Thailand

4th December - 29th December 2022

PAK THALE

KAENG KRACHAN NP

HUAI KHA KHAENG WS

MAE WONG NP

DOI INTHANON NP

DOI PHA HOM POK NP

PHU KHIEO WS

KHAO YAI NP



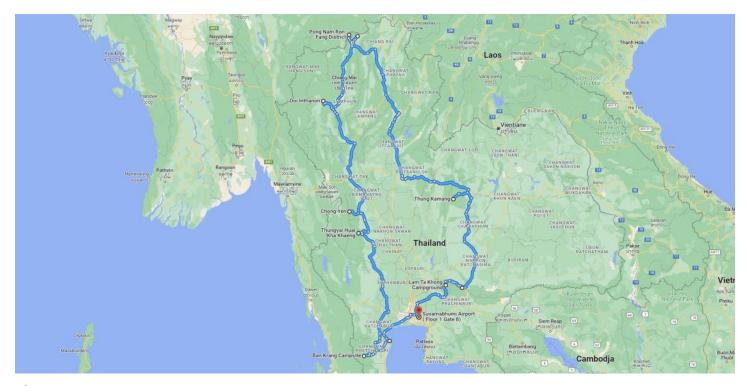
Introduction

During my visit to Singapore and Malaysia in early 2020, just COVID-19 locked down the world, I experienced the natural splendour South-East Asia has to offer for first time. During 2022, as the world started to open up again, it was time to find a new travel destination. With at least 1049 bird species (depending on which taxonomy you follow), a multitude of rare mammal species, good infrastructure and a splendid network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, Thailand was the logical next destination. Furthermore, as I would be traveling by myself, a popular wildlife destination like Thailand would give a great opportunity to meet some fellow naturalists along the way. In the end, I saw 342 bird species, 35 mammal species, 62 butterfly species across 9 National Parks, 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries and other visited locations.

Itinerary

My itinerary was based on multiple tripreports from mammalwatching and cloudbirders. The Peninsula was left out of the trip, as many species there I had seen 2 years earlier in Singapore and Malaysia. Many reports mentioned driving (at least outside of Bangkok) was not as bad as the stories on the internet or in the news led you to believe, so I decided to travel around with a hired car. What I did do however, was to plan the Itinerary around not driving more than 6-7 hours a day to allow for some relaxation after longer stretches of driving. Furthermore, travelling with a hired car opened up the possibility to visit some more remote sites, like Huai Kha Khaeng WS and Phu Khieo WS. For a map of the Itinerary check the next page.

4 Dec	Arrival at Suvarnabhumi Airport (15:30) - night at Suvarnabhumiville Airport Hotel
5 Dec	Pak Thale - night at Baan Maka Lodge
6-7 Dec	Kaeng Krachan NP - night at Ban Krang campsite
8 Dec	Kaeng Krachan NP - Dab Toon's Hide - night at Baan Maka Lodge
9 Dec	Travel to Rabam - night at RimBueng Charoen Resort
10 Dec	Huai Kha Khaeng WS - night at RimBueng Charoen Resort
11 Dec	Huai Kha Khaeng WS - travel to Mae Wong NP - night at HQ Campsite
12 Dec	Mae Wong NP - night at HQ Campsite
13 Dec	Travel to Doi Inthanon NP - night at Mr. Deang's
14-15 Dec	Doi Intanon NP - night at Mr. Deang's
16 Dec	Travel to Fang - Doi Lang west - night at Tangerine Ville Hotel
17 Dec	Doi Lang west - night at Tangerine Ville Hotel
18 Dec	Mae Ai Paddies - night at Tangerine Ville Hotel
19 Dec	Fang Hot Springs + Mae Ai Paddies - night at Tangerine Ville Hotel
20-21 Dec	Travel days - night at Arena Resort Hotel
22-23 Dec	Phu Khieo WS - night at Thung Kamang campsite
24 Dec	Travel to Khao Phaeng Ma View Point - Bat Cave - Night at Aurora Resort Khao Yai
25-26 Dec	Khao Yai NP - night at Lam Ta Khong campsite
27 Dec	Wat Phra Phuttabat Noi + Returning the car to Suvarnabhumi Airport
28 Dec	Bangkok (Visiting touristic spots) - night at Fx Hotel Metrolink Makkasan
29 Dec	Departure from Suvarnabhumi Airport to Amsterdam (13:50)



Car Hire and Driving

The hired car was booked through Sunny Cars. This company works with the usual international rental companies for the car rental, and all insurances are included in the booking price (either covered by themselves or the rental company). So no surprising extra costs when collecting the car. In the end my car was rented through Budget. Collecting the car at the airport desk was fast, without troubles and the staff was very helpful. In total I paid € 931 for the car, including insurance and unlimited milage.

As I don't like driving a 4X4 for long distances, I went for a smaller option. The car I got from Budget was a Honda City, with had only driven 17.000 kilometers. Though this car was fine for most of the journey, the breaks got really hot and smelly while descending Doi Inthanon and Doi Lang. Breaking on the engine was not possible, as this automatic did not have a low gear mode.

As other trip reports mention, driving in Thailand is rather straightforward outside of Bangkok. As traffic can get really bad inside the city, I had decided to spend a night close to the airport after collecting the car, get some rest and leave early next morning. I left the hotel in Bangkok at 05:00, and did not encounter any traffic jams. Outside Bangkok, Chang Mai and some larger towns, traffic was rather scare on most roads. Driving at night should be avoided, as many bikes do not have any lights.



A nice and shiny rental cat

Some dust accumulation after driving around Huai Kha Khaeng

Weather

December is at the beginning of the dry season. It did not rain the entire trip, which made finding reptiles and amphibians a little difficult. Temperatures ranged from 4°C at the top of Doi Inthanon to 36°C at Pak Thale and Kaeng Krachan NP. Generally the temperatures were excellent for wildlife watching.

At night the temperatures could get quite chilly, especially when sleeping in a tent. At Phu Khieo WS and Khao Yai NP temperatures were around 10°C, but with the high humidity it definitely felt colder. Do bring some warm clothes or a good sleeping bag if you decide to stay at these or higher altitude campsites.

Food

The food in Thailand is very good and remarkably cheap. At most joints a meal and a drink rarely cost more than 100 Bath. Most places I visited during the trip had restaurants either at the campsite or close by. For the details per parks, check the coming pages. Snacks and drinks were acquired at the many 7-11's scattered around the country.

Costs and Money

The plain ticket was booked through Skyscanner. The flight from Schiphol, Amsterdam to Bangkok was €700 with EVA air. Gasoline for the car was about €1 per litre, which is cheap compared to the Netherlands. I paid 1000 THB for 30 days unlimited internet with AIS. In total, I spent €2500 for the 3,5 weeks trip. This includes the car rental, plane tickets, entrance fees, food, drinks and lodging.

There were many ATM's at the airport to withdraw money from. Most towns had ATM's as well, though some of the smaller ones seem to lack one. I mainly used Google Maps to find the nearest one. Cash is still necessary, as many of the smaller shops, restaurants and hotels do not accept cards. Furthermore, all of the HQ's at the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, were you can rent the camping gear, only accepted cash.

This report

I used many reports from Cloudbirders and Mammalwatching and the websites of Nick Upton and Dave Sargeant as the basis for the trip and this report. Many thanks to all authors.

All photographs in this report are taken by me. If anyone wishes to get in touch or requires some extra information for planning your own trip, feel free to send me an email. Use this link to find the ebird tripreport: Thailand 2022 - eBird Trip Report



Sunset at Thung Kramang grasslands, Phu Khieo WS

Pak Thale

General Info

After leaving Bangkok early in the morning, I arrived at Pak Thale at around 08.00 after a 3 hour drive. You can park the car at the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand building. There is no entrance fee and one can freely move around the whole area, but do keep in mind that it is actively used for salt extraction. Avoid walking on the smaller banks.

Wildlife

Having arrived early and before others, birding was excellent the first part of the day. The many big groups of wadersin the salt pans is staggering. This early in the morning many of the waders were still quite close to the roads between the salt pans. Many of the common species, like **Black-bellied Plover**, **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Greater Sand-Plover**, **Curlew Sandpipers** and **Kentish Plover** were easily spotted in the first few salt pans directly south of the parking spot. A massive group of waders next to the small hut towards the south contained **Great Knot**, **Red Knot**, **Broad-billed Sandpiper** and 2 **Nordmann's Greenshank**. Overhead flew **Painted Stork**, **Common Tern** and **Brown-headed Gull**.





Kentish Plover

Great Knot, Red Knot, Nordmann's Greenshank and more

At around 10.00 I met a birder from the UK, and we decided to make our way to the beach and check out the salt pans along the beach. While walking along the banks towards the beach, we spotted **Asian Dowitcher**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Caspian Tern** and a **Lesser Crested Tern**. The beach itself is not worth mentioning. Lots of plastic everywhere. We did however spot 3 male **Blue-Spotted Mudskippers** in a territorial fight and a **Collared Kingfisher** hunting from a sand heap. The salt pans further south along the beach held **Eurasian Curlew**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, more **Great** and **Red Knots** and **Red-necked Stint**.



Terek Sandpiper, Great Knot and Red Knot.

Lesser Crested Tern and Common Tern

I did unfortunately dip on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. At least it gives me a reason to return to Thailand in the not so far future. Still a great start of the trip, with lots of rare waders seen.

Kaeng Krachan National Park

General Info

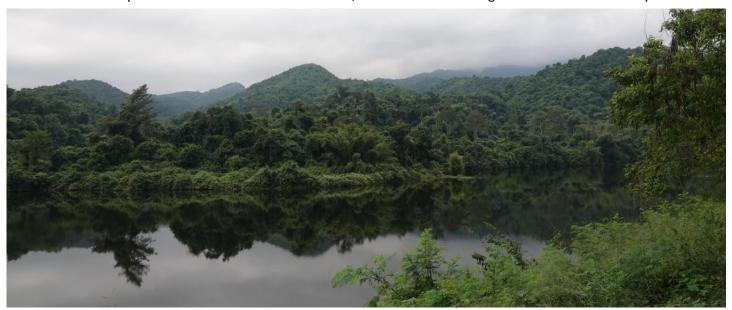
The drive from Pak Thale to Baan Maka Resort takes about 1,5 hours. As soon as you're past the town of Khlong Kra Saeng, the roads open up and there is not much traffic. You will soon find yourself driving between limestone hills on the outskirts of the park.

I stayed at the Baan Maka Resort for 2 nights, on 5 Dec and 8 Dec. This is a great an well maintained place, located in very green surroundings and has very friendly owners. Mainly birders and nature oriented people stay at this place, which makes it great for exchanging the latest sightings and photos of rare animals. Breakfast is served from 05:00 to accommodate those who want to visit the park as early as possible. The restaurant serves tasty meals until 21:00. A limestone hill is located right next door, with a trail leading to the top. You can walk around the grounds safely at night, as elephants rarely visit. Furthermore, bird hides in the area can be booked through the owners.

From Baan Maka Resort it is a 15 minute drive to the entrance of the park. Entry to the park is 300 THB per person and 50 THB for the car. You will have to pay this for every entry. So If you stay overnight at the park, you will only have to pay for entrance once. From here, it's one single road through the jungle. Along the road are multiple clearings and clay licks at which you can stop to do some wildlife watching. At weekdays the road is really quite, but during the weekend it can get quite busy according to the rangers. This might reduce your chances at seeing something good.

In the park itself I stayed for 2 nights, 6 Dec and 7 Dec, at the well known Ban Krang Campsite. At the information point of the campsite you can rent tents, mattresses, pillows and sleeping bags. For 2 nights I paid 455 THB (tent, matrass and pillow only, as I brought my own sleeping bag). The ranger even came to help me put up the tent! The toilet/shower facilities are adequate, but don't expect warm showers. The restaurant at the campsite is open, at least during my stay, from 07:00 until 16:00. The lady who owns the place is very friendly and gave tips how to see the Sun Bear.

The afternoon on 8 Dec I visited Dab Toon's Hide. I left Ban Krang Campsite at around 10:00 and arrived at Baan Maka at 12:00. After lunch, it was a 20 minute drive to the hide. The road does have quite some deep potholes in it, especially near the end. About 300 meters before the hide I decided to park the car, and walk the rest to avoid damaging it. As soon as I stepped out of the car, a local farmer on a scooter waved to me to jump on the back and drove me the rest of the way. At the hide, Mr. Toon showed his magic by luring a pitta and no less the three different partridge species to the waterhole. I stayed at the hide from 14:00 until 17:30, after which Mr. Toon gave me a hitch back to my car.



View of Kaeng Krachan National Park

Wildlife

The grounds of Baan Maka Resort are rich in wildlife. At the restaurant the banana feeders attract both mammals and birds. During my stay I saw **Grey-bellied Squirrel**, **Himalayan Striped Squirrel**, **Stripe-throated Bulbul**, **Streak-eared Bulbul** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush** feeding on the bananas. A jetty with a seating area has been build in the lake, from which you get a good view of the surrounding trees and reedbeds. While resting here in the afternoon, **Oriental Pied-Hornbill**, **White-breasted Waterhen** and **Siamese Pied Starling** were easily seen. Just before dawn, a **Bronze-winged Jacana** appeared from dense reedbeds and gave some good views.



Stripe-throated Bulbul

Oriental Pied-Hornbill

A trail behind the cabins leads though some dense underbrush and goes all the way to the top op the limestone hill next to the resort. This is a great place to find some of the more shy and skulky species, like **Common Tailorbird**, **Puff-throated Babbler** and **Blue Whistling-Thrush**. Walking this trail at night gave good views of **Reticulated Python**, **Phetchaburi Bent-toed Gecko**, **Siamese Leaf-toed Gecko** and **Chestnut White-bellied Rat at**.



Phetchaburi Bent-toed Gecko

Reticulated Python in tree above the trail

Though I did not bird much on the road between the resort and the entrance to the National Park, some common species were picked up quite easily on the electric powerlines next to the road. **Ashy Woodswallow, Indochinese Roller** and **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** were easily seen. On the return trip from to National Park to the resort, I saw a small yellow blob slowly crossing the road. This turned out to be a **Elongated Tortoise**!



Ashy Woodswallows

Elongated Tortoise

Most of the birding and wildlife watching in this park is done along the road between the entrance and the campsites. Slowly driving up and down the road during either the morning or evening hours is bound to give a good number of birds and mammal species. It is hard to not stop every few meters to check for activity. I only drove the road between Ban Krang campsite and the entrance, as my low clearance rental car would not make it up the road past Ban Krang towards Phanoen Thung Campsite.

Birding at the usual stops should give you a good number of species. Near Km 9. good views were had of **Thick-billed Green-Pigeon**, **Oriental Pied-Hornbill**, **Common Hill Myna**, **Greater Flameback** and **Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher**. One morning a massive **Great Hornbill** flew by high in the sky, giving away it's presence by the sound of its wings. Its seems a juvenile **Crested Serpent-Eagle** has made the open spots around KM 9 its home, as it was seen every time I drove past. A large group of **Northern Pig-tailed Macaques** crossed the road near KM 11, while **Sultan Tit** and **Little Spiderhunter** were seen in the nearby bush.





Juvenile Crested Serpent-Eagle

Black-capped Kingfisher

Along the road are many ponds which attract wildlife. Though I have not seen any at these ponds, there were many trails from the forest leading to them. During one of the drives in the afternoon, I spotted a small mammal crossing the road just as I was being overtaken. We both stopped, and one of the local guides and the lady from the restaurant at

Ban Krang jumped out of the car to try and spot what crossed the road. It turned out to be a **Leopard Cat!** They both said I was very lucky to spot it, as they rarely come across one.

The smaller pond at KM 13 is quite overgrown, making it perfect for the Black-capped Kingfisher, seen there multiple times. On a fallen log in the water, Oldham's Leaf Turtle was basking. In the larger trees around this pond, Dusky Leaf Langur, Black Giant Squirrel, Ochraceous Bulbul, Chinese Blue-flycatcher and Olive Bulbul were seen.



Oldham's Leaf Turtle





Black Giant Squirrel

Leopard Cat

Ban Krang campsite and it's immediate surroundings give a real rainforest feeling. Many high and fruiting trees surround the campsite. I usually spent the midday at the campsite, walking slowly around the edges of the campsite to relax a bit and wait out the heat. At the moment of my visit there was a massive fig tree fruiting, right at the start of the trail along Pran Buri. Great Hornbill, Green-eared Barbet, Coppersmith Barbet and Asian Fairy-bluebird were present at all times, with Thick-billed Green-Pigeon, Greater Green Leafbird and Lar Gibbon occasionally visiting.





Great Hornbill Greater Flameback

The forest along the curve of the river at the campsite is excellent to find some smaller birds and woodpeckers, like Great Iora, Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher, Rufous-fronted Babbler, Ochraceous Bulbul, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Heart-spotted Woodpecker and Greater Flameback. A large group of 10 Dusky Leaf Langurs were seen here daily.



Hainan Blue Flycatcher

Dusky Leaf Langurs

At the river crossing towards the Youth Camp, there are several clay licks where butterflies congregate. I was able to identify around 30 species of butterfly at and around the camp. The main reason for me to stay at Ban Krang was a chance to see the **Sun Bear**. According to the lady from the restaurant it visits the camp 2-4 times a week, mostly in the late afternoon or just after sunset. Just as I had given up hope to see it, the last night I was staying at the campsite one of the rangers started to flash his light towards me and yelled 'Bear' at around 20:00. And certainly there is was at the slope behind the restaurant! It wandered around the area for about 30 min, after which it disappeared into the forest.



Butterflies at the clay lick

Sun Bear behind the restaurant

There is a small trail that follows the river, which is called Vanilla Nature Trail. As this trail goes through some dense undergrowth, it is great to find some of the more skulking species. Asian Emerald Dove, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Ochraceous Bulbul, Puff-throated Babbler, Orange-headed Thrush, Eyebrowed Thrush and Greater Green Leafbird were seen here. At the end of the trail there is a spot were you can find the Sapria Ram growing. This interesting looking plant is the local cousin of the larger Raflessia from Borneo.



Boulenger's Pricklenape

The flower of Sapria Ram

On the other side of the campsite there is trail that follows the river as well. This one leads to the first stream crossing. Here I saw Puff-throated Babbler, Brown-rumped Minivet, Siberian Blue Robin, Great Iora and Brown-cheeked Fulvetta. The forest around the stream crossings itself is phenomenal, with many trees reaching at least 30 meter. High in the trees at the first river crossing Lar Gibbons were swinging around, with one family group in full chorus. What a spectacle! Around the second river crossing, a small lizard crossed the road. After some searching in the nearby undergrowth I found it again, and it turned out to be a Boulenger's Pricklenape. Around the river crossings and on the road leading back to the camp, Orange-breasted Trogon, Green-eared Barbet, Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon, Great Slaty Woodpecker and Streak-breasted Woodpecker were picked up. The amount of butterflies flying along the roadside is astonishing, with nice species like the Divided Brownie, Chain Swordtail and Common Nawab giving good views.



Great Slaty Woodpecker

Orange-breasted Trogon



The drab looking Divided Brownie

A family of Lar Gibbons

The last afternoon at Kaeng Krachan was spend at Dan Toon's Hide. The hide is located in some dense undergrowth at the edge of the park, with a small watering hole and seeds on one side and a tree log with worms on the other side. When I arrived there were already 2 other photographers there, and soon 1 more joined us. Right from the beginning Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, White-rumped Shama, Puff-throated Babbler, Black-crested Bulbul, Black-naped Monarch, Asian Emerald Dove and Northern Treeshrew were present and made several visits throughout my stay.



Northern Treeshrew

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush

After about 30 min. Mr. Toon managed to lure a brightly coloured **Blue Pitta** to the tree log. What a beautiful sight! Things quieted down a bit when a **Indochinese Rat Snake** visited the watering hole, but once it disappeared **Red Junglefowl**, **Racket-tailed Treepie**, **White-browed Scimitar-Babbler**, **Large Scimitar-Babbler** and **Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** all came in for a drink or bath. Around 15.30 2 **Scaly-breasted Partridges** came to drink, quickly followed by 2 **Ferruginous Partridges** at 16.00. A group of 3 **Bar-backed Partridges** were the last ones to show up, at 17:00. What a wonderful end to my time at Kaeng Krachan.



Blue Pitta, such stunning colours!

Large Scimitar-Babbler



Ferruginous Partridge

Bar-backed Partridge

Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary

General Info

The drive from Kaeng Krachan up to Huai Kha Khaeng took about 6 hours, and was rather uneventful. Lots of long straight stretches though countryside with little to no traffic.

Though I do not like to use the saying, visiting Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary felt quite 'off the beaten track'. This is a remote corner of the country, and I recommend you only visit this park when you have your own transportation. At the nearby village of Rabam, there are almost zero facilities for tourists. I stayed at the RimBueng Charoen Resort, which seems to be one of the only homestays/hotels in this village. Don't expect luxury here, but the owners are lovely people and breakfast is included. I did no book the room ahead, and at first was told I could only stay one night. Due to a cancelation I could stay two nights after all. There are no restaurants in this village, so bring your own food and snacks. I brought instant noodles, and the lady that owns the resort was more then happy to provide me with boiled water to prepare them.

From RimBueng Charoen Resort its about a 15 minute drive to the entrance of the park. Entry to the park is 200 THB per person and 30 THB for the car. It is open from 08:00 until 16:30. In the park, there is one long and unpaved road leading to the headquarters. There are some deep potholes, but the road is drivable without having a 4x4. It is however very dusty! It leads through good swaths of dipterocarp, mixed deciduous and dry evergreen forest.

At the headquarters there is a second checkpoint. Here you can ask the rangers to accompany you on a walk at one of the trails. As there are at least 3 tigers in the forest around the headquarters, a ranger is obligatory at any of the trails. You are however allowed to roam by yourself around the HQ and the old campsite. If you are interested in the history of the park, please do visit the memorial of Sup Nakhasathien. His story is what shaped modern-day wildlife conservation in Thailand. There is no canteen or restaurant at the HQ, only a small stall from a local seller. He might nog be present all days, so it is recommended you bring your own food and drinks.

Visiting a watchtower is essential at this sanctuary, which also seemed to be encouraged by the rangers at the checkpoint if you ask them what the best way to see wildlife is. One of the rangers at the checkpoint will show you the way to watchtower on his motorbike. The watchtowers are positioned close to a clearing along a river, which attract a lot of wildlife. Elephants, Gaurs, Common Muntjac, Wild Boar, Jackals and Leopards are regularly seen from the watchtowers. The real stars at this park, Banteng and Green Peafowl, supposedly show up daily at the watchtower.



View through the blinds of the watchtower

Wildlife

I arrived at around 14:00 at the resort, and after installing decided to go for some birding. At first I thought it would be nice to walk through the village to some fields at the edge of the park. The many stray dogs, some of which showed their teeth and started growling, made me decide to rather stay at the resort. At the back of the resort there is a small trail that leads to some rice fields and a big pond. Birding here in the afternoon was rather productive, and I had good views of Asian Openbill, Malaysian Pied-Fantail, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Oriental Reed Warbler and Scaly-breasted Munia. While walking along the shore, a small flock of Alexandrine Parakeet flew up from a tree. This species is rarely seen in this corner of the country. A night walk along the pond and rice fields produces views of Asian Grass Frog, Asian Common Toad and Plumbeous Water Snake.



Asian Common Toad

Alexandrine Parakeet

The road from the entrance gate to the headquarters is great to catch up on dry country species. **Coppersmith Barbet**, **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Greater Coucal**, **Red-billed Blue-Magpie** and **Shikra** were seen along this road. **Common Butterfly Lizards** were common on the lawn in front of the UNESCO exposition. On the mammal front **Long-tailed Macaque** and **Black Giant Squirrel** were seen. The best sighting along this road came in the form of a lone **Asian Elephant** taking a mud bath in one of the streams the road crosses. Although this seemed to be a rather calm individual, a nearby ranger asked me to only taking a few pictures at a distance and drive past the elephant at a good speed as to not anger it.



Coppersmith Barbet

Common Butterfly Lizard



Long-tailed Macague

Asian Elephant taking a mud bath

The surroundings of the headquarters are rather nice to walk around. In the trees along the clearings **Black-hooded Oriole**, **Large-billed Crow**, **Common Hill Myna**, **Black-headed Woodpecker**, **Red-breasted Parakeet**, **Sooty-headed Bulbul** and **Red-billed Blue-Magpie** were seen. In the forest along the river some rather tame **Eld's Deer** were spotted. The walk along Khao Hin Daeng Nature Trail did not produce any new bird species, but **Black Giant Squirrel**, **Northern Red Muntjac** and **Lar Gibbon** were seen well.





Eld's Deer Red-breasted Parakeet

The viewing tower lends itself to some laid-back birding. A nice range of bird were seen, with among others Thick-billed Green-Pigeon, Green-billed Malkoha, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Plaintive Cuckoo, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Black-capped Kingfisher, White-throated Kingfisher, Lesser Yellownape, Scarlet Minivet and Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher. In a sunny patch along the river a Clouded Monitor was sunbathing, and a Longtail Mabuya darted across the floor of the viewing tower from time to time.



Changeable Hawk-Eagle

Banded Bay Cuckoo

At around 14:00, after 2 hours of waiting, the stars of Huai Kha Khaeng slowly came into view. A herd of no less than 25 **Banteng** slowly moved along the river while browsing and resting. Some youngsters even gave a show by starting a playful headbutting match. At about the same time **Green Peafowls** appeared, with 3 males walking and displaying in between the Banteng. Quite the spectacle, with some nice interactions between both species!



Banteng Green Peafowl

Mae Wong National Park

General Info

From Huai Kha Khaeng it takes about 2 hours to drive to the entrance of Mae Wong. One can thus easily combine a morning visit to Huai Kha Khaeng with a afternoon visit to Mae Wong or visa versa. I would however recommend to stay at least 1 full day at each to increase the chance at finding the more interesting species.

Entry to the park is 200 THB per person and 50 THB for the car. It is open from 06:00 until 18:00. In the park, there is one long road leading to Chong Yen Campsite, located at 1.420 meters above sea-level. Although the road is paved, is seems last rainy season was not kind to it. At around 20 spots along the road there were recently cleaned landslides or roadworks, making the drive up the mountain quite the adventure. It takes about 45 min to 1 hour to reach the top, depending on the traffic.

My plan was to stay at the Chong Yen Campsite, but is was booked full the two days I stayed here. So, I had to settle for the lower campsite. Tents, sleepings bags, matrasses and pillow can be hired at the headquarters building. Again, the ranger in charge helped met put up the tent and showed were the facilities of the campsite were. The toilet/shower facilities here were among the best of the campsites I visited. At the restaurant breakfast and lunch could be bought from 08:00. I do not know until what time the restaurant is open, but the lady behind the counter offered the make me a packed diner after learning I wanted to stay at the Chong Yen until dusk. When I returned from Chong Yen at 18:45, a bag with the diner hung from one of the poles of my tent. Very good service!

Wildlife watching can be done all along the road leading to the Chong Yen Campsite, with good forest along the whole stretch. Grasslands are found interspersed between the forest at higher altitudes, giving different species and allowing for nice views. The signs at the entrance warn of biting flies at the summit, and plenty insect repellent was offered for sale. I however did not see or have got bitten by biting flies. Maybe the dry weather helped reducing their numbers.



The winding road up to Chong Yen

Wildlife

Just past the landslide at the end of the road is a small trail. There is a stakeout ca. 100 meters in, circled by some branches. White-necked Laughingthrush, Golden-throated Barbet, Mountain Bulbul and White-tailed Robin were seen here. A little further along the trail, Red-headed Trogon, Speckled Piculet, Spot-necked Babbler and Streaked Wren-Babbler gave good views. On the forest floor Reeves's Ground Skinks rustled through the leaves.



White-necked Laughingthrush

Golden-throated Barbet

The road between Chong Yen and Khun Nam Yen is excellent for birding. I walked it both in the morning and afternoon, picking up different species both times. In the morning, Stump-tailed Macaques were seen climbing up the hill above Chong Yen. The viewpoints just below the Chong Yen are excellent to see Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, Little Cuckoo-Dove, Blue-throated Barbet and Great Hornbill. The denser forested slopes between the campsites are filled with massive bird flocks, with Long-tailed Broadbill, Gray-chinned Minivet, Clicking Shrike-Babbler, Gray Treepie, White-throated Bulbul, Olive Bulbul, Ashy Bulbul, Radde's Warbler, Sulphur-breasted Warbler, Striated Yuhina, Brown-crowned Scimitar-Babbler, Yunnan Fulvetta, Black-throated Laughingthrush, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Hill Blue Flycatcher among them. The drive from the Chong Yen to the campsite at the HQ at dusk gave some surprise views of Kalij Pheasants crossing the road. They didn't seem to bothered by the car, and walked along the road for about 15 minutes. A little further down a Yellow-throated Marten crossed the road so fast, getting a picture was impossible.



Long-tailed Broadbill

Striated Yuhina



Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

Kalij Pheasant

Doi Inthanon National Park

General Info

The drive from Mae Wong to Doi Inthanon is a long one, and takes about 6 hours. Luckily, traffic was really light and the surroundings are really beautiful. The lowlands start to make way for hills and windy roads.

Doi Inthanon National Park is famous for having the highest peak in Thailand, at 2,565 meters. At the park you buy the entry ticket at the first checkpoint. It will however only be checked at the second checkpoint, which is half way up towards the summit. Entry to the park is 300 THB per person and 30 THB for the car. It is open from 05:30 until 18:30. This park is popular for watching the sunrise and it was swarming with people at the parking near Kew Mae Pan at 06:00. There could be a significant line at the ticketcounter at the first checkpoint, so do take in account waiting time when you arrive from outside the park. Alternatively you can buy a ticket, stay in the park and drive up to the summit the next morning like I did.

I stayed at the famous Mr Deang's for three night. The rooms are basic but clean. The hot showers are good to warm yourself, as it can get rather cold. At the summit is was only 4°C at 06:30! The restaurant is open from 07:30 to around 18:00 and serves tasty food. The owners are very friendly and have a lot of knowledge of birds and animals in the surrounding area.

Doi Inthanon National Park is massive and there are many trails and roads throughout. Must visit is off course the summit itself and the magnificent Ang Ka Nature Trail. It takes about 45 minute to drive up the mountain from the second checkpoint. The summit does however attract a lot of tourist, both local and international. Many day visitors are present between 10:00 to 16:00. I would suggest visiting either very early of very late. I was at Ang Ka at 06:30, and had the boardwalk to myself and some fellow birders until 09:00. Next day, Mr Deang suggested I visit Mae Ouam (KM 34.5) to escape the crowd. This is a very nice trail, and no tourists were seen here all day.



Early morning at Ang Ka Nature Trail

Wildlife

I arrived at around 15:00 at Mr Deang's and, after settling in, decided to walk along the Doi Pha Tang entrance road for a bit. At the river a **Slaty-backed Forktail** was seen. Under the little bridge **Doi Inthanon rock frogs** were croaking. Furthermore, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Common Tailorbird**, **Flavescent Bulbul**, **Chestnut-flanked White-eye** and **Streaked Spiderhunter** were seen. After dark **Ban Khun Klang Wart Frogs** and a juvenile **Chiang Mai Crocodile Newt** were seen at the ponds in front of Mr Deang's.



Doi Inthanon rock frog

Ban Khun Klang Wart Frog, what a monster!

The next morning I started at the Ang Ka Nature Trail at the summit. It was really cold, misty and windy, so bird activity was really low at first. The first birds spotted were **Green-tailed Sunbirds** in the flowering trees near the viewpoint overlooking the swamp. The rest of the morning the expected birds came into view at the boardwalk, and good views were had of **Rufous-throated Partridge**, **Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, **Ashy-throated Warbler**, **Rufous-winged Fulvetta**, **Chestnut-tailed Minla** and **Mrs. Gould's Sunbird**. At midday I had a quick walk at the Jeep track, where **Davison's Leaf Warbler**, **Black Bulbul** and **Slaty-bellied Tesia** were seen. During lunch at the coffeshop at the summit **Yellow-cheeked Tit**, **Silver-eared Laughingthrush** and **Black-backed Sibia** were seen in the adjacent trees. Late afternoon was spent at the boardwalk again, with **Rufous-throated Partridge**, **Pygmy Cupwing**, **Slaty-bellied Tesia**, **Dark-sided Thrush** and **Himalayan Shortwing** all showing well near the sacred well.



Rufous-throated Partridge

Slaty-bellied Tesia



Himalayan Shortwing

Black-backed Sibia

Next day was spent at Mae Ouam, with a lunchbreak at Mr. Deang's. The first part of this road goes trough some dense forest, with mossy, high trees on both sides. This is a good place to find Chestnut-vented Nuthatch and Hume's Treecreeper, which I saw here both in the morning and the afternoon. Seen here as well were Golden-throated Barbet, Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Short-billed Minivet, Clicking Shrike-Babbler, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler and Slaty-bellied Tesia.



Chestnut-vented Nuthatch

Yellow-cheeked Tit

A little further up the road the forest is interspersed it agricultural fields. Birding was good here as well, with lots of birds drawn to the patches of forest in between the fields. Great Barbet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Maroon Oriole, Striated Bulbul, Flavescent Bulbul, White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Large Niltava, Hume's Warbler and Olivebacked Pipit were seen here.



Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike

Striated Bulbul

I walked as far as some banana plantations near 18.498725, 98.507383. There were white flowering bushes around the more open stretches along the road here, attracting Swinhoe's White-eye, Chestnut-flanked White-eye, Blackthroated Sunbird and Mrs. Gould's Sunbird. Sooty-headed Bulbul, Little Pied Flycatcher, Yunnan Fulvetta, Taiga Flycatcher, Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Verditer Flycatcher and Rufous-winged Fulvetta were seen near this point as well. Butterflies were plentiful as well, with Common Pierrot, Lemon Pansy, Chocolate Pansy, Dark Judy and Spectacle Swordtail seen.



Dark Judy

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird

Doi Pha Hom Pok National Park

General Info

From Doi Inthanon it takes about 4 hours to drive to Fang, the town where I stayed to visit this National Park. I stayed at the Tangerine Ville Hotel. This was the most luxurious place I stayed at the whole trip, and had laundry service to clean my dirty clothes. From the hotel it took about 45 minutes to drive to the military checkpoint at the foot of Doi Lang.

Doi Pha Hom Pok NP is most famous for Doi Lang West, where rare species like the Hume's Pheasant and Giant Nuthatch can be seen on regular basis. The best spot for finding birds is the surroundings of the signposts warning not to feed the birds. There are different feeders around, which can be easily seen from the road. These are great for photography, albeit a little unethical. The denser forested slope just before the signpost seemed to be the best spot for bird flocks, and multiple passing by throughout the day. Furthermore walking between this signpost and Hume's Pheasant stakeout is worthwhile, passing though many good stretches of pine forest. I did not go further then the 1st checkpoint at the Myanmar border.

Entrance here is free, though the military sometimes requires you to show them your passport at the military check-point at the foot of the road up the mountain. The road is paved all the way through until the checkpoint at the boarder. Apart from birders and the occasional army patrol, there a no visitors at this road. This made for a relaxing environment and some good talks can be had with fellow wildlife watchers here. A rental car should easily make is up the mountain ridge. As the breaks overheated on the way down the second day (lots of smoke and smelliness), I decided to visit other sites in the surrounding area's instead of going up the mountain another time. Fang Hot Spring and Mae Ai Paddies made for good substitution, with different species at both sites.

Fang Hot Spring is located in the foothills of the mountains of Doi Pha Hom Pok National Park. It's a 15 minute drive from Fang and the entrance is 200 TBH. The steam from the springs in the early morning sunrays is nice sight, so I would advise to visit early. The gardens around the hot spring were full of birds and butterflies and one could easily spend a full day here.

All through the Mae Ai Rice Paddies there are multiple roads from which you can watch birds. I used google maps to look for suitable roads with overview of nearby paddies and reedbeds. Some roads are full of potholes, so do be careful were you drive.



The road of Doi Lang West, along the top of a ridge

Wildlife

After arriving in Fang, I drove up Doi Lang in the afternoon. This was mostly to do some casual birding, get some leads from other birders and enjoying nature. The next morning I drove up the mountain and arrived at the pheasant stake-out at 06:45. There were already some birders present which kindly lend me a small photography hide. The pheasants didn't show, but we got good views of Japanese Tit, Sooty-headed Bulbul, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Gray Bushchat and Olive-backed Pipit.



Ultramarine Flycatcher

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler

After the sun got a little warmer, I moved to the area of the signpost and birder there for about an hour. This was a very eventful hour, with Long-tailed Minivet, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Large Niltava, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Slaty-blue Flycatcher and Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher showing in quick succession. After this, I walked along the road back towards the stakeout. Some 300 meter south of the signpost there was some rustling in the undergrowth, which turned out to be the 3 Hume's Pheasants. A little further down the road is a small clearing with an old military pothole with sandbags, were Mountain Bamboo-Partridge were flushed. Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon, Sapphire Flycatcher, Gray-backed Shrike and Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush were seen in the surrounding trees. While walking the road, Giant Nuthatch was seen in a stand of old pines. The afternoon was spend near the signpost area, picking up Oriental Turtle-Dove, Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Hill Prinia, Rufous-backed Sibia and Black-throated Tit among others.

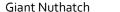


Hume's Pheasant



Black-throated Tit, these guys are tiny!







Rufous-bellied Niltava

Next morning I took some well deserved relaxation time. Around midday I decided to do some birdwatching around the rice paddies of Mae Ai. First I tried the road at 20.019650, 99.315082. This road was rather rough on the car after a few hundred meters, thus I decided to walk. During an hour of walking I picked up **Red Collared-Dove**, **Cattle Egret**, **Chinese Pond-Heron**, **Asian Green Bee-eater**, **Brown Shrike**, **Barn Swallow**, **Great Myna** and **Black-collared Starling**.



Great Myna Chinese Pond-Heron

In the afternoon I decided to bird at an other place. I had lunch in a great little place called Baan Rai Chaydan, where te food was cheap and excellent. Then I birded the road to the south (20.022980, 99.301157). Just before the first turnoff to the right, there are some electricity lines across the fields. Both times I drove past, **Ashy Woodswallows**, **Asian Green Bee-eater** and **Black Drongo** were present. A little further down the fields a **Pied Harrier** was flying past. At the small plot with bamboo to the west (20.020405, 99.299963), **Greater Coucal**, **Common Myna** and **Oriental Magpie-Robin** were seen. While walking the road, 2 **Pin-tailed Snipes** were flushed from the nearby field. In an overgrown ditch towards the south (20.013961, 99.306890) **Plain Prinia**, **Thick-billed Warbler** and **Dusky Warbler** were skulking through the reeds. The nearby houses held the **Plain-backed Sparrow** and **House Sparrow**. In the fields further south along this road (20.009132, 99.310195) **Green Sandpiper**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Purple Heron**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Amur Stonechat**, **Pied Bushchat**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, **Citrine Wagtail** and **Richard's Pipit** were seen.







Black-collared Starling



Scaly-breasted Munia

Pied Bushchat

The last morning in this area I visited the Fang Hot Spring. This place is known for the **Spot-winged Grosbeak**, which is drawn to the area due to the salt on the leaves of the trees behind the fake geyser. Sure enough, at around 08:20 a group of 6 was seen in those exact trees. Furthermore the hot spring is known to attract a **Blue Rock-Thrush**. This one was very easily spotted as well, as is was sitting on the wooden 'Fang Hot Spring' sign. Above the hot springs **Himalayan Swiftlet**, **Barn Swallows** and **Striated Swallows** were flying in a large group. While the nearby river did not turn up anything special, in the flowering trees at 19.966508, 99.157342 **Chestnut-tailed Starling** and **Purple Sunbird** were foraging. In the surrounding gardens and forests **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Blue-throated Barbet**, **Dark-necked Tailorbird**, **Puff-throated Bulbul** and **Golden-fronted Leafbird** were seen. As the gardens held many flowering plants, butterflies were plentiful. **Painted Jezebel**, **Lemon Pansy**, **Grey Count**, **Common Tit** and **Common Sailer** were seen in short amount of time.



Spot-winged Grosbeak

Blue Rock-Thrush



Chestnut-tailed Starling

Common Sailer

After another lunch at Baan Rai Chaydan I drove to 20.023635, 99.333993 and walked the road to the west. In the first few fields on the right **Gray-headed Lapwings** were foraging. Soon after 3 **Ruddy Shelducks** were seen flying over. The overgrown ditch along the road harboured **Ruddy-breasted Crake**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia** and **Dusky Warbler**. **Long-tailed Minivet**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Sooty-headed Bulbul**, **Amur Stonechat** and **Paddyfield Pipit** were seen walking this road. **Contiguous Swift** and **Plains Cupid** were seen here as well.



Ruddy Shelducks

Long-tailed Shrike

Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary

General Info

The drive from Fang to Phu Khieo takes about 12 hours, so I decided to spread it over 2 days. I stayed overnight at Uttaradit, which allowed me to visit the freshwater swaps and lakes at the Uttaradit Rajabhat University to find some species I still missed.

Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary is not often visited by international tourists. This is a shame, as it is a real gem and probably my favourite park of the ones I visited. The report by Nick Cox on mammalwatching.com made me decide to visit this park, and it did not disappoint. On the drive between the gate and the campsite, gibbons were seen in the trees every 15 minutes!

The entrance to the sanctuary is at 16.506666, 101.689549, and is open from 08:00 until 16:00. To enter I had to hand in my passport, as a deposit for the camping gear. They asked me for a copy of the passport, but I didn't have any. If you don't feel comfortable leaving you're passport with the rangers, do bring a copy. Entry to the park is 200 THB per person and 30 THB for the car. From the entrance it's a 45 minute drive to Thung Kramang Campsite over a paved road (with many potholes). At Thung Kramang Campsite you can retrieve you're rented camping gear from the HQ office (200 THB per day for a tent, but somehow I paid this amount for the whole time I was staying). 100 meter west is the campsite itself, immediately recognizable by the Sambar hanging around. A small shop and a coffee shop are present next to the campsite. Though it has irregular opening times, the shop was open all days and the friendly shop owner boiled water for the bought instant noodles. The toilets and washing facilities were basic. There is a small restaurant near the car storage. Although some websites state that they only make meals for the rangers, the rangers themselves told me I would be able to order food there. The food here was good and not expansive (100 THB). There is cellular connection from 06:00 until 21:00, after which the generators are switched off.

There is a real sense of wilderness in this park, maybe even more so then Kaeng Krachan. During my stay there was only one local visitor and the rangers. The rangers seemed quite relaxed with the restrictions on where you can go in the park, even more so after chatting with them and asking about the best spots to see wildlife. Sad to hear poaching is still going on near the fringes of the park. The head ranger saw me spotlighting the first night and helped me spotlighting the subsequent nights. After every drive along the road he asked me to show the pictures of the birds and animals I spotted and helped identifying them. The other rangers were friendly as well, and were very helpful and interested in me. Most of them did seem to wondered why I was at Phu Khieo and not on some beach at Koh Samui. All in all a very nice and welcoming atmosphere at this park!



Forests of Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary

Wildlife

After a 6 hour drive from Fang I arrived in Uttaradit around 14:30 and drove straight to the Uttaradit Rajabhat University. I parked the car at 17.620238, 100.145810 and walked the small path south. In the flooded fields to the east Eurasian Moorhen, White-breasted Waterhen, Gray-headed Lapwing, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Bronze-winged Jacana and Siamese Pied Starling were seen. In the lotus pond to the west Lesser Whistling-Duck, Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Gray-headed Swamphen, Little Cormorant, Yellow Bittern, Zitting Cisticola, Baya Weaver and a Malayan snail-eating turtle were seen. The road to the south towards Thung Kalo revealed Asian Openbill, Purple Heron, Black-winged Kite, Booted Eagle and Thick-billed Warbler.



Cotton Pygmy-Goose

Asian Openbill

After another 6 hours drive I arrived at the entrance to Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary. As it has been another long day, I decided to drive to the camp without stopping to much along the road and set up camp early. After, I walked towards the Thung Kramang grasslands and watched the sunset from the observation tower. About 35+ Indochinese Hog Deer were visible browsing in the grasslands. The next 2 hours at the watchtower added Green Peafowl, Green-billed Malkoha, Ashy Minivet, Large Cuckooshrike, Burmese Shrike, Red-billed Blue-Magpie, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Northern Treeshrew and Javan Mongoose. Visits to the tower the following days added Red Junglefowl, Osprey, Cook's Swift, Oriental Pied-Hornbill, Ashy Drongo, Large-billed Crow and White-crested Laughingthrush.



Indochinese Hog Deer

Northern Treeshrew







Osprey at dusk

After some suggestions from the rangers, I decide to do drives along the road between the camp and the entrance (never came any further then the first, smaller campsite) in the morning and afternoon and stay around the HQ/ campsite during the midday for lunch and relaxing. The campsite is directly next to the grasslands, thus Sambar Deer and Indochinese Hog Deer were around constantly. One night a Sambar was even sleeping right next to my tent. The forest to the west of the campsite is more akin to evergreen forest, which attract birds like Siamese Fireback, Common Flameback, Brown-rumped Minivet, Black-naped Oriole, Red-billed Blue-Magpie, Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher, White-crested Laughingthrush and Blue Whistling-Thrush. The HQ is mostly in pine forest which seems to attract some different species, like Collared Owlet, Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Gray-headed Woodpecker, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Eurasian Jay and Large-billed Crow. At night Golden Jackals roamed the forests around the campsite, though they seemed quite shy. Just behind the kitchen of the shop, over the low wall were they dump the leftovers, I heard some rustling in the bushes. This turned out the be the second Leopard Cat of the trip! In the trees in front of the HQ a Indian Giant Flying Squirrel was spotted one night. The rangers know in which trees to look for it.



Siamese Fireback Collared Owlet



Second Leopard Cat of the trip!

Golden Jackal

There is a small hide in the evergreen forest to the west of the campsite. Access can be arranged through the rangers at the HQ. I spend 3 hours here one afternoon and saw White-browed Shrike-Babbler, White-bellied Erpornis, Puff-throated Bulbul, Gray-eyed Bulbul, Alström's Warbler, Sulphur-breasted Warbler, Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Asian Stubtail, Swinhoe's White-eye, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta and Streaked Spiderhunter.



White-bellied Erpornis

Very fluffy Swinhoe's White-eye

The first day I left the campsite at sunrise. As it can get to below 10°C at night, the mornings are quite chilly. Bird activity was rather low at first, but once the sun truly broke through activity started to pick up. The first birds spotted were ground dwelling, with Bar-backed Partridge, Siamese Fireback and Scaly-breasted Partridge showing nicely. A little further down the road I encountered the first bird wave, which contained Red-headed Trogon, Lesser Yellownape, Ashy Minivet, Rosy Minivet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher and White-browed Scimitar-Babbler. After these birds had flown past, I spotted a brightly collared bird staying put. This turned out to be a Banded Broadbill! A species the rangers did not see al too often. Just as I was trying to get a better look a Wild Boar appeared out of the undergrowth just below it.



Banded Broadbill Wild Boar

From the car I saw a group of hornbills flying trough the treetops. When realizing they were **Brown Hornbills** I jumped out of the car just in time to grab a blurry picture. Near rivercrossings I picked up **Orange-breasted Trogon**, **Great Hornbill**, **Greater Flameback**, **Dusky Broadbill**, **Sultan Tit**, **Puff-throated Bulbul**, **Asian Fairy-bluebird** and the first troop of **Assamese Macaques**.



Brown Hornbill seen from below

Dusky Broadbill

Having learned from the morning drive that most bird activity is present near the river crossings, I decided to focus my effort there in the afternoon. Lar Gibbons seemed obligatory here. Furthermore, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Lesser Yellownape, Common Green-Magpie, Brown-rumped Minivet, Yellow-browed Warbler and Large Woodshrike were seen. Near the first waterpool along the road a Collared Falconet with prey high in a treetop.



Lar Gibbon Collared Falconet

On the second day I decided to focus on the 2 monkey species I had not seen yet. This was done by taking a very long morning drive along the road and stopping whenever I heard some leaves rustle. This off course also gave many bird sightings, as Siamese Fireback, Scaly-breasted Partridge, Brown Hornbill, Green-eared Barbet, Moustached Barbet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike and Blue-winged Leafbird were seen well. Furthermore, a Northern Red Muntjac was seen on the side of the road.



Northern Red Muntjac

White-winged Duck

The first monkeys seen was a large group of 40+ Assamese Macaques near the staff memorial. Next, Indochinese Gray Langurs were seen about 5 kilometre northeast of the memorial, very close to some Lar Gibbons. Northern Pig-tailed Macaque and Rhesus Macaques were seen close to the first campsite. A total of 5 monkey species in one day, not bad!



Menacing looking Assamese Macaque

Indochinese Gray Langur

On the way back a **White-winged Duck** was seen in a small pool close to the memorial. Though is wat very skittish and not ringed, it could well be a reintroduced individual. In the higher trees around the memorial **Great Hornbill**, **Heart-spotted Woodpecker**, **Black-and-buff Woodpecker**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Slaty-backed Forktail** and **Finlayson's Squirrel** were seen. Just after midday two **Yellow-throated Martens** darted across the road, with one standing still just long enough to grab a photograph. Jut like Kaeng Krachan, there were many butterflies along the road. **Broad-banded Punch**, **Malayan Five-Ring**, **Common Jester** and **Common Cerulean** were seen among others.



Heart-spotted Woodpecker

Yellow-throated Marten

Khao Yai National Park

General Info

From Phu Khieo WS to Khao Yai National Park it takes about 5 hours of driving, but I took a detour of about 2 hours. On the way there I visited Khao Phaeng Ma View Point, which is about a 1 hour drive east from the northern entrance. Entry to the viewing point was 200 TBH for foreigners. After, I visited the bat caves at 14.549355, 101.545878. There is no entrance fee here and there is enough place to park your car. At 18:45 I arrived at Aurora Resort Khao Yai.

Next morning I drove towards Khao Yai National Park. Entry to the park is 300 THB per person and 50 THB for the car. The entrance is open from 06:00 until 18:00.

I stayed at Lam Ta Khong campsite, as Pha Kluai Mai campsite was closed due to a incident with elephants. This campsite was full of people on both nights. As usual, tents and camping gear can be rented. The price for the rental was a little higher here than on other parks, totaling at 650 THB for two nights. At this park, like at Phu Khieo WS, they asked for you're passport as a deposit for the camping gear. Food can be bought at a small restaurant, at reasonable prices. Its also possible to buy food at the HQ at the foodcourt. The campsite itself is rather nice, located right next to a creek. Sambar, pied hornbills and monkeys were roaming the campsite daily. The campsite itself is used well, with at least 100 tents present on both nights.

I went on 1 night drive, which can be booked at the HQ. It costs 500 THB for 1 hour and the driver and spotter pick you up at the campsite. Although it was nice being out in the park at night, driving in a train of 15 cars does limit the chance at seeing something special. Visiting on quitter days might increase your chances.

Although the park itself is very nice, with good forest around, it does get really crowded during the midday/weekend. Though this might hinder seeing wildlife sometimes, it is nice to see people taking an interest in nature. The places people gather seemed to be the HQ, Sai Sorn Reservoir and Haew Su Wat Waterfall. Most of the trails however were quiet, with just a few people walking them. Pha Diao Dai trails is busy throughout the day however, so I would recommend an early morning visit (you will see why on the next pages;p).



Sunrise at the Pha Diao Dai cliffs

Wildlife

As I had not seen Gaur yet my plans were altered a bit. Instead of driving straight from Phu Khieo WS to Khao Yai NP, I decided to spend one night outside the park. This allowed me to visit Khao Phaeng Ma View Point were this species is almost guaranteed. And certainly enough, when I arrived at 14:30 a large herd of 30+ Gaur was visible from the viewing point on grassy plains on the opposite mountainridge. Rangers were present to give visitors information and telescopes were placed around for people to use. At 17:00 I arrived at the bat caves to watch more then 2.000.000 Wrinkle -lipped Free-tailed Bats emerge from a cave they were sleeping in. For about an hour there is a constant stream of bats flying over your head, quite the sight!



Gaur

A almost constant stream of Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats

After a good nights sleep I entered Khao Yai NP and first stopped at the View Point. Here the **Northern Pig-tailed Macaque** seemed quite vicious, and knew exactly where to get the good stuff. Next stop was at the Nong Phak Chi Watchtower, were **Eurasian Kestrel**, **Brown Shrike**, **Plain Prinia**, **Golden-headed Cisticola** and **Olive-backed Pipit** were seen.



Northern Pig-tailed Macaque and the good stuff

Olive-backed Pipit

Next stop was the Kong Kaew Trail. A **Chinese Water Dragon** was visible in a tree next to the bridge. After a few hundred meters I saw a small brown bird hopping though the undergrowth. Once it sat still for a few moments, I immediately recognised it as an **Eared Pitta**! Furthermore, **Red-headed Trogon**, **Green-eared Barbet**, **Vernal Hanging-Parrot**, **Long-tailed Broadbill**, **Puff-throated Babbler**, **Little Spiderhunter** and **Large Pygmy Frog** were seen.



Chinese Water Dragon

Eared Pitta

Early next morning I decided to give Pha Dieo Dai a try. Many people on the internet state that this is the best place in Thailand to see the Mainland Serow. To try to escape the crowds, I arrived at the boardwalk at 06:00. To my dissatisfaction there were already 5 cars in the carpark and I could hear noisy people at the view point. I walked a full lap of the boardwalk and saw nothing. By this time (ca. 06:30) the people at the view point were gone so I decided to go for a second lap. Just past the first turn in the boardwalk something was moving through the bushes, but identifying it was difficult through the moss covered branches. After 15 minutes waiting to get a good view, a Mainland Serow crossed the boardwalk 20 meters in front of me seemingly indifferent of me standing so closely. After crossing the boardwalk it stayed in the area for about an hour, mainly browsing fresh leaves.



Mainland Serow on the boardwalk.

Mainland Serow

Two types of thrushes, namely **Orange-headed Thrush** and **Eyebrowed Thrush**, were seen in the almost dried up streambed next to the boardwalk. A **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** was also seen from the soaring over the valley from the cliff viewpoint. Furthermore, **Mountain Imperial-Pigeon**, **Common Green-Magpie**, **Gray-eyed Bulbul**, **Ashy Bulbul**, **Alström's Warbler**, **White-browed Scimitar-Babbler** and **Hill Blue Flycatcher** were seen.



Eyebrowed Thrush Ashy Bulbul

At midday I walked the Haew Suwat nature trail from the campground until the orchid waterfall. Among others, **Greeneared Barbet**, **Red-breasted Parakeet**, **Ashy Minivet**, **Abbott's Babbler**, **Black-throated Laughingthrush** and **Common Hill Myna** were seen. A group of **Lesser False Vampire Bats** were found hanging in a hollowed out tree along the trail.



Lesser False Vampire Bats

Oriental Pied-Hornbill at Lam Ta Khong campsite

Wildlife was easy to spot around Lam Ta Khong campsite as well. Sambar were present at all times. Golden birdwing, Harlequin, Common Lascar and Dark Posy were seen flying around the adjacent creek. At dusk, Malayan Porcupines can be seen at the edges of the campsite or on the road just outside. Great Eared-Nightjar (massive!) and Large-tailed Nightjar could be seen flying over the campsite. During the night safari Small Indian Civet, Malayan Porcupines and many Sambar were seen, but not much else.



Sambar Malayan Porcupines

A visit to Thailand cannot go without a visit to the karsts at Wat Phra Phuttabat Noi, to find Thailand's only endemic. On the last day of the trip, even though it is a detour on the way to Bangkok, I visited this place. Just outside the temple, a **Rufous-winged Buzzard** was seen catching a snake. Apart from a lot of stray dogs the temple was desolate, which gave it an eery vibe. I first tried the stairs at 14.651899, 100.979449. **Long-tailed Macaques** were climbing over the rock outcrops, and apart from **Common Iora** and **Malaysian Pied-Fantail**, no other birds were seen. Of note were the **Saraburi Cycads**, which are restricted to the karsts in this region. After 40 minutes without much luck I decided to look for the stairs at 14.654118, 100.981973, which are also often mentioned in tripreports. After about 10 minute a **Rufous Limestone Babbler** was spotted on the right side of the top of the stairs, just below the little platform they are building there. In the shade, It was smashing a snail against the rocks and eating the innards. Thereafter it hopped around the area for 15 minutes and flew out of sight. What a great way to end the trip!



Saraburi Cycads Rufous Limestone Babbler



Long-tailed Macague Common Iora

Species List

This section contains a list of bird, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and butterfly species seen during the trip. Abbreviations used are as follows: PT (Pak Thale), KK (Kaeng Krachan), HKK (Huai Kha Khaeng), MW (Mae Wong), DI (Doi Inthanon), DL (Doi Lang), FH (Fang Hotsprings), MP (Mai Ai Paddies), UU (Uttaradit Rajabhat University), PK (Phu Khieo), KY (Khao Yai), WPP (Wat Phra Phuttabat Noi).

Birds

English Name	Latin Name	Where seen	Comment
Lesser Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna javanica	UU	Several large groups at UU
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	MP	
Cotton Pygmy-Goose	Nettapus coromandelianus	UU	
White-winged Duck	Asarcornis scutulata	PK	
Ferruginous Partridge	Caloperdix oculeus	KK	Seen from hide
Rufous-throated Partridge	Arborophila rufogularis	DI	
Bar-backed Partridge	Arborophila brunneopectus	KK	Seen from hide
Hume's Pheasant	Syrmaticus humiae	DL	
Kalij Pheasant	Lophura leucomelanos	MW	
Siamese Fireback	Lophura diardi	PK, KY	
Green Peafowl	Pavo muticus	НКК, РК	Introduced at PK
Scaly-breasted Partridge	Tropicoperdix chloropus	KK, PK	Seen from hide
Mountain Bamboo-Partridge	Bambusicola fytchii	DL	
Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus	KK, HKK, MW, PK, KY	Seen from hide
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	UU	
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	нкк, ии	
Ashy Wood-Pigeon	Columba pulchricollis	DI	Near toilet block
Oriental Turtle-Dove	Streptopelia orientalis	DL	
Red Collared-Dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica	PT, HKK, MP, UU, PK	
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis	Everywhere	
Little Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia ruficeps	MW	
Asian Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica	KK, PK	
Zebra Dove	Geopelia striata	PT, KK, UU, PK	
Thick-billed Green-Pigeon	Treron curvirostra	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon	Treron sphenurus	KK, DI, DL	
Mountain Imperial-Pigeon	Ducula badia	MW, KY	
Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis	KK, HKK, MP, PK	
Green-billed Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus tristis	KK, HKK, MW, PK, KY	
Asian Koel	Eudynamys scolopaceus	KK, HKK, MW	
Banded Bay Cuckoo	Cacomantis sonneratii	НКК	Seen from hide
Plaintive Cuckoo	Cacomantis merulinus	НКК	Seen from hide

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Great Eared-Nightjar	Lyncornis macrotis	КҮ	At dusk at campsite
Large-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus macrurus	КҮ	At dusk at campsite
Himalayan Swiftlet	Aerodramus brevirostris	KK, HKK, DL, FH, PK, KY	
Germain's Swiftlet	Aerodramus germani	PT, KK, UU, KY	
Cook's Swift	Apus cooki	DL, PK	
Asian Palm Swift	Cypsiurus balasiensis	KK, MW, PK, KY	
Crested Treeswift	Hemiprocne coronata	PK	
Eurasian Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	KK, MP, UU	
Gray-headed Swamphen	Porphyrio poliocephalus	UU	
White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus	KK, UU	
Ruddy-breasted Crake	Zapornia fusca	MP	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	PT	
Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	PT	
Pacific Golden-Plover	Pluvialis fulva	PT	
Gray-headed Lapwing	Vanellus cinereus	MP, UU	
Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus	KK, HKK, UU, PK, KY, WPP	
Lesser Sand-Plover	Charadrius mongolus	PT	
Greater Sand-Plover	Charadrius leschenaultii	PT	
Malaysian Plover	Charadrius peronii	PT	
Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	PT	
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	PT	
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus	UU	
Bronze-winged Jacana	Metopidius indicus	KK, UU	
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	PT	
Far Eastern Curlew	Numenius madagascariensis	PT	
Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata	PT	
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	PT	
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	PT	
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	PT	
Great Knot	Calidris tenuirostris	PT	
Red Knot	Calidris canutus	PT	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Calidris falcinellus	PT	
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	PT	
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis	PT	
Sanderling	Calidris alba	PT	
Asian Dowitcher	Limnodromus semipalmatus	PT	
Pin-tailed Snipe	Gallinago stenura	UU	
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus	PT	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	PT, MP	
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	MP	
Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus	PT	
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	PT	
Nordmann's Greenshank	Tringa guttifer	PT	
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis	PT	
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	MP	
Brown-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus	PT	
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons	PT	
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	PT	
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	PT	
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	PT	
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	PT	
Lesser Crested Tern	Thalasseus bengalensis	PT	
Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans	UU	
Painted Stork	Mycteria leucocephala	PT	
Little Cormorant	Microcarbo niger	PT, UU	
Yellow Bittern	Ixobrychus sinensis	UU	
Gray Heron	Ardea cinerea	PT, MP, UU	
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	PT, MP, UU	
Great Egret	Ardea alba	PT, MP	
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia	PT, MP, UU	
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	PT, MP	
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	MP	
Chinese Pond-Heron	Ardeola bacchus	PT, KK, HKK, MP, FH, UU, PK, KY	
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	FH	
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	PK	
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus	UU	
Black Baza	Aviceda leuphotes	KK	
Crested Serpent-Eagle	Spilornis cheela	KK, PK	
Mountain Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus nipalensis	KY	
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus cirrhatus	HKK	
Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	UU	
Rufous-winged Buzzard	Butastur liventer	WPP	Seen catching snake
Pied Harrier	Circus melanoleucos	MP	
Crested Goshawk	Accipiter trivirgatus	KK	
Shikra	Accipiter badius	KK, HKK, KY	
Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus	PT	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Collared Owlet	Taenioptynx brodiei	PK	
Red-headed Trogon	Harpactes erythrocephalus	MW, PK, KY	
Orange-breasted Trogon	Harpactes oreskios	KK, MW, PK, KY	
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops	DL	
Great Hornbill	Buceros bicornis	KK, MW, PK	
Brown Hornbill	Anorrhinus austeni	PK	Seems common at PK
Oriental Pied-Hornbill	Anthracoceros albirostris	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	KK, MP, UU	
White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis	KK, HKK, MP, UU, PK	
Black-capped Kingfisher	Halcyon pileata	кк, нкк	
Collared Kingfisher	Todiramphus chloris	PT	
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis athertoni	KK, FH	
Asian Green Bee-eater	Merops orientalis	KK, HKK, MP, UU	
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	Merops leschenaulti	KK, HKK, KY	
Indochinese Roller	Coracias affinis	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Coppersmith Barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus	кк, нкк	
Blue-eared Barbet	Psilopogon duvaucelii	KK	
Great Barbet	Psilopogon virens	MW, DI	
Green-eared Barbet	Psilopogon faiostrictus	KK, PK, KY	
Lineated Barbet	Psilopogon lineatus	KK, HKK, FH	
Golden-throated Barbet	Psilopogon franklinii	MW, DI, DL	
Moustached Barbet	Psilopogon incognitus	PK	
Blue-throated Barbet	Psilopogon asiaticus	MW, FH	
Speckled Piculet	Picumnus innominatus	MW	
Heart-spotted Woodpecker	Hemicircus canente	KK, PK	
Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus canicapillus	MW, DL, PK	
Stripe-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos atratus	DI, DL	
Bay Woodpecker	Blythipicus pyrrhotis	MP	
Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Black-and-buff Woodpecker	Meiglyptes jugularis	PK	
Common Flameback	Dinopium javanense	KK, PK	
Lesser Yellownape	Picus chlorolophus	HKK, DL, PK	
Streak-breasted Woodpecker	Picus viridanus	KK	
Gray-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus	KK, PK	
Black-headed Woodpecker	Picus erythropygius	НКК	
Great Slaty Woodpecker	Mulleripicus pulverulentus	KK	
Collared Falconet	Microhierax caerulescens	PK	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Eurasian Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	КҮ	
Alexandrine Parakeet	Psittacula eupatria	НКК	
Red-breasted Parakeet	Psittacula alexandri	HKK, KY	
Vernal Hanging-Parrot	Loriculus vernalis	KY	
Long-tailed Broadbill	Psarisomus dalhousiae	MW, KY	
Dusky Broadbill	Corydon sumatranus	PK	
Banded Broadbill	Eurylaimus javanicus	PK	
Eared Pitta	Hydrornis phayrei	KY	
Blue Pitta	Hydrornis cyaneus	KK	
Gray-chinned Minivet	Pericrocotus solaris	MW, DL	
Short-billed Minivet	Pericrocotus brevirostris	DI, DL	
Long-tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus	DL, MP	
Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus speciosus	HKK, MW, DI, DL, PK, KY	
Ashy Minivet	Pericrocotus divaricatus	KK, PK, KY	
Brown-rumped Minivet	Pericrocotus cantonensis	KK, PK, KY	
Rosy Minivet	Pericrocotus roseus	MW, PK	
Large Cuckooshrike	Coracina macei	HKK, PK	
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	Lalage melaschistos	KK, DL, PK, KY	
Indochinese Cuckooshrike	Lalage polioptera	PK	
White-browed Shrike-Babbler	Pteruthius aeralatus	DI, DL, PK	
Clicking Shrike-Babbler	Pteruthius intermedius	MW, DI	
White-bellied Erpornis	Erpornis zantholeuca	KK, MW, DI, PK, KY	
Black-naped Oriole	Oriolus chinensis	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Black-hooded Oriole	Oriolus xanthornus	НКК	
Maroon Oriole	Oriolus traillii	DI	
Ashy Woodswallow	Artamus fuscus	KK, MP, UU, PK, KY	
Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis virgatus	PK	
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus	DI, PK, KY	
Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia	KK, HKK, PK, WPP	
Great Iora	Aegithina lafresnayei	KK, PK	
Malaysian Pied-Fantail	Rhipidura javanica	KK, HKK, UU, PK, WPP	
White-throated Fantail	Rhipidura albicollis	MW, DI, DL	
Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	HKK, MP, UU, PK, KY	
Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus	KK, DI, DL, PK, KY, WPP	
Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus	KK, DI, FH, PK	
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus remifer	MW, PK	
Hair-crested Drongo	Dicrurus hottentottus	KK, HKK, MW, DI, PK, KY	
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus	KK, HKK, MW, PK, KY	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Black-naped Monarch	Hypothymis azurea	KK, PK, KY	
Brown Shrike	Lanius cristatus	MP, FH, UU, PK, KY	
Burmese Shrike	Lanius collurioides	PK	
Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach	DL, MP	
Gray-backed Shrike	Lanius tephronotus	DL	
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	PK	White-faced subspecies
Red-billed Blue-Magpie	Urocissa erythroryncha	HKK, PK	
Common Green-Magpie	Cissa chinensis	PK, KY	
Gray Treepie	Dendrocitta formosae	MW	
Racket-tailed Treepie	Crypsirina temia	KK	
Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos	НКК, РК	
Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail	Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus	DI	
Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis	KK, HKK, MW, DI, DL, PK, KY	
Yellow-browed Tit	Sylviparus modestus	DI	
Sultan Tit	Melanochlora sultanea	KK, PK	
Japanese Tit	Parus minor	DL	
Yellow-cheeked Tit	Machlolophus spilonotus	DI	
Oriental Skylark	Alauda gulgula	MP	
Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius	KK, DI, UU, PK	
Dark-necked Tailorbird	Orthotomus atrogularis	KK, FH, PK, KY	
Hill Prinia	Prinia superciliaris	DL	
Rufescent Prinia	Prinia rufescens	DL	
Yellow-bellied Prinia	Prinia flaviventris	MP	
Plain Prinia	Prinia inornata	MP, KY	
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	UU	
Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis	KY	
Thick-billed Warbler	Arundinax aedon	MP, UU	
Oriental Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus orientalis	HKK, UU	
Pygmy Cupwing	Pnoepyga pusilla	DI	
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	KK, MP, FH, UU, PK	
Striated Swallow	Cecropis striolata	FH	
Black-headed Bulbul	Brachypodius melanocephalos	KK, HKK	
Black-crested Bulbul	Rubigula flaviventris	KK, HKK, MW, DI, DL, FH, PK, K	(
Striated Bulbul	Pycnonotus striatus	DI, DL	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus	PK, KY	
Sooty-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus aurigaster	HKK, DI, DL, MP, FH, UU, PK	
Stripe-throated Bulbul	Pycnonotus finlaysoni	KK, PK, KY	
Flavescent Bulbul	Pycnonotus flavescens	MW, DI, DL	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Yellow-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus goiavier	KK, HKK	
Streak-eared Bulbul	Pycnonotus conradi	KK, HKK	
White-throated Bulbul	Alophoixus flaveolus	MW	
Ochraceous Bulbul	Alophoixus ochraceus	KK	
Puff-throated Bulbul	Alophoixus pallidus	FH, PK, KY	
Gray-eyed Bulbul	Iole propinqua	PK, KY	
Olive Bulbul	Iole viridescens	KK, MW	
Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus	DI, DL	
Ashy Bulbul	Hemixos flavala	MW, DI, KY	
Mountain Bulbul	Ixos mcclellandii	MW, DI	
Ashy-throated Warbler	Phylloscopus maculipennis	DI	
Buff-barred Warbler	Phylloscopus pulcher	DI	
Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	MW, DI, DL, PK, KY	
Hume's Warbler	Phylloscopus humei	DI	
Pallas's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus proregulus	DL	
Radde's Warbler	Phylloscopus schwarzi	MW, PK	
Dusky Warbler	Phylloscopus fuscatus	MP, UU, PK	
Martens's Warbler	Phylloscopus omeiensis	DL	
Alström's Warbler	Phylloscopus soror	PK, KY	
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	Phylloscopus castaniceps	DI	
Sulphur-breasted Warbler	Phylloscopus ricketti	MW, PK	
Claudia's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus claudiae	DI, PK	
Davison's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus intensior	DI	
Asian Stubtail	Urosphena squameiceps	PK	
Slaty-bellied Tesia	Tesia olivea	DI	
Yellow-bellied Warbler	Abroscopus superciliaris	НКК	
Black-throated Tit	Aegithalos concinnus	DL	
Striated Yuhina	Staphida castaniceps	MW	
Chestnut-flanked White-eye	Zosterops erythropleurus	DI	
Swinhoe's White-eye	Zosterops simplex	DI, PK	
Indian White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus	MW	
Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	Mixornis gularis	KK, MW, PK, KY	
Golden Babbler	Cyanoderma chrysaeum	MW, DL	
Rufous-fronted Babbler	Cyanoderma rufifrons	KK, DL	
Brown-crowned Scimitar- Babbler	Pomatorhinus phayrei	MW	
White-browed Scimitar-Babbler	Pomatorhinus schisticeps	KK, MW, PK, KY	
Large Scimitar-Babbler	Erythrogenys hypoleucos	KK	Seen from hide

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar- Babbler	Erythrogenys erythrogenys	DL	
Gray-throated Babbler	Stachyris nigriceps	MW	
Spot-necked Babbler	Stachyris strialata	MW	
Rufous-winged Fulvetta	Schoeniparus castaneceps	DI	
Puff-throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps	KK, DL, PK, KY	
Abbott's Babbler	Malacocincla abbotti	KY	
Streaked Wren-Babbler	Gypsophila brevicaudata	MW	
Rufous Limestone Babbler	Gypsophila calcicola	WPP	
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	Alcippe poioicephala	KK, PK	Seen from hide
Yunnan Fulvetta	Alcippe fratercula	MW, DI, DL	
Silver-eared Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron melanostigma	DI, DL	
Black-backed Sibia	Heterophasia melanoleuca	DI, DL	
Chestnut-tailed Minla	Actinodura strigula	DI	
Rufous-backed Sibia	Leioptila annectens	DL	
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	Garrulax monileger	KK, PK	Seen from hide
White-crested Laughingthrush	Garrulax leucolophus	PK, KY	
White-necked Laughingthrush	Garrulax strepitans	MW	
Black-throated Laughingthrush	Pterorhinus chinensis	MW, PK, KY	
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	Pterorhinus pectoralis	KK	Seen from hide
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	Sitta nagaensis	DI, DL	
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	Sitta frontalis	MW, PK	
Giant Nuthatch	Sitta magna	DL	
Hume's Treecreeper	Certhia manipurensis	DI, DL	
Common Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa	KK, HKK, KY	
Black-collared Starling	Gracupica nigricollis	MP	
Siamese Pied Starling	Gracupica floweri	KK, HKK, UU	
Chestnut-tailed Starling	Sturnia malabarica	FH	
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	PT, HKK, MP, UU, PK	
Great Myna	Acridotheres grandis	PT, KK, HKK, MP, UU, PK	
Dark-sided Thrush	Zoothera marginata	DI	
Orange-headed Thrush	Geokichla citrina	KK, KY	
Eyebrowed Thrush	Turdus obscurus	KK, KY	
Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica	KK, HKK, DI, PK, KY	
Oriental Magpie-Robin	Copsychus saularis	KK, MP, PK	
White-rumped Shama	Copsychus malabaricus	KK, PK, KY	
White-gorgeted Flycatcher	Anthipes monileger	DL	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Hainan Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis hainanus	KK, PK	
Hill Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis whitei	MW, DI, DL, PK, KY	
Indochinese Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis sumatrensis	KK, KY	
Large Niltava	Niltava grandis	DI, DL	
Rufous-bellied Niltava	Niltava sundara	DL	
Verditer Flycatcher	Eumyias thalassinus	KK, DI, DL, PK, KY	
Himalayan Shortwing	Brachypteryx cruralis	DI	
Siberian Blue Robin	Larvivora cyane	KK	
Blue Whistling-Thrush	Myophonus caeruleus	KK, MW, DI, DL, FH, PK, KY	
Slaty-backed Forktail	Enicurus schistaceus	DI, PK	
White-tailed Robin	Myiomela leucura	MW	
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	Ficedula tricolor	DL	
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	Ficedula strophiata	DL	
Sapphire Flycatcher	Ficedula sapphira	DL	
Little Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula westermanni	DI	
Ultramarine Flycatcher	Ficedula superciliaris	DL	
Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla	KK, HKK, DI, MP, UU, PK, KY	
Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush	Monticola rufiventris	DL	
Blue Rock-Thrush	Monticola solitarius	FH	
Amur Stonechat	Saxicola stejnegeri	MP, UU, KY	
Pied Bushchat	Saxicola caprata	DI, MP	
Gray Bushchat	Saxicola ferreus	DL	
Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	Dicaeum chrysorrheum	KK	
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum cruentatum	KK	
Purple Sunbird	Cinnyris asiaticus	FH	
Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis	KK, PK	
Black-throated Sunbird	Aethopyga saturata	MW, DI, DL, PK, KY	
Mrs. Gould's Sunbird	Aethopyga gouldiae	DI, DL	
Green-tailed Sunbird	Aethopyga nipalensis	DI	
Little Spiderhunter	Arachnothera longirostra	KK, KY	
Streaked Spiderhunter	Arachnothera magna	MW, DI, DL, PK	
Asian Fairy-bluebird	Irena puella	KK, HKK, PK	
Greater Green Leafbird	Chloropsis sonnerati	KK	
Blue-winged Leafbird	Chloropsis cochinchinensis	KK, FH, PK, KY	
Golden-fronted Leafbird	Chloropsis aurifrons	KK, FH, PK	
Orange-bellied Leafbird	Chloropsis hardwickii	DL	
Baya Weaver	Ploceus philippinus	UU	
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata	HKK, MP, FH, UU	

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	PT, HKK, MP, UU	
Plain-backed Sparrow	Passer flaveolus	MP	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	PT, MP	
Gray Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	MW, DI, KY	
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla tschutschensis	PT, UU	
Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola	MP	
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	MP, FH, UU	
Richard's Pipit	Anthus richardi	MP	
Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus rufulus	PT, MP, UU	
Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni	DI, DL, KY	
Spot-winged Grosbeak	Mycerobas melanozanthos	FH	In trees above geyser





Painted Stork

Sambar and Large-billed Crows



Finlayson's Squirrel



Headbutting Banteng



Forest Crested Lizard

Chiang Mai Crocodile Newt

Mammals

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Leopard Cat	Prionailurus bengalensis	KK, PK	
Small Indian Civet	Viverricula indica	KY	
Javan Mongoose	Herpestes javanicus	PK	
Golden Jackal	Canis aureus	PK	
Sun Bear	Helarctos malayanus	KK	
Yellow-throated Marten	Martes flavigula	MW, PK	
Lesser Asian False-Vampire	Megaderma spasma	KY	
Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bat	Chaerephon plicatus	KY	
Malayan Porcupine	Hystrix brachyura	KK, KY	
Black Gaint Squirrel	Ratufa bicolor	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Himalayan Striped Squirrel	Tamiops mcclellandii	кк, нкк	
Indochinese Ground Squirrel	Menetes berdmorei	DL	
Pallas's Squirrel	Callosciurus erythraeus	KK	
Finlayson's Squirrel	Callosciurus finlaysonii	PK, KY	
Grey-bellied Squirrel	Callosciurus caniceps	KK	
Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	Petaurista philippensis	PK	
Chestnut White-bellied Rat	Niviventer fulvescens	KK	
Northern Treeshrew	Tupaia belangeri	MW, DL, PK	
Northern Pig-Tailed Macaque	Macaca leonina	KK, PK, KY	
Assamese Macaque	Macaca assamensis	PK	
Stump-Tailed Macaque	Macaca arctoides	MW	
Long-tailed Macaque	Macaca fascicularis	HKK, WPP	
Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta	PK	
Dusky Langur	Trachypithecus obscurus	KK	
Indochinese Gray Langur	Trachypithecus crepusculus	PK	
Lar Gibbon	Hylobates lar	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Asian Elephant	Elephas maximus	HKK	
Eurasian Wild Pig	Sus scrofa	PK	
Northern Red Muntjac	Muntiacus vaginalis	HKK, PK, KY	
Hog Deer	Axis porcinus	PK	
Sambar	Rusa unicolor	KK, MW, PK, KY	
Eld's Deer	Rucervus eldii	НКК	
Gaur	Bos gaurus	КҮ	
Banteng	Bos javanicus	HKK	
Indochinese Serow	Capricornis maritimus	КҮ	

Reptiles & Amphibians

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Elongated Tortoise	Indotestudo elongata	KK	
Oldham's Leaf Turtle	Cyclemys oldhamii	KK	Multiple in ponds along road
Malayan Snail-eating Turtle	Malayemys macrocephala	UU	
Boulenger's Pricklenape	Acanthosaura crucigera	KK	
Forest Crested Lizard	Calotes emma	KK	
Common Butterfly Lizard	Leiolepis belliana	HKK, MW	
Chinese Water Dragon	Physignathus cocincinus	KY	In tree near HQ carpark
Phetchaburi Bent-toed Gecko	Cyrtodactylus phetchaburiensis	KK	At Baan Maka Nature Lodge
Siamese Leaf-toed Gecko	Dixonius siamensis	KK	At Baan Maka Nature Lodge
Tokay Gecko	Gekko gecko	KK, MW, PK, KY	
Asian House Gecko	Hemidactylus frenatus	KK	
Indo-Pacific Gecko	Hemidactylus garnotii	MW	
Flat-tailed House Gecko	Hemidactylus platyurus	KK, MW, DI, PK, KY	
Longtail Mabuya	Eutropis longicaudata	НКК	In the watchtower
East Indian Brown Mabuya	Eutropis multifasciata	KY	
Reeves's Ground Skink	Scincella reevesii	MW	
Spotted Forest Skink	Sphenomorphus maculatus	KK	
Clouded Monitor	Varanus nebulosus	HKK	
Common Water Monitor	Varanus salvator	KK, HKK, PK, KY	
Chequered Keelback	Fowlea piscator	MW	In ponds at the HQ
Painted Bronzeback	Dendrelaphis pictus	WPP	
Indo-Chinese Rat Snake	Ptyas korros	KK	
Reticulated Python	Broghammerus reticulatus	KK	At Baan Maka Nature Lodge
Rice Paddy Snake	Hypsiscopus plumbea	НКК	
Doi Inthanon Rock Frog	Amolops archotaphus	DI	
Penelope's Hill Frog	Clinotarsus penelope	KK	
Asian Common Toad	Duttaphrynus melanostictus	HKK	
Paddy Field Frog	Fejervarya limnocharis	HKK	
Ban Khun Klang Wart Frog	Limnonectes taylori	MW, DI	In ponds at Mr Deang's
Large Pygmy Frog	Microhyla berdmorei	KY	
Tubercled Pygmy Frog	Microhyla butleri	KK	
Dark-eared Frog	Sylvirana cubitalis	DI	In ponds at Mr Deang's
Black-striped Frog	Sylvirana nigrovittata	KK, MW	
Glandular Horned Toad	Xenophrys major	KK	
Chiang Mai Crocodile Newt	Tylototriton uyenoi	DI	In ponds at Mr Deang's

Butterflies

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Contiguous Swift	Polytremis lubricans	MP	
Common Mormon	Papilio polytes	KK	
Tailed Jay	Graphium agamemnon	KK	At clay lick
Chain Swordtail	Graphium aristeus	KK	At clay lick
Spectacle Swordtail	Graphium mandarinus	DI	
Common Bluebottle	Graphium sarpedon	KK	At clay lick
Green Dragontail Butterfly	Lamproptera meges	KK	At clay lick
Golden Birdwing	Troides aeacus	KY	
Indian Cabbage White	Pieris canidia	DI	
Lemon Migrant	Catopsilia pomona	KK	At clay lick
Common Albatross	Appias albina	PK	
Striped Albatross	Appias libythea	KK, PK	At clay lick
Orange Gull	Cepora iudith	KK	At clay lick
Lesser Gull	Cepora nadina	KK	At clay lick
Common Gull	Cepora nerissa	KK	At clay lick
Painted Jezebel	Delias hyparete	FH	
Three-spotted Grass Yellow	Eurema blanda	KK	At clay lick
Common Grass Yellow	Eurema hecabe	PT	
Great Orange Tip	Hebomoia glaucippe	KK	At clay lick
Yellow Orange Tip	lxias pyrene	KK	At clay lick
Redspot Sawtooth	Prioneris philonome	KK	At clay lick
Plains Cupid	Chilades pandava	MP	
Common Hedge Blue	Acytolepis puspa	KK	At clay lick
Witch	Araotes lapithis	КҮ	
Straight Pierrot	Caleta roxus	KK	At clay lick
Common Pierrot	Castalius rosimon	KK, DI	At clay lick
Silver Forget-Me-Not	Catochrysops panormus	KK	At clay lick
Orchid Tit	Chliaria othona	КҮ	
Banded Blue Pierrot	Discolampa ethion	KK	At clay lick
White Punch	Dodona deodata	PK	
Dark Posy	Drupadia theda	КҮ	
Common Tit	Hypolycaena erylus	FH	
Common Cerulean	Jamides celeno	DL, PK	
Divided Brownie	Miletus ancon	KK	
Tailless Lineblue	Prosotas dubiosa	KK	At clay lick

English Name	Latin Name	Seen where	Comment
Common Line Blue	Prosotas nora	KK	At clay lick
Fluffy Tit	Zeltus amasa	KK	
Common Five-Ring	Ypthima baldus	KK	
Malayan Five-Ring	Ypthima horsfieldii	PK	
Common Sailer	Neptis hylas	FH	
Common Yeoman	Cirrochroa tyche	KK	At clay lick
Autumn Leaf	Doleschallia bisaltide	KK	At clay lick
Plain Blue Crow	Euploea modesta	KK	
Magpie Crow	Euploea radamanthus	KK	At clay lick
Grey Pansy	Junonia atlites	KY	
Chocolate Pansy	Junonia iphita	DI	
Lemon Pansy	Junonia lemonias	DI, FH	
Dark-branded Bushbrown	Mycalesis mineus	KK	
Common Lascar	Pantoporia hordonia	KY	
Chocolate Tiger	Parantica melaneus	KK	
Small Leopard	Phalanta alcippe	KK	At clay lick
Common Nawab	Polyura athamas	KK	At clay lick
Black Prince	Rohana parisatis	MW	
Common Jester	Symbrenthia lilaea	PK	
Plain Earl	Tanaecia jahnu	KK	
Common Earl	Tanaecia julii	KY	
Grey Count	Tanaecia lepidea	FH	
Vagrant	Vagrans sinha	KK	
Cruiser	Vindula erota	KK	
Plum Judy	Abisara echerius	KY	
Dark Judy	Abisara fylla	DI	
Harlequin	Taxila haquinus	KY	



Green Dragontail Butterfly

Common Nawab