

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

05 - 20 MARCH 2024

By Andrew Walker



Bar-bellied Pitta gave some great views during the first birding session of our Vietnam birding 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 5th of March 2024 and ended back there on the 20th of March 2024. We visited some of the top birding destinations in Vietnam, such as Cat Tien National Park, Da Lat, Deo Nui San pass, Mang Den, Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve, and Son Tra Nature Reserve.

We recorded 297 bird species (12 heard only) during the tour, the trip list follows the report. The tour highlights included a long list of endemic and near-endemic birds. Some of the non-passerine highlights included Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Green Peafowl, Siamese Fireback, Slatylegged Crake, Great Eared Nightjar, Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, Ashy-headed Green Pigeon, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Silver-backed Needletail, Black-tailed Gull, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Banded Kingfisher, Red-vented Barbet, Indochinese Barbet, Necklaced Barbet, Black-and-buff Woodpecker, Collared Falconet, and Red-breasted Parakeet.



A Green Peafowl was hiding within the vegetation, but the views were still quite good.

Some of the passerine highlights enjoyed on the tour included Bar-bellied Pitta, Blue-rumped Pitta, Rusty-naped Pitta, Blue Pitta, Long-tailed Broadbill, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Dusky Broadbill, Indochinese Green Magpie, Grey-crowned Crocias, Vietnamese Cutia, White-browed (Dalat) Shrike-babbler, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler, Scaly-crowned (Indochinese) Babbler, Japanese Thrush, Collared Laughingthrush, Golden-winged Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Black-hooded Laughingthrush, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Black-headed Parrotbill, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Green-backed (Langbian) Tit, Black-throated



(Grey-crowned) Bushtit, Lesser (Langbian) Shortwing, Mrs. Gould's (Annam) Sunbird, Blackthroated (Langbian) Sunbird, Vietnamese Greenfinch, and Red (Dalat) Crossbill.



Collared Laughingthrush was a huge Vietnam endemic target that showed well during our tour.



Blue-rumped Pitta gave several excellent views during our Vietnam birding tour.



Detailed Report

Day 1, 5th March 2024. 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, with much excitement, the plans for the next few weeks of birding in Vietnam.

Day 2, 6th March 2024. Travel from Ho Chi Minh City to Cat Tien National Park

We spent the morning and early afternoon birding at Ma Da Forest between Ho Chi Minh City and Cat Tien National Park. It was a great first birding session and the first bird we saw on getting out of the van was a male **Banded Kingfisher** — what a start! After getting into position in the bird blind (bird hide) we waited in anticipation as to what would come in. We didn't need to wait too long, with **Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** coming straight in and they were soon followed by other birds like **Bar-bellied Pitta**, **Blue-rumped Pitta**, **Laced Woodpecker**, **Dusky Broadbill**, **Silverbreasted Broadbill**, **Abbott's Babbler**, **Puff-throated Babbler**, **Racket-tailed Treepie**, and **Siberian Blue Robin**. A range of tough to see (away from a blind) and gorgeous birds to start our tour off with.



Prolonged views of multiple **Silver-breasted Broadbills** were the order of the day with birds ever-present at both blinds, giving unparalleled views.

We moved to a different blind, where a different set of birds included **Hainan Blue Flycatcher**, **Black-crested Bulbul**, **Ochraceous Bulbul**, **Grey-eyed Bulbul**, **Scaly-crowned** (Indochinese)



Babbler, **Buff-breasted Babbler**, and more of what we'd already seen at the previous blind. After lunch we went back to the second blind site, and not long after were rewarded with views of our main target, a pair of gorgeous **Indochinese Green Magpies**. After enjoying these sightings, we completed our journey to <u>Cat Tien National Park</u>, where we checked into our accommodation within the national park for the next three nights. A **Eurasian Hoopoe** on the lawn greeted us as we walked to our rooms.



The rather striking Indochinese Green Magpie put on quite a show for us.

Day 3, 7th March 2024. Birding Cat Tien National Park

We spent an enjoyable day birding at Cat Tien National Park. Our morning birding session consisted of a walk along the road parallel to a river, from our accommodation. During our walk we passed through some woodland edge, with pockets of scrub and bamboo and we picked up a lot of great birds. Some of the top highlights from our morning walk included Banded Broadbill, Black-and-red Broadbill, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Red-breasted Parakeet, Vernal Hanging Parrot, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Banded Kingfisher, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Green-billed Malkoha, Violet Cuckoo, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Black-hooded Oriole, Great Iora, Swinhoe's Minivet, White-rumped Shama, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Golden-crested Myna, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Blue-winged Leafbird, Golden-fronted Leafbird, and the localized Grey-faced Tit-Babbler. Several animals were seen too, with some excellent views of Red-cheeked (Yellow-cheeked) Gibbons, Cambodian Striped Squirrel, Pallas's Squirrel, Vietnamese Blue Crested Lizard, Spotted Flying Dragon, and a briefly seen (by some) unidentified snake.

In the afternoon we visited another blind, this time about a 25-minute drive from our accommodation within the national park. It was a busy hide with some great birds and mammals



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in attendance. Two of the stars of the show were the pair of Bar-bellied Pittas that stayed around for quite a while (though often in the undergrowth trying to remain hidden), and our main target, Germain's Peacock-Pheasant. A beautiful bird walked into view and showed well for some time. The supporting cast included Red Junglefowl, Siberian Blue Robin, White-rumped Shama, Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, and more. One of the surprises of the afternoon was the Slaty-legged Crake that spent some time visiting the blind, giving excellent views of this tough bird. Mammals at the blind included Pallas's Squirrel, Northern Treeshrew, and Northern Smooth-tailed Treeshrew. As we drove back to our accommodation in the late afternoon, we found the gorgeous Black-shanked Douc Langur, Northern Pig-tailed Macaque, and Long-tailed Macaque. At dusk we took a walk near our accommodation where we found a pair of Great Eared Nightjars before we had our dinner. An excellent ending to a bird-filled day of birding at Cat Tien National Park.



The localized **Germain's Peacock-Pheasant** was the main target during our afternoon birding at Cat Tien National Park, and we got some great views.

Day 4, 8th March 2024. Birding Cat Tien National Park

We enjoyed another morning birding at Cat Tien National Park. We headed over to the same area we'd spent the previous afternoon and soon started picking up some great birds, such as Ashyheaded Green Pigeon, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Vernal Hanging Parrot, Black-and-buff Woodpecker, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, White-bellied Woodpecker, Greater Flameback, and Violet Cuckoo.

We again went into a blind, where we got excellent views of a pair of **Bar-bellied Pittas**, along with other species, including **Slaty-legged Crake**, **Green-legged Partridge**, **Red Junglefowl** (including a stunning male), **Siberian Blue Robin**, and a range of babblers and bulbuls.





This Slaty-legged Crake gave very good and prolonged views.

During the afternoon we drove a road back and forth looking through some more open habitat and it provided us with the opportunity for a few different birds. Our top target was **Green Peafowl**, and we got some good views of one of these in a field. During this drive we also found **Siamese Fireback**, **Red Junglefowl**, **Orange-breasted Green Pigeon**, **Red Collared Dove**, **Lesser Coucal**, **Lineated Barbet**, **Black-headed Bulbul**, **Sooty-headed Bulbul**, **White-throated Kingfisher**, **Brown-backed Needletail**, and **Brown Shrike**. As we headed back to our accommodation, we noted **Sambar** and **Common Palm Civet**.

Day 5, 9th March 2024. Cat Tien National Park to Da Lat

Prior to breakfast we had **Brown Boobook**, **Asian Barred Owl**, and **Great Eared Nightjars** calling and then we enjoyed a final morning birding in Cat Tien National Park, where we visited a different section of the park to where we had birded previously. It was a beautiful area of forest with some very impressive, huge trees. The birding was also good, and we again saw several woodpeckers, including **White-browed Piculet**, **Greater Flameback**, and **Grey-headed** (Blacknaped) **Woodpecker**, along with other goodies such as **Siamese Fireback**, **Golden-crested Myna**, **Oriental Dollarbird**, **Red-breasted Parakeet**, **Vernal Hanging Parrot**, **Asian Fairy-bluebird**, **Van Hasselt's Sunbird**, **Crimson Sunbird**, and **Forest Wagtail**. **Shikra** and **Crested Goshawk** were both seen overhead, the latter giving a display flight, as were **Silver-backed Needletails**, **Asian Palm Swifts**, and **Germain's Swiftlets**. One of the most bizarre sightings of the day was several gatherings of flatid planthopper nymphs – a remarkable sight.

After leaving Cat Tien behind we drove across to Da Lat, our base for the next three nights.





We signed off from our birding at Cat Tien National Park with a great look at **Siamese**Fireback.

Day 6, 10th March 2024. Birding Da Lat Plateau

We enjoyed a wonderful day birding the <u>Da Lat Plateau</u> where numerous Vietnamese endemic birds and regionally endemic species and subspecies were found. Most of the birds recorded during the day gave superb views, many at very close range. We did some roadside birding and visited some blinds to allow us to look for some secretive birds.

Our first blind visit yielded one of the area's top birds, the Endangered (<u>BirdLife International</u>) endemic Collared Laughingthrush. We had some very close views of this stunning species (see the photo in trip report summary above). The fine supporting cast was made up of Large Niltava, White-tailed Robin, Verditer Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, and White-browed Scimitar Babbler, all of which showed equally well. As we walked along a few sections of mountain roads, we found Vietnamese Cutia, White-browed (Dalat) Shrike-babbler, Black-headed Parrotbill, Green-backed (Langbian) Tit, Long-tailed (Annam) Minivet, and Kloss's Leaf Warbler.

In the middle of the morning, we visited a second blind, and once again were in awe of the birds and the views we were getting. Highlights here included White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Greybellied Tesia, White-throated Fantail, Grey-throated Babbler, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, Mountain Fulvetta, Black-headed (White-spectacled) Sibia, Dark-sided Thrush, Lesser (Langbian) Shortwing, and Mugimaki Flycatcher.

Over lunch and a bit of a rest, we found **Red** (Dalat) **Crossbill**, **Vietnamese Greenfinch**, **Mrs. Gould's** (Annam) **Sunbird**, **Indian Cuckoo**, **Flavescent Bulbul**, and **Grey Bush Chat**. After the break we went back into a blind for the final birding session of the day, and it was a great one.



Highlights were many and included the top trio of **Rufous-throated Partridge**, **Rusty-naped Pitta**, and **Blue Pitta**. As well as many of the birds already mentioned above!



We had some good looks at Vietnamese Cutia while birding at Da Lat.



A rather shy Rusty-naped Pitta eventually came out into an open area and showed well.



Day 7, 11th March 2024. Birding Da Lat Plateau

We spent the morning birding at a couple of sites in the vicinity of Da Lat city. The main target at our first site, a garden with remnant forest patches, was **Grey-crowned Crocias**, which we did see a few times, but it didn't come close. While we were birding around the garden and looking for the crocias, we picked up **Silver-eared Mesia**, **Blue-winged** (Plain) **Minla**, **Rufous-backed Sibia**, **Black-headed** (White-spectacled) **Sibia**, **White-cheeked Laughingthrush**, **Vietnamese Greenfinch**, **Indochinese Barbet**, **Hill Prinia**, **Green-backed** (Langbian) **Tit**, **Black-throated** (Grey-crowned) **Bushtit**, **Mrs. Gould's** (Annam) **Sunbird**, and **Black-throated** (Langbian) **Sunbird**.

We moved locations to another couple of forest patches, where we found **Burmese Shrike**, **Chestnut-vented Nuthatch**, **Indochinese Cuckooshrike**, and **Black Bulbul**. Three **Ospreys** were flying over a nearby lake, which also contained **Little Grebe**, **Common Moorhen**, and **Little Cormorant**. Vegetation around the lakeshore held **Yellow Bittern**, **Chinese Pond Heron**, and **Little Egret**.

We took an afternoon walk on the edge of Da Lat city, where we had brief views of a pair of Longtailed Broadbills as well as some very nice looks at Necklaced Barbet. We also saw Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Black-throated (Greycrowned) Bushtit, and Black Bulbul. As dusk came, we changed locations and had House Swift and Plain-backed Sparrow just before it got dark, and immediately after found several Grey Nightjars, a gorgeous rufous morph Oriental Scops Owl, and a Large-tailed Nightjar.

Day 8, 12th March 2024. Da Lat Plateau to Di Linh (Birding at Deo Nui San Pass)

We left Da Lat after breakfast and drove to <u>Di Linh</u>. We arrived in the middle of the morning and went straight to a bird blind, where we saw more great birds. One of the most abundant species present at the blind was **Orange-headed Thrush**, with two subspecies (and a hybrid between those noted). A pair of **Streaked** (Annam) **Wren-Babblers** showed very nicely and they were joined by a male **Hainan Blue Flycatcher**, **Grey-throated Babbler**, and **White-throated Rock Thrush**. It all got a bit chaotic when a mixed-species flock passed through our viewing area. The flock contained **Red-billed Scimitar Babbler**, **Black-chinned Yuhina**, **Black-headed Parrotbill**, **Red-headed Trogon**, **Speckled Piculet**, and **White-bellied Erpornis**. A vocal **Alström's Warbler** was also hanging around but tended to remain in the undergrowth.

After a bite to eat we went straight into a different blind from our morning one, hoping for some more excitement, and wow, did we get that! On arrival at the blind, we were greeted by the sight of around a dozen **Orange-headed Thrushes** all out in the open (again both subspecies were present), with a female-type **Siberian Thrush** thrown in for good measure. As we got into place the birds started coming in and over the course of the next few hours' we were treated to an excellent showing of **Orange-headed Thrushes**, several **Siberian Thrushes** (including several male birds), and rarest of all, at least two **Japanese Thrushes**, including one stunning male bird. Lots of other birds were present too, such as **Blue-rumped Pitta**, **Silver-breasted Broadbill**, **Blue-and-white Flycatcher**, **Hainan Blue Flycatcher**, **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, **Greater Rackettailed Drongo**, **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Ashy** (Brown-backed) **Bulbul**, **Indian White-eye**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, and many of the birds seen at the previous blind earlier in the day.





Japanese Thrush is a rare migrant to southern Vietnam, so we were very pleased to find two birds while birding at Di Linh.



This molting male Siberian Thrush was coming into breeding plumage.

Leaving the blind, we walked a short stretch of road, where we saw Black Eagle, Grey-faced Buzzard, Bay Woodpecker, Red-vented Barbet, Scarlet Minivet, Black Bulbul, Dusky Crag



Martin, Red-rumped Swallow, and Asian House Martin. As we drove to our hotel for the night, a couple of stops gave us sightings of Annam Prinia, Black-winged Kite, Black-collared Starling, and Eurasian (White-faced) Jav.

Day 9, 13th March 2024. Di Linh (Birding at Deo Nui San pass)

We had a morning birding back in the forest at <u>Deo Nui San</u> pass getting repeated good views of some rather nice birds. A nesting pair of **Long-tailed Broadbills** remained quite shy, but we had some good scope views to prevent disturbing them. We visited another bird blind, where we enjoyed sightings of **Orange-headed Thrushes**, **Red-billed Scimitar Babbler**, **White-browed Scimitar Babbler**, **Streaked** (Annam) **Wren-Babbler**, and many birds seen previously. As we were preparing to leave the blind a pair of **Indochinese Green Magpies** also flew in above us.

A brief stop at an area of rice paddies provided a change of scenery and we saw **Burmese Shrike**, **Chestnut-tailed Starling**, **Coppersmith Barbet**, and **Paddyfield Pipit**. After lunch we drove back to Ho Chi Minh City for the night, in preparation for our flight the following day.



Red-billed Scimitar Babbler showed well during the Vietnam birding tour.

Day 10, 14th March 2024. Ho Chi Minh City to Pleiku then travel to Mang Den

We took a morning flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Pleiku in central Vietnam. After our arrival we drove north to <u>Mang Den</u> where we checked into our hotel for the next two nights. An afternoon birding session gave us a few new birds, including brief views, for some, of **Black-hooded Laughingthrush**, a stunning pair of **White-gorgeted Flycatchers**, vocal **Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo**, **Short-billed Minivet**, **Yellow-billed Nuthatch**, **Blue-and-white Flycatcher**, and **Black-throated** (Grey-crowned) **Bushtit**.



Day 11, 15th March 2024. Birding at Mang Den

We spent the morning birding in the forest around Mang Den. It was hotter than usual, and activity was lower than expected, but we managed to find a few new birds for the trip such as **Grey-headed Parrotbill**, **Golden Babbler**, **Clicking Shrike-babbler**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Grey-chinned Minivet**, **Pale Blue Flycatcher**, and **Mountain Bulbul**. Some of the group got brief views of a male **Red-headed Trogon** and a mobile flock of **Black-hooded Laughingthrushes**. Plenty of common and more widespread species were seen too, such as **White-bellied Erpornis**, **Black Bulbul**, and **Mountain Fulvetta**. **Ratchet-tailed Treepie** and **Collared Babbler** were both heard, but unfortunately not seen.

In the afternoon we took a walk around a different area of forest from our morning walk. We had a raucous party of **Black-hooded Laughingthrushes** that kept us entertained for a while as we tried to get good views of them, but they were very active and so views were close but fleeting. A pair of **Red-headed Trogons** gave brief views to some folks again, but they seemed very shy. An **Indochinese Green Magpie** came in with the noisy laughingthrushes but was typically furtive, despite being loud! **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Maroon Oriole**, **Bay Woodpecker**, (Northern) **Mountain Bulbul**, **Golden Babbler**, **Grey-chinned Minivet**, and **Black-throated Sunbird** were all also seen.



This rather cute Rufous-faced Warbler gave some very close views while birding at Mang Den.

Day 12, 16th March 2024. Birding Mang Den and travel to Tu Mo Rong

We spent a final morning trying to find some new birds around Mang Den, and we did find a couple, such as very brief **Orange-bellied** (Greyish-crowned) **Leafbird** and (Annam) **Sultan Tit**, along with **Puff-throated Bulbul**. One of the best birds was a showy **Streaked** (Tonkin) **Wren-Babbler** that gave close and lengthy views, nice after seeing the "Annam" version earlier in the



tour. We also had an extremely confiding **Rufous-faced Warbler**. We enjoyed further sightings of **Grey-headed Parrotbill**, **Grey-faced Buzzard**, **Black-hooded Laughingthrush**, and a few other species previously seen.

After lunch we drove to Tu Mo Rong, our basic accommodation (and the only option in this part of the country) for our remote birding tomorrow. We stopped at some rice paddies in the late afternoon, where we found several open-country species, including a few new trip birds like **Oriental Turtle Dove**, **Dusky Warbler**, and **Scaly-breasted Munia**, along with a gorgeous breeding-plumage **Chinese Pond Heron**.

Day 13, 17th March 2024. Birding Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve

We spent the full day birding at Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve with most of this time spent sitting in two blinds waiting for our key species to show. Our time in the blinds gave us excellent sightings of several great species, such as Black-crowned Barwing, Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Black-headed (Brownish-backed) Sibia, Rufous-capped Babbler, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Large Niltava, and Eyebrowed Thrush, along with a brief view of Red-tailed Laughingthrush and (eventually) an excellent look at the highly sought after Golden-winged Laughingthrush, which was definitely worth the nervous wait we had!

Later in the day we found a nice mixed flock containing Yellow-cheeked Tit, White-spectacled Warbler, Grey-cheeked Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Red-tailed Minla, Greentailed Sunbird, and Red-headed Trogon. It was a very enjoyable day of birding.



The top target for the day was the near-endemic **Golden-winged Laughingthrush**. Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve offers the only realistic chance of seeing this bird anywhere in the world and we were delighted with the views we got.





Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve also offers one of the best opportunities to connect with the nearendemic **Black-crowned Barwing** and we enjoyed excellent views of a pair of birds.

Day 14, 18th March 2024. Tu Mo Rong to Da Nang and mammal watching on the Son Tra Peninsula

Essentially a long travel day as we made our way from remote Tu Mo Rong to the bustling city and bright lights of Da Nang. We left Tu Mo Rong after our early breakfast and made a few birding stops along the way to our destination. The first two stops were on high elevation forested roads, before we dropped down from the mountains. At our stops we found Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, Black Eagle, Necklaced Barbet, White-throated Fantail, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Black Bulbul, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Silver-eared Mesia, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Pale Blue Flycatcher, Mrs. Gould's (Scarlet-breasted) Sunbird, Black-throated Sunbird, and Green-tailed Sunbird.

Dropping in elevation we noted Blue Rock Thrush, Striated Swallow, Long-tailed Shrike, and Crimson Sunbird along the road. Then, at a coffee stop at a river, we found Wire-tailed Swallow, Plaintive Cuckoo, Greater Coucal, Common Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Plain Prinia, Ornate Sunbird, White Wagtail, and Paddyfield Pipit. Nearby rice paddies held Amur Stonechat, along with Chinese Pond Heron, Eastern Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Medium Egret, and Great Egret.

We arrived in <u>Da Nang</u> in the middle of the afternoon and once things had cooled down a little, we headed over to Son Tra Nature Reserve on the edge of the city. Here we searched for and found our main target – **Red-shanked Douc Langur**. We saw a family group of langurs, which allowed great views. We also saw several **Rhesus Macaques** that showed very well too, though they were not quite as spectacular!





The rare **Red-shanked Douc Langur** was a highlight of our time on the Son Tra Peninsula, and the main reason for our visit.

Day 15, 19th March 2024. Bird and mammal watching on Son Tra Peninsula, flight from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City

We spent the final morning of the tour undertaking some pre-breakfast birding along the coast of the Son Tra Peninsula, where we added a few final trip birds. The best of the new birds was a Black-tailed Gull on the beach, which was getting hassled nonstop by a Pacific Reef Heron. Also, along the beach, we found White-breasted Waterhen, Common Sandpiper, Common Kingfisher, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Dusky Warbler, White-shouldered Starling, and excitingly, a hunting Peregrine Falcon, which may have actually caught the Common Sandpiper! While in the area we checked out some forest which held a family group of Red**shanked Douc Langurs**, so we had a further look at this gorgeous monkey.

In the afternoon we boarded our flight back to Ho Chi Minh City for the final night and our final group dinner of the tour. We tried to pick the "bird of the trip", but it wasn't an easy task given the many high-quality birds we had seen over the previous two weeks. However, Golden-winged Laughingthrush won the award given its rarity value, interesting history, stunning good looks, and the effort we put in to seeing one (maintaining the faith one would come in even when it wasn't looking very likely!), in such a beautiful forest.

Day 16, 20th March 2024. Departure day from Ho Chi Minh City

Everyone departed from Ho Chi Minh at their leisure as this highly successful Vietnam birding tour concluded.



Bird List – Following IOC (14.1)

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)	
Rufous-throated Partridge	Arborophila rufogularis
Siamese Fireback	Lophura diardi
Green Peafowl - EN	Pavo muticus
Green-legged Partridge	Tropicoperdix chloropus
Germain's Peacock-Pheasant - VU	Polyplectron germaini
Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Great Eared Nightjar	Lyncornis macrotis
Grey Nightjar	Caprimulgus jotaka
Large-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus macrurus
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Germain's Swiftlet	Aerodramus germani
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
Asian Koel (H)	Eudynamys scolopaceus
Violet Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus
Banded Bay Cuckoo	Cacomantis sonneratii
Plaintive Cuckoo	Cacomantis merulinus
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	Surniculus lugubris
Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo	Hierococcyx nisicolor
Indian Cuckoo	Cuculus micropterus







Common Name	Scientific Name
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis
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Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis athertoni
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	Merops leschenaulti
Asian Barbets (Megalaimidae)	
Red-vented Barbet	Psilopogon lagrandieri
Lineated Barbet	Psilopogon lineatus
Green-eared Barbet	Psilopogon faiostrictus
Necklaced Barbet	Psilopogon auricularis
Indochinese Barbet	Psilopogon annamensis
Blue-eared Barbet	Psilopogon cyanotis
Coppersmith Barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Speckled Piculet	Picumnus innominatus
White-browed Piculet	Sasia ochracea
Heart-spotted Woodpecker	Hemicircus canente
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus canicapillus
White-bellied Woodpecker	Dryocopus javensis
Greater Yellownape	Chrysophlegma flavinucha
Lesser Yellownape	Picus chlorolophus
Laced Woodpecker	Picus vittatus
Grey-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus
Common Flameback	Dinopium javanense
Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus
Pale-headed Woodpecker (H)	Gecinulus grantia
Bay Woodpecker	Blythipicus pyrrhotis
Black-and-buff Woodpecker	Meiglyptes jugularis
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Collared Falconet	Microhierax caerulescens
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Red-breasted Parakeet	Psittacula alexandri
Vernal Hanging Parrot	Loriculus vernalis



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Typical Broadbills (Eurylaimidae)		
Long-tailed Broadbill	Psarisomus dalhousiae	
Dusky Broadbill	Corydon sumatranus	
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	
Australasian Warblers (Acanthizida	ne)	
Golden-bellied Gerygone	Gerygone sulphurea	
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)		
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus	
Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis virgatus	
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Alli	es (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	
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	Lalage melaschistos	
Indochinese Cuckooshrike	Lalage polioptera	
Vireos, Greenlets, Shrike-babblers (
White-browed Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius aeralatus	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Clicking Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius intermedius	
White-bellied Erpornis	Erpornis zantholeuca	
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios	s (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	
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	
Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone affinis	
Shrikes (Laniidae)		
Burmese Shrike	Lanius collurioides	
Brown Shrike	Lanius cristatus	
Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach	
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)		
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	
Indochinese Green Magpie	Cissa hypoleuca	
Racket-tailed Treepie	Crypsirina temia	
Ratchet-tailed Treepie (H)	Temnurus temnurus	
Eastern Jungle Crow	Corvus levaillantii	
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)		
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Sultan Tit	Melanochlora sultanea
Green-backed Tit	Parus monticolus
Yellow-cheeked Tit	Machlolophus spilonotus
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Ochraceous Bulbul	Alophoixus ochraceus
Puff-throated Bulbul	Alophoixus pallidus
Grey-eyed Bulbul	Iole propinqua
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
Yellow-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus goiavier
Sooty-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus aurigaster
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae	e)
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia
Dusky Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne concolor
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii
Asian House Martin	Delichon dasypus
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica
Striated Swallow	Cecropis striolata
Cumwings (Dusamusi Isa)	
Cupwings (Pnoepygidae)	D.,
Pygmy Cupwing (H)	Pnoepyga pusilla
Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies (C	Cettiidae)
Yellow-bellied Warbler (H)	Abroscopus superciliaris
Rufous-faced Warbler	Abroscopus albogularis
Grey-bellied Tesia	Tesia cyaniventer





Common Name	Scientific Name
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler	Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps
White-browed Scimitar Babbler	Pomatorhinus schisticeps
Grey-throated Babbler	Stachyris nigriceps
Ground Babblers (Pellorneidae)	
Scaly-crowned Babbler	Malacopteron cinereum
Collared Babbler (H)	Gampsorhynchus torquatus
Rufous-winged Fulvetta	Schoeniparus castaneceps
Black-crowned Fulvetta	Schoeniparus klossi
Rusty-capped Fulvetta	Schoeniparus dubius
Puff-throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps
Buff-breasted Babbler	Pellorneum tickelli
Abbott's Babbler	Malacocincla abbotti
Streaked Wren-Babbler	Gypsophila brevicaudata
Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler	Napothera danjoui
Alcippe Fulvettas (Alcippeidae)	
Mountain Fulvetta	Alcippe peracensis
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothric	chidae)
Vietnamese Cutia	Cutia legalleni
l	Laviellus langhianis
Grey-crowned Crocias - EN	Laniellus langbianis
Grey-crowned Crocias - EN Red-tailed Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron milnei
Red-tailed Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron milnei
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN Red-tailed Minla	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris Minla ignotincta
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN Red-tailed Minla Rufous-backed Sibia	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris Minla ignotincta Leioptila annectens
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN Red-tailed Minla Rufous-backed Sibia White-crested Laughingthrush (H)	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris Minla ignotincta Leioptila annectens Garrulax leucolophus
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN Red-tailed Minla Rufous-backed Sibia White-crested Laughingthrush (H) Black-hooded Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris Minla ignotincta Leioptila annectens Garrulax leucolophus Garrulax milleti
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN Red-tailed Minla Rufous-backed Sibia White-crested Laughingthrush (H) Black-hooded Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris Minla ignotincta Leioptila annectens Garrulax leucolophus Garrulax milleti
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN Red-tailed Minla Rufous-backed Sibia White-crested Laughingthrush (H) Black-hooded Laughingthrush White-cheeked Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris Minla ignotincta Leioptila annectens Garrulax leucolophus Garrulax milleti
Red-tailed Laughingthrush Collared Laughingthrush - EN Golden-winged Laughingthrush - EN Black-headed Sibia Blue-winged Minla Black-crowned Barwing Silver-eared Mesia - EN Red-tailed Minla Rufous-backed Sibia White-crested Laughingthrush (H) Black-hooded Laughingthrush White-cheeked Laughingthrush Fairy-bluebirds (Irenidae)	Trochalopteron milnei Trochalopteron yersini Trochalopteron ngoclinhense Heterophasia desgodinsi Actinodura cyanouroptera Actinodura sodangorum Leiothrix argentauris Minla ignotincta Leioptila annectens Garrulax leucolophus Garrulax milleti Pterorhinus vassali



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Nuthatches (Sittidae)	•	
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	Sitta frontalis	
Yellow-billed Nuthatch	Sitta solangiae	
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	Sitta nagaensis	
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)		
Golden-crested Myna	Ampeliceps coronatus	
Crested Myna	Acridotheres cristatellus	
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	
Vinous-breasted Myna	Acridotheres leucocephalus	
Black-collared Starling	Gracupica nigricollis	
White-shouldered Starling	Sturnia sinensis	
Chestnut-tailed Starling	Sturnia malabarica	
Thrushes (Turdidae)		
Dark-sided Thrush	Zoothera marginata	
Siberian Thrush	Geokichla sibirica	
Orange-headed Thrush	Geokichla citrina	
Japanese Thrush	Turdus cardis	
Eyebrowed Thrush	Turdus obscurus	
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Musc	icapidae)	
Oriental Magpie-Robin	Copsychus saularis	
White-rumped Shama	Copsychus malabaricus	
Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica	
Large Niltava	Niltava grandis	
Blue-and-white Flycatcher	Cyanoptila cyanomelana	
Verditer Flycatcher	Eumyias thalassinus	
White-gorgeted Flycatcher	Anthipes monileger	
Pale Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis unicolor	
Hainan Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis hainanus	
Indochinese Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis sumatrensis	
White-tailed Robin	Myiomela leucura	
Lesser Shortwing	Brachypteryx leucophris	
Siberian Blue Robin	Larvivora cyane	
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	Ficedula hyperythra	
Mugimaki Flycatcher	Ficedula mugimaki	
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	Ficedula strophiata	
Little Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula westermanni	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla
White-throated Rock Thrush	Monticola gularis
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius
Grey Bush Chat	Saxicola ferreus
Amur Stonechat	Saxicola stejnegeri
Leafbirds (Chloropseidae)	
Blue-winged Leafbird	Chloropsis moluccensis
Golden-fronted Leafbird	Chloropsis aurifrons
Orange-bellied Leafbird	Chloropsis hardwickii
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)	-
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum agile
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	Dicaeum ignipectus
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum cruentatum
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	Chalcoparia singalensis
Van Hasselt's Sunbird	Leptocoma brasiliana
Ornate Sunbird	Cinnyris ornatus
Mrs. Gould's Sunbird	Aethopyga gouldiae
Green-tailed Sunbird	Aethopyga nipalensis
Black-throated Sunbird	Aethopyga saturata
Crimson Sunbird	Aethopyga siparaja
Little Spiderhunter	Arachnothera longirostra
Streaked Spiderhunter	Arachnothera magna
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (l	Passeridae)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus
Plain-backed Sparrow	Passer flaveolus
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildid	ae)
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata
White-rumped Munia	Lonchura striata
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Forest Wagtail	Dendronanthus indicus
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea



Common Name	Scientific Name
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba
Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus rufulus
Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Vietnamese Greenfinch	Chloris monguilloti
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra

Total seen	285
Total heard only	12
Total recorded	297

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dragons (Agamidae)	•
Vietnamese Blue Crested Lizard	Calotes bachae
Changeable Lizard	Calotes versicolor
Spotted Flying Dragon	Draco maculatus
Indochinese Flying Lizard	Draco indochinensis
Chinese Water Dragon	Physignathus cocincinus
Gekkonidae (Geckos)	
Asian House Gecko	Hemidactylus platyurus
Flat-tailed House Gecko	Hemidactylus platyurus
Tokay Gecko	Gekko gecko
Skinks (Scincidae)	
Common Mabuya	Eutropis multifasciata
Bronze Mabuya	Eutropis macularia
Spotted Forest Skink	Sphenomorphus maculatus

Total	11
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Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	Macaca leonina
Long-tailed Macaque	Macaca fascicularis
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
Chevrotains (Tragulidae)	
Lesser Oriental Chevrotain	Tragulus kanchil
Squirrels (Sciuridae)	
Berdmore's (Indochinese Ground) Squirrel	Menetes berdmorei
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
Civets, Genets, and Oyans (Viverridae)	
Common Palm Civet	Paradoxurus hermaphroditus
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Domestic Water Buffalo	Bubalus bubalis



Total

17