage, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam. This species is classified as 'Critically Endangered' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 240 – 400 mature individuals and unfortunately, decreasing. Little wonder then it was voted 'Bird of the Tour' by tour participants.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* A fairly common winter visitor to coastal areas of Thailand. We observed surprisingly large numbers of this species at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* An uncommon winter visitor to Thailand. We observed a few birds at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* A rare passage migrant to Thailand. We were extremely pleased to find a flock of 13 birds, all in non-breeding plumage, and all in the same pond, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

GULLS LARIDAE

Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* A rare winter visitor to Thailand. We were very pleased to find four individuals, one in full-breeding plumage, at Laem Pak Bia. Peter Simon Pallas (1741-1811) was a German zoologist and one of the greatest of the 18th Century naturalists. He led numerous expeditions throughout much of Russia between 1768-1774. He described many new species of mammals, birds, fish and insects.

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* An extremely common winter visitor throughout Thailand. We observed huge numbers of this species, some in full-breeding plumage, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

TERNs STERNIDAE

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* A common resident, we observed large numbers during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam, and also at Laem Pak Bia.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* A fairly common winter visitor, we observed good numbers of this species during our time at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam and also at Laem Pak Bia.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* An uncommon winter visitor to the coastal wetlands, close to Bangkok. We enjoyed watching good numbers of this species at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam and also at Laem Pak Bia.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* A common winter visitor to coastal Thailand. We enjoyed watching many birds, all in non-breeding plumage, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of

Siam, and also at Laem Pak Bia.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* A very common winter visitor throughout Thailand. We observed huge numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam, at Laem Pak Bia and at the wetlands close to Bangkok International Airport.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A very common winter visitor to coastal Thailand, where we observed large numbers at Laem Pak Bia and at Pak Thale, both on the Gulf of Siam.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* This species is a non-breeding visitor and it also nests on off-shore islands, off the coast of Thailand. We observed large numbers at Laem Pak Bia.

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* A rare winter visitor to coastal Thailand. We observed a single bird, at Laem Pak Bia.

PIGEONS AND DOVES COLUMBIDAE

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* This introduced species proved to be plentiful throughout the villages and towns of Thailand.

Speckled Wood-Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* An uncommon resident of the far north of Thailand. We saw a flock of over a dozen birds, early one morning in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* An uncommon resident in the north of Thailand, we observed small numbers on Doi Lang.

Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* An extremely common resident of northern and central Thailand, which we observed on many days of the tour.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* An extremely common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we observed on all but one day of the tour.

Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall* A common resident throughout northern and central Thailand, we observed a few birds in flight, in Khao Yai National Park

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* The Emerald Dove has recently been split into two species; Common and Pacific. The one occurring in Thailand is the Common Emerald Dove, it is a common resident throughout much of the country, we saw it very well on many occasions.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* A common resident of peninsular Thailand, this species has been introduced and has thrived, in other areas of Thailand. We observed large numbers of birds throughout the tour.

Pink-necked Green-Pigeon *Treron vernans* A common resident of Thailand, we saw a pair very well at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Thick-billed Green-Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* A common resident of Thailand, we saw it very well in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

PARROTS PSITTACIDAE

Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseata* An uncommon resident of northern and central Thailand, we observed a flock of 20 or so birds at Doi Inthanon National Park.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* An uncommon to locally common resident throughout much of Thailand, it proved to be common in Khao Yai National Park.

Vernal Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus vernalis* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw a few birds very well, during our time in Khao Yai National Park.

CUCKOOS CUCULIDAE

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides* A common resident throughout northern

Thailand and a common winter visitor to central and peninsular Thailand. We enjoyed several good sightings throughout the tour.

Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococyx vagans* An uncommon resident of central and peninsular Thailand, we managed to coax a bird to fly right past us, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* An uncommon resident throughout Thailand, we enjoyed super scope views of a single bird at Pang Makhom Pom, in northern Thailand and we also observed a bird in flight at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park, in central Thailand.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* A very common resident of disturbed habitats such as cultivated areas, parks and gardens. We enjoyed great scope views of a single bird, on the outskirts of Doi Inthanon National Park.

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococyx maculatus* An uncommon resident of northern Thailand and an uncommon winter visitor to the rest of the country. We observed a female in flight, on one occasion, on Doi Ang Khang.

Asian Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* This species is an uncommon resident, a passage migrant, and a winter visitor. We observed small numbers in Kaeng Krachen National Park and at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* A common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis* A very common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which once again, we saw well on many occasions.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris* A common resident of peninsular Thailand, we observed a single bird, very well, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo *Carpococyx renauldi* An uncommon resident, unfortunately, I was the only one to see it, while we were birding in Khao Yai National Park.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* A very common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* A fairly common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, this species prefers to skulk in dense, swampy grassland. We observed a bird as it flushed from cover at a reed-fringed pond at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

OWLS STRIGIDAE

White-fronted Scops-Owl *Otus sagittatus* An extremely rare resident of peninsular Thailand, we were very fortunate to observe three of these seldom seen birds, at their day-time roost, deep inside the forest, in Kaeng Krachen National Park. This poorly known species has a small, rapidly declining, severely fragmented population, which is dependent on lowland or foothill forest, much of which, has been destroyed or degraded within its range. This species is classified as 'Vulnerable' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 mature individuals and unfortunately, decreasing.

Collared Scops-Owl *Otus lettia* A common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, we coaxed a bird into the spotlight, after dark one evening, on Doi Ang Khang.

Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica* An uncommon resident, on the same night we saw the Collared Scops-Owl, we also managed to coax into the spotlight, one of these very large species of owls.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* A common resident, we very much enjoyed watching one of these birds sitting above a forest track, calling away, in Khao Yai National Park, in the

middle of the day.

Asian Barred Owl *Glaucidium cuculoides* A very common resident of Thailand, which we saw well in daylight hours, on a couple of occasions.

Spotted Owl *Athene brama* A common resident, which we saw twice in daylight hours, once in Doi Inthanon National Park, which was followed by a second sighting, at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata* A common resident and winter visitor, we coaxed a bird into view, in the grounds of our lodge, in Doi Inthanon National Park.

FROGMOUTHS PODARGIDAE

Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* Undoubtedly, one of the great highlights of the tour, was observing a female of this very uncommon resident, sat on a nest, on Doi Lang. Brian Houghton Hodgson FRC (1800-1894) was an official of the East India Company and Assistant Resident in Nepal from 1825 until 1843, and in Darjeeling between 1845 and 1859. He amassed a collection of 9,512 specimens of birds, consisting of 672 different species, of which 124 had not previously been described.

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES CAPRIMULGIDAE

Great Eared-Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* A common resident, we observed a bird in flight, as we were leaving Kaeng Krachen National Park one evening, and then enjoyed much better sightings of several birds in Khao Yai National Park.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* This species is a common resident, we observed several birds sitting on the road, in front of our vehicle, on a couple of evenings, during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

SWIFTS APODIDAE

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris* This species is a common resident of north west Thailand, but only a winter visitor elsewhere in the country. We observed good numbers, during our time in Khao Yai National Park.

Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani* The Germain's Swiftlet is a common resident of the Bangkok area and peninsular Thailand. We observed large flocks while birding at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam. Louis Rodolphe Germain (1827-1917) was a veterinary surgeon in the French colonial army serving in Indochina (Vietnam) from 1862-1867. In 1875 he went to New Caledonia and spent three years there. He made considerable zoological collections in his spare time, donating them to the Paris Museum.

Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* This species is an uncommon winter visitor, mainly to south central Thailand, we observed a few individuals very well amongst much larger flocks of Brown-backed Needletails, as they were swooping low over lakes, in order to drink. We only saw them in Khao Yai National Park.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* In sharp contrast, the Brown-backed Needletail is a common resident throughout much of Thailand, we observed several large flocks, during our time in Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* A common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we observed on most days of the tour.

Cook's Swift *Apus cooki* An uncommon resident in the far north west of Thailand, and a fairly common winter visitor, throughout the rest of Thailand. We observed small numbers in the

far north west and in Kaeng Krachen National Park. John Pemberton Cook (1865-1924) worked for the Bombay Burma Teak Corporation, (1883-1913). He left India for Kenya in 1913, to run a coffee plantation.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* The House Swift is a common resident throughout much of Thailand, mainly nesting in villages and towns, we enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the tour.

TREESWIFTS HEMIPROCNIIDAE

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* This species is a common resident throughout peninsular Thailand. We saw a single individual very well, while birding in the Kaeng Krachen National Park.

TROGONS AND QUETZALS TROGONIDAE

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* A common, though patchily distributed species throughout Thailand, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* This species is also a common, and patchily distributed species throughout Thailand. We saw it well on a couple of occasions, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

KINGFISHERS ALCEDINIDAE

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Mainly a common winter visitor to Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Black-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca* This species is an uncommon resident throughout much of northern Thailand, and is mainly a passage migrant throughout central Thailand. We observed a single bird, very well indeed, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* A common resident, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* This species is a common winter visitor and passage migrant in Thailand. We enjoyed a few scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* A common resident of mangroves and coastal wetlands, throughout coastal Thailand. We saw it well on a few occasions, while birding at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

BEE-EATERS MEROPIDAE

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus* This species is a fairly common resident of peninsular Thailand. We enjoyed great looks at a single individual during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* A fairly common resident of the northern half of Thailand. We saw it well on a couple of occasions in Kaeng Krachen National Park, at the very southern edge of this birds range.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* A common breeding resident throughout much of Thailand, and a summer breeding visitor in the northeast. We enjoyed many good sightings of this confiding species of bee-eater, throughout the tour.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* This species is a common resident in central Thailand, a common passage migrant in peninsular Thailand and a summer breeding visitor to north west Thailand. We saw a few birds very well at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam, where the bird is resident.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti* This species is a common resident, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

ROLLERS CORACIIDAE

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* A common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* This is now the official new name for this species. In Thailand, it is a common resident, which we saw well on several occasions, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

HOOPOES UPUPIDAE

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* This species is a common resident throughout Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

HORNBILLS BUCEROTIDAE

Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* A fairly common resident throughout much of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* This species is an uncommon, to locally common resident, throughout the western half of Thailand. We saw it very well on a few occasions in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

Tickell's Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus tickelli* The Brown Hornbill has recently been split into two separate species; the species that occurs in Thailand is the Tickell's Brown Hornbill, which is an uncommon resident throughout much of Thailand. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is unknown. We glimpsed this species on two separate occasions, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park. Colonel Samuel Richard Tickell (1811-1875) was a British army officer, artist and ornithologist in India and Burma. He made important early contributions to Indian ornithology while observing and collecting both bird and mammal specimens, in the states of Bihar, Orissa, Darjeeling and Tenasserim.

BARBETS CAPITONIDAE

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* The Great Barbet is a common resident throughout north west Thailand. We enjoyed great scope views of this species, on one occasion, while birding on Doi Lang.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata* This species is a common resident throughout much of Thailand, where we saw it very well on several occasions.

Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta* This species is also a common resident throughout much of Thailand, and once again, we saw it very well, on several occasions.

Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos* A common resident throughout peninsular Thailand, we enjoyed good scope views of a single bird, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is unknown.

Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii* The Golden-throated Barbet is a common resident of north west Thailand, where we saw it well on a number of occasions.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* This species is also a common resident, predominantly in north west Thailand. We saw it well on a few occasions, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park, right at the southern edge of this bird's range.

Moustached Barbet *Megalaima incognita* This species is a common resident with a small, somewhat patchy distribution, throughout Thailand. We saw it well on several occasions, during our time in Khao Yai National Park.

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it very well in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* A common resident, throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

WOODPECKERS *PICIDAE*

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* A fairly common winter visitor throughout all but peninsular Thailand. We very much enjoyed watching a single bird, at Chiang Saen, in the far north of Thailand.

Grey-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, where we saw it well on several occasions.

Freckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos analis* A recent split from Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, the Freckle-breasted Woodpecker is an uncommon resident of central Thailand. We observed one of these birds along the edge of a road, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus* A common resident of north west Thailand, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* This species is an uncommon resident, occurring throughout much of Thailand. We observed this bird well on two separate occasions, both sightings occurred at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Banded Woodpecker *Picus miniaceus* This delightful species is an uncommon resident throughout peninsular Thailand. We found a bird excavating a nest hole, in a large tree, in Kaeng Krachen National Park, which enabled us to see the bird extremely well.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus* A common resident, predominantly throughout western Thailand, we saw it well on a few occasions on Doi Lang and again at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus* This species is a common resident throughout peninsular Thailand. Once again, we found one of these birds excavating a nest hole in a large tree, in Kaeng Krachen National Park, which enabled us to observe it very well.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* A common resident with a patchy distribution throughout Thailand. However, it proved common in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus viridanus* An uncommon resident of southwestern and peninsular Thailand, we saw it very well on one occasion, in Kaeng Krachen National Park .

Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we observed it very well on one occasion, in Khao Yai National Park.

Black-headed Woodpecker *Picus erythropygius* This species is an uncommon resident with a patchy distribution throughout Thailand. We saw a bird very well, at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Grey-faced Woodpecker *Picus canus* This species has been recently split from Grey-headed Woodpecker. It is an uncommon resident throughout much of northern Thailand. We saw it well on one occasion, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense* The Common Flameback is a common resident throughout much of Thailand. We saw it very well in Kaeng Krachen National Park, and again, at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* This species is also a common resident throughout much of Thailand. We saw it well on one occasion, during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* This rather manic species of woodpecker, is almost impossible to see well, it is incredibly shy, and at the slightest provocation, it flies off,

calling loudly as it does so. True to form, this is exactly what it did to us, on both of our meetings, on Doi Lang and in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Black-and-buff Woodpecker *Meiglyptes jugularis* This uncommon resident has a patchy distribution throughout Thailand. Fortunately, we found a bird excavating a nest hole, in a large tree, in Kaeng Krachen National Park, which enabled us to see the bird very well.

Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente* This species is a fairly common resident, with a somewhat patchy distribution throughout Thailand. We observed a bird very well during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* An uncommon resident, which occurs throughout much of Thailand, we saw it well on a few occasions in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

BROADBILLS *EURYLAIMIDAE*

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos* A rare resident throughout southern Thailand, we were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at a single individual, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* A fairly common resident, predominantly in north west Thailand. We found a nesting bird on Doi Lang and again in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* A fairly common resident, which occurs throughout much of Thailand. We saw it very well on a couple of occasions, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus* An uncommon to fairly common resident, occurring mainly in western Thailand. We saw it very well on a couple of occasions, during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus* A fairly common resident, predominantly in peninsular Thailand. We were very fortunate to see this beautiful species very well, during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus* An uncommon resident which occurs throughout much of Thailand. We found a party of five birds building a nest in Kaeng Krachen National Park, which enabled us to see this species very well.

PITTAS *PITTIDAE*

Rusty-naped Pitta *Pitta oatesi* The Rusty-naped Pitta is an uncommon resident of north west Thailand. It is an extremely shy and secretive species and is very difficult to see. It was very fortunate for us that one came into a feeding station at the Kings Project, on Doi Ang Khang.

LARKS *ALAUDIDAE*

Indochinese Bushlark *Mirafra erythrocephala* A local and uncommon resident of northern Thailand, we saw it very well indeed, on a few occasions at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* The Oriental Skylark is an uncommon resident, mainly of central Thailand. We saw a couple of individuals in a ploughed field, close to Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

SWALLOWS *HIRUNDINIDAE*

Grey-throated Sand Martin *Riparia chinensis* A split from Plain Martin. This species is a local

and uncommon resident of northern Thailand. We found a large flock feeding along the edge of the Mekong River, close to Chiang Saen.

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* The Common Sand Martin is a fairly common winter visitor throughout Thailand. Therefore, it was somewhat surprising, that we only found one bird, amongst a huge flock of wintering Barn Swallows, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* An abundant winter visitor throughout Thailand. We also found six pairs nesting, high on Doi Lang, in the far north. It has only been recorded breeding in Thailand, on a handful of occasions.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* A common winter visitor to Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions, but only in the lowlands.

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* A common resident throughout western Thailand, it proved to be very common in the north west.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS *MOTACILLIDAE*

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* A common resident, which we saw very well, towards the end of the tour.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* A common winter visitor, mainly to northern and western Thailand. We observed large flocks during our time in the north.

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* A common winter visitor, we only saw it once, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* A common winter visitor to northern Thailand, somewhat surprisingly, we only observed a few birds.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* A very common winter visitor throughout Thailand, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Yet another common winter visitor throughout Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES *CAMPEPHAGIDAE*

Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei* A fairly common resident of northern Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina polioptera* An uncommon resident of western Thailand, we observed a single individual at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park, on the last day of the tour.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos* A common resident in northwestern Thailand and a common winter visitor throughout the country. We enjoyed several good sightings of this species.

Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus* A fairly common winter visitor to much of Thailand, we saw a few large flocks at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis* An uncommon winter visitor throughout much of Thailand. We observed small numbers of this species, during our time in Khao Yai National Park. Robert Swinhoe (1836-1877) was born in Calcutta, India, and was sent to England to be educated. He worked in China as a diplomat and during this time he explored a vast area which had not been open previously to any other collector. As a result he discovered new species at the rate of about one per month throughout the more than 19 years he was there. He discovered more than 200 new species of birds.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* A fairly common winter visitor to the whole of Thailand, we observed a few wintering flocks at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* This species is a common resident, we saw a pair in the grounds of our airport hotel at Bangkok and it proved quite common at Sab Sadao, in Thap

Lan National Park.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* A common resident of northwestern Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* In Thailand, this species only occurs in the north west, where it is a common resident, we saw it very well on several occasions.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* Another common resident, which occurs throughout most of Thailand, we saw it well on many occasions.

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* A common resident of northern and western Thailand, mainly in the hills. We also saw it well on several occasions.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* A common resident throughout Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

BULBULS *PYCNONOTIDAE*

Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons* A locally common resident of the far north, where we enjoyed watching a few small flocks.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* A fairly common resident of the north west, where we saw a few pairs very well.

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it well on several occasions.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus* A very common and widespread resident, which we saw well on a great many occasions.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* A common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, we only observed it in the north west.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* A locally common resident in the extreme far north. We observed it well on Doi Ang Khang and on Doi Lang.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* An abundant resident of the northern half of Thailand, excluding the peninsular. We saw it well on many occasions.

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, it was a species we saw well on several occasions.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens* A common resident, predominantly of the north west, where we saw it well on many occasions.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* A common resident of the far south and peninsular Thailand. We saw several birds in the grounds of our airport hotel at Bangkok, and we also saw a few at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi* A very common resident, throughout the whole of Thailand, we saw it well on many occasions.

Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, somewhat surprisingly, we only observed this species on a few occasions, in Khao Yai National Park.

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus* A common resident of the far south and peninsular Thailand. We saw it well on a number of occasions in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we observed small numbers in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclllandii* A common resident of the higher summits of northern Thailand. We saw it well on a number of occasions.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* A common resident, in isolated patches of forest. We observed this species in Doi Inthanon National Park and again in Khao Yai National Park.

LEAFBIRDS *CHLOROPSEIDAE*

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* A common resident throughout much of

Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* Another common and widespread resident, which we also saw well on several occasions.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* A fairly common resident of northern Thailand, we observed it well on Doi Ang Khang and on Doi Lang.

IORAS AEGITHINIDAE

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* A common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on numerous occasions.

Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayeii* Another common and widespread resident, which we saw well on a few occasions.

THRUSHES and ALLIES TURDIDAE

White-throated Rock-Thrush *Monticola gularis* This beautiful species, is an uncommon winter visitor to Thailand. We saw a stunning adult male, while birding in Khao Yai National Park.

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* An uncommon winter visitor to northern Thailand, with an isolated breeding population on the upper slopes of Doi Inthanon. We observed both males and females, while birding on Doi Ang Khang.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* Mainly a common winter visitor, however, the race *madoci*, breeds in peninsular Thailand. We observed this species on many occasions.

Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* This species is both a common resident and a common winter visitor. We observed this species on several occasions and saw both races that occur in Thailand.

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* An uncommon resident of northern Thailand and an uncommon winter visitor to southern Thailand. We observed a fine adult male, while having lunch at our lodge, on the edge of Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Dark-sided Thrush *Zoothera marginata* A very uncommon resident of northwestern Thailand, watching this bird standing motionless in the Summit Marsh, at the very top of Doi Inthanon, was one of the great highlights of the tour.

Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* A rare and irregular winter visitor to the extreme north of Thailand. We were extremely fortunate, that this normally very shy species of thrush, was coming into a feeding station, in the grounds of our lodge at Doi Ang Khang, allowing us to observe this very uncommon species particularly well.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* In most years the Eyebrowed Thrush is a common winter visitor throughout Thailand, however, numbers fluctuate from year to year. This year, there must have been very few, as we only observed one bird, perched high in a tree, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* Shortwings are amongst the shiest birds in the world, the Lesser Shortwing is a locally common resident of north west Thailand, but very seldom seen. While in Doi Inthanon National Park, we birded a patch of low altitude dry deciduous forest, searching for Slaty-bellied Tesia, our only reward, was a glimpse of this species.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* The White-browed Shortwing is also seldom observed and is an uncommon resident of north west Thailand. A female came into a

feeding station in Doi Inthanon National Park, and we were able to see it from just a few metres away. The following day, while birding along the board-walk at the Summit Marsh, at the very top of Doi Inthanon, we watched an adult male feeding on the ground, which was completely unperturbed by our presence, it was a thrilling sight.

CISTICOLAS and ALLIES *CISTICOLIDAE*

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* A very common resident throughout Thailand, we saw it well on a couple of occasions, in long grass at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* A common, though patchily distributed resident, throughout much of Thailand. We only observed this species on one occasion, we managed to coax one into view, in very long grass, in Khao Yai National Park.

Brown Prinia *Prinia polychroa* The Brown Prinia is an uncommon to locally common resident of northern Thailand. We observed a couple of these birds on the last day of the tour, at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* A common resident of north west Thailand, we saw it well on two separate occasions, the first sighting occurred on Doi Ang Khang, and the second, on Doi Lang.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* A very common resident throughout much of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii* This species is also a common resident throughout much of Thailand. We saw a single individual very well, in farmland, very close to Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Another common resident, this one occurs throughout the whole of Thailand. We only saw one bird, singing from a small reedbed, which fringed a small pond, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* Once again, another widespread and common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS *SYLVIIDAE*

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata* This very beautiful bird is an uncommon resident of northwestern Thailand, which I glimpsed on one occasion, at the Summit Marsh, in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Aberrant Bush-Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea* This rather plain species is an uncommon winter visitor to the far north west of Thailand. It is a skulking, seldom seen species, somewhat surprisingly, we managed to see it very well on two separate occasions, while birding on Doi Lang.

Baikal Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus davidi* A recent split from Spotted Bush-Warbler, this species is a common winter visitor throughout northwestern Thailand. This is a particularly skulking bush-warbler, and rather surprisingly, we saw it fairly well, on two separate occasions. The first sighting took place along the Kok River, at Thaton and the second sighting took place at Chiang Saen.

Black-browed Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* A very common winter visitor, throughout much of Thailand. We saw a couple of birds very well at the reed-fringed small pond, at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* This species is an extremely rare winter visitor to Thailand. We saw a single individual very well and at very close quarters in a lowland marsh at Chiang Saen. This was the first sight record for Thailand, all previous observations, where of birds that been caught in mist-nets.

Oriental Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* A very common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well, on a few occasions.

- Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllergates cucullatus* A fairly common resident of north west Thailand, we observed a single individual extremely well, high on Doi Lang.
- Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius* A very common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on a few occasions.
- Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis* Another very common resident, which occurs throughout the whole of Thailand. We saw it well on one occasion, while having lunch in the grounds of our lodge, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* A very common winter visitor to the northern half of Thailand, we saw it very well on a few occasions.
- Yellow-streaked Warbler** *Phylloscopus armandii* A fairly common winter visitor to northwestern Thailand, we saw a single individual, at the top of Doi Ang Khang, on the second day of the tour.
- Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi* A common winter visitor throughout much of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions. Gustav Ferdinand Richard Radde (1831-1903) was originally trained as an apothecary. The Prussian naturalist and explorer founded the Caucasian Museum in Tiflis, Georgia, in 1867.
- Buff-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher* This species is an uncommon, to locally common, winter visitor to northwestern Thailand, where we saw it well on a number of occasions.
- Ashy-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis* In Thailand, this diminutive species of *phylloscopus* warbler is a resident species, which only occurs in the evergreen hill forests, on the upper slopes of Doi Inthanon National Park, where we saw it very well.
- Chinese Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus yunnanensis* An uncommon winter visitor to northwestern Thailand. We were very fortunate that a single bird came to drink water from a small hole in the ground, on Doi Lang, enabling us to see it very well.
- Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* A very common winter visitor, throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on numerous occasions.
- Hume's Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei* A common winter visitor, but only in the extreme north west of Thailand. We found it to be common on Doi Ang Khang. Allan Octavian Hume CB (1829-1912) was a famous Theosophist and poet, and also a writer on Indian birds. He was born in London to a Radical Member of parliament Joseph Hume. Allan Hume joined the Bengal Civil Service at the age of 20. He wrote 'The Game Birds of India' and 'Indian Oology and Ornithology'. After his retirement he was co-founder of the Indian National Congress in 1885, and became its General Secretary until 1906.
- Two-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus plunbeitarsus* A common winter visitor, throughout the whole of Thailand, we saw it very well on one occasion, on Doi Ang Khang.
- Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes* Once again, a common winter visitor, throughout much of Thailand, we observed it several times, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Eastern Crowned Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus coronatus* Throughout the northern two-thirds of Thailand, this species is a common passage migrant and a common winter visitor to peninsular Thailand. We saw a single bird very well, while having lunch at our lodge, on the edge of Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Blyth's Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides* A common winter visitor, throughout much of Thailand, we saw it well on several occasions. Edward Blyth (1810-1873) was an English zoologist and author. He was Curator of the museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal from 1842-1864. He wrote *The Natural History of Cranes* in 1881.
- Claudia's Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus claudiae* This species is a recent split from Blyth's Leaf-Warbler, it is a common winter visitor to northern Thailand. It proved to be quite common

on the higher slopes of Doi Inthanon National Park. Claudia Bernadine Elizabeth Hertert nee Reinard (1863-1958) was an ornithologist and wife of Ernst Johann Otto Hertert. She published several articles jointly with him, some describing new species. She moved from England to Holland in 1939.

Davison's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni* A very common resident throughout much of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions. William Ruxton Davison died 1893. He was a British ornithologist and Curator of Raffles Museum, in Singapore (1887-1893). He collected for Hume (1870's), during which time (1875) he discovered Gurney's Pitta, and later wrote 'A revised list of the birds of Tenasserim' in 1878, with Hume.

Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* This brightly coloured *phylloscopus* warbler is a fairly common winter visitor throughout much of Thailand. We saw a single individual very well, on the upper slopes of Doi Inthanon National Park.

Alstrom's Warbler *Seicercus soror* A fairly common winter visitor, mainly to central Thailand. We saw a single bird very well in Kaeng Krachen National Park. Per Alstrom is a Swedish ornithologist who specialises in the field of passerine taxonomy, and he recently split the Golden-spectacled Warbler into six separate species, one of which is Alstrom's Warbler. The following two species were also part of this split.

Martens's Warbler *Seicercus omeiensis* A fairly common winter visitor to much of Thailand. We saw it well on a couple of occasions, in Doi Inthanon National Park. Doctor Jochen Martens was born in 1941, he is a German zoologist, particularly interested in archaeology and ornithology. He is now a professor at Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz, where he started teaching in 1976. He spent 16 months in Nepal 1969-1970 collecting birds and recording vocalisations. He has also spent time undertaking field work in China, India, Russia, the Caucasus, Iran and the Philippines.

Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentini* A fairly common winter visitor to northern Thailand, we saw a single individual very well on Doi Lang. Valentin L. Bianchi (1857-1920) was a Russian zoologist and ornithologist who was an associate of Berezovski. Together they discovered and described the Black-throated Robin in 1891. He was the Curator of the Ornithological Department of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. Writing with GG Jacobson, he published *Orthoptera and Pseudoneuroptera of the Russian Empire and adjacent countries* in 1905 in St. Petersburg. His son VV Bianki is a well-known writer on nature and ornithology in present day Russia.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* An uncommon to locally common resident in the north west of Thailand. This attractive species of warbler proved fairly common in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* A fairly common resident of marshland and tall reeds, it occurs in the far north west of Thailand and predominantly, in south central Thailand. We saw it very well on one occasion at Chiang Saen, in the far north.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS *MUSCICAPIDAE*

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* Predominantly, a very common winter visitor, with a small breeding population in north west Thailand. We saw it well on a number of occasions, during our time in Khao Yai National Park.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii* A fairly common winter visitor to northern Thailand. We saw it well on a couple of occasions, at the feeding stations on Doi Lang.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata* A fairly common winter visitor to the north west of Thailand, where we saw it well on Doi Lang, on a few occasions.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* A very common winter visitor, throughout the whole of Thailand, it proved particularly numerous in Khao Yai National Park.

- Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra* An uncommon to fairly common resident of northern Thailand. A stunning male came into a feeding station, in Doi Inthanon National Park.
- White-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula monileger* An uncommon resident of the north west, we saw it surprisingly well on a few occasions.
- Rufous-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula solitaria* An uncommon resident of central western Thailand, this species prefers to inhabit dense evergreen hill slopes and is therefore normally, very difficult to see. Fortunately for us, we saw it very well on two separate occasions, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni* A common resident, predominantly of northern Thailand, where we saw this beautiful species very well, on a good number of occasions.
- Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula superciliaris* A rare winter visitor to the very far north west of Thailand. We were very fortunate that one of these birds was coming into a feeding station, on the lower slopes of Doi Lang.
- Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor* An uncommon winter visitor to north west Thailand. Once again, we were very fortunate that this bird was visiting a feeding station on Doi Lang.
- Sapphire Flycatcher** *Ficedula sapphira* An uncommon winter visitor to north west Thailand. We were very fortunate to observe an adult male, while birding at the top of Doi Lang.
- Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus* This species is both a common resident and a common winter visitor. It proved particularly common in the north, where we saw it very well on numerous occasions.
- Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis* A common resident of north west Thailand, we observed this species well on a couple of occasions in Doi Inthanon National Park.
- Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae* An uncommon resident of north west Thailand, we observed a pair particularly well, from the board-walk at the Summit Marsh, at the top of Doi Inthanon National Park.
- Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara* This very beautiful species is a common winter visitor to the far north west of Thailand. We saw it very well on both Doi Ang Khang and Doi Lang.
- Vivid Niltava** *Niltava vivida* Once again, this species is an uncommon winter visitor to the far north west of Thailand. We enjoyed good, prolonged looks at a female of this species, while birding in Doi Inthanon National Park.
- Pale Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor* This species is an uncommon resident of north west Thailand, where we saw an adult male very well, on one occasion, during our time on Doi Lang.
- Blue-throated Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides* This species is a fairly common resident of western Thailand. We observed an adult male very well, on one occasion, during our time in Doi Inthanon National Park.
- Chinese Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis glaucicomans* A recent split from Blue-throated Flycatcher, this species is an uncommon winter visitor to peninsular Thailand. Robert saw one of these birds, while we were birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Hill Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis banyumas* This species is a very common resident in northern Thailand, a passage migrant throughout the whole of Thailand and a winter visitor to the southern part of the peninsular. We saw this species extremely well at a feeding station on Doi Ang Khang.
- Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis tickelliae* This species is a common resident throughout Thailand, we saw it exceptionally well at the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis* This species is a common resident throughout northern Thailand and a common winter visitor elsewhere in the country. We

saw it very well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* A common winter visitor throughout much of Thailand, we saw this beautiful, but usually very skulking bird, at a feeding station on Doi Ang Khang, at a feeding station on Doi Lang and we also saw it at the small reed-fringed pond at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* A common winter visitor throughout much of Thailand, unfortunately, this attractive species is yet another that is a great skulker on its wintering grounds. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at two separate individuals, at the small reed-fringed pond at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* Yet another attractive species that is a great skulker on its wintering grounds. Fortunately, thanks to the combination of feeding stations, and it not being quite so skulking as the above two species, we saw young males and females very well, but unfortunately, we never saw an adult male.

Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* This species is an uncommon, to locally common winter visitor, to the far north of Thailand. Once again, we obtained super looks at an adult male at a feeding station on Doi Lang.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis* A very common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, we saw it on all but two days of the tour.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* A very common resident throughout much of Thailand, we observed it on a daily basis, throughout the lowlands.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* An uncommon winter visitor to the far north of Thailand, we enjoyed watching a very handsome male on Doi Ang Khang.

White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* An uncommon resident of the far north of Thailand. We observed this very attractive species along a small stream in the grounds of our lodge on Doi Ang Khang.

White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides* One of the most skulking and most difficult to see birds in the world, extremely shy and elusive. Fortunately for us, a female came into water on Doi Lang.

White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* An uncommon resident of the far north and another great skulker. Fortunately, an adult male was regularly attending a feeding station on Doi Ang Khang, which enabled us to enjoy point blank looks at this very beautiful bird.

Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus* An uncommon resident of the far north west of Thailand. We enjoyed good looks at a single bird at a large waterfall in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* A common resident of northern and western Thailand. At our second attempt, we managed to enjoy great looks at this very attractive species, at a small river in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* A common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* A common resident of northwestern Thailand, we observed a few birds in farmland on Doi Lang and then a few more at a large wetland at Chiang Saen.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus* A common winter visitor to the northern half of Thailand, where we saw it well on many occasions.

FANTAILS RHIPIDURIDAE

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha* A locally common resident in northwestern Thailand. We saw a few birds very well from the board-walk at the Summit Marsh, at the top of Doi Inthanon National Park.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* A common resident of mainly northwestern Thailand, with scattered populations elsewhere further south. We saw it very well on

several occasions.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica* A common resident in eastern, central and peninsular Thailand. We saw it very well on several occasions.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS *MONARCHIDAE*

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* A common resident of western Thailand and a common winter visitor to central and eastern Thailand. We enjoyed many good looks at this attractive species, during our time in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* This species is a fairly common resident of western Thailand and a fairly common winter visitor to central and eastern Thailand. Unfortunately, this beautiful species was only observed by myself from the back of a pick-up truck, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

WHISTLERS and ALLIES *PACHYCEPHALIDAE*

Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala grisola* An uncommon to locally common resident of coastal mangroves. We saw a single bird very well, in the mangroves at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

BABLERS *TIMALIIDAE*

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we had sporadic glimpses of this bird throughout the tour.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* A common resident throughout much of Thailand. We glimpsed a small party flying across the road ahead of us in Kaeng Krachen National Park and fortunately, we had point blank looks at this species from the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* A fairly common resident throughout western Thailand. We glimpsed a small party flying across the road ahead of us in Kaeng Krachen National Park and fortunately, we had point blank looks at this species from the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* This species is a fairly common resident of north west and central Thailand. We saw a single bird fairly well, while birding in Khao Yai National Park.

White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* A locally common resident of one small area on the Thai-Myanmar border. In this area it is a very skulking species, as it is hunted by the local hill tribes, however, we saw it fairly well on a couple of occasions at Doi Ang Khang. In sharp contrast, in large parts of its range in southern China, this species is very tame and confiding, being easily found in parks and gardens, even in large cities.

Silver-eared Laughingthrush *Garrulax melanostigma* A recent split from Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, we enjoyed many good sightings in the north west of Thailand.

Scarlet-faced Liocichla *Liocichla ripponi* A recent split from Red-faced Liocichla. This is a very skulking species, and we were more than pleased to see it fairly well on Doi Ang Khang, on the second day of the tour. However, it has now become quite tame at a feeding station on Doi Lang, where it can be tempted into view, by putting bananas out for it!

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* A common resident of the southern half of Thailand. We saw this rather skulking species extremely well, from the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng

Krachen National Park. Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Abbott (1811-1888) was Principal Assistant Commissioner at Nimarr on the island of Ramree in the Arakan Province of Burma (Myanmar) from 1837-1845. As a captain stationed on Ramree he discovered the babbler.

- Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, it proved to be tame and confiding in Kaeng Krachen National Park, where we saw it very well on a number of occasions.
- Large Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* A fairly common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw a single bird very well on one occasion, from the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus* A common resident of a small area in northwestern Thailand. We enjoyed good looks at a single bird along the side of a track on Doi Lang.
- White-browed Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* A common resident of western Thailand, which we saw well on a few occasions.
- Limestone Wren-Babbler** *Gypsophila crispifrons* A locally common resident of limestone hill country in northern Thailand. We specifically went to Wat Pra Phuttabaht Noi, a temple precinct in limestone country. We very much enjoyed watching a family party scrambling around and singing from the tops of limestone rocks.
- Streaked Wren-Babbler** *Napothera brevicaudata* A fairly common resident, with scattered locations throughout Thailand. This species is an ultra skulker, therefore, we were very pleased to watch it at point blank range, at a feeding station on Doi Ang Khang.
- Pygmy Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla* A locally common resident, mainly of northern Thailand. This tiny species of wren-babbler is normally a very skulking species, and therefore very difficult to see well. However, we got lucky on Doi Lang when we were actually able to spy through the undergrowth a bird sitting motionless on a moss covered log, in full song. We were more than pleased, yet more was to follow. While walking the board-walk at the Summit Marsh, on the top of Doi Inthanon National Park, we came across a second bird, also in full song, which was also singing from the top of a log, but this time, in full view, without any cover!
- Rufous-fronted Babbler** *Stachyris rufifrons* A common resident of western Thailand, we saw it well on a couple of occasions in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Golden Babbler** *Stachyris chrysaea* Patchily distributed throughout Thailand, where it is a fairly common resident. We saw it very well on a few occasions while birding in Doi Inthanon National Park.
- Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** *Macronous gularis* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it well on a few occasions in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Chestnut-capped Babbler** *Timalia pileata* A common resident throughout Thailand, with the exception of the peninsular, where it does not occur at all. We saw a couple of birds very well in farmland along the Kok River, at Thaton.
- Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we glimpsed one in farmland along the Kok River, at Thaton, and this was followed by a better sighting a couple of days later, on Doi Lang.
- Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argentauris* This strikingly beautiful species is a fairly common resident of north west Thailand, we saw it very well on many occasions.
- Blyth's Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius aeralatus* A recent split from White-browed Shrike-Babbler, this species is a common resident throughout much of Thailand, which we saw very well on many occasions.
- Clicking Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius intermedius* A recent split from Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler, this species is a fairly common resident of north west Thailand. We saw this

species well on a few occasions, during our time in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Collared Babbler *Gampsorhynchus torquatus* A recent split from White-hooded Babbler, this species is an uncommon resident of north west and central Thailand. We saw a couple of flocks fairly well, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Spectacled Barwing *Actinodura ramsayi* In Thailand this species has a very small range, in the far north west, where it is a locally common resident. Fortunately, we saw it very well on several occasions.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* A common resident of the north west, which we saw well on very many occasions.

Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula* In Thailand, this attractive species only occurs on the higher slopes of Doi Inthanon National Park, where it is a locally common resident, which we saw very well on many occasions.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps* This species also only occurs in north west Thailand, where it is a common resident, we saw it well on several occasions, while birding in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala* This rather drab species is a common resident of western Thailand. Somewhat surprisingly, we only observed this species from the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* A common resident of Thailand's north west, which we saw well on many occasions.

Rufous-backed Sibia *Heterophasia annectens* A common resident of Thailand's north west, which we saw well on several occasions.

Dark-backed Sibia *Heterophasia melanoleuca* This species is also a common resident of the north west, which we saw very well on many occasions.

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* Another common resident of the north west, we observed a small flock very well on one occasion, in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* A locally common resident of two small areas in north west Thailand. We observed a small flock at close quarters, on one occasion, while birding on Doi Lang.

White-bellied Erpornis *Yuhina zantholeuca* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we enjoyed a good sighting in Kaeng Krachen National Park, and this was followed by an even better sighting in Khao Yai National Park.

PARROTBILLS *PARADOXORNITHIDAE*

Grey-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis gularis* This species is an uncommon resident of the north west, we observed two small feeding flocks, during our time on Doi Lang.

Spot-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis guttaticollis* This attractive species is an extremely local and uncommon resident, which only occurs in Thailand, at Doi Ang Khang, right on the border with Myanmar. Fortunately, we observed a single bird very well, on two consecutive days.

LONG-TAILED TITS *ATEGITHALIDAE*

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* This diminutive but attractive species, only occurs in a small area of north west Thailand, close to the Myanmar border. Fortunately, we found a pair building a nest on Doi Lang, which enabled us to watch the birds at leisure.

CHICKADEES and TITS *PARIDAE*

Japanese Tit *Parus minor* A recent split from Great Tit, this species is a fairly common resident

of a few areas in northern Thailand, we saw it very well on a couple of occasions, while birding at Doi Ang Khang, right next to the border with Myanmar.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* A common resident of north west Thailand, we observed this attractive species very well on a few occasions, on Doi Ang Khang and in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* An uncommon, to locally common resident throughout much of Thailand. This is a stunningly beautiful bird, which we saw very well in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

NUTHATCHES *SITTIDAE*

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* A fairly common resident of Thailand's far north west, we saw it exceptionally well on Doi Ang Khang and again on Doi Lang.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we enjoyed sightings on Doi Lang and in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Giant Nuthatch *Sitta magna* In Thailand, this magnificent species only occurs in a small area of the north west, where it is a highly localised and uncommon resident. We needed a little persistence, but in the end, we saw this species very well, during our time on Doi Lang.

CREEPERS *CERTHIIDAE*

Hume's Treecreeper *Certhia manipurensis* A recent split from Brown-throated Treecreeper, this species is an uncommon resident of Thailand's north west. We observed this species very well on Doi Lang and again, in Doi Inthanon National Park.

PENDULINE TITS *REMIZIDAE*

Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* This species is a rare winter visitor to the extreme north west of Thailand. We were very fortunate, to find a small family party sitting in a tree, half way up Doi Lang.

SUNBIRDS and SPIDERHUNTERS *NECTARINIIDAE*

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we only recorded this species on one occasion, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana* A recent split from Purple-throated Sunbird. In Thailand this species is an uncommon resident of the Gulf of Siam and the peninsular. We observed a bird very well in the grounds of our airport hotel, at Bangkok. And then had an even better sighting of another bird in Khao Yai National Park. Dr. Johan Coenraad van Hasselt (1797-1823) came to fame as the first person to find Mt. Pangrango in Java, in 1821.

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it very well at Chiang Saen and again in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* A common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions. This is the only species of sunbird that occurs in Australia!

Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* This very attractive species is a fairly common winter visitor to north west Thailand. We enjoyed very good sightings on Doi Lang and in Doi Inthanon National Park. This beautiful species of sunbird was named by John Gould (1804-1881) in honour of his artist wife Elizabeth, (1804-1841).

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* This attractive species only occurs in one small area of north west Thailand and a slightly larger area on the peninsular. We enjoyed a few good sightings on the higher slopes of Doi Inthanon National Park.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, which we saw very well on a few occasions.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* A common resident of Thailand's north west, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

FLOWERPECKERS *DICAETIDAE*

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we enjoyed a few good sightings, during our time in Khao Yai National Park.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* A fairly common resident throughout much of Thailand, once again, we enjoyed a couple of good sightings, while in Khao Yai National Park.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor* A fairly common resident, mainly of north west Thailand and a small area of central Thailand. We only saw a single bird, but fortunately, it was very close and co-operative, while we were birding in Khao Yai National Park.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectum* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw the nominate race very well in Doi Inthanon National Park, and then we saw an individual of the race *cambodianum* very well, in Khao Yai National Park.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* This very attractive species is a common resident throughout the whole of Thailand. We enjoyed good sightings of this species in both Doi Inthanon and Khao Yai National Parks.

WHITE-EYES *ZOSTEROPIDAE*

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* A fairly common winter visitor to much of Thailand. We observed a large feeding party, in a fruiting fig tree, in Khao Yai National Park.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we watched a small flock on Doi Ang Khang and this was followed by a second flock, in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* A common winter visitor to northern Thailand, we found a small flock on Doi Ang Khang.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES *ORIOLIDAE*

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* A common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand, we watched a migrating flock of a dozen or so birds, busily feeding, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* A fairly common winter visitor to north west Thailand, we enjoyed several good looks at this species, during our time on Doi Lang.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw a couple of birds very well, in Doi Inthanon National Park.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* This very attractive species is a common resident in the north west and an uncommon winter visitor around the Gulf of Siam. We enjoyed good sightings of both males and females on Doi Ang Khang, and again, on Doi Lang.

FAIRY-BLUEBIRDS *IRENIDAE*

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we observed both males and females very well, in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

SHRIKES *LANIIDAE*

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* A common winter visitor throughout the whole of Thailand, which

we saw well on numerous occasions.

Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides* A common winter visitor throughout Thailand, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it very well on Doi Ang Khang and on Doi Lang.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* An uncommon winter visitor to north west and central Thailand. We saw a few birds very well on Doi Ang Khang and then we observed a single bird in Khao Yai National Park.

HELMETSHRIKES and ALLIES *PRIONOPIDAE*

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw a bird very well in Doi Inthanon National Park and this was followed by a second sighting in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

DRONGOS *DICRURIDAE*

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* The Black Drongo is a common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant, which we observed on many days of the tour.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* The common drongo of the forests of Thailand, it is both a common resident and winter visitor, which we saw on numerous occasions.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it well on many occasions.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* Another common resident throughout much of Thailand, and once again, we saw it very well on many occasions.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* This species of drongo is also a common resident and winter visitor, to all but the peninsular of Thailand. We also saw it well on several occasions.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* This species is also a common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it well on many occasions.

WOODSWALLOWS *ARTAMIDAE*

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* A common resident, to all, but peninsular Thailand. We observed it on most days of the tour.

JAYS, MAGPIES and CROWS *CORVIDAE*

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we observed several birds at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* An uncommon to locally common resident. A single bird flew across the road in front of our vehicle, close to the township of Mae Taeng, and we saw it on a second occasion, at Sab Adao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it on a few occasions in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* This species is an uncommon to locally common resident. We saw it well in the grounds of our lodge in Doi Inthanon National Park and then we saw it a second time at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* A common resident of north west Thailand, unfortunately, we only glimpsed this species on one occasion, on the lower slopes of Doi Inthanon National Park.

Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia* A common resident throughout much of Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus Levallantii* A fairly recent split from Large-billed Crow, it is a common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw on many occasions.

STARLINGS *STURNIDAE*

Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus* An uncommon resident of north west and central Thailand. We saw a couple of pairs very well, while birding in Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* An uncommon to fairly common resident throughout much of Thailand, we saw it very well in Khao Yai National Park and at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis* A very common resident throughout all but peninsular Thailand, which we saw on almost every day of the tour.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Another very common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we also saw on almost every day of the tour.

Vinous-breasted Starling *Acridotheres burmannicus* An uncommon to locally common resident of central Thailand. We enjoyed good looks at this attractive species, but only at Sab Sadao, in Thap Lan National Park.

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis* Another common resident throughout the whole of Thailand. Another attractive species, which we saw well on several occasions.

Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* A common resident throughout western Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica* A common resident of north west Thailand and a common winter visitor to the rest of the country, excluding the peninsular. We saw it well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS *PASSERIDAE*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* A locally common resident throughout Thailand, we saw it well on several occasions.

Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus* A fairly common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw well on several occasions.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* An exceptionally common resident throughout the whole of Thailand, which we saw on almost every day of the tour.

WEAVERS and ALLIES *PLOCEIDAE*

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar* An uncommon resident of central Thailand, we found a small breeding colony at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* A fairly common resident throughout Thailand, we saw small numbers in farmland along the Kok River, at Thaton, and we also found small numbers at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

Asian Golden Weaver *Ploceus hypoxanthus* A local and uncommon resident of central Thailand, we found a small nesting colony at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

WAXBILLS and ALLIES *ESTRILDIDAE*

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* An uncommon resident of the far north west of Thailand, and along the Gulf of Siam. We observed a small flock at very close quarters, along the Mekong River, close to Chiang Saen.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* A common resident throughout the north of Thailand, somewhat surprisingly, we only observed a single bird in the grounds of our lodge at Khao

Yai National Park.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* A very common resident throughout Thailand, which we saw well on many occasions.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* A patchily distributed, uncommon resident, we observed small numbers very well at a reed-fringed pond at Pak Thale, on the Gulf of Siam.

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS and ALLIES *FRINGILLIDAE*

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* A common winter visitor, mainly to the north west. We found a large wintering flock on Doi Ang Khang, on the Myanmar border.

Spot-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas melanozanthos* An uncommon resident of the extreme north west of Thailand. We saw a couple of birds very well at Doi Ang Khang, at the border with Myanmar.

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, SEEDEATERS and ALLIES *EMBERIZIDAE*

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* A locally common winter visitor to north west Thailand. We found a flock of half a dozen or so birds, which included an adult male, on Doi Lang.

MAMMALS

- Northern Treeshrew** *Tupaia belangeri* A diurnal, mainly terrestrial forest inhabiting mammal, which we saw on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Javan Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus javanicus* A very small species of bat, which inhabits primary hill forest. We saw a small number of these bats amongst literally thousands of Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bats on the edge of Khao Yai National Park.
- Asian Wrinkle-lipped Bat** *Chaerephon plicatus* We observed a large colony of this species, which were roosting in a cave, in a large, densely packed colony, containing hundreds of thousands of individuals. They began flying out of the cave at dusk, in dense flocks of many thousands, forming intricate patterns in the sky and began foraging for insects high above the ground. This all took place on the edge of Khao Yai National Park.
- Banded Langur** *Presbytis femoralis* A very uncommon and rarely observed, diurnal and arboreal species of monkey. We were very fortunate to observe a single animal, sitting in a tree, in Kaeng Krachen National Park. So little is known about this species that there is no reliable information on the population numbers. However, it is definitely 'Endangered'.
- Dusky Langur** *Trachypithecus obscurus* This arboreal, forest inhabiting species of monkey, proved to be quite common in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Long-tailed Macaque** *Macaca fascicularis* As we drove to our hotel in the small town of Phetchaburi, we found a large troop of Long-tailed Macaques, hanging around in the suburbs. It is a common monkey of coastal forests, including mangroves.
- Northern Pig-tailed Macaque** *Macaca leonina* A forest inhabiting macaque, which forages mainly on the ground. It proved to be common in Khao Yai National Park. This species is considered 'Vulnerable', it has declined in recent decades due to degradation of habitat, hunting, and trapping for the pet trade, or for use in climbing coconut trees.
- White-handed Gibbon** *Hylobates lar* Arboreal, rarely descending to the ground, it lives in family groups with an adult male and female and up to three offspring. We very much enjoyed watching such a family group, swinging through the trees in Kaeng Krachen National Park. This species is considered 'Endangered', most populations have declined severely in recent decades, due to loss of forest habitat and to hunting. Although significant numbers remain in some protected areas, illegal hunting for food and trapping for the pet trade are both major threats to this species.
- Golden Jackal** *Canis aureus* In Thailand the Golden Jackal is usually seen singularly or in pairs. Groups often call at night, especially just after dusk and before dawn. A single animal ran across the track ahead of our vehicle in day-light hours, in Kaeng Krachen National Park. This species is not globally at risk, but in southeast Asia it is poorly known and rarely observed, it may only be an irregular visitor from China.
- Crab-eating Mongoose** *Herpestes urva* As the name suggests this mammal feeds on aquatic animals, such as crabs, frogs, fish and molluscs. It can squirt a strong-smelling fluid from its anal glands, near the base of the tail, presumably for use in defence. A single animal ran across the track in front of our vehicle, in day-light hours, in Kaeng Krachen National Park.
- Asian Elephant** *Elephas maximus* The Asian Elephant is mainly active, two hours prior to dawn, through the night and up to two hours after dawn. We were very fortunate to have close encounters with three, separate elephants during the tour. One in Kaeng Krachen National Park, and two in Khao Yai National Park. This species is considered 'Endangered', populations have declined dramatically throughout much of its range, because of illegal hunting, as well as conflicts between humans and elephants in agricultural areas.
- Lesser Mouse-Deer** *Tragulus kanchil* This rarely observed mammal is active periodically, both night and day. Its diet includes fallen fruit, leaf shoots and fungi. It is usually solitary. We

were very fortunate to enjoy very close looks at one of these mammals, just prior to dusk, at the Lung Sin Hide, near Kaeng Krachen National Park.

Red Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjac* This family is mainly nocturnal, although it is also active during the day, in areas where it is not hunted. It is largely solitary, except during the breeding season. We observed a single animal of this species in Kaeng Krachen National Park and then it became common in Khao Yai National Park.

Sambar *Rusa unicolor* Active mainly at night, but also early morning and late afternoon. Often visits natural salt licks. Nocturnal activity and a solitary nature, is a direct consequence of heavy hunting pressure. In national parks where it is not hunted, it forms small herds and is active during the day. It was a common mammal in Khao Yai National Park. This species is considered 'Near Threatened', it has declined dramatically in many parts of its range, especially Indochina, as a result of excessive hunting.

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* This is a very large species of squirrel, which lives primarily in the canopy of tall forest, rarely descending to the ground. It feeds mainly on fruits and nuts, but has been known to take insects and small mammals. It proved common in both Kaeng Krachen and Khao Yai National Parks. This species is considered 'Near Threatened,' although widespread, it has declined considerably in many areas due to loss and fragmentation of tall forest, and hunting pressure, is also a contributing factor.

Grey-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus caniceps* This was the common squirrel in Kaeng Krachen National Park. It is diurnal and primarily arboreal.

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus* The common squirrel in the north of Thailand, it is both diurnal and arboreal.

Variable Squirrel *Callosciurus finlaysonii* This beautiful and highly variable species of squirrel is both diurnal and arboreal. We saw our first in the grounds of our airport hotel in Bangkok and then it proved very common in Khao Yai National Park.

Western Striped Squirrel *Tamiops mccllellandii* Diurnal and arboreal. Its diet consists of fruit, vegetable matter and some insects, it is mainly a mammal of hill forests, we saw it on very many occasions throughout the tour.

Cambodian Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rodolphil* Also diurnal and arboreal, we saw it on one occasion in Khao Yai National Park.