

# Vietnam: North to South Species List | March 28 – April 9, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide and host Peg Abbott. Our local expert guide was Lê Quý Minh. Intrepid clients included Tom, Barbara, Janice, Steve, Bob, Judy, Cathy, Debbie, Joelle, Clyde, and Mike**

An epic first journey to this destination, we decided on a two week trip rather than three, and visited the north and south regions, from Hanoi to Saigon. Our guide, Lê Quý Minh, co-authored the birding field guide and was the perfect host for us with such deep knowledge about birds, nature, geography and culture. He has a deep concern that the privately run bird hides are inviting a deeper threat of mist-netting and capturing birds for the caged bird trade, so we did not visit hides outside of the national park where more protections for the species are in place. Thus we missed a few of the elusive species but we spend more time walking in beautiful mature forests, secondary forests, and in Cat Tien National Park we saw some of the record giant trees. Seeing six species of barbets and four species of broadbills was notable. And with joy we celebrated Joelle finding her 7000<sup>th</sup> life bird – the Raquet-tailed Treepie. Gliding on local sampan boats paddled by women through Da Long Nature Reserve amid wild and impressive limestone monoliths was a highlight for many, allowing us to see numerous birds and the endangered DeLacour's Langur in the wild. We were up early every morning which made a big difference as it allowed us to be out at peak activity. With time we found some of the key endemic (E) and near-endemic (NE, mostly Indochine regional) specialties including the Dalat Bush Warbler, Tonkin (Scaly-breasted) Partridge, Germaine's Peacock Pheasant, Necklaced Barbet, Annam (Indochinese) Barbet, Barbellied Pitta, Annam (Long-tailed) Minivet, Dalat (White-browed) Shrike Babbler, Langbian (Green-backed Tit), Annam Prinia, Gray-crowned (Black-throated) Tit, Limestone Leaf Warbler, Black-headed Parrotbill, Vietnamese Cutia, Gray-crowned Crocias, Collared Laughing Thrush, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, White-spectacled (Black-headed) Sibia, Plain (Blue-winged) Minla, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Gray-faced Tit Babbler, Indochinese (Scaly-throated) Babbler, Langbian (Black-throated) Sunbird, Annam (Mrs. Gould's) Sunbird, and Vietnamese Greenfinch. We were able to see both colorful trogons, 13 woodpeckers, 10 sunbirds, three nightjars and at Cat Tien National Park we had good views of Brown Boobook in the morning, just as a chorus of Yellow-cheeked Gibbon began. In summary this trip had some high rewards but took patience and diligence to achieve them – we had a super group to do just that!

BIRDS: 273 species were recorded of which 11 were heard only; at least 25 were endemic/near-endemic species or subspecies. Details are included in the annotated list below.

The eBird link below details 269 species of birds our group observed during the tour, another 4 species (\*) were noted by various group members and may be added. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

## Vietnam: North to South | March 28 – April 9, 2025 | eBird Trip Report

### Mekong River Cultural Extension | eBird Trip Report

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip. This list follows the taxonomy of eBird (Clements) but comments address likely splits identified in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Birds of Vietnam by Richard Craik and Lê Quý Minh.

**Family: COMMON NAME Scientific Name** — (# in family)

**Species: Common Name Scientific Name** — (# of days seen)

#### **BIRDS (273 species in 66 families):**

\*\*\* *Birds of Vietnam has split the species.*

*With name: (= name in Birds of Vietnam when different from eBird)*

#### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (2)**

**Lesser Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica* — (1) North: A dozen were seen from our sampan boat rides in Van Long Nature Reserve, and from our scoping area on shore there.

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula* — (1) North: A couple of pair were present at the Van Long Nature Reserve.

#### **PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS: Phasianidae — (5)**

**Green Peafowl** *Pavo muticus* — (1) North: Introduced individuals were seen displaying at the park, memorable but not marked as not native here, we'd wait for the "real thing" in the south. South: We saw both males and females, about a half a dozen individuals, in the grassland section of Cat Tien NP, on both sides of the road. This species in the wild is considered to be rare and local.

\*\*\***Scaly-breasted Partridge (ISE)** *Tropicoperdix chloropus* — (2) North: We first heard and then saw the Tonkin species, an endemic subspecies (*Tropicoperdix tonkinensis*) in thick vegetation while walking in Cuc Phuong NP. Minh skillfully got it interested in coming our way and used an open path for us to see it cross. We got good views, and heard in the same location on two days, on a territory there calling. South: We saw the Green-legged form in the south, at both of the hides we visited in Cat Tien NP and also there along one of the wooded trails, quickly.

**Germain's Peacock-pheasant** *Polyplectron germaini* — (2) South: Seen and photographed at a bird hide in Cat Tien NP, both male and female. The intricate detail of their feathers was incredible. A near-endemic species.

**Red Junglefowl** *Gallus* — (5) North: Heard calling loudly two mornings at Cuc Phuong NP. South: Seen along forest roads in Cat Tien in the early mornings. A pair strutted in to one of the bird hides so we got quite a show there.

**Chinese Francolin** *Francolinus pintadeanus* — (3) Heard and then seen perched up on the edge of a shorter grass area in the grassland section of Cat Tien NP. Their call was very grating.

#### **DOVES AND PIGEONS: Columbidae — (11)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* — (3) North: Seen in Hanoi and other cities we passed through driving. Da Lat and South, urban areas.

**Red Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica* — (1) South: Seen in the grasslands section of Cat Tien NP, multiple individuals – quite common there.

**(Eastern) Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis* — (5) North: Seen on our city tour at the Hoh Chi Minh Mausoleum park. South: Seen at the monastery in Da Lat and various roadside stops. South: Common around lodgings and park facilities.

**Barred Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia unchall* — (HO-1) South: Heard only, up in the mountains on the hiking trail at Lang Bian, Da Lat.

**(Gray-capped) Asian Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica* — (4) North: A bright individual encountered at dawn on the road into Cuc Phuong NP as we drove slowly to try to look for the various wintering thrushes. We heard it also while waiting for a pitta to pay us a visit the following day. South: Two came into one of the bird hides and the intense color was wonderful to see at such close range. We had several fly-bys on forest roads, but the hide provided time to study their beauty.

**Zebra Dove** *Geopelia striata* — (5) South: Seen at a roadside stop leaving Da Lat. Common around the park buildings near our lodgings in Cat Tien NP.

**Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon** *Treron bicinctus* — (1) South: Seen on one outing, walking along the main road in Cat Tien NP, scope views.

**Ashy-headed Green-Pigeon** *Treron phayrei* — (3) South: This large dove was less common than Thick-billed Green-Pigeon in Cat Tien NP, but with them in fruiting trees in small number.

**Thick-billed Green-Pigeon** *Treron curvirostra* — (5) South: Da Lat, beautiful light on a flying bird near the pond at the bottom of the track at Ta Nung Valley. Quite common in Cat Tien NP, flocks of 30+ were seen in roadside areas we walked, feeding on fruiting trees. Easy to see in the morning when they often perched up to sun themselves in bare trees.

**Green Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula aenea* — (2) South: Seen along the forest road we walked in Cat Tien NP.

**\*Mountain Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula badia* — (1) North: Bob saw two in flight over mature forest when we walked a mountain road early one morning.

### CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (8)

**Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis* — (7) North: Seen at Van Long Nature Reserve, and also seen briefly and heard dueting on a couple of days as we walked the road in Cuc Phuong NP. South: Heard several places, but wonderful views of two birds in flight, perch to perch, below us from a busy roadside stop as we left Da Lat. They were regular at Cat Tien, present at one of the bird hides where we enjoyed their fierce red eyes and antics.

**Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis* — (HO-1) Seen on just on one day, one individual calling in the open grassland area of Cat Tien NP in hedgerows.

**Green-billed Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus tristis* — (6) North: We had great looks at an individual that flew into flowering shrubs on the dramatic limestone cliffs above us as we boated quietly through the reserve. South: Seen in the mountains above Da Lat and at Deo Nui San Pass. Seen regularly at Cat Tien NP, once in front of our cabins where several of the group rested in the shade, two individuals came in at close range for really good views.

**(Western) Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopaceus* — (HO-1) South: Heard only, calling at a distance in Cat Tien NP.

**Violet Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* — (3) South: It took some work but in time we heard and then saw a few individuals, often in mixed flocks above us in tall trees along the forest road in Cat Tien NP.

**Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii* — (2) South: We heard and then had looks in flight at an individual, coming and going on a walk uphill through the forest outside of Da Lat.

**Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus* — (4) North: We heard this species almost constantly mid-day, early morning, evening after dark one night from our lodgings at Cuc Phuong NP. We tried to locate it several times but it remained a rascal. Minh assured us we'd see it in more open habitat and we had other species to focus on during our time in the north... South: We finally got a sighting on one of our field trips from Da Lat, bringing a big smile to Jan. South: Heard on our final morning in Cat Tien NP.

**Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris* — (3) North: Jan saw this species in the park across from our hotel in Hanoi. South: Seen in the forest around Da Lat at several locations, very distinctive call to alert us.

### NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (3)

**Great Eared-Nightjar** *Lyncornis macrotis* — (2) South: Great views of one perched and then flying above the lights near our housing area at Cat Tien NP.

**Gray Nightjar** *Caprimulgus jotaka* — (2) South: Great looks at this species at the bend of the road by a forest ravine, where we went for night birding. It flew over us then perched for some really good looks in the spotlight.

**Large-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus macrurus* — (2) South: We heard several and one swooped in to the road near a forest ravine out of Da Lat that we birded. It is a spectacular bird in flight, and it lit on the road, and we watched its throat expand with each call – pretty great!

### FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae — (1)

**Hodgson's Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* — (HO-1) South: Heard only, in the evergreen forest in a thick patch, on our second night of owling by a forest ravine out of Da Lat.

#### **SWIFTS: Apodidae — (4)**

**Silver-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* — (3) South: A life bird for many in the group, seen just out of the bus as we headed down the trail at Ta Nung Valley. Seen in Cat Tien NP on several outings, walking along the road they were feeding in flight above us, with smaller White-nest Swifts.

**(Germain's) White-nest Swiftlet** *Aerodramus fuciphagus germani* — (5) South: Seen on several days in Da Lat, flocks aloft, the Germaine's subspecies. Quite common in Cat Tien NP as well. We saw the columnar buildings that are used to attract and harvest nests of this species to make Bird Nest Soup, prized for its medicinal properties (Minh says not for its taste...) Also called Edible-nest Swiftlet.

**House Swift** *Apus nipalensis* — (3) South: Seen several days out of Da Lat, above the city and the lake there, the big white rump patch easy to spot.

**Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis* — (3) North: Seen flying above us in travel over rice fields, and near to the limestone cliffs near Van Long Nature Reserve. South: Seen flying over us at Cat Tien NP.

#### **RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (4)**

**(Common) Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* — (2) North: A few individuals seen while at Van Long Nature Reserve. South: Seen at a small pond near the larger lake in Da Lat, several pair.

**(Indochinese) Gray-headed Swamphen** *Porphyrio poliocephalus* — (1) North: Prolific at Van Long Nature Reserve, we watched them feed and walk the shorelines, with a high count of 35-40+ there. This species is part of the Purple Swamphen complex, Birds of Vietnam authors use scientific name of *Porphyrio viridis*.

**\*White-browed Crake** *Poliolimnas cinereus* — (1) North: Clyde and Joelle spotted this elusive species on our sampan boat ride in Van Long Nature Reserve.

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* — (3) North: One individual see a couple of times as we passed a small pond coming and going in Cuc Phuong NP. South: One individual seen in thick water hyacinth vegetation choking a small pond in Da Lat. Another seen from a small tower we climbed to scan the grassland area of Cat Tien NP.

#### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (1)**

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus* — (1) South: Three individuals seen in the grassland fields of Cat Tien NP, in the same area we scanned for Green Peafowl.

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae — (1)**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — (2) North: Several individuals seen in bright plumage, with their handsome red heads, in Van Long Nature Reserve. South: Seen on a couple of ponds near Da Lat.

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae — (1)**

**Asian Openbill** *Anastomus oscitans* — (1) North: Abundant, estimated at least 140 seen at Van Long Nature Reserve, both kettling above the wetlands and feeding in the wetlands.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (1)**

**Little Cormorant** *Microcarbo niger* — (2) South: Seen on the large lake and at the small pond by a dam spillway near Da Lat.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (11)**

**Black Bittern** *Botaurus flavicollis* — (1) North: This species seems to be thriving at Van Long Nature Reserve, we all got to see one or more of a half dozen individuals spotted on our sampan boat ride there.

**\*Cinnamon Bittern** *Botaurus cinnamomeus* — (1) North: Jan, Steven and Bob got a quick look at this beauty when it popped out of the reeds to fly low and dive back in at Van Long Nature Reserve.

**Yellow Bittern** *Botaurus sinensis* — (2) North: The most common of the three bitterns in Van Long Nature Reserve, we got good looks and had photo opportunities with this beauty. South: Seen on the small pond choked with water hyacinth near Da Lat.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax* — (1) North: Seen at the Temple of Literature on our morning of exploring in Hanoi.

**Malayan Night-Heron** *Gorsachius melanolophus* — (2) North: We saw this species at the Temple of Literature flying around, at least three individuals, but were cautious as this species can be elusive. Mike got a really good view with all field marks to confirm it. We then

saw them in Cuc Phuong NP early in the morning, when our passing vehicle chased a few up off the road margin.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* — (2) North: Seen in rice fields while traveling and at Van Long Nature Reserve.

**Chinese Pond-Heron** *Ardeola bacchus* — (6) North: Several individuals seen in the reed section of Van Long Nature Reserve from our boats. We then saw them coming into roost in a tree at the base of one of the limestone monoliths there, quite scenic. South: Seen at some of the lakes and waterways around Da Lat, and at the dump there. Seen in more open areas, fields around Cat Tien NP.

**Eastern Cattle-Egret** *Ardea coromanda* — (4) North: Seen heading into a roost at Van Long Nature Reserve, a large flock flying in and a shrub covered with them, several had rusty plumage going into breeding. South: A group of seven were at the dump outside of Da Lat. Seen in grasslands of Cat Tien NP, several overhead flying to a roost.

**(Eastern) Great Egret** *Ardea alba* — (3) North: a half dozen or so individuals seen at Van Long Nature Reserve from our boats and from our time scoping various species from the shore. South: Six or so flying to roost areas above the grasslands of Cat Tien NP at dusk.

**(Intermediate) Medium Egret** *Ardea intermedia* — (2) North: Just a few individuals seen at Van Long Nature Reserve, one feeding with Eastern Cattle Egrets was easy to scope and compare. South: A few individuals seen on the grassland trip in Cat Tien NP, feeding with Eastern Cattle Egrets here as well.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* — (2) Nature: Four individuals of this most beautiful of the herons were seen at Van Long Nature Reserve, their colors and postures so artistic to observe, we all lined up for scope views. South: One seen heading back to a roost area, as we drove back through the grassland area of Cat Tien NP.

#### HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (6)

**Jerdon's Baza** *Aviceda jerdoni* — (2) South: Seen on two days while walking in evergreen forest, the first was on a steep slope where Minh miraculously set up a scope. The second one swooped out of the forest and Deb found it again, perched in plain sight for us to have wonderful photographs and video opportunities.

**Black Baza** *Aviceda leuphotes* — (1) North: We saw this species as a kettle of 25-30 soaring over the headquarters area of Cuc Phuong NP, most impressive!

**(Eastern) Oriental Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* — (1) North: Seen in flight over the headquarters area of Cuc Phuong NP. Birds of Vietnam authors split the resident and migratory species into Indomalayan and Eastern, based on the maps our bird would have been Eastern.

**Crested Serpent-Eagle** *Spilornis cheela* — (2) North: Seen in the forest, flying low but with its distinctive wing pattern visible from underneath, while we walked the road in Cuc Phuong NP. South: Seen above the forest on Mount Lang Bian.

**Crested Goshawk** *Lophospiza trivirgata* — (4) North: We had seen one individual the previous day, but two courting, fluttering their wings in flight would be the most memorable during our stay at Cuc Phuong NP. South: Seen on walks out of Da Lat. The only raptor we saw in Cat Tien NP, one circling individual in flight.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* — (1) North: Tom picked this up, in the open area past the restaurant at Bong Ninh Binh in Cuc Phuong NP.

#### OWLS: Strigidae — (5)

**Collared Scops-Owl** *Otus lettia* — (HO-2) North: Heard several evenings while staying at Cuc Phuong NP. South: Heard on our night outings from Da Lat.

**Oriental Scops-Owl** *Otus sunia* — (2) South: Heard and then seen well on one of our night birding outings from Da Lat.

**Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides* — (6) North: Seen at the Bong Ninh Binh restaurant area in Cuc Phuong NP, and heard there in several locations. Spotted by Khanh, our driver. South: Heard on forest trails a couple of times outside of Da Lat. Calling regularly around our lodgings and the lights there at Cat Tien NP, we searched a bit but got good looks at one. In Cat Tien NP we also saw a few in the forest, and used their calls to sample for activity a few times, not nearly as effective at Collared Owlet in other habitats...

**Collared Owlet** *Taenioptynx brodiei* — (HO-4) North: Heard on the road up from Headquarters to Bong Ninh Binh in Cuc Phuong NP. South: The most common owl heard, often answering our tape when we'd use that to attract and survey a mixed flock in the area.

**Brown Boobook** *Ninox scutulata* — (1) South: Seen well, with photo opportunities in Cat Tien NP, around our lodgings.

#### TROGONS: Trogonidae — (2)

**Orange-breasted Trogon** *Harpactes oreskios* — (3) South: A bright male flew over the forest road we walked in Cat Tien NP. We then searched for one that was calling and with Minh's skills finally located it, perched in dense vegetation. A beautiful trogon, we heard several others.

**Red-headed Trogon** *Harpactes erythrocephalus* — (3) North: This beauty made several quick passes as we tried to call it in, cruising low over the road, and in one instance, doing an aerial loop from a large tree in the limestone area that was quite lush. We heard several at a time and while we did not get that postcard pinup view, we did see its flaming color and classic trogon shape in quick spurts! South: Heard from the forest track on Deo Nui San Pass.

**HOOPoes: Upupidae — (1)**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* — (4) South: Seen daily in Cat Tien NP, feeding on the grassy areas near our lodgings, calling often, one to two individuals at a time.

**HORNbILLS: Bucerotidae — (1)**

**Oriental Pied-Hornbill** *Anthracoceros albirostris* — (2) South: We saw this large hornbill several times in flight, from one dense forest area to another across our access road.

**BEE-EATERS: Meropidae — (1)**

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctornis athertoni* — (3) South: One individual was very visible in the open area adjacent to our lodgings at Cat Tien NP; several got good photos, including Bob who captured an image of one with a big cicada in its mouth. We could see it easily fly over the river and back, perhaps attending a nest. Several others were encountered further afield there.

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (3)**

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* — (1) North: Mike spotted one sitting on a fence — post protruding from the shore of a small pond on the road into Cuc Phuong NP.

**Banded Kingfisher** *Lacedo pulchella* — (HO-2) South: Heard only and we searched and searched, in an absolute maze of branches in thick evergreen forest of Cat Tien NP.

**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* — (5) North: Several were seen from our boat ride, and then shore scanning time at Van Long Nature Reserve. South: Seen at the pond at the bottom of the track down from Ta Nung Valley, calling loudly. Seen a couple of times at Cat Tien NP.

**ROLLERS: Coraciidae — (1)**

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* — (3) South: Common in Cat Tien NP, good views perched and in flight.

**ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae — (6)**

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Psilopogon haemacephalus* — (3) South: Common in Cat Tien NP, we had several at a time in one tree, and one almost always calling as we walked the road into the forest.

**Blue-eared Barbet** *Psilopogon cyanotis* — (3) South: Seen and heard in Cat Tien NP.

**Red-vented Barbet** *Psilopogon lagrandieri* — (4) North: We worked hard our first day for sightings, getting brief glimpses of four individuals that were busy with berry feeding. Thankfully the second day one posed up for scope views, much appreciated as this is a regional endemic to the Indochina area. South: Heard from high in the canopy, 100+ feet up on the track leading down from Deo Nui San Pass.

**Green-eared Barbet** *Psilopogon faiostriatus* — (7) North: This was one of the first charismatic species we found in Cuc Phuong NP, and we heard and saw it several times during our three days there. One scope view of two together remains particularly memorable. Who doesn't fall for lime green "ear" patches! South: We caught back up to this species daily in Cat Tien NP.

**Necklaced Barbet (NE)** *Psilopogon auricularis* — (2) South: This near-endemic species was seen at higher elevations in the evergreen forest, on Mount Lang Bian. We had a pair, perched and signing, and heard several others.

**(Annam) Indochinese Barbet (NE)** *Psilopogon annamensis* — (3) South: Quite common and vocal at several locations out of Da Lat.

**WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (13)**

**Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus* — (1) South: We got good views of this little charmer during some roadside birding in open deciduous forest outside of Da Lat.

**White-browed Piculet** *Sasia ochracea* — 1() North: Heard regularly as we waited for our well-deserved sighting of Large Scimitar

Babbler along the road up from headquarters in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Heart-spotted Woodpecker** *Hemicircus canente* — (2) South: We had a couple pairs of this species in Cat Tien NP.

**Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Yungipicus canicapillus* — (4) South: Our best views were along a road, in deciduous forest while birding around Da Lat. Encountered a few times, but often hard to spot. We then had another good sighting in the small park adjacent to our hotel as we started a walk.

**Bay Woodpecker** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* — (2) North: Heard at the steps going steeply uphill, our stopping point on the trail to the Ancient Man Cave site in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Greater Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* — (2) South: A stunning woodpecker, seen on the day we birded in the Heaven Rapids portion of Cat Tien NP and heard the following day, also in deep forest.

**Black-and-buff Woodpecker** *Meiglyptes jugularis* — (2) South: This small woodpecker was seen feeding in young deciduous trees, poking and probing among the branches. It's call is similar to Heart-Spotted, but we were fortunate to see both species.

**Pale-headed Woodpecker** *Gecinulus grantia* — (2) South: We saw this bamboo specialist on two different days, the first day patiently waiting for it to show, as a pair called back and forth to each other. The next day in higher bamboo a bit more distant from the road we had quite good views.

**Common Flameback** *Dinopium javanense* — (2) South: Seen a few different times in the same area not far from headquarters as we went out to our walks on forest roads.

**(Himalayan) Lesser Yellownappe** *Picus chlorolophus* — (1) South: Seen in the Heaven Rapid forest area of Cat Tien NP, just a lone individual, down feeding in bamboo with a broadleaf forest overstory. This taxonomy is in flux, Birds of Vietnam recognizes two subspecies as the Chinese (*citrinocristatus*) in the north and Himalayan (*chlorolophus*) in the south.

**Laced Woodpecker** *Picus vittatus* — (3) South: The most common woodpecker species we encountered in Cat Tien, several individuals seen daily.

**Gray-headed (Gray-faced) Woodpecker** *Picus canus* — (1) South: Cracking views of a lone individual on the side of a tree in lush forest as we walked up Mount Lang Bian. Birds of Vietnam authors split this out as Black-naped Woodpecker, *Picus guerini*. *Picus canus* is widespread in Eurasia with the nominate species in Europe.

**White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis* — (1) South: A very large woodpecker that teased us with loud and purposeful drumming, finally it flew over us slow enough we got good views. In mature forest in the Heaven Rapids area of Cat Tien NP.

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (1)**

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* — (1) North: One individual seen high on the cliffs above us, on the limestone monoliths that adorn the waterway of Van Long Nature Reserve.

#### **OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae — (3)**

**Blossom-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula roseata* — (1) South: Seen on one day in Cat Tien NP when we ventured out to the grasslands.

**Red-breasted Parakeet** *Psittacula alexandri* — (2) South: Seen on several days in Cat Tien NP. Best views were on the walk from the bird hide we visited one afternoon to see pittas.

**Vernal Hanging-Parrot** *Loriculus vernalis* — (4) South: We saw this species daily in Cat Tien NP, often above us feeding on fruiting trees, with other species.

#### **BROADBILLS: Eurylaimidae — (4)**

**Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae* — (1) South: A pair was seen on the forest walk we took mid-day at Deo Nui San Pass. We spotted them moving fairly low in the forest for good views.

**Dusky Broadbill** *Corydon sumatranus* — (2) South: On two occasions we encountered this social species and both times we had 5-6 individuals in a group.

**Black-and-red Broadbill** *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos* — (4) South: We had cracking views of several pair, including some sitting on wires with nest material in their bills, waiting to add to their signature hanging nests just being started.

**Banded Broadbill** *Eurylaimus javanicus* — (2) Seen on two days in Cat Tien NP, both times we saw pairs, and they perched long enough for good views and photo opportunities.

#### **OLD WORLD PITTAS: Pittidae — (3)**

**Blue-rumped Pitta** *Hydrornis soror* — (1) South: Lovely subtle colors mark this species, we saw two at the bird hide in Cat Tien NP. We also heard their scolding calls while out walking evergreen forest trails and roadways in Cat Tien NP.

**Blue Pitta** *Hydrornis cyaneus* — (HO-1) South: Heard, a pair calling as we climbed back up from the saddle on Mount Lang Bian.

**Bar-bellied Pitta (NE)** *Hydrornis elliotii* — (1) North: HO, Cuc Phuong NP. South: This species was electric in color, just a thrill to see. We watched one for some time in a bird hide at Cat Tien NP.

#### **CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae — (7)**

**Gray-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris* — (1) South: A pair seen feeding in a mixed flock on the trail at Deo Nui San Pass.

**Long-tailed Minivet (ISE)** *Pericrocotus ethologus* — (1) South: Seen on a couple of outings in the mountains from Da Lat. This species is listed in Birds of Vietnam, second edition, as Annam Minivet, a distinct and endemic subspecies.

**Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus* — (8) North: Fairly common in Cuc Phuong NP, in small flocks. South: Seen on several days in Da Lat and Cat Tien, the most widespread minivet we encountered. Finding the bright red male always caught a gasp.

**Ashy Minivet** *Pericrocotus divaricatus* — (1) South: Seen in mixed forest on a walk outside of Da Lat.

**Brown-rumped Minivet** *Pericrocotus cantonensis* — (1) South: A few individuals seen in mixed flocks in Cuc Phuong NP.

**(Large) Oriental Cuckooshrike** *Coracina javensis nipalensis* — (1) South: Seen on a walk in pine habitat from Da Lat.

**Black-winged Cuckooshrike** *Lalage melaschistos* — (4) Several seen as we walked forest roads in Cat Tien, usually high in the forest canopy.

#### **VIREOS AND SHRIKE-BABLERS: Vireonidae — (3)**

**(Dalat) White-browed Shrike-Babbler (ISE)** *Pteruthius aeralatus annamensis* — (1) We saw the Da Lat subspecies of this babbler while in Da Lat.

**Clicking Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius intermedius* — (2) South: Seen in a mixed flock at Mount Lang Bian, quick views, and then better views in a forest ravine a few days later, both walks from Da Lat.

**White-bellied Erpornis** *zantholeuca* — (3) South: Common, found in mixed flocks on most outings from Da Lat.

#### **OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae — (3)**

**(Eastern) Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis* — (1) South: We saw this species our final morning, a couple of them in tall trees above the Visitor's Center where we had stopped to listen to a haunting chorus of Yellow-cheeked Gibbons.

**Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus* — (4) A very impressive species, a big bulky oriole we saw on multiple days in Cat Tien NP.

**Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii* — (1) We heard its distinctive call and with some work found this beauty in the tall forest at Deo Nui San Pass.

#### **VANGAS AND ALLIES: Vangidae — (2)**

**Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus* — (4) North: Seen well, perched above the road where we could put the scopes on it. It sang regularly while perched, nice! South: Seen again in tall trees of Cat Tien NP.

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus* — (5) North: A few individuals seen and also heard at Cuc Phuong NP. South: Fairly common on walks from Da Lat, good views mostly in deciduous forest. South: Not as commonly encountered as in forests of the north, we saw this species in small number in Cat Tien NP.

#### **IORAS: Aegithinidae — (2)**

**Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia* — (4) South: Mike was the first to spot this species in Cat Tien not far from our lodgings. The rest of us caught up the following day, on the drive out into the grasslands we found a pair close, with a chance to view the signature wing bars that quickly differentiates them from Great Iora.

**Great Iora** *Aegithina lafresnayei* — (6) North: We had several chances at seeing this species but it was a while before one came down low enough that we could appreciate the color, markings and large bill at a decent range. South: We continued to see this species on a regular basis, in more open parts of the forested road we walked in Cat Tien NP.

#### **FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae — (1)**

**White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis* — (5) North: One of our first birds seen, displaying and fanning its tail in trees leading into the



Temple of Literature in Hanoi. South: Fairly common, seen on most days out of Da Lat.

#### **DRONGOS: Dicruridae — (5)**

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus* — (1) North: Cathy and Minh were quick to see these while in travel to Van Long Nature Reserve.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus* — (8) North: A flock came over the clearing by Bong Ninh Binh restaurant area in Cuc Phuong NP. South: Quite common and widespread on outings out of Da Lat, including at the monastery in the city.

**Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus* — (7) North: Seen several times in Cuc Phuong, alerted by its vocalizations.

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer* — (3) South: Seen on several days from Da Lat, always impressive to watch in flight.

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus paradiseus* — (6) North: We will long remember the wild calls of this mimic, and finally getting to see it fly in the canopy where at least three individuals put on a show for us at Cuc Phuong NP. South: We got to know the varied calls of this mimic which fooled us on several occasions, thinking we'd found Chestnut-winged Cuckoo or other species. We saw them in flight – so impressive with their long dangling tail feathers. One came in to the bird hide in Cat Tien NP for great views and video opportunity.

#### **MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae — (2)**

**Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea* — (1) We just had one chance to see this beauty in Cat Tien NP, but it was low on a forest trail and we all got good looks.

**(Oriental) Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone affinis* — (2) Seen in the dense mature forest near the Heaven's Rapid area, a female was the individual best seen in the canopy above us.

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae — (2)**

**Burmese Shrike** *Lanius colluriooides* — (4) South: Seen on our travel days, in agricultural fields and on wires. Also seen on our walk at Ta Nung Valley.

**(Gray-backed) Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach* — (1) North: Two were seen at Van Long Nature Reserve as we headed into the dock from our boat trip.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (3)**

**(White-faced) Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* — (3) South: Vocal and visible in the pine forests around Da Lat, seen on several days, individuals and small groups. Birds of Vietnam authors consider this to be *Garrulus leucotis*.

**Racket-tailed Treepie** *Crypsirina temia* — (5) North: HO our first afternoon at Cuc Phuong. There were so many birds we focused on others and then did not have another chance to encounter this one. South: Thankfully this became a species more regularly encountered in the south. Most significant was that it was Joelle's 7000<sup>th</sup> bird – an amazing milestone we were happy to be able to celebrate with her. This species came in close by our lodgings, fun to watch it hunt insects and move with agility through bamboo and trees.

**(Eastern Jungle) Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos* — (2) South: Seen at the dump in Da Lat. We then saw two fly over our lodgings and then the river at Cat Tien NP.

#### **FAIRY FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae — (1)**

**Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis* — (4) North: Common and almost tame, in the small mixed flocks encountered always appreciated as it perched for decent views. Its call often led us to other species as well. South: Seen in a mixed flock in evergreen forest along a track, a pretty massive flock where we had a big mix of species. Conspicuous and one of the easier forest birds to find.

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae — (5)**

**Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus* — (1) South: Seen in the pine forest outside of Da Lat.

**(Common) Sultan Tit** *Melanochlora sultanea* — (HO-2) North: Heard on three occasions, a member of mixed flocks, but one we did not get eyes on within the always thick vegetation.

**(Langbian) Green-backed Tit (ISE)** *Parus monticolus legendrei* — (4) South: One of the most common songbird species, often attracted in to our Collared Owllet call, and once in very tame. Seen in the city and on forest outings daily while in the Dalat region. We saw the endemic subspecies.

**(Cinereous) Asian Tit** *Parus cinereus* — (1) North: Seen outside of the entry to Hoh Chi Minh Mausoleum and then again at Van Long

Nature Reserve. Part of the Great Tit complex.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Machlolophus spilonotus* — (1) South: A few individuals seen in the evergreen forest on the upper part of our hike on Mount Lang Bian.

#### **CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae — (7)**

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius* — (8) North: Perhaps our most frequently encountered small bird, we were able to learn its call and saw it on just about every eBird checklist. First encountered at the Temple of Literature in Hanoi. South: Seen as we scoped a small pond choked with water hyacinth outside of Da Lat. Seen daily in Cat Tien NP.

**Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis* — (4) North: A few individuals seen and heard on the forest trails and roadside of Cuc Phuong NP. South: We had one come into the bird hide where we got wonderful photographs in Cat Tien, then found them several times on our walks there.

**(Brown) Annam Prinia** *rocki* — (1) South: We made a specific roadside stop for this species as we left Da Lat, and found two individuals calling below us. One flew across the fairly open slope for flight views. A second stop to reinforce this one did not produce. Very distinctive call.

**Hill Prinia** *superciliaris* — (2) Seen well on our walk down the track at Ta Nung Valley from Da Lat, then seen on another walk as we left Da Lat.

**Rufescent Prinia** *rufescens* — (3) North: This tiny bird has a big voice and we enjoyed seeing in on the road we walked in Cuc Phuong NP. The last morning when we returned to focus on Large Scimitar Babbler it sang incessantly. South: Seen along the roadside in more open areas with small shrubs in Cat Tien NP.

**Yellow-bellied Prinia** *flaviventris* — (1) North: Seen in reedy patches below us as we scanned the marsh from shore, after our boat ride.

**Plain Prinia** *inornata* — (2) North: Seen at Van Long Nature Reserve as we got out of the boats and walked to continue scanning the wetlands.

#### **REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae — (1)**

**Oriental Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus orientalis* — (1) North: A couple of individuals seen in the reeds at Van Long Nature Reserve. Oriental Reed Warbler

#### **GRASSHOPPER WARBLERS: Locustellidae — (1)**

**(Annam Grasshopper-Warbler) Dalat Bush Warbler (E)** *Locustella idonea* — (1) South: Thanks to Minh we got to walk into this bird's preferred habitat and see it well, there were at least four birds calling in the area.

#### **CUPWINGS: Pnoepygidae — (1)**

**Pygmy Cupwing** *Pnoepyga pusilla* — (HO-1) South: Heard only, in an area we were trying for several birds, we just did not focus in on it but heard it well.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (3)**

**(Eurasian) Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* — (2) North: A few were seen over the rice fields as we traveled place to place in the north. South: xxx

**Asian House-Martin** *Delicon dasypus* — (2) North: Good numbers seen flying above the headquarters area at Cuc Phuong NP.

**(Asian) Eastern Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* — (2) South: Seen around water in the Da Lat area. Then seen flying over the road on our final morning in Cat Tien NP.

#### **BULBULS: Pycnonotidae — (14)**

**Ochraceous Bulbul** *Alophoixus ochraceus* — (4) South: Very noisy, we heard a pair come in on one of our outings from Da Lat. They continued presence in Cat Tien NP.

**Puff-throated Bulbul** *Alophoixus pallidus* — (5) North: Noisy, this species alerted us before each sighting, announcing its presence with squabbling. South: We saw them in thick brush along forest roads in Cat Tien and got very good views in the first bird hide we visited.

**Gray-eyed Bulbul** *Iole propinqua* — (5) North: A few individuals seen while in Cuc Phuong NP. South: A couple were heard as we walked the trail down to Ta Nung Valley, across an open ballfield. We also had a few calling on the forest track at Deo Nui San Pass. We then

saw them more regularly in Cat Tien NP. Jan had a bit smile when we got one perched and in the scope after man fleeting glimpse, she said, "Yeah!"

**(Brown-backed) Ashy Bulbul (ISNE)** *Hemixos flavala remotus* — (2) Seen on two days in the Da Lat area, a forest species. We saw the Brown-backed subspecies, a near-endemic.

**(Southern) Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mcclellandii tickelli* — (1) Seen only on the day we hiked into pine forests on Mount Lang Bian.

**Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* — (5) North: Seen above our rooms near headquarters at Cuc Phuong NP. South: Seen on all three days while in the Da Lat area.

**Black-headed Bulbul** *Microtarsus melanocephalus* — (1) Seen by some of the group on the day we walked in the Heaven Rapid area of Cat Tien NP.

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Rubigula flaviventris* — (8) North: One of the more common bulbul species at Cuc Phuong NP, vocal and energetically feeding. South: Seen in the city as we stopped for fuel in Da Lat. One of the more common species in Cat Tien, we saw them feeding on fruiting trees in the forest and around our lodgings.

**Streak-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus conradi* — (4) Quite common in Cat Tien NP. We had a pair on a nest which fledged at least one youngster while we were there despite some drama. We heard a big commotion with a squirrel and feared the worst, but Jan saw it the next day with junior in adjacent bushes.

**Stripe-throated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* — (5) North: Seen well as we walked up towards the botanic garden at Cuc Phuong NP. South: Seen at a roadside stop with a view of extensive coffee plantations as we left Da Lat. Fairly common around Cat Tien NP.

**Flavescent Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flavescens* — (3) South: First seen on our walk down the Ta Nung Valley, then it became pretty common on edge habitat between agriculture and forest areas.

**Light-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus sinensis* — (2) North: Seen once we reached the limestone areas of Cuc Phuong, on the entry road the day we drove in, and then at Van Long Nature Reserve from the boats and on shore as we walked to do more scanning.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus* — (1) Seen on our first day walking around Hanoi.

**(Split: Northern / Southern) Sooty-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus aurigaster* — (4) North: Several were seen from our boats in Van Long Nature Reserve, though we were spread out and they crossed the channel, so not all got to see them. They were mixed in with Light-vented Bulbuls in a flock. This is listed as Northern Sooty-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster chrysorrhoides*) in Birds of Vietnam. South: Seen during roadside birding as we left Da Lat, a small group. This in Birds of Vietnam is Southern Sooty-headed (*Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster*).

#### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae — (11)**

**Ashy-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis* — (1) South: Seen on one outing from Da Lat, up in the mountains of Lang Bian as we got into evergreen forest, in a mixed flock.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* — (8) North: First seen walking into the Temple of Literature on our city tour in Hanoi, then seen at several locations in Cuc Phuong NP and Van Long Nature Reserve. South: Common and widespread.

**Eastern Crowned Warbler** *Phylloscopus coronatus* — (1) North: We got a good view of one near the lake leading into Ngoc Son Temple.

**White-spectacled Warbler** *Phylloscopus intermedius* — (1) South: Seen in a mixed flock in evergreen forest on the upper part of the walk at Mount Lang Bian.

**Gray-cheeked Warbler** *Phylloscopus poliogenys* — (1) South: Seen in roadside birding from Da Lat.

**Two-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* — (1) South: Judy and Peg had good looks at this species just off the road in good light as they lagged behind the group on a roadside birding stint out of Da Lat. Seen with Verditer Flycatcher and Blyth's Leaf Warbler.

**Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes* — (HO-1) Heard on the loop walk in Cat Tien NP behind the bird hide. Joelle noted it had a distinctive call, this was an area with huge trees yet some forest openings.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Phylloscopus castaniceps* — (1) South: Seen on the hike up Mount Lang Bian, in evergreen forest in the upper part.

**Limestone Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus calciatilis* — (1) North: Seen at Cuc Phuong NP as we walked to the Endangered Primate Research Center. This species is a near-endemic and favors limestone habitat forests.

**Blyth's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides* — (4) South: Common and widespread. Minh taught us to recognize this species by its constantly flicking wings, handy! The most common of the leaf warblers encountered.

**Kloss's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti* — (3) South: We found an individual at its nest, in shrubs alongside the road going down into Ta Nung Valley – sweet! The seen at several locations in a mixed flock.

### **BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae — (3)**

**Gray-bellied Tesia** *cyaniventer* — (1) South: This little rascal kept us waiting on several tries to see it. Some of the group were successful when Minh took us down into the forest on the walk up Lang Bian. Further up that trail, when stopped for other species, one was much bolder and almost everyone got some kind of view.

**Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Abroscopus superciliaris* — (1) A bright warbler seen well in Cat Tien NP, one individual.

**Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllergates cucullatus* — (2) South: Seen on Mount Lian Bian, good views in a mixed flock in the mixed forest.

### **LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae — (1)**

**(Grey-crowned) Black-throated Tit (ISNE)** *Aegithalos concinnus* — (4) South: Common and widespread. On our “adorable” list, very accommodating for photographs and observation. The Gray-crowned subspecies we observed, *Aegithalos annamensis* in Birds of Vietnam, second edition) is considered a full species by some, quite distinct from other regional Black-throated Tits.

### **PARROTBILLS: Paradoxornithidae — (1)**

**Black-headed Parrotbill (NE)** *Paradoxornis margaritae* — (2) South: We got good views at two locations out of Da Lat, one down low at eye-level purposefully feeding in grasses and shrubs. We then found several very high in the forest on Deo Nui San Pass. This is a near-endemic species, less restricted to bamboo than others of its clan.

### **WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae — (2)**

**Swinhoe's White-eye** *Zosterops simplex* — (3) North: Seen at the lake leading into Ngoc Son Temple in Hanoi, then encountered at Cuc Phuong NP, in flocks. Only seen in the north. This is a recent split from the *Zosterops* complex, and not recognized in Birds of Vietnam, second edition.

**Indian White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus* — (3) South: Common and widespread, seen in flocks and mixed flocks.

### **TREE BABBLERS: Timaliidae — (7)**

**Chestnut-capped Babbler** *Timalia pileata* — (1) A real skulker, we had a couple of them in shrubbery in the grasslands area of Cat Tien NP.

**Gray-faced Tit-Babbler (NE)** *Mixornis kelleyi* — (5) South: We heard our first one at Deo Nui San Pass, but did not focus on it knowing it would be more common in the south, as there was a lot going on during our short time on that wonderful trail. They were common in Cat Tien NP, one was very confiding as we walked to the Endangered Primate facility. This is a near-endemic species.

**Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** *Mixornis gularis* — (3) North: Fairly common, seen at close range, and often picked up by its vocalizations in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Cyanoderma ruficeps* — (3) South: Seen at the least three locations from Da Lat, one high in the evergreen forest on Mount Lang Bian, another down low as we walked an open road in pine habitat.

**Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps* — (1) South: Peg spotted a pair up in the canopy on the track we walked down at Deo Nui San Pass. They came across the road in time, vocal and following each other, so all got good views.

**White-browed Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* — (1) South: Skulky, we had two individuals calling with quick views of one below us as we walked an open road in pine habitat out of Da Lat.

**Large Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* — (1) North: We were persistent, having gotten quite a sound show and only quick looks, our final morning in Cuc Phuong we made a concerted effort. Thanks to the skill of guide Minh we had success in seeing it well.

### **GROUND BABBLERS: Pellorneidae — (7)**

**(Indochinese) Scaly-crowned Babbler (NE)** *Malacopteron cinereum* — (1) Seen on the second to last day, on the walk behind the bird hide in Cat Tien NP by some of the group.

**Rufous-throated Fulvetta** *Schoeniparus rufogularis* — (2) North: A favorite species for many, this bird put on a wonderful show for us, we saw it close, singing and perched in low vegetation alongside the road. The “definition of adorable” is how Peg described it. Clyde managed to get some photos.

**Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps* — (2) South: Seen in mature forest, and at the bird hide in Cat Tien NP.

**Spot-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum albiventris* — (2) South: A very lucky find as we stopped to look at another species, and got great

views of this species, which can be skulky and hard to find. On the road track down Ta Nung Valley.

**Buff-breasted Babbler** *Pellorneum tickelli* — (1) Seen just on one day, down by the lake at the bottom of the Ta Nung Valley.

**Abbott's Babbler** *Pellorneum abbotti* — (3) Seen in dense mature forest of Cat Tien, calling loudly, and then seen very well at the second bird hide we visited.

**(Variable) Annam Limestone Babbler** *Gypsophila annamensis* — (3) North: We saw this species both days while in Cuc Phuong NP, thanks to Minh's detailed knowledge of where to try. It is a limestone specialist and we saw it hop up onto rocks to sing loudly in the lush forest habitat. Birds of Vietnam treats this as a subspecies of Variable Limestone-babbler (*Gypsophila crispifrons annamensis*).

#### **LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae — (13)**

**Black-browed Fulvetta** *Alcippe grotei* — (1) North: Good views in a mixed flock we encountered our first full day in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Mountain Fulvetta** *Alcippe peracensis* — (2) South: Seen well on Mount Lang Bian.

**Vietnamese Cutia (NE)** *Cutia legalleni* — (2) South: Great views of this near-endemic species in the lower part of the trail going up Mount Lang Bian out of Da Lat.

**Gray-crowned Crocias (NE)** *Laniellus langbianis* — (1) South: Groups observed at close range, feeding along the roadside out of Da Lat, great to see a flock of this near-endemic, several times and so well!

**Collared Laughingthrush (E)** *Trochalopteron yersini* — (1) South: Beautiful views of a pair of this endemic species, vocal in their mountain realm. So sad that they are under threat from trapping.

**(White-spectacled) Black-headed Sibia (ISNE)** *Heterophasia desgodinsi robinsoni* — (3) South: Good views at several locations. One posed for Deb to capture a lovely image while at the monastery in Da Lat. The endemic subspecies is also called White-spectacled Sibia.

**(Plain) Blue-winged Minla (ISNE)** *Actinodura cyanouroptera orientalis* — (4) South: Common and widespread, seen in flocks. The near-endemic subspecies here is also known as Plain Minla.

**Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argentauris* — (1) South: Seen on the edge of a ballfield as we walked down the track at Ta Nung Valley out of Da Lat.

**Rufous-backed Sibia** *Leioptila annectens* — (3) South: Seen well in flocks in the mountains near Da Lat.

**Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax monileger* — (1) We watched a pair collecting nest material, pulling twigs and bark from a cedar tree in a public park in Da Lat. A large and very impressive species!

**White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus* — (4) Noisy and in a flock of at least seven birds, we enjoyed seeing these at day's end from a park in Da Lat.

**Black-hooded Laughingthrush** *Garrulax milleti* — (1) South: Heard only by most of the group, deep in the forest where we tried to see them, a few of the group saw them flash across a mature forest opening as we walked a trail on Mount Lang Bian above Da Lat.

**White-cheeked Laughingthrush (NE)** *Pterorhinus vassali* — (4) Seen in the Da Lat area on several locations, a near-endemic species.

**(Germain's) Black-throated Laughingthrush (ISNE)** *Pterorhinus chinensis* — (1) South: Heard only by most of the group, deep in the forest where we tried to see them. With luck, a few of the group saw them flash across an opening, evergreen forest, above Da Lat.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae — (3)**

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis* — (2) South: One individual seen on the forest track at Deo Nui San Pass.

**Yellow-billed Nuthatch (NE)** *Sitta solangiae* — (1) South: One seen in a really big mixed flock on a quiet roadside track outside of Da Lat. This is a near-endemic species of higher evergreen forests.

**Chestnut-vented Nuthatch** *Sitta nagaensis* — (3) South: Quite common and seen in both the city of Da Lat and surrounding forests.

#### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae — (1)**

**(Manipur) Hume's Treecreeper** *Certhia manipurensis* — (1) South: Seen well on our walk up Mount Lang Bian, while in open pine forest.

#### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (5)**

**Golden-crested Myna** *Ampeliceps coronatus* — (3) South: Seen in noisy small flocks in Cat Tien NP.

**Common Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa* — (1) South: One flock of half a dozen active on a fruiting tree not far from headquarters in Cat Tien NP.

**Black-collared Starling** *Gracupica nigricollis* — (3) South: Seen in the city of Da Lat and on our travel day from there to Cat Tien NP.

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* — (3) South: Seen on travel days and around the city of Da Lat.

**Vinous-breasted Myna** *Acridotheres leucocephalus* — (4) South: First spotted by Steve at the monastery in Da Lat, then seen at a roadside stop as we were leaving Da Lat.

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae — (7)**

**White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea* — (1) North: Stunning views in good light along the road going into Cuc Phuong NP.

**Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera dauma* — (1) South: One popped up and posed for a moment low by the trail on the track going down from Deo Nui San Pass.

**Chinese Blackbird** *Turdus mandarinus* — (2) North: Seen in the parking area and woods near the Bong restaurant in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Black-breasted Thrush** *Turdus dissimilis* — (2) North: Seen both days, once early in the morning in dim light, then on our second day we saw it quite well by a water drip near the restaurant at Cuc Phuong NP.

**Japanese Thrush** *Turdus cardis* — (3) North: The most common (and smallest) of the thrushes we made an effort to see at dawn, coming out onto the road in Cuc Phuong NP. South: Two were seen high in a fruiting tree on the trail at Deo Nui San Pass.

**Gray-backed Thrush** *Turdus hortulorum* — (3) North: Seen in Cuc Phuong NP, along the road in early morning light and around the restaurant area part way into the park. South: Seen out of its normal range, but well and in the scope on the forest track at Deo Nui San Pass, in a high fruiting tree.

**Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus* — (3) South: A small flock was seen and heard by the trailhead at Mount Lang Bian.

#### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae — (21)**

**(Southern) Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica poonensis* — (3) South: Seen at the monastery at Da Lat. Seen close to our lodgings in Cat Tien NP.

**Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis* — (7) North: Seen at several locations in Hanoi at places we visited our first day, then around our hotel in Cuc Phuong NP and at Van Long Nature Reserve, flying across the marsh area. South: Seen at the monastery at Da Lat and a few other locations including Cat Tien NP. Sadly we heard several singing in areas around houses and they were caged birds.

**White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus* — (6) North: We had a female fly across the road while we waited and watched for this species, as the male was singing up a storm. We heard several other individuals in Cuc Phuong NP, but they stayed buried in vegetation. South: A very different pattern here, the White-rumped Shammas were numerous and less shy, often out in the open on a perch and singing. This was another species we observed in cages in markets and on shaded patios of homes.

**Large Niltava** *grandis* — (3) South: Seen on Mount Lang Bian, and again on some other forest tracks from Da Lat. Male and female, stunning!

**Blue-and-white Flycatcher** *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* — (2) North: We had good looks at this beauty, one individual in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus* — (3) South: Seen as we headed down the track at Ta Nung Valley in Da Lat, then on another day we did some roadside birding, in a mixed flock.

**Hainan Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis hainanus* — (1) North: Seen well on our second day in Cuc Phuong, in the area around Bong Ninh Binh.

**Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis sumatrensis* — (3) Seen in Cat Tien NP, on walks and a pair at the second bird hide we visited there.

**(Langbian) Lesser Shortwing (ISNE)** *Brachypteryx leucophris* — (HO-2) South: Heard loudly and continuously both in the Ta Nung Valley and on the trail up Mount Lang Bian but no good views. These may in time split out as Langbian Lesser Shortwing.

**Siberian Blue Robin** *Larvivora cyane* — (2) Beautiful views of this species in the bird hides we visited at Cat Tien NP, we had the female at our first hide and the male at our second, Bob joked that they were living apart.

**(Yellow-billed) Blue Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus flavirostris* — (HO-1) North: Heard in Cuc Phuong NP and also Van Long Nature Reserve, but we did not get a view of this loud songster.

**Slaty-backed Forktail** *Enicurus schistaceus* — (1) South: Seen at the lake at the bottom of Ta Nung Valley, a lone individuals.

**Siberian Rubythroat** *Calliope* — (1) South: Quick views and calling at a roadside stop as we left Da Lat.

**White-tailed (Blue) Robin** *Myiomela leucura* — (1) Seen on Mount Lang Bian.

**Mugimaki Flycatcher** *Ficedula mugimaki* — (1) South: Seen in a very tall mixed pine and evergreen forest outside of Da Lat.

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni* — (3) South: Seen at several locations out of Da Lat, confiding and tame, good views.

**(Red-throated) Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla* — (2) South: Seen near the area we went owling on the far side of the lake at Da Lat, then seen well alongside the road we birding another day from Da Lat.

**(Eastern) Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* — (1) North: Seen perched above us on limestone promontories, both a male and a

female later on, while boating in Van Long Nature Reserve.

**(Japanese) Amur Stonechat** *Saxicola stejnegeri* — (2) North: Seen in reedy areas of Van Long Nature Reserve; also in travel by some of the rice fields.

**Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata* — (1) South: Seen in Cat Tien NP in the grassland area, perched and flitting between small trees.

**Gray Bushchat** *Saxicola ferreus* — (3) South: Seen well alongside the road outside of Da Lat, confiding.

#### **FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae — (3)**

**(Modest) Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Pachyglossa agilis obsoletum* — (4) South: A female was seen feeding in tall morning glory plants at a viewstop we birded as we left Da Lat, lots of coffee plantations in view.

**Plain Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum minullum* — (1) North: Seen in lush vegetation in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum* — (3) North: Seen several times around our lodgings at Cuc Phuong NP, and Bob got particularly clear views of one the final morning we returned to the park, roadside. South: Seen on our last walk in Cat Tien NP before leaving by ferry, high in fruiting trees.

#### **SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae — (10)**

**Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** *Chalcoparia singalensis* — (1) South: Seen only one day, though several individuals were seen, in more open habitat along the road going out from our lodgings in áNP.

**(Maroon-bellied) Van Hasselt's Sunbird** *Leptocoma brasiliana* — (1) We were lucky to get really good views and repeated sightings of this handsome dark sunbird. Seen in mature forest.

**Ornate Sunbird** *Cinnyris ornatus* — (5) North: The most common of the sunbird sightings we had in Cuc Phuong NP, almost constant vocalizations near our lodgings there.

**(Langbian) Black-throated Sunbird (ISE)** *Aethopyga saturata* — (1) South: Just a stunning bird, seen on several outings from Da Lat, starting with Ta Nung Valley. We had a pair alongside Mrs. Gould's up in the mountains later that week. Our sightings were the endemic Langbian subspecies, a likely split.

**(Annam) Mrs. Gould's Sunbird (ISNE)** *Aethopyga gouldiae* — (3) South: One of the most beautiful of the sunbirds, we got stellar views on several days out of Da Lat. The Annam subspecies is the one we saw, a near-endemic.

**(Greater) Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja* — (1) North: Seen our first day in Cuc Phuong NP, near the restaurant by our lodgings.

**Fork-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga christinae* — (3) North: Fairly common in Cuc Phuong NP, seen daily and with some work we got good views of the male's handsome little striped and pointed tail.

**Purple-naped Spiderhunter** *Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum* — (3) North: Seen in the forested area above headquarters in Cuc Phuong NP.

**Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra* — (5) North: Seen in flight, and mainly heard by most in a busy mixed flock, it came in quickly and left quickly out of view.

**Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna* — (6) North: Fairly common in Cuc Phuong NP, we got decent looks as they tended to perch atop bare-leafed trees. South: Common and widespread near Da Lat.

#### **FAIRY BLUEBIRDS: Irenidae — (1)**

**Asian Fairy-bluebird** *Irena puella* — (3) We had regular sightings of this beauty in Cat Tien NP.

#### **LEAFBIRDS: Chloropseidae — (2)**

**Blue-winged Leafbird** *Chloropsis moluccensis* — (3) North: Peg found this species as we went to breakfast that first morning in the park, but coffee was a major lure away. There were four individuals feeding with Scarlet Minivets, we searched after the meal but did not encounter them again. South: The group fortunately caught up with wonderful views in a roadside mixed flock outside of Da Lat. We then had them one morning in a fruiting tree in Cat Tien NP.

**Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons* — (3) Seen regularly in Cat Tien NP, often high in fruiting trees.

#### **WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae — (2)**

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata* — (2) South: First seen just up from the monastery in Da Lat, a small flock. Seen again resting and preening in nice sunlight at the end of a walk in Da Lat.

**White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata* — (2) Mike spotted this species making a nest across from our lodgings so in time we were all able to see them as we walked back and forth past that site.

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (1)**

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* — (4) North: Common in Hanoi. South: Common in Da Lat.

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae — (4)**

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* — (2) North: Seen in the wetland area of Van Long Nature Reserve. South: Ta Nung Valley, Da Lat.

**\*White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* — (1) North: Seen by some of the ornate cemetery sites in the rice fields, in the vicinity of Van Long Nature Reserve as we left to return to Hanoi.

**Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus* — (1) Seen and heard in the grassland area of Cat Tien where they cut fields in strips to make a lot of edge habitat for deer and other species.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* — (1) North: Seen in Cuc Phuong NP. xxx

**FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (2)**

**Vietnamese Greenfinch (E)** *Chloris monguilloti* — (2) South: Seen at several locations, first at the start of the track down into Ta Nung Valley, then near the monastery and other locations near Da Lat. We loved seeing the patterns of this endemic species.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* — (2) South: Part of our group had good looks at two females drinking at the trailhead of the track up Mount Lang Bian. We had another quick flyby, calling, at the monastery and a few more in the hills above that close to dusk before owling

**Mekong River Cultural Extension, 10 additional bird species (incidental observations)**

**eBird Link (extension):** <https://ebird.org/tripreport/350187>

*Javan Pond Heron*

*Brown-backed Needletail*

*Indian Cormorant*

*Glossy Ibis*

*Black-winged Kite*

*Collared Kingfisher*

*Yellow-vented Bulbul*

*Ashy Tailorbird*

*Brown-throated Sunbird*

*Plain-backed Sparrow*

**MAMMALS: — (17)**

**Northern Smooth-tailed Treeshrew** *Dendrogale murina* — (1) A smaller tree shrew, seen at one of the hides in Cat Tien NP.

**Northern Treeshrew** *Tupaia belangeri* — (2) Seen in the forest of Cat Tien but best views were at both bird hides where they were in view much of the time.

**Maritime Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops maritimus* — (3) South: This species reminded us of our North American chipmunks, small and agile in the trees, at several locations around Da Lat.

**Cambodian Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops rodolphii* — (2) The mid-sized squirrel we observed in Cat Tien NP.

**Pallas's Squirrel** *Callosciurus erythraeus* — (2) North: Seen in Hanoi, near the lake going into Ngoc Son Temple. South: Seen again at the monastery in Da Lat.

**Red-bellied Squirrel (E)** *Callosciurus erythraeus cucphuongensis* — (2) Considered an endemic subspecies of Pallas' Squirrel, seen in Cuc Phuong NP

**Plantain Squirrel** *Callosciurus notatus* — (2) Seen in Cat Tien NP.

**Black Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor* — (2) Great views a couple of times in Cat Tien NP, one was quite active and leapt over the road as



we came out of one of the big tree trails.

**Delacour's Langur** *Trachypitecus delacouri* — (1) Seen in the wild high on limestone cliffs at Van Long Nature Reserve, from our boats. This species is highly endangered and we felt very fortunate to see them, there are perhaps less than 300 in the wild remaining.

**Black-shanked Douc Langur** *Pygathrix nigripes* — (2) Seen first at the primate center but good views of some individuals ready to be released to the wild, in the more extensive pre-release acreage. We then saw wild troops in the mature evergreen forest in the Heaven Rapids area.

**Long-tailed Macaque** *Macaca fascicularis* — (2) A few individuals seen in Cat Tien NP.

**Northern Pig-tailed Macaque** *Macaca leonina* — (2) We saw family groups in Cat Tien NP.

**Southern Yellow-cheeked Gibbon** *Nomascus gabriellae* — (3) Wonderful views of a few different troops in Cat Tien. They have one non-releasable (former pet) in a cage near the Visitor Center, and wild individuals come to visit it early morning and again the afternoon, a bit haunting to witness. Their chorus upon reunion is robust and moving.

**Northern Red Muntjac** *Muntiacus vaginialis* — (1) Two individuals seen in the grassland section of Cat Tien NP.

**Sambar** *Rusa unicolor* — (1) A dozen or more were seen, both male and females in the grassland area of Cat Tien NP.

**Vietnam Mouse Deer** *Tragulus versicolor* — (1) Peg stayed longer at the second hide we visited and this shy creature came in, a “national geographic moment” as it walked right up to a Bar-bellied Pitta, wow!

**Crab-eating Mongoose** *Herpestes urva* — (1) Peg and Bob caught sight of a lone individual crossing the road in Cat Tien NP, in one of the more remote forest stretches we walked.

**Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat** *Cynopterus sphinx* — (3) One had a roost at the restaurant entrance of our hotel in Cat Tien NP.

#### REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (9)

##### List Compiled by Barbara Brummer

In total, we had nine herp species (amphibians & reptiles): one species of frog, one species of skink, five lizards (two nocturnal geckos, three diurnal lizards), one turtle and one snake.

**Spot-legged Tree Frog or Brown Tree Frog** *Polypedates megacephalus* – This species inhabits a range of mainly disturbed habitats including secondary forest, scrub, grassland and agricultural areas. Found in our room on the wall close to the ceiling on 3/29 at Cuc Phong National Park. It has been reported up to elevations of around 1500 meters or more. It is a typical foam nest builder and breeds next to still water including man-made water bodies such as ponds and ditches. As is typical for the genus, the hind feet have extensive webbing and the forefeet are unwebbed but have toepads. Typical coloration comprises light brown to yellowish brown skin with faint darker blotches. There is often a narrow dark stripe behind the eye, which breaks up into sparse black spots further along the flank. The skin hidden behind the hind legs has numerous black spots on a pale base. This is a wide-ranging species which is confirmed as occurring in southern China (including Hong Kong), Vietnam and Thailand. It probably also occurs in Laos and Cambodia and has been introduced to the Pacific Ocean islands of Okinawa (Japan) and Guam.

**Spotted Forest Skink** *Sphenomorphus maculatus* – This species is found in China, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Found at Cat Tien (Heaven Rapid site) and near cabins. Also known as Maculated Forest Skink or Stream-side Skink.

**Asian grass lizard** *Takydromus sexlineatus* – This species is an arboreal, diurnal species of lizard. The tail length is usually over three times the body (snout to vent) length in this species. Found on a tree trunk at Cat Bien near cabins 4/8.

**Flat-tailed House Gecko** *Hemidactylus platyurus* – This is a nocturnal lizard also known as the Frilled House Gecko or Asian House Gecko, is a species of Gekkonidae native to southeastern and southern Asia. Found in Cat Tien ceiling of Yellow Cottage Restaurant every evening along with tokay.

**Tokay Gecko** *Gekko gecko* – This is a nocturnal arboreal gecko in the genus *Gekko*, the true geckos. It is native to Asia and some Pacific Islands.

**Oriental Garden Lizard** *Calotes versicolor* – This is an agamid lizard found widely distributed in Indo-Malaya. It has also been introduced in many other parts of the world. Found on trees and patio. Also called the Eastern Garden Lizard, Indian Garden Lizard, Common Garden Lizard, Bloodsucker or Changeable Lizard.

**Vietnamese Blue Crested Lizard** *Calotes bachae* – Size (snout to vent) : up to 9.7 cm, Size (total length): up to ~ 25 cm. First described in 2013 (Hartmann et al, 2013), *Calotes bachae* (Vietnamese Blue Crested Lizard) was formerly treated as a variant of *Calotes mystaceus*. This distinctive agamid occurs in southern Vietnam east of the Lower Mekong river (Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc, Dak Lak, Lam Dong, Ba Ria – Vung Tau, and Tay Ninh provinces). Seen on a tree trunk near cabins but, no picture!!

**Red-eared Pond Turtle** *Trachemys scripta elegans* – This is a species of turtle we found basking in the Hoan Kiem Lake on 3/27. The red-eared pond turtle that is common here in the US – is an invasive species in Vietnam.

The **Streaked Kukri Snake** *Oligodon taeniolatus* – is a species of nonvenomous snake found in Asia. It is also known as the **Variegated Kukri**. The IUCN lists the species as least concern. Found DOR (dead on road) 6am in Cat Tien on main road near headquarters on 4/7.