

# SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL VIETNAM: ENDEMICS AND SPECIALS SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

14 - 28 MARCH 2023

**By Andrew Walker** 



Bar-bellied Pitta gave some great views early in the tour, what a stunning bird!



#### **Overview**

This exciting Vietnam birding tour covered the southern and central part of the country and resulted in loads of great birds and some excellent photographic opportunities. The tour started in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and ended back there on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. We visited some of the top birding destinations in Vietnam, such as Cat Tien National Park, Da Lat, Nui San Pass, Mang Den, and Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve. The full itinerary including a map can be found here.

We recorded 277 bird species (14 heard only) during the tour, the trip list follows the report. The tour highlights included a long list of endemic, near-endemic, and special birds. Some of the non-passerine highlights included Orange-necked Partridge, Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Green Peafowl, Siamese Fireback, Great Eared Nightjar, Collared Owlet, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Banded Kingfisher, Red-vented Barbet, Indochinese Barbet, Necklaced Barbet, Black-and-buff Woodpecker, White-bellied Woodpecker, and Collared Falconet.



The rarely seen **Orange-necked Partridge** gave some fantastic views.

Some of the passerine highlights enjoyed on the tour included Bar-bellied Pitta, Blue-rumped Pitta, Rusty-naped Pitta, Blue Pitta, Black-and-red Broadbill, Banded Broadbill, Long-tailed Broadbill, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Indochinese Green Magpie, Grey-crowned Crocias, Vietnamese Cutia, White-browed (Dalat) Shrike-babbler, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, Large Scimitar Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler, Scaly-crowned (Indochinese) Babbler, Golden-winged Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Blackheaded Sibia, Black-headed Parrotbill, (Annam) Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Indochinese



Fulvetta, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Green-backed (Langbian) Tit, Black-throated (Greycrowned) Bushtit, Lesser (Langbian) Shortwing, Mrs. Gould's (Annam) Sunbird, Black-throated (Langbian) Sunbird, Vietnamese Greenfinch, and Red (Dalat) Crossbill.



We enjoyed fantastic views of the shy and secretive **Indochinese Green Magpie** during the tour.



The rare Vietnamese endemic Golden-winged Laughingthrush was a tour highlight.



#### **Detailed Report**

#### Day 1, 14th March 2023. Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

The group arrived in Ho Chi Minh City, and we met our excellent local guide, Phuc, for a welcome dinner in the evening and discussed the plans for the next few weeks of exciting birding in southern and central Vietnam.

#### Day 2, 15th March 2023. Travel from Ho Chi Minh City to Cat Tien National Park

An early departure from Ho Chi Minh City saw us reach Tan Phu Forest Enterprise, where we made our way to a bird blind (bird hide) for the morning. We didn't have to wait long for bird activity to get going, the clear highlight was a pair of Bar-bellied Pittas that gave a great showing eventually, and the wonderful supporting cast included Siamese Fireback, Laced Woodpecker, Grey-headed (Black-naped) Woodpecker, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Scaly-crowned (Indochinese) Babbler, Abbott's Babbler, Puff-throated Babbler, Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin, and Ochraceous Bulbul.

After lunch we visited another blind/hide with a different set of birds. We were again richly rewarded, with great views of the tough **Orange-necked Partridge** and a pair of **Blue-rumped Pittas**. The area was very busy, and we enjoyed prolonged views of **White-throated Rock Thrush**, **Buff-breasted Babbler**, **Puff-throated Babbler**, **Stripe-throated Bulbul**, **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler**, **Greater Coucal**, and several of the species also seen in the morning. After our afternoon birding session, we completed our journey to Cat Tien National Park. We arrived just as the sun was setting and checked into our accommodation within the national park.



A pair of **Blue-rumped Pittas** gave prolonged views.



#### Day 3, 16th March 2023. Birding Cat Tien National Park

We had a wonderful day birding in Cat Tien National Park. After spending the previous day sat in blinds for most of the day, today we walked around and found loads of great birds. As we ate breakfast, we heard Asian Barred Owlet and Great Eared Nightjar and as the sun rose, we picked up Black-crowned Night Heron, Asian Palm Swift, Oriental Magpie-Robin, and Racket-tailed Treepie. A real highlight here was hearing and seeing Red-cheeked (Yellow-cheeked) Gibbons, such an impressive sound and sight!

Starting out along a park road we quickly found Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Green-billed Malkoha, Oriental Dollarbird, Green-eared Barbet, Blue-eared Barbet, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, and Silver-backed Needletail. The birds were coming thick and fast with species moving along the river or deeper into the forest and scrub. Both Common Hill Myna and Golden-crested Myna and both Black-naped Oriole and Black-hooded Oriole were vocal and showed as they moved about, with Red-breasted Parakeet, Vernal Hanging Parrot, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Common Flameback, Laced Woodpecker, and White-bellied Woodpecker also present. A group of six Black-and-red Broadbills provided a highlight when they eventually showed well, as did a male Banded Kingfisher and the attractive Blue-bearded Bee-eater.



We had a good showing from two groups of **Black-and-red Broadbills** during our morning birding session in Cat Tien National Park. Seeing ten birds in a morning was quite impressive.

A mixed flock moved through the area we were watching and it hung around for a while, allowing us to catch up with most birds well. The flock contained the near-endemic Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, as well as Scarlet Minivet, Swinhoe's Minivet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Bronzed Drongo, Ashy Drongo, Grey-eyed Bulbul, Black-crested



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Bulbul, Great Iora, Two-barred Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Blue-winged Leafbird, Golden-fronted Leafbird, and Asian Fairy-bluebird. We spent the middle of the day sitting out the heat of the day, but just before that we found another flock of four Black-and-red Broadbills, a great way to end the morning birding session.

We spent the afternoon driving through an area of grassland savannah habitat and found several new species, the best of which was probably **Green Peafowl**, an absolutely stunning bird, though they were quite shy. We also found plenty of other birds to keep us occupied while searching for the peafowl, including **Chinese Francolin**, **Red Junglefowl**, **Red Collared Dove**, **Indochinese Roller**, **Vinous-breasted Starling**, **Indian Cuckoo**, **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, **Brown Shrike**, **Pied Bush Chat**, and **Great Eared Nightjar**.



Green Peafowl can reach a length of around 8.2 feet (2.5 meters), seriously impressive!

#### Day 4, 17th March 2023. Birding Cat Tien National Park

We spent the morning birding near the national park headquarters and found lots of birds again. A fruiting tree pulled in Black-crested Bulbul, Black-headed Bulbul, Grey-eyed Bulbul, Black-hooded Oriole, Oriental Pied Hornbill, and Golden-crested Myna. A small group of Eurasian Hoopoes were flying around, as were White-bellied Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Laced Woodpecker, Common Flameback, and Black-and-buff Woodpecker. Other birds noted around the park headquarters included Taiga Flycatcher, Scarlet Minivet, Large Woodshrike, Great Iora, Olive-backed Sunbird, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Bronzed Drongo, Ashy Drongo, Violet Cuckoo, and Chestnut-winged Cuckoo.

We settled into a bird blind (bird hide) for a couple of hours and found several species, including our top target, the near-endemic **Germain's Peacock-Pheasant**. A pair of birds walked in to view and fed for a while, the spectacular male even displaying to the female. A few other birds showed



well too, like Green-legged Partridge, Greater Coucal, Puff-throated Babbler, White-rumped Shama, Oriental Magpie-Robin, and Siberian Blue Robin.



This rather impressive male **Germain's Peacock-Pheasant** put on a great display for the female, and we enjoyed watching it too! Yet another early "bird of the trip" contender.

In the afternoon we took a walk in some nearby forest. It had been a very hot day, but as the temperature dropped slightly, we found several interesting birds, such as Lesser Yellownape, Black-and-buff Woodpecker, Collared Falconet, Red-breasted Parakeet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Little Spiderhunter, and Ruby-cheeked Sunbird. At dusk we saw both Great Eared Nightjar and Large-tailed Nightjar.

#### Day 5, 18th March 2023. Cat Tien National Park to Da Lat

For our final birding session in Cat Tien National Park, we headed out east of the headquarters to explore a different area. As soon as we got out of the vehicle we were greeted by the sight of the shy Black-shanked Douc Langur swinging through the trees. A fruiting tree here was attracting Ashy-headed Green Pigeon, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Asian Fairy-bluebird, and several bulbul species. Both Siamese Fireback and Red Junglefowl were feeding on the edge of the track and, after a bit of cat-and-mouse, we got some fairly good views of a pair of Banded Broadbills, but the Orange-breasted Trogon that was calling remained deep in the forest and the Oriental Pied Hornbills didn't hang around long enough for everyone to see perched.

As we made our way further along the track, a few woodpeckers made an appearance, and included the impressive White-bellied Woodpecker, along with Pale-headed Woodpecker, Common Flameback, Laced Woodpecker, Lesser Yellownape, and the miniscule White-browed Piculet.



During the morning we also picked up a couple of mixed flocks and within them found Black-and-red Broadbill, Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Yellow-browed Warbler, Arctic Warbler, Great Iora, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Bar-winged Flycatchershrike, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Crimson Sunbird, Van Hasselt's Sunbird, Little Spiderhunter, and Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, amongst others.

In the afternoon we left Cat Tien National Park behind us and drove east to the mountains of Da Lat, once the mountain playground of the French as an escape from heat of the lowlands. We arrived in the late afternoon and checked into our new accommodation for the next three nights.

#### Day 6, 19th March 2023. Birding Da Lat Plateau

We spent most of the day in two bird blinds (bird hides) and racked up a long list of high-quality birds. As soon as we entered the first blind the action got going. The near-endemic White-cheeked Laughingthrush was straight in, along with the local subspecies of Black-headed (White-spectacled) Sibia. It was difficult to know where to look first with raucous laughingthrushes bouncing all around, and with Mountain Fulvettas and Grey-throated Babblers also present in numbers. As we settled in and got familiar with these species, we started seeing other birds too, such as Large Niltava, White-tailed Robin, Siberian Blue Robin, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Grey-bellied Tesia, and Lesser (Langbian) Shortwing. There was a bit of extra excitement when a chunky Rusty-naped Pitta came bounding in to view and fed for a while!



White-cheeked Laughingthrushes gave a great showing early in the morning.

Our time in the first blind flew by and we reluctantly left for a different one a short distance away. This one took some maneuvering to get into up a steep slope, but once settled we were again treated



to more great views of tough birds, such as **Streaked** (Annam) **Wren-Babbler**, **Rufous-browed Flycatcher**, **Lesser** (Langbian) **Shortwing**, and others. A **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** even put in a brief appearance, as did **Grey-cheeked Warbler** and **Rufous-capped Babbler**.



The tiny, golf-ball-sized, and secretive **Grey-bellied Tesia** gave astounding views out in the open.



Rusty-naped Pitta came out of the dark forest and delighted us with a good view.



After lunch we went back into the first blind/hide and spent some more time there. It was interesting seeing the difference from the morning session, the fulvettas and babblers were still present, but there were no laughingthrushes at all. Two new species came in very quickly and showed well, firstly **Dark-sided Thrush**, and secondly, **Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler**, two usually very secretive birds. We also enjoyed a pair of **Rusty-naped Pittas** visiting the blind.

After our time in the blind/hide, we decided to take a walk along a track near the road, where we found even more new species, some of the highlights here included Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Necklaced Barbet, Large Cuckooshrike, Mountain Bulbul, Flavescent Bulbul, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Green-backed (Langbian) Tit, Siberian Thrush, Mountain Tailorbird, Kloss's Leaf Warbler, Blyth's Leaf Warbler, and Red (Dalat) Crossbill. It had been a long day, but the birds we saw certainly made it worthwhile.

## Day 7, 20th March 2023. Birding Da Lat Plateau

We spent the early part of the morning birding the Ta Nung Valley, where we kicked things off with sightings of Flavescent Bulbul, Hill Prinia, and Burmese Shrike. As we started walking, we found a small flock of Vietnamese Greenfinches, White-throated Rock Thrush (a male this time) and Eurasian (White-faced) Jay. A fruiting tree was busy with birds, including Indochinese Barbet, Blue-eared Barbet, Black Bulbul, Ashy (Brown-backed) Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, and Asian Fairy-bluebird. An area of thicker vegetation gave us our main target for the morning, the rare endemic Grey-crowned Crocias, which showed well.

A group of flowering trees held **Streaked Spiderhunter**, **Mrs. Gould's** (Annam) **Sunbird**, **Black-throated** (Langbian) **Sunbird**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, and **Hainan Blue Flycatcher**.



The rare endemic and Endangered (<u>BirdLife International</u>) **Grey-crowned Crocias** gave some good views feeding on the edge of the canopy early in the morning.



Later in the morning we visited the Datanla Waterfall area, where we found more new species, such as Banded Bay Cuckoo, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Long-tailed Minivet, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, White-browed Shrike-babbler (this subspecies until very recently a full species called Dalat Shrike-babbler), Kloss's Leaf Warbler, Indian White-eye, Bluewinged (Plain) Minla, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Little Pied Flycatcher, and Red (Dalat) Crossbill.

During the afternoon we visited a forested area near a lake not far out of town. The birding was tough as it had clouded over with some rumbling thunder, and the light levels were very low. We walked a track and managed to find a few good species, such as **Red-vented Barbet**, **Long-tailed Broadbill**, and **Indochinese Green Magpie**, unfortunately the latter two species didn't stick around for everyone to see well, so we would have to hope for better views later in the tour. **Vietnamese Cutia** and **Black-hooded Laughingthrush** were heard only, again we'd have to hope for views later in the tour. **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, **White-browed** (Dalat) **Shrike-babbler**, **Black Bulbul**, **Green-backed** (Langbian) **Tit**, and **Chestnut-vented Nuthatch** all showed well.



The local form of **Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** (known in this area of Vietnam as Annam Sunbird) is rather attractive!

#### Day 8, 21st March 2023. Da Lat Plateau to Di Linh (birding Nui Sun Pass)

Our final birding session in Da Lat saw us up in the mountains, birding from roads aiming to pick up mixed flocks. This tactic proved very successful, and we found our main target, Vietnamese Cutia in two such flocks. This wasn't the only highlight though, as we also found Black-headed Parrotbill, Black-throated (Grey-crowned) Bushtit, Maroon Oriole, and Collared Owlet using this method. Additional species seen in the mixed flocks included Large Cuckooshrike, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Red (Dalat) Crossbill, White-browed (Dalat) Shrike-babbler,



Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Kloss's Leaf Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Green-backed (Langbian) Tit, Mugimaki Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher, Grey-chinned Minivet, and Long-tailed Minivet. We had a very low flyover by a Grey-faced Buzzard and also noted both Siberian House Martin and Asian House Martin overhead.

After a final lunch in Da Lat, we left the city and transferred towards Di Linh, our base for the next two nights. Along the way however, we stopped for some birding from a bird blind (bird hide) where we found some incredible birds. Top the list of jaw-dropping birds was the pair of Indochinese Green Magpies that came in and showed extremely well (see photo in summary section of this report), what a special bird. Other highlights included Silver-breasted Broadbill, Black-headed Parrotbill, Black-chinned Yuhina, White-bellied Erpornis, Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, Orange-headed Thrush (two subspecies), White-throated Rock Thrush, Alström's Warbler, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Blue-and-white Flycatcher, and Mugimaki Flycatcher. This was a great blind session with constant activity keeping us on our toes throughout.

### Day 9, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. Di Linh (birding Nui Sun Pass)

We visited a bird blind (bird hide) in the morning with one target in mind, **Blue Pitta**. After a while we glimpsed a female and male skirting around the back of our viewing area a couple of times, but they didn't show well, or for everyone, it was rather frustrating. We decided to stick it out a bit longer and were handsomely rewarded when the pristine male, which had been rather shy up until this point, hopped right out in the open giving close and open views for what seemed like an age! What an incredible bird, our fourth and final pitta species seen on the tour.



This male **Blue Pitta** teased us by giving fleeting glimpses for a couple of hours before eventually popping right out into the open giving us those much-hoped-for views.



As much as the pitta was the clear highlight of the morning, we also had Large Scimitar Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, and White-browed Scimitar Babbler visit the blind, three usually secretive species that showed well feeding and bathing. An Orange-breasted Trogon made a couple of brief appearances too, and the rest of the supporting cast included Orange-headed Thrush, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, and White-throated Rock Thrush.

In the afternoon we called in to some rice paddies, finding Chinese Pond Heron (a couple in breeding plumage), Little Egret, Coppersmith Barbet, Black-collared Starling, Great Myna, Vinous-breasted Starling, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Ashy Woodswallow, and Black-winged Kite. After this stop we went back to the forest, where some roadside birding gave us great views of a couple of Long-tailed Broadbills – a crazy looking bird! We also saw Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Yellow-vented Green Pigeon, Indochinese Barbet, and Black-chinned Yuhina.

### Day 10, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. Di Linh to Ho Chi Minh City, flight to Pleiku, and on to Mang Den

A travel day as we made our way into central Vietnam. We left Di Linh after breakfast, took the long drive back to Ho Chi Minh City, where we boarded a short flight to Pleiku. From Pleiku we drove to Mang Den, arriving at our base for the next couple of nights in the early evening.

#### Day 11, 24th March 2023. Birding Mang Den

We spent the morning birding session along forested roads in the Mang Den area, although there was a depressing amount of deforestation to deal with. We did however find a few new birds or improved views of several species we'd seen before. Some of the better birds of the morning included Rufous-faced Warbler, Pale Blue Flycatcher, Black-chinned Yuhina, Short-billed Minivet, Grey-chinned Minivet, Black-throated (Grey-crowned) Bushtit, Crested Goshawk, Crested Serpent Eagle, and Black Bulbul (both black-headed and white-headed subspecies). A White-winged Magpie teased us with a very brief view but wouldn't give us anything more! One of the most interesting non-avian finds involved a sighting of the rare Sokolov's Glass Lizard, a strange thing that looked a bit like a skink and a bit like a snake, it even hung around long enough for us to get some photos to clinch the identification, this species has a tiny known global range!

We'd planned to go to a bird blind (bird hide) for the afternoon, however on arrival at our location it was clear a thunderstorm was approaching and a short while later it hit us. We sat it out in our vehicle for a while, but it was obvious it wasn't improving so we decided to drop down off the mountain and call it a day. A small section of rice paddies held Little Egret, Eastern Cattle Egret, and Chinese Pond Heron, as well as both Long-tailed Shrike and Brown Shrike. After our dinner and checklist session a few of the group had a Grey Nightjar fly over the hotel.

#### Day 12, 25th March 2023. Birding Mang Den and travel to Tu Mo Rong

After the rain of the previous afternoon, we were relieved to wake to a dry morning. We headed straight back up the mountain to our spot from the previous day and built a quick bird blind (bird hide) in a promising-looking area of forest. We were expecting a bit of a wait and were ready for the long haul, so when a pair of **Chestnut-eared Laughingthrushes**, our main target bird, hopped into view after only two minutes we were all rather elated! As we'd gone to the effort of building



a blind/hide, we decided to give it another 30 minutes or so to see what would happen. We had a few more sightings of the laughingthrushes, in fact there were three birds, and a pair of **Mountain Fulvettas** came in too.



The main reason for our visit to Mang Den was to see **Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush**. This Vietnam near-endemic is listed as Vulnerable (<u>BirdLife International</u>) because it is known from one site, is likely to have a very small global range, and is susceptible to a range of threats, such as rampant deforestation and the illegal cage bird trade. Worrying times for this species!

Satisfied with our laughingthrushes we covered some of the same ground as the previous morning and found a few mixed flocks and several new trip birds such as Clicking Shrike-babbler, Golden Babbler, and Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler. In addition, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Maroon Oriole, Short-billed Minivet, Black-chinned Yuhina, White-bellied Erpornis, and Kloss's Leaf Warbler all put in appearances too.

In the afternoon we travelled to our base for the next two nights at Tu Mo Rong near Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve, and prepared for what we hoped would be an exciting day of Vietnamese birding.

#### Day 13, 26th March 2023. Birding Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve

We had an enjoyable morning at Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve, seeing some very special birds. On arrival at the nature reserve we hiked up into the mountains through some beautiful forest for an hour or so, until we reached our bird blind (bird hide). We waited patiently for our two main target birds to come in, and it was an enjoyable wait with several new species seen, including Indochinese Fulvetta, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler, Black-headed (Brownish-backed) Sibia, Large Niltava, Fujian Niltava,



Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, and Snowy-browed Flycatcher. Our first major target bird came in quite quickly, and what an absolute belter – Red-tailed Laughingthrush. A single individual came in and spent quite a while on show for us, just incredible.



The magnificent **Red-tailed Laughingthrush** put on quite the show for us.



We found the rarely seen hoae subspecies of Vietnamese Cutia in Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve.



We had to wait a bit longer for our main target, but eventually in it came, the rare endemic **Golden-winged Laughingthrush**, an Endangered (<u>BirdLife International</u>) species found only at three sites in the whole world (see photo in trip summary above). This species was only described in 1999 and is threatened by habitat loss and illegal trapping, so we were extremely happy to see it.

After our session in the blind/hide, we took the walk back down off the mountain, and while doing so found a few interesting birds, such as Black-crowned Barwing, Vietnamese Cutia, White-browed (formerly, until recently, Blyth's) Shrike-babbler, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Greycheeked Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, and Greentailed Sunbird. In the mid-afternoon we headed back to our accommodation and took some rest.

# Day 14, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Tu Mo Rong to Da Nang and mammal watching on the Son Tra Peninsula

Essentially a travel day as we made the long drive from Tu Mo Rong to Da Nang through some special landscapes. A few stops along the way gave us some new birds for the tour, such as Yellow-cheeked Tit, Pygmy Flycatcher, White-throated Needletail, Blue Rock Thrush, White-rumped Munia, White (Siberian) Wagtail, Wire-tailed Swallow, and Striated Swallow.

After checking into our hotel for the final night of the tour we visited the Son Tra Nature Reserve, where, despite the low cloud, wind, and drizzle, we found our target, the simply incredible **Redshanked Douc Langur**. As far as monkeys go, this one is very special, not only is it beautiful, but it is also Critically Endangered (<u>IUCN Red List</u>).



We saw two family groups of the unique **Red-shanked Douc Langur** in Son Tra Nature Reserve, a really nice way to end our tour through central and southern Vietnam. Full mammal and reptile species lists for the tour are given at the end of the report.



# Day 15, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Bird and mammal watching on Son Tra Peninsula, flight from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City, where tour concluded

We had a final morning birding and mammal watching at Son Tra Peninsula before we flew back to Ho Chin Minh City, where this exciting Vietnam birding tour concluded. We again enjoyed excellent views of a family group of **Red-shanked Douc Langurs**. Our final new bird of the tour was a **Peregrine Falcon** that was mobbing a **Crested Honey Buzzard**, an exciting observation. We also saw **White-crested Laughingthrush**, **Red-whiskered Bulbul**, **Racket-tailed Treepie**, **Olive-backed Sunbird**, and **Crimson Sunbird**.

After breakfast we discussed the coveted "bird of the trip", and it was no easy task with high-quality birds day after day on this tour. However, one bird stood out from the crowd, just, and that was the displaying **Germain's Peacock-Pheasant**, a great choice. Other notable mentions went to all of the pittas, broadbills, kingfishers, and laughingthrushes we had seen.

We took our flights from Da Nang back to Ho Chi Minh City and the tour concluded. A huge thank you to our local guide, Phuc, for helping to make this a wonderful tour, and to our drivers for safe travels. Thank you to everyone for making this such an enjoyable Vietnamese birding tour.



Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following <u>BirdLife</u>

<u>International</u>: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Orange-necked Partridge	Arborophila davidi
Siamese Fireback	Lophura diardi
Green Peafowl - EN	Pavo muticus
Green-legged Partridge	Tropicoperdix chloropus
Germain's Peacock-Pheasant	Polyplectron germaini
Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus
Chinese Francolin	Francolinus pintadeanus
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Great Eared Nightjar	Lyncornis macrotis
Grey Nightjar (H)	Caprimulgus jotaka
Large-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus macrurus
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Himalayan Swiftlet	Aerodramus brevirostris
Germain's Swiftlet	Aerodramus germani
White-throated Needletail	Hirundapus caudacutus
Silver-backed Needletail	Hirundapus cochinchinensis
Brown-backed Needletail	Hirundapus giganteus
Asian Palm Swift	Cypsiurus balasiensis
Pacific Swift	Apus pacificus
House Swift	Apus nipalensis
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis
Lesser Coucal	Centropus bengalensis
Green-billed Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus tristis
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	Clamator coromandus
Asian Koel	Eudynamys scolopaceus
Violet Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus
Banded Bay Cuckoo	Cacomantis sonneratii



Common Name	Scientific Name
Plaintive Cuckoo	Cacomantis merulinus
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	Surniculus lugubris
Large Hawk-Cuckoo	Hierococcyx sparverioides
Indian Cuckoo	Cuculus micropterus
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	Columba livia dom.
Red Collared Dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis
Barred Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia unchall
Common Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica
Zebra Dove	Geopelia striata
Ashy-headed Green Pigeon	Treron phayrei
Thick-billed Green Pigeon	Treron curvirostra
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	Treron apicauda
Yellow-vented Green Pigeon	Treron seimundi
Green Imperial Pigeon	Ducula aenea
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	Ducula badia
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracid	·
Little Cormorant	Microcarbo niger
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
Chinese Pond Heron	Ardeola bacchus
Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
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Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
Crested Honey Buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus
Jerdon's Baza	Aviceda jerdoni



Common Name	Scientific Name
Crested Serpent Eagle	Spilornis cheela
Black Eagle	Ictinaetus malaiensis
Crested Goshawk	Accipiter trivirgatus
Shikra	Accipiter badius
Grey-faced Buzzard	Butastur indicus
Owls (Strigidae)	
Collared Owlet	Taenioptynx brodiei
Asian Barred Owlet (H)	Glaucidium cuculoides
Collared Scops Owl (H)	Otus lettia
Trogons (Trogonidae)	
Orange-breasted Trogon	Harpactes oreskios
Red-headed Trogon (H)	Harpactes erythrocephalus
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Oriental Pied Hornbill	Anthracoceros albirostris
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Indochinese Roller	Coracias affinis
Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis
Y, 6 1 (A) 1 1 1	
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	7 1 1 1 11
Banded Kingfisher	Lacedo pulchella
White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis athertoni
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	Merops leschenaulti
Cheshiat headed Bee cuter	тегорь изопониши
Asian Barbets (Megalaimidae)	I
Red-vented Barbet	Psilopogon lagrandieri
Lineated Barbet	Psilopogon lineatus
Green-eared Barbet	Psilopogon faiostrictus
Necklaced Barbet	Psilopogon auricularis



Common Name	Scientific Name
Indochinese Barbet	Psilopogon annamensis
Blue-eared Barbet	Psilopogon duvaucelii
Coppersmith Barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
White-browed Piculet	Sasia ochracea
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus canicapillus
Stripe-breasted Woodpecker (H)	Dendrocopos atratus
White-bellied Woodpecker	Dryocopus javensis
Lesser Yellownape	Picus chlorolophus
Laced Woodpecker	Picus vittatus
Grey-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus
Common Flameback	Dinopium javanense
Greater Flameback (H)	Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus
Pale-headed Woodpecker (H)	Gecinulus grantia
Bay Woodpecker (H)	Blythipicus pyrrhotis
Black-and-buff Woodpecker	Meiglyptes jugularis
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Collared Falconet	Microhierax caerulescens
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	D ::. 1 1 1 :
Red-breasted Parakeet	Psittacula alexandri
Vernal Hanging Parrot	Loriculus vernalis
Typical Broadbills (Eurylaimidae)	
Long-tailed Broadbill	Psarisomus dalhousiae
Silver-breasted Broadbill	Serilophus lunatus
Black-and-red Broadbill	Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos
Banded Broadbill	Eurylaimus javanicus
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Rusty-naped Pitta	Hydrornis oatesi
Blue-rumped Pitta	Hydrornis soror
Blue Pitta	Hydrornis cyaneus
Bar-bellied Pitta	Hydrornis elliotii
W	
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus
Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis virgatus
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Allies	(Artamidae)
Ashy Woodswallow	Artamus fuscus
Ioras (Aegithinidae)	
Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia
Great Iora	Aegithina lafresnayei
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Grey-chinned Minivet	Pericrocotus solaris
Short-billed Minivet	Pericrocotus brevirostris
Long-tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus
Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus speciosus
Swinhoe's Minivet	Pericrocotus cantonensis
Large Cuckooshrike	Coracina macei
Indochinese Cuckooshrike	Lalage polioptera
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Brown Shrike	Lanius cristatus
Burmese Shrike	Lanius collurioides
Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach
Vireos, Greenlets, Shrike-babblers (Vi	ireonidae)
White-browed (Dalat) Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius aeralatus annamensis
White-browed (Blyth's) Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius aeralatus aeralatus
Clicking Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius intermedius
White-bellied Erpornis	Erpornis zantholeuca
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (	Oriolidae)
Maroon Oriole	Oriolus traillii
Black-hooded Oriole	Oriolus xanthornus
Black-naped Oriole	Oriolus chinensis
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus remifer
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Hair-crested Drongo	Dicrurus hottentottus
Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus
Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus
Fantails (Rhipiduridae)	
White-throated Fantail	Rhipidura albicollis
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Black-naped Monarch	Hypothymis azurea
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius
White-winged Magpie	Urocissa whiteheadi
Indochinese Green Magpie	Cissa hypoleuca
Racket-tailed Treepie	Crypsirina temia
Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos
Zarge onice erew	Corrus macromynenos
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Green-backed Tit	Parus monticolus
Yellow-cheeked Tit	Machlolophus spilonotus
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Ochraceous Bulbul	Alophoixus ochraceus
Grey-eyed Bulbul	Iole propingua
Ashy Bulbul	Hemixos flavala
Mountain Bulbul	Ixos mcclellandii
Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus
Black-headed Bulbul	Brachypodius melanocephalos
Black-crested Bulbul	Rubigula flaviventris
Streak-eared Bulbul	Pycnonotus conradi
Stripe-throated Bulbul	Pycnonotus finlaysoni
Flavescent Bulbul	Pycnonotus flavescens
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus
Sooty-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus aurigaster
<b>Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)</b>	





Orthotomus sutorius

Common Tailorbird

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Common Name	Scientific Name
Little Spiderhunter	Arachnothera longirostra
Streaked Spiderhunter	Arachnothera magna
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinche	es (Passeridae)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrile	didae)
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata
White-rumped Munia	Lonchura striata
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Vietnamese Greenfinch	Chloris monguilloti
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra

Total seen	263
Total heard only	14
Total recorded	277

### **Reptile List**

Deceased reptiles are marked with (D) after the common name.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Crowned Pricklenape	Acanthosaura coronata
Spotted Flying Dragon	Draco maculatus
Gekkonidae (Geckos)	
Gekkonidae (Geckos) Asian House Gecko	Hemidactylus platyurus
,	Hemidactylus platyurus Hemidactylus platyurus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Skinks (Scincidae)	
Common Mabuya	Eutropis multifasciata
Spotted Forest Skink	Sphenomorphus maculatus
	•
Glass and Alligator Lizards (Anguid	ae)
Sokolov's Glass Lizard	Dopasia sokolovi
	•
Colubrid Snakes (Colubridae)	
Green Cat Snake	Boiga cyanea
Speckle-bellied Keelback	Rhabdophis chrysargos
Javan (Indochinese) Rat Snake	Ptyas korros
	•
<b>Typical Blind Snakes (Typhlopidae)</b>	
Brahminy Blindsnake (D)	Indotyphlops braminus
Total	12

### **Mammal List**

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)		
Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	Macaca leonina	
Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta	
Black-shanked Douc Langur	Pygathrix nigripes	
Red-shanked Douc Langur	Pygathrix nemaeus	
Gibbons (Hylobatidae)		
Red-cheeked (Yellow-cheeked) Gibbon	Nomascus gabriellae	
Deer (Cervidae)		
Sambar	Rusa unicolor	
Northern Red Muntjac	Muntiacus vaginalis	
Chevrotains (Tragulidae)		
Lesser Oriental Chevrotain	Tragulus kanchil	
Squirrels (Sciuridae)		
Berdmore's (Indochinese Ground) Squirrel	Menetes berdmorei	



Total

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pallas's Squirrel	Callosciurus erythraeus
(Asian) Red-cheeked Squirrel	Dremomys rufigenis
Cambodian Striped Squirrel	Tamiops rodolphii
Maritime Striped Squirrel	Tamiops maritimus
Treeshrews (Tupaiidae)	
Northern Treeshrew	Tupaia belangeri
Northern Smooth-tailed Treeshrew	Dendrogale murina
Mustelids (Mustelidae)	
Yellow-throated Marten	Martes flavigula
Suids (Suidae)	
Wild Boar	Sus scrofa
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Domestic Water Buffalo	Bubalus bubalis



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