The Best of Cambodia - Birds, Mammals & Temples

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 - 30 January 2020



Grey-headed Fish-eagle



Pileated Gibbon (female type)



Peacock Pansy butterfly



Jerdons Baza

Report & Images by Neil McMahon



Tour participants: Neil McMahon (Leader), Mardy Sean (Local Guide) with 12 Naturetrek clients.

Summary

The inaugral "The Best of Cambodia - Birds, Mammals and Temples' tour covered a range of habitats in the quest for natural history and cultural highlights. Following UK flights via Bangkok to Siem Reap, the party converged on Angkor Wat and its many temples for the first day, taking in the extraordinary relics and beliefs of the past and their superbly illustrated engravings. Birds could be seen here too and despite the first full day being mostly cultural we recorded over forty species typical of SE Asia and even found three species of primate including the energetic Pileated Gibbon.

The following day saw us aboard small boats as we went in search of water birds which included many herons, egrets, storks, cormorants and pelicans, some very close. Amongst the throng we picked out very rare Milky Storks and enjoyed close views of Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Whiskered Terns, and visited a floating village for lunch!

Two more days were spent in open plains-like landscapes for birds that called giant rice paddies and grasslands their home and enigmatic and generally difficult to see birds included Bengal Florican, Sarus Crane, Pied Harrier, button-quails and a variety of raptors and owls.

Forest birding was next which included time looking for the squirrels and primates of the northern belts of surviving lowland forest which seasonally floods during the rainy season. The forests were dry and dusty for us and we felt privileged to see the very rare Giant Ibis, the White-shouldered Ibis and an array of woodpeckers and other woodland birds. Sadly the White-winged Ducks avoided us but Pileated Gibbon and Germain's Langur were tracked down. Not too far away we visited the famous 'vulture restaurant', enjoying close views of the now rare Red-headed Vulture, Asiatic White-rumped Vulture and Slender-billed Vulture gathered around a carcass.

The tour then headed generally east, crossed the River Mekong and connected with the Irrawaddy Dolphin and range-restricted Mekong Wagtail before nestling close to the Vietnamese border and finding Black-shanked Douc Langurs and Southern Yellow-cheeked Gibbons. Stunning birds of this area included Dusky Broadbill, Banded Broadbill, a variety of forest and upland pigeons, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, particularly close views of Jerdon's Baza and plenty of barbets, warblers and small birds of the broken, upland forests.

Finally we connected with the endemic Cambodian Tailorbird before driving on to Phnom Penh and departing back to the UK.

Day 1/2 Tuesday 14th / Wednesday 15th January

Travelling

All participants arrived at Heathrow Terminal Two Airport during the evening of Tuesday 14th January for an overnight flight to Bangkok, arriving in the afternoon Thailand-time on Wednesday 15th January. After a couple of hours in transit we made the short forty-minute flight into Siem Reap in the west of Cambodia where we met up with local guide Mardy Sean. With minimal fuss we then travelled by way of a small coach to our hotel in the outskirts of the city within forty minutes.

Here a hot meal was waiting for us and following room allocation we ate and briefed for our first excursions the following day.

Day 3

Thursday 16th January

Angkor Wat

We met in the hotel foyer at about 4.45am and were whisked away with our packed western- style breakfasts to purchase our entrance/identification cards for the world-famous temple complex that dominates this area. We walked the short distance to stand or sit overlooking the main Angkor Wat complex, initially in the dark. In time the sky and horizon lightened and an orange glow back-lit the skyline which includes the iconic sandstone towers and roof of this ancient memorial of the beliefs of a bygone era.

After consuming our breakfast box contents we headed over the pontoon causeway and skirted around the first of the temples, looking for birds in the adjacent forest before it became too warm. Initial birds seen were the standard Common Myna, Germain's Swiftlet and Barn Swallows followed by flights of Chinese Pond Herons, Great and Little Egrets and feral pigeons. Coppersmith Barbets and Black-naped Orioles were attracted to a fruiting date tree and the first Blue Rock Thrushes were actually treating the rock galleries and towers as their own. Peering into the undergrowth was required to see Hainan Blue Flycatchers and the *phylloscopus* trio of Yellow-browed, Pale-legged Leaf and Two-barred Warblers. Three Forest Wagtails were delightful, particularly with their very odd gait and shimmying from side to side. Mardy picked out a couple of Asian Barred Owlets duetting to each other.

Dawdling a little further added a couple of noisy flocks of Ashy Minivets, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Radde's Warbler, Common Hill Myna and the common flycatchers in the shape of Asian Brown and Taiga. We then ventured into the main sections of the temples with Mardy's take and understanding of the carvings. Some Long-tailed Macaques saw us off the premises.

After exiting this particular temple area we decided on an early lunchtime meal which was in a traditional restaurant with authentic SE Asia dishes and plenty of lovely soup.

Next on the agenda was a short drive to the Bayon Temple where many of the carvings reflected every day life nine hundred years ago. Brown-backed Needletails were seen flying over the water feature near to this spot and another monkey species encountered was a single specimen of Northern Pig-tailed Macaque.

Our final temple visit was to Ta Prohm, made even more famous by its association with the film Tomb Raider, some of which was filmed here. This is probably the best example of mature trees writhing around and in the temple buildings and was also a good place to observe noisy Alexandrine and Red-breasted Parakeets. Mardy's local knowledge paid off again when we visited a small area of forest in the hope of finding a troop of Pileated Gibbons which occasionally call it home. Our luck was in and we enjoyed the activities of four animals at close range.

Our journey home only took about half an hour and we had time to shower and relax before our evening meal at 7pm and our first Naturetrek Checklist event of the tour!

Day 4

Tonle Sap

Friday 17th January

Another 4.45am muster found everyone in the hotel foyer and off we went on an adventure on the Tonle Sap Lake, a natural and very large lake dominating central Cambodia. We took a short drive down to the side of the connecting channel in the dark and transferred to a large wooden boat. We then motored south on a shallow brown lake, noting floating villages as we did so (some originating from the Vietnamese Boat People). Our boatman struggled to find his bearings on this massive featureless lake but after daybreak we found ourselves skirting the edge of the lake and marvelling at the number of Great Egrets, Barn Swallows and Whiskered Terns on view.

Long thin boats with powerful and very noisy engines and long propeller shafts dominated the waterways as we entered a channel that led us to a small floating village. Everywhere there were nets and similar implements for catching fish and water hyacinths choked the smaller channels. Here we stopped for a comfort break and our party transferred into three of the narrow boats in order to gain access into the marsh and bird preserve. There was a profusion of herons, egrets, storks, cormorants and others springing out of the waterside vegetation or flying over or using the channel edges as their foraging sites. Spot-billed Pelicans were numerous with several of these large birds on the water before reluctantly taking flight.

Careful scanning picked up on individuals of Black Bittern, three species of Kingfisher, three species of cuckoo and a couple of the impressive Grey-headed Fish-eagles. Flotillas of storks thermaled overhead and were joined by pelicans and other birds. Sharp eyes picked out several Milky Storks amongst the hundreds of Painted and Open-billed Storks. Oriental Darters loafed with cormorants, Whiskered Terns skimmed the surface of the water and several Lesser Adjutants added to the spectacle. Passerines were more difficult to appreciate but included Sunda Pied Fantail, Dusky Warbler, Chinese (White) Wagtail and Racket-tailed Treepie.

Scaling a couple of wooden observation towers was a little daunting for many of the party and after several intense hours of constant bird-watching it was time for lunch and a reprieve from the hot sun! We enjoyed our lunch of different vegetarian and fish dishes at a small restaurant in the floating village and were permitted to visit a workshop where ladies of the village had collected and dried water hyacinths and weaved them very expertly in to a range of items for use around the house or of a personal nature.

We then transferred back to our original bigger boat and took a slow chug back over the lake to where we started. A quick visit to a floating crocodile farm seemed sad and we didn't stay long.

Once back on dry land we were reunited with our coach and took a slow journey back into Siem Reap and the hotel (made all the slower by a very long funeral procession!), where we had the opportunity to recuperate and even use the small outdoor pool. Our evening meal as prepared by the hotel was very good and after a series of early starts most of the party enjoyed the opportunity of catching up on lost sleep after the Naturetrek check-list session.

Saturday 18th January

Day 5

Ang Trapeng Thmor

We were allowed an extra half hour in bed this morning, with a 5.15am morning muster at the front of the hotel! Another busy day out in the field in the Ang Trapeng Thmor district was called for where we hoped to connect with a variety of species associated with open country, freshwater and light woodland.

From this point in the tour we used five 4x4 Toyota Landcruisers (and Lexus equivalent) as our transport to explore the wildlife-rich areas of Cambodia.

Working the sandy tracks just after dawn provided plenty of common birds such as mynas, doves, Black Drongo, Paddyfield Pipit, Black Bushchat, 'Eastern' Stonechat and three species of sparrow including Plainbacked. We stopped at an agricultural drain with a variety of birds which included Pheasant-tailed and Bronzewinged Jacanas, Grey-headed Swamphens and Yellow and Little Bitterns. A couple of Plaintive Cuckoos were foraging out in the open as were Common Kingfisher and a few waders. The waterside vegetation attracted several of the large Oriental Reed Warblers and brief views were had of Black-browed Reed Warbler too. Redthroated and more Paddyfield Pipits were pretty vocal and scanning across the harvested rice fields provided quartering Eastern Marsh Harriers and plenty of egrets of four species. Village dogs foraged and played whilst we consumed our very nice packed breakfast again.

We then popped into the nearby Sam Veasna Centre in the village there and used our 4x4 vehicles to tackle rough farm tracks and gain access to some excellent areas for birds. This included an isolated stand of mature trees and scrub. Using local guides to assist us we looked hard for some owls that regularly use these trees for shelter and foraging and were treated with views of the hugely impressive Spotted Wood Owl plus Eastern Barn Owl and both Asian Barred Owlet and Spotted Owlet. There was also sufficient habitat here for Common Flameback (Woodpecker), Lineated and Coppersmith Barbets and Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo.

Another spot in the hazy distance, where once water-logged fields were slowly drying out, was alive with birds. Flocks of Comb Ducks were joined by a flight of Glossy Ibis and we were lucky to see a pair of the impressive Sarus Cranes, albeit at distance. Storks and egrets were foraging widely, raptors included Black/Black-eared Kites and several hunting Greater Spotted Eagles. Smaller birds were more difficult to appreciate but included a couple of examples of Australasian (Horsfield's) Bushlark, Paddyfield and Red-throated Pipits. Distant waders were more audible than visual but included Pacific Golden Plover, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank. Flocks of storks were Asian Openbill and Painted. We regretfully tore ourselves away from this spectacle and headed back through the fields and back to the village for lunch which was very pleasant.

Nearby is a very large freshwater reservoir with Cotton Pygmy Geese dominating the near shore, more distant birds being Little Grebes and a little further on flocks of Lesser Whistling Ducks. Out in the floating weed there was super flock of out of plumage Garganeys numbering in their hundreds and possibly even a couple of thousand. Distant herons, egrets and storks were repeats of earlier encounters; large numbers of darter dragonflies hovered in the pleasant breeze. We then returned to the village and visited a house where a small cooperative of residents were employed using traditional methods to produce cotton and particularly silk. Using looms and cultured silk, this visit helped to appreciate how much effort goes into producing just a small amount of material.

The long drive back to Siem Reap slowed significantly as we hit the outskirts of the city and we didn't arrive at the Royal Independence Gardens (Park) until late in the afternoon with the best of the light dimming. However we were still able to witness the spectacle of hundreds of roosting fruit bats in the mature trees there. Towards the end of our visit, several animals began to fly around and show off their dramatic wing span. It would seem likely that these are Lyle's Flying Fox/Fruit Bats.

We then drove the short distance back to our hotel and enjoyed a banquet of an evening meal at the rather later time of 7.30pm. With packing to be done and a reasonably early start the following morning, everyone retired for the evening following the check list routine.

Day 6

Sunday 19th January

Prolay and Tmatboey

The excellent time-keeping of our party ensured we were at the front of our little hotel with bags packed by 5.15am and we left shortly afterwards. Our route took us out of the city and then we headed south east to the Prolay commune and the Bengal Florican grasslands. Here we again went off road and took to rough farm tracks looking for some of the special birds of this plain-like area, interspersed with channels and evaporating pools. Eastern Marsh Harriers and the impressive Pied Harriers were quartering at some distance; Barn Swallows, Sand Martins and a few Red-rumped Swallows, Germaine's Swiftlets and Asian Palm Swifts were active aerial insect hunters.

We assembled at a site where local trackers thought there might be a couple of Bengal Floricans in the tall grass. We ate our breakfasts and drank coffee and sure enough a male Bengal Florican fluttered up and completed a short display flight opposite where we were parked! We finished our food and listened and watched displaying Oriental Skylarks, behaving for all the world like their Eurasian counterparts. We pushed slowly into the grasslands and small birds became very obvious with numerous Zitting Cisticolas, Red Avadavat, Stonechats, Black Bushchats, pipits and Scaly-breasted Munias. A couple of ridiculously small Little (Common) Button-quail flushed up and you had to be quick to latch binoculars on to them before they were down again! And just when you doubted we would see it again, a male Bengal Florican flew up and around before landing ahead of us. Walking back to the cars we encountered Pacific Golden Plover, Little Ringed Plover and Whiskered Tern.

Another walk along a ditch and damp area with reeds held plenty of birds but they proved difficult to see! Chestnut Munia showed well though and we all saw Manchurian (White-browed) Reed Warbler in flight but the breezy conditions prevented them from providing the views we were hoping for. For some a Lanceolated Warbler showed exceptionally well and we saw a female Bengal Florican near here too. New birds for the trip included Striated Grassbird and we saw a few Australasian Bushlarks again. With time marching on (it would have been good to have spent longer here) we thanked our trackers and by about 10am were back on a tarmac road. We then motored for about two hours before arriving at a restaurant where we dined and refreshed. Our next destination was the small village called Tmatboey situated within the Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary. A small camp exists in the edge of the forest there to allow eco-tourists the opportunity to see some of the rare wildlife on offer. However we knew there was no room for us on the first night so we found a rather lavish hotel about forty minutes from Tmatboey and quickly checked in there. By 3pm we had left the hotel and drove to Tmatboey where our local guide - the headman of the community - was waiting for us.

Our target bird was the rare and endangered White-shouldered Ibis, and we hoped to see birds coming to a known roost spot. The 4x4 drivers again earned their wings navigating through ravines and difficult forest tracks and deposited us within striking distance. A Spotted Wood Owl flew off without any of the participants spotting it but we quickly hit on the likes of Rufous-winged Buzzard, Rufescent Prinia, Olive-backed Pipit, Common Woodshrike, Indochinese Bushlark, Black-hooded Oriole, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Rufous Woodpecker and Purple Sunbird. Very much quality woodland birding in south east Asia!

We continued on foot and reached an open area, and found our quarry perched on an exposed tree – one of the rarest birds in the world, a fine White-shouldered Ibis! A second bird flew in and both birds called to each other. As some of us attempted a close approach, two previously unseen birds flew up from a damp area in front of us and all four birds flew around excitedly. The diagnostic white wing and neck markings were very distinctive. With the light dimming we retraced our steps and drove back to our camp where some of us managed to spotlight a calling Collared Scops Owl before showering and enjoying a tasty evening meal. After completing our check list we then retired, the constant warm and humid conditions and early starts elicited a natural weariness and a requirement to sleep!

Day 7

Monday 20th January

Tmatboey

Another early start saw us all together and boarding our fleet of vehicles which took us to a section of more distant forest, with two Woolly-necked Storks seen in flight en-route. Soaring birds over the woodland included Crested Serpent-eagle, Shikra, Rufous-winged Buzzard and Lesser Adjutant. A local guide finally led us to a jumble of a nest in a tree and there, sat on top and presumably incubating, was a Giant Ibis, another extremely rare bird! We kept our distance with some of the party walking around to appreciate the bird in better light. A party of Small Minivets, Common Woodshrikes and White-browed Fantails kept the remainder of us company! The ibis remained motionless and we retired to a small wooden stall where two local villagers were acting as guardians to the nesting birds. Before seeing the nest we had heard the loud trumpeting of Giant Ibis and so we assume we had missed the handover at the nest. In the vegetation at the stall a pair of Puff-throated Babblers initially gave good views before slipping away.

More birds of the dry deciduous woodland were encountered on our walk back to our waiting vehicles including Crested Treeswift, Hoopoe, Green Bee-eater and Red-billed Blue Magpie, Golden-fronted Leafbird and the elusive Brown Prinias.

With the morning slipping away we returned to camp for lunch and an opportunity to rest prior to the afternoon excursion. Here nervous Red-billed Magpies came in to feed from the bird table and various forest species made occasional appearances. By now we were enjoying some excellent Cambodian food with plenty of superbly

cooked vegetables, tasty soups, sweet and sour dishes, fish and a variety of pork and chicken dishes. Various dips were on offer too. Dessert tended to be fruit, often delicious small bananas or maybe mango or melon pieces.

In the afternoon we utilised our 4x4 vehicles again to scout another forest block, with a reasonable length walk to find birds of an open woodland landscape. Several species of woodpecker were calling but initially proved very difficult to see. A Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker gave itself up relatively easily followed by a noisy party of the very special Great Slaty Woodpeckers which many people in the party wanted to see (considered to be the largest woodpecker still surviving in the wild by some authorities). After the little and large show we finally managed to see a stunning Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, the last of many that we heard but just couldn't see. Heard only woodpeckers included Common Flameback. Black-headed Woodpecker and White-bellied Woodpecker. Chinese Francolins played their usual trick of calling everywhere around us from late afternoon onwards but were effectively invisible! Hair-crested Drongo, Pale-legged Leaf Warbler, Chestnut-tailed Starling and a Savanna Nightjar were all appreciated. A distant Oriental Scop's Owl was heard calling after dark on our walk back to the waiting vehicles.

Another fine evening meal awaited us at the Tmatboey Camp as we descended as a hungry horde, and Asian Barred Owlet and the Collared Scop's Owl were vocal near to the camp. We stayed overnight in the basic accommodation at the community-run camp with night birds calling overnight and an interesting array of insects and geckos attracted to the lights of our little open-air dining hall.

Day 8

Tuesday 21st January

Tmatboey

The day was again warm, sunny and humid and we spent the day exploring the mostly dry dipterocarp deciduous woodland within short driving range of the camp. There were plenty of birds about but they didn't always show particularly well. We visited several mostly evaporated pools in the hope of encountering more ibis with no success but came across a couple more Woolly-necked Storks. Our breakfast at a small lean-to was a useful spot with plenty of birds attracted to a fruiting tree alongside – they included Red-breasted Parakeets, Vinous-breasted Starlings, Yellow-browed Warbler and Olive-backed Sunbird. Two piles of feathers on the ground indicated that Indochinese Rollers must taste good and were presumably the victims of good slingshots. Whilst munching our brekkie we enjoyed watching foraging Black-collared Starlings in the dried and charred rice paddies within the woodland blocks and a walk around afterwards provided views of several birds including Brown Prinias, Common Iora, Brown and Burmese Shrikes, Plaintive Cuckoo and good views of Shikra and Rufous-winged Buzzards. Barn Swallows and Red-rumped Swallows were constantly overhead, regularly joined by Crested Tree Swifts, Asian Palm Swifts and Germaine Swiftlets.

We finished the morning trying to locate a Brown Wood Owl and found two! Both birds exited some dense vegetation and landed partly concealed in evergreen trees. Invisible to the rest of us, Mardy skilfully found both birds hiding in the vegetation and we enjoyed 'scope views of both birds which exhibited beautiful intricate plumages.

In the afternoon a perched Crested Treeswift caused those with cameras to creep a little further through the vegetation only to flush a Chinese Francolin from cover. Yellow-footed Green and Green Mountain Pigeons made it on to the day list as did Oriental Pied Hornbill, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater and two Black-headed

Woodpeckers were seen by most of the party but quickly disappeared. We also encountered our first Greater Flameback of the trip and a flock of five noisy Great Slaty Woodpeckers were much enjoyed! Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike and Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher finally made it on to the trip list as did singles of Rosy Minivet and Rufous Treepie.

We enjoyed our final meal back at Tmatboey Camp and settled down after the check list in anticipation of sleeping under canvass for the next three nights!

Day 9

Wednesday 22nd January

Tmatboey and Okoki

We started early again this morning with a 5.15am muster for hot drinks and then about a 50 minute drive to gain access to a different part of the forest that included a stream-side walk and viewing area. We walked for about twenty minutes before reaching a small area where we could scan over a stream below us and over to some banks of vegetation on the other side. Here we ate our prepared breakfast of rice and omelette followed by local fruits, all the time watching for any wildlife around us. Whilst we grazed and supped drinks we managed quite an array of birds which included a fly-by Stork-billed Kingfisher, a couple of perched Shikras, a Crested Goshawk, Bronzed Drongo, Banded Bay Cuckoo and Van Hassell's Sunbird. Walking around the dense vegetation provided sightings of Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Grey-eyed Bulbul, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler and Scaly-crowned Babbler. Squirrels hopped and flitted across branches and vines and stunning large butterflies were mostly high in the canopy but with several individuals coming down lower to excite and frustrate would-be photographers!

We emerged from cover in to another hot and sunny day and on our walk back to the waiting vehicles five Woolly-necked Storks flew by. Following an intake of some bottled water, most of the party opted for a relatively short walk in to an open and partly-wooded area in an effort to see a Brown Fish Owl which traditionally nests nearby. And so it proved to be with a single owl mostly hidden on it's nest and with his/her huge yellow eye watching our every move! The poor owl looked most uncomfortable wedged in a hole formed by a broken off branch and in full exposure to the sun. We decided to watch from a distance as the big angry yellow eye blinked in our direction!

Lunchtime saw us back at the camp with some more excellent food freshly prepared for us and after taking photos of the camp and thanking the hard-working camp staff we ventured off to pastures new.

Our next wildlife watching area was to be a part-evergreen forest camp-site known as Okoki. Here local community members had erected a series of tents for us in a forest glade as well as a gravity shower and basic toilet facilities. With the numbers in our group there was a requirement to erect a further two tents on our arrival. During our journey towards Okoki we stopped off at a small town market in Chomksan and purchased vegetables and other supplies for our next three nights camping. We also allowed ourselves a little reminder of home with the purchase of some cakes, biscuits, crisps and even edible chocolate!

Birds en-route during the afternoon were repeats of previous sightings and were minimal with the landscape recently altered from lowland forest to burnt agricultural land.

At Okoki we quickly changed to viewing mode after arriving mid afternoon and decided on a short excursion down to a fast evaporating forest pond with a hide to see if we could find anything of interest. This site is one of the last sites left where a sighting of the very rare White-winged Duck might still be achieved but we were to have no luck spanning the three days we were there. Seeing the many calling birds in this habitat is a significant challenge and we took it slowly with Mardy's expert tuition. Grey-headed Canary Flycatchers were common and we saw our first Puff-throated Bulbuls, one of the biggest species of this family. White-crested Laughingthrushes were extremely noisy to the point where they drowned out the sounds of other birds! A single White-breasted Waterhen clearly called the pond its home and was seen on each of the three days we ventured down to this dwindling brown puddle!

Daylight turns to dusk and then a very black night quickly in this part of the world and it was pretty gloomy by the time we walked back into camp. Already the staff were preparing our evening meal over lit fires and for many it was a novel experience 'enjoying' a cold dripping bucket shower in the dark as we prepared for our first night under canvas! With a basic toilet and shower regime initiated and after enjoying a super camp meal we completed our daily check list and retired for the night, listening to Asian Barred Owlets and Brown Hawk Owls calling from the dense vegetation close by.

Day 10	Thursday 22rd January
Day 10	Thursday 23rd January

Okoki

We had another early start, mustering before daylight with a view to trundling down the paths in the dark and gaining access to the hide at a second damp area before dawn. A break down in communications saw the local guide take one half of the group to the same hide as the night before whilst the remainder followed on afterwards and found no-one else at the second hide! White-winged Duck was heard calling but not seen and with few other birds on offer the second team joined the first at the other hide where a White-rumped Shama had showed well. Once together and with coffee consumed and anxiety reduced, we concentrated on trying to obtain views of the birds calling from the dense foliage and spot a few squirrels along the way. Grey-eyed Bulbuls and Grey-headed Canary Flycatchers made occasional appearances and Laced Woodpecker called several times. From the contact calls it was obvious that there were good numbers of Yellow-browed and Pale-legged Warblers feeding in the top third of the big trees but they rarely provided close, sustained views.

We pottered back in to camp for a 7.30am breakfast and then divided ourselves up into two groups with the smaller group in ardent search of any primates that might be on show and the larger group taking a small meander looking for general wildlife, mostly birds. The birding group tried stalking a calling Banded Kingfisher but despite a great deal of effort it wasn't seen. White-bellied Erpornis and Black Giant Squirrel was new for the trip, White-bellied Woodpeckers called from deep cover and more showy birds included Ashy Minivet, Black-crested Bulbul, Shikra and Common Iora. The smaller group connected with Pileated Gibbon but also a sensational run of birds including a Bar-bellied Pitta, an Orange-breasted Trogon, a White-throated Rock Thrush and an Alstrom's Warbler!

Our wonderful camp crew cooked us another very enjoyable lunch which included soup, rice, vegetables, eggs and some local mixed dishes including chicken and pork, followed by a little fruit.

Local information suggested that our potential quarry of White-winged Duck had been roosting in a tree in the forest some three kilometres or so from our camp. The travel route was beyond the 4x4 vehicles but it was thought that a small Cambodian-style tractor might provide suitable transport. This was potentially a Naturetrek first, being pulled along in a little trailer with a hand tractor as pulling power! Most of the group were up for the challenge and climbed aboard and set off on the mini adventure! A smaller group opted for a sedate birding walk, finishing at the hide by the muddy pond. This smaller group quickly connected with Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Scaly-crowned Babbler and a pod of very excited Great Slaty Woodpeckers with most other birds being repeats of what was seen earlier in the day. Individuals of some kind of Horseshoe Bat sp were roosting in a hollow and fallen tree trunk.

The tractor group made good progress and although the ducks failed to visit the so-called roosting tree, other birds noted included Asian Fairy Bluebird, Great-eared Nightjars and a good variety of the birds of this managed habitat.

After meeting up in the camp and enjoying a rather late dinner, we ventured out with torches to see what nocturnal creatures could be found. It didn't take us long to locate an Indochinese Frogmouth calling quite softly from overhead trees. Actually seeing it was quite another thing but with persistence we found this rather small frogmouth perched on an overhead vine. Various owls could be heard calling distantly and we tried to persuade an Oriental Bay Owl to pay us a visit but they kept their distance. After a long day in the heat and humidity it was time for bed and to await fresh adventures the following day.

Day 11

Friday 24th January

Okoki and Vulture Restaurant.

Following breakfast we spent the morning walking the trails around the Okoki campsite, checking the two pond hides during the process. We said good morning and good-bye to the White-breasted Waterhen which was still intact despite a witnessed raptor attack a couple of days before (it was a bit quick but may have involved a Crested Goshawk). We gently tracked down some calling Orange-breasted Trogons and most in the group enjoyed good views. Red Junglefowl called regularly from the undergrowth but we didn't see one all trip! A Great-eared Nightjar was calling first thing and gleaners of the sky included plenty of Crested Treeswifts and Red-rumped Swallows. Gleaners of the vegetation included Common Woodshrike, Black-naped Oriole, Blackcrested Bulbul, Grey-eyed Bulbul, a pair of confiding Puff-throated Babblers and a sentinel-like White-throated Rock Thrush. Indochinese Ground Squirrel, Black Giant Squirrel and Variable Squirrel were the sole mammal input.

We took lunch at our campsite and it was then a case of dismantling our temporary home and moving on. We took to our trusty 4x4 transport again and began a steady, dusty drive to our next venue, Boeng Toal, better known as the 'vulture restaurant'! Early in the journey we stopped to admire a female White-rumped Falcon perched on roadside wires, our first of the trip. In the meantime the local village camp crew had taken down the campsite with all it's equipment, travelled some 20km through the forest by tractor and by the time we reached Boeng Toal had set up the camp equipment again for our one night here! By this time we were used to seeing fires and smoke everywhere, for many years the local communities burn the grass and understorey of the forests for better access. The sap from a variety of large trees is still collected as a resin which amongst other things is

used as a sealant for the construction of boats and similar projects. Later in the trip we were to see large rubber plantations where again the sap from the trees was collected for commercial use.

Following our arrival at the vulture restaurant we were once again allocated our tents and after filling our water bottles took a slow one kilometre dawdle through open dipterocarp woodland. There were plenty of birds on show including Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, a view of a Yellow-crowned Woodpecker by Martin and a trio of the very impressive White-bellied Woodpecker. We recorded our first Black Bulbuls of the trip and enjoyed good views of a large flock of Yellow-footed Green Pigeons. By the time we had reached the hide overlooking the vulture feeding area we had seen all three species of Asiatic vulture that this programme caters for. The cow carcass attracted flies and the Green Bee-eaters took full advantage! Vinous-breasted Starlings were also interested in the dead cow but the ever-cautious vultures kept their distance and were settled mostly in nearby trees. Scaly-breasted Munias and Pied Bushchats were showing well just outside the hide and scanning with telescopes picked up on White-throated Kingfisher and Eastern Marsh Harrier.

Our return walk to camp produced Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Lesser Adjutant, perched Crested Treeswifts, Red-breasted Parakeets and four of the rather scarce Large Woodshrikes. Other birds included Large Cuckooshrike, Bronzed and Hair-crested Drongos, a pair of Rufous-capped Babblers, both Brown and Rufescent Prinias and a Burmese Nuthatch.

Although only a relatively short walk the heat and humidity ensured we were very happy to take liquids on board at our campsite and we had sufficient daylight left to organise our tents. Very shortly afterwards nightfall came and a myriad of stars was spectacular, but would have been even better without the nearby fires and smoke!

Yet again our camp crew produced some spectacular food which was much appreciated, and we crammed in our check list just beforehand. We could hear Oriental Scop's Owl calling not far away so a few die-hards set off to try and track them down. At one stage we could hear three individuals but they declined to come in and say hello. A small emerald-coloured snake was active in the grass and the photographs appear to confirm it as some kind of Pit Viper, one of only two live snakes seen all trip (not taking into account domesticated pythons).

Day 12

Saturday 25th January

Vulture Restaurant and Kratie

After our last night under canvass it was time for breakfast and then a walk back down to the vulture feeding area. A local guide had gone on ahead and reported little initial activity around the dead cow so we took a slow wander through the woodland which proved profitable with some great birds. For many the sight of four quite stunning Black-headed Woodpeckers feeding on the blackened forest floor was the highlight - the exquisite green, black and red plumage really makes this a jewel of a woodpecker. Burmese Nuthatches showed again, we saw our only White-shouldered Starlings of the trip and we enjoyed an active feeding flock of Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers. Obtaining decent views of the beautiful Rufous-bellied Woodpecker is never an easy thing to do but two birds finally gave themselves up and a Greater Flameback and three Great Slaty Woodpeckers also made it on to the day list. Shikra, Hoopoe, Lineated and Coppersmith Barbets and a single Blossom-headed Parakeet were eclipsed by a pair of confiding White-rumped Falcons perched in bare trees.

The open woodland permitted views of Vernal Hanging Parrots, their fast flight and the closed canopy of previous locations preventing appropriate viewing. Common Iora and both Small and Scarlet Minivets foraging in the canopy were joined by Large Cuckooshrikes and both species of oriole. Purple Sunbird, Chestnut-tailed Starling and Golden-fronted Leafbird were further distractions as we made our way to the hide where the throng of vultures of all three species had landed on the ground next to the dead cow. Again Vinous-breasted Starlings were in attendance and Large-billed Crows clearly have a liking for carrion too. Although a few vultures did feed the majority were simply crashed out on the ground, either already full or just not in the mood for rare beef!

After our fill of photographs and with the humidity increasing we took a slow walk back to camp, seeing a couple of the Black-headed Woodpeckers and a Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo along the way. Following refreshments and providing our thanks to the local camp and guide crew from the last few days, it was a case of loading our vehicles and moving on with plenty of ground to cover to manoeuvre east of the River Mekong. Two hours later saw us taking a traditional lunch in a restaurant close to the banks of the River Mekong.

By early afternoon we had booked in to the Mekong Dolphin Hotel on the banks of the river in the town of Kratie. After a short opportunity to refresh, the majority of the party returned to our vehicles and took a twentyminute drive to some small mostly dry paddies in search of open country birds. Here the main target is the Asiatic Golden Weaver and after some time searching we found a couple of stunning unequivocal adult male specimens aside from flocks of the widely distributed Baya Weavers.

Paddyfield and Red-throated Pipits were common here and phalanxes of Little Cormorant flew over us heading off to a pre-roost gathering somewhere. Yellow-bellied Prinia was new for the trip and a pair of Racket-tailed Treepies showed nicely. The warblers kept to cover but included Dusky, Yellow-browed and Oriental Reed; Lanceolated was heard and a couple of flight only *'locustella'* warblers remained unidentified. A flock of Cattle Egrets included several Intermediates and Zitting Cisticolas, Great Mynas and Ashy Woodswallows were all anticipated birds of this habitat.

We returned to our hotel and after showers/baths meandered around to a small side street training restaurant that served a nice mix of both traditional and western-style cuisine, and popular with tourists. After our check list completion a short walk back to the hotel along the banks of the Mekong and listening to the crickets was definitely therapeutic!

Day 13

Kratie and Siema

By our standards on this tour it was a gentle start to the morning with breakfast at a nearby café and then a thirty-minute drive to a section of the River Mekong in our search for the threatened Irrawaddy Dolphin.

Here we descended some steps to the river's edge and climbed aboard three narrow but sun sheltered yellow boats for our excursion. Each boat was equipped with a typical Cambodian outboard motor and large combined oar/tiller. The river was calm and sadly quite low which prevented us checking out the mid-channel islands that often hold interesting birds. Nevertheless within minutes one boat connected with six dolphins before catching up with the other two boats.

Sunday 26th January

We appeared to be the first boats out on the river that morning so went in search of the iconic Mekong Wagtail. For years it was thought this was simply a local version of the standard 'alba' White Wagtail group but further research indicates it is a species in it's own right and rarely strays far from the River Mekong and it's tributaries. It wasn't long before we had a male bird in our sights and he showed very well at medium range for all to see, dancing from stone pillar to bush and to exposed rocks. We then u-turned to see if the dolphins were still on show and they were with perhaps up to ten animals surfacing on regular occasions. More boats arrived and although the engines were cut on close approach to the cetaceans there was a sense that they were being herded.

These river dolphins are relatively large and round-headed with a rounded lobe of a dorsal fin. The body colour is generally brown but strong sunlight can make them look silvery and pale. They are generally docile slow-moving animals but will occasionally splash and play and in common with other cetaceans - often the first indication that one is close to you is hearing the 'blow' or exhalation of air. Sadly the numbers of these creatures are at a low ebb and if the anticipated dam construction is permitted on the River Mekong then this will probably have a detrimental effect.

A Pied Kingfisher flew past distantly, we saw a couple of Common Kingfishers and a handful of Little Cormorants and heron species but that was about our lot. It didn't seem long before we were heading for shore and up the steps. We popped back to the hotel to refresh and check out and ate out at the very nice restaurant around the corner again for an early lunch – all very convivial! Afterwards we settled again in our convoy of vehicles and headed further east into the province of Mondolkiri and towards the town of Sen Monorom. By mid-afternoon we had arrived within the forest reserve of Siema and we took a track in to the forest next to a police post. This proved to be a productive area with an Oriental Dollarbird pretty much straightaway and calling Red-vented, Green-eared and Blue-eared Barbets. A couple of stunning Collared Falconets sitting up high and sallying out for flying insects were a treat and a bird that several in the party particularly wanted to see.

The birds of this region are associated with the shared upland forests of Vietnam and we glimpsed a Great Hornbill, saw a flock of Oriental Pied Hornbills and heard at least two calling Bar-banded Pittas. A Banded Bay Cuckoo showed well, a couple of Common Emerald Doves were seen by just a couple of people and two Heart-spotted Woodpeckers were simply delightful (if fidgety)! We saw our first Black-winged Cuckooshrike of the trip, a Stripe-throated Bulbul was seen and we wowed over Asian Fairy Bluebird if not the Grey-breasted Prinia! Black-shanked Douc Langur was seen both here and further along the road.

In fading light we motored towards our accommodation for the next three nights, a Nature Lodge on the outskirts of Sen Monorom. It was rather disconcerting arriving in the dark and locating the wooden cabins in the grounds but once that was accomplished we warmed to our surroundings. And it was time to eat again! Here again there was an opportunity to blend western style dishes with Cambodian although by now many in the party had eaten enough rice and were salivating over the joys of pizza, fries, burgers and such like! The food was good but how it came out of the kitchen for a large group like us was somewhat haphazard and seemingly not very coordinated!

As usual Mardy briefed us as to the following day's arrangements and we consolidated on what we had seen during the day. There were geckos in many of the huts and a lucky few also enjoyed a large tree frog sp as their night time guardian!

Day 14

Monday 27th January

Gibbon Camp and Dakdam Highlands

It was back to an early start today in order to arrive at a small reserve at a reasonable time for a walk into evergreen forest in an attempt to see Yellow-cheeked Gibbon. The access to the reserve is along a dirt track which is impassable during the rainy season. On arrival we were provided with a traditional breakfast by local community members of the indigenous people residing here and then set off on a bit of a hike. The landscape here is hilly and the track undulated quite steeply through the dense forest. Black-shanked Douc Langurs were located quite quickly and plenty of birds were heard but not necessarily seen! After about half a kilometre the terrain became more difficult and half of the party turned back and took it slowly to return to the start and commit to some birding. A Banded Kingfisher called several times just off the footpath but remained hidden and a couple of Yellow-bellied Warblers showed nicely in a stand of bamboo.

The remainder of the group pushed on and found a large fruiting tree which contained several of the soughtafter gibbons and a couple stayed around long enough for sustained views.

In the meantime the other group watched over an array of birds at the forest edge and confirmed Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, Plain Flowerpecker and lots of aerial activity involving Shikras, Ashy Woodswallows, Red-rumped Swallows and Germaine's Swiftlets. When the second group arrived out of the forest they were a little hot and sweaty but pleased with their endeavours and we were all treated to views of Crested Serpent Eagle, Crested Goshawk and Jerdon's Baza.

We said our good-byes to the local guides and breakfast team and headed back to Sen Monorom where we ate lunch at a local restaurant serving traditional Cambodian dishes. Red-whiskered Bulbul was seen near to the restaurant. It was hot so we returned to our lodges and relaxed for some ninety minutes (or birded the grounds) and the afternoon excursion was to a wooded gulley at a local hydropower plant (that presumably only generated electricity during the rainy season). Here the lush undergrowth provided suitable cover for a range of small birds, many of which were new for the trip. Black Bulbuls were numerous and Mardy skilfully found a lone Bluebearded Bee-eater perched up and providing great views. A Small Spiderhunter also gave great views but seeing the detail on the tiny Grey-faced Tit-Babblers took some time! More sunbirds here included Black-throated, Crimson and Ruby-cheeked and the flowerpecker on view was Scarlet-backed. A single Grey Wagtail seemed out of place!

Other birds hidden in the foliage included Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Taiga Flycatcher, Oriental White-eye, Grey-eyed and Puff-throated Bulbuls, Scarlet Minivet, White-bellied Erpornis and Pin-tailed Green Pigeons.

We returned to our waiting vehicle and drove up the slope to a roadside cafe affording views across some nearly hills and slopes. Almost straightaway we saw individuals of Pale-capped Pigeon flying over and careful scanning picked up on singing Indochinese Barbets which are very much on the edge of their range here. A distant but large raptor proved to be a hunting Mountain Hawk-Eagle.

With daylight quickly turning to dusk we returned to our nearby accommodation and refreshed before our dinner and socialising.

Day 15

Dakdam and Siema

Tuesday 28th January

We took a fairly leisurely breakfast at The Nature Lodge and headed out to try and see some of the birds of the Dakdam Highlands. Habitat degradation appears to be continuing at an alarming rate and the site that Mardy took us to was included in that. Nevertheless our slow walk took in Grey-breasted and Brown Prinias, a variety of Bulbuls including our only Ashy Bulbuls all trip, Oriental Honey Buzzard and particularly close views of two Jerdon's Baza. Despite the proximity, the identification of these birds was a little problematic, they seem to a little bit of buteo, accipiter and Honey Buzzard all in one! Subsequent examples of Crested Serpent Eagle and Crested Goshawk were much easier!

Smaller birds included Burmese Shrike, lots of Red-rumped Swallows, a variety of sunbirds, the range-restricted Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and a Bay Woodpecker that showed to only two people in our group. A Greater Coucal showed briefly, Pin-tailed Green Pigeons were quite numerous and the scarce Rufous-bellied Eagle showed nicely overhead, while Red-vented Barbet could be heard distantly. Black-winged Cuckooshrike and White-bellied Erpornis made it on to the day list as did our only Black-headed and Ochraceous Bulbuls of the trip. The Two-barred Warblers here seemed to lack wingbars altogether and had either worn them away or we were looking at something else (other features including the call suggested we had made the correct identification).

We headed back to the Nature Lodge for lunch and birds seen in the grounds during the day included our only White-faced Jay, Oriental White-eyes, the only Chestnut-capped Babblers all trip, a pair of Burmese Nuthatches, Common Ioras and quite a selection of other birds.

In the afternoon we drove for an hour to revisit the excellent forest track by the police post in Siema Wildlife Reserve. The Oriental Dollarbird was still there, the Collared Falconets had increased to three and a good view was had of at least one Black-shanked Douc Langur. We heard a Bar-bellied Pitta again but of course it refused to show as did the hoped-for Germaine's Peacock Pheasant. However we enjoyed several really good birds one after the other with a cracking Violet Cuckoo showing nicely, Blue-eared Barbets, a group of seven vocal Dusky Broadbills and then three Banded Broadbills. Two Yellow-throated Martens dashed across the track in front of us.

Other birds included a Great Hornbill, a small group of range-restricted Golden-crested Mynas, more Greyfaced Tit-Babblers and Asian Fairy Bluebird. The drive back produced a couple of nightjars, one of which was identified as a Great-eared.

We enjoyed our last evening together and following a few administrative chores and passing on our thanks to Mardy for his hard work, we retired knowing the following day was the start of a long period of travel.

Day 16

Wednesday 29th January

Siema, Cambodian Tailorbird and Phnom Penh

The majority of the group opted for a leisurely start taking into account the rigours of travel ahead, so we took our breakfast at the Nature Lodge at 6.30am and left about 7.25am. We travelled back into the Siema Wildlife

Reserve in the vain hope that Green Peafowl might show from the road. Golden-crested Mynas were on show plus a White-throated Kingfisher, Thick-billed Pigeons and what by now were standard forest birds. There was no sign of the peafowl which sometimes roost at this particular spot so we delivered our tips and thanks to the drivers, took some group photos and travelled on. We descended onto the flat plains and the more typical birds of the lowlands could be seen from the roadside – egrets, mynas, chats, Indochinese Rollers, sparrows etc.

We took lunch at a roadside restaurant and for many of us it was the last traditional Cambodian meal for a little while. We pushed on to the capital Phnom Penh and at the city outskirts committed to searching for the endemic Cambodian Tailorbird which inhabits the low-lying scrub of this area. The first two stops drew a blank but other birds included Striated Grassbird, Common Kingfisher, Zitting Cisticola, Plain Prinias and plenty of Red Collared Doves.

At the third stop we walked across a harvested rice field to a decent patch of scrub that unbelievably was burning! However three Cambodian Tailorbirds were apparently staying put and two of them showed well. First discovered in about 2009, DNA indicated it was a true species as recently as 2013 and it has never been recorded outside Cambodia. Here the binoculars were packed away and we said good-bye to Becky and Duncan who were staying on an extra night to see the city and take a day's rest before travelling back to the UK.

The industrial side of Phnom Penh was a busy affair with lots of land management going on and we slowly navigated our way to the airport with stifling traffic. Here the remainder of the inaugural group disembarked and we said our good-byes at the departure terminal and the first Naturetrek trip to Cambodia was over!

Day 17

Thursday 30th January

Arrival back in the UK

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Species Lists

Birds (\checkmark =recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	E=Endemic, N=Near-ende	mic I=Introduced							Jan	uary						
	Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	Chinese Francolin	Francolinus pintadeanus				Н	Н	✓	✓		Н					
2	King Quail	Excalfactoria chinensis				1										
3	Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus					Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н			Н	
4	Lesser Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna javanica			✓				5							
5	Knob-billed (Comb) Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos		✓	✓											
6	White-winged Duck	Asarcornis scutulata							Н							
7	Cotton Pygmy Goose	Nettapus coromandelianus			✓											
8	Garganey	Spatula querquedula		40	✓											
9	Indian Spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha				2							2			
10	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca			✓											
11	Blyth's/Indochinese Frogmouth	Batrachostomus affinis								1						
12	Great Eared Nightjar	Lyncornis macrotis								5	Н		1		1	
13	Savanna Nightjar	Caprimulgus affinis					1					Н				
14	Crested Treeswift	Hemiprocne coronata				3	✓	✓		✓	\checkmark	✓	✓			✓
15	Himalayan Swiftlet	Aerodramus brevirostris											✓			
16	Germain's Swiftlet	Aerodramus germani	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Brown-backed Needletail	Hirundapus giganteus	✓													
18	Asian Palm Swift	Cypsiurus balasiensis	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
19	Bengal Florican	Houbaropsis bengalensis				3										
20	Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis	Н	✓	✓	1	1	✓	Н	Н	✓	Н	Н		✓	
21	Lesser Coucal	Centropus bengalensis				3										
22	Green-billed Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus tristis			1				1	1			1		1	
23	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	Clamator coromandus			Н											
24	Asian Koel	Eudynamys scolopaceus			✓	Н	Н	Н	Н					1		1
25	Asian Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx maculatus		✓												
26	Violet Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus													1	
27	Banded Bay Cuckoo	Cacomantis sonneratii							1		Н		1			
28	Plaintive Cuckoo	Cacomantis merulinus		✓	✓			1				1				
29	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	Surniculus lugubris							1			1				

	E=Endemic, N=Near	endemic I=Introduced							Jan	uary						
	Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	Hierococcyx sparverioides		1						1						
31	Rock Dove - I	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	\checkmark	✓		✓
32	Pale-capped Pigeon	Columba punicea												✓		
33	Red Turtle Dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica			✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	✓		✓
34	Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis		✓	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	✓	✓	✓
35	Barred Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia unchall												✓		
36	Common Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica											2		1	
37	Zebra Dove	Geopelia striata	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	✓		\checkmark	✓	\checkmark			✓
38	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	Treron bicinctus							2					2	✓	
39	Ashy-headed Green Pigeon	Treron phayrei												✓		
40	Thick-billed Green Pigeon	Treron curvirostra							✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
41	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	Treron phoenicopterus				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
42	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	Treron apicauda												✓	✓	
43	Green Imperial Pigeon	Ducula aenea						✓	✓		Н					
44	Mountain Imperial Pigeon	Ducula badia												✓	Н	
45	White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus							1	1	1					
46	Grey-headed Swamphen	Porphyrio poliocephalus			✓											
47	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra			✓											
48	Sarus Crane	Antigone antigone			2											
49	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis		✓	✓											
50	Common/Small Buttonquail	Turnix sylvaticus			2/3											
51	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus		✓	✓											
52	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus			✓	Н										
53	Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva			✓	✓										
54	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius			✓	✓						Н				
55	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus			✓											
56	Bronze-winged Jacana	Metopidius indicus		1	✓											
57	Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago			✓	✓										✓
58	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos			1							1				
59	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola			2	Н										✓
60	Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus			Н	Н										
61	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia			2	н										-

	E=Endemic, N=Near-ende	mic I=Introduced							Jan	uary						
	Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
62	Brown-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus		✓												
63	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida		✓		✓										✓
64	Milky Stork	Mycteria cinerea		6												
65	Painted Stork	Mycteria leucocephala		✓	✓	✓										
66	Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans		✓	✓	✓										
67	Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus					2	1	5							
68	Lesser Adjutant	Leptoptilos javanicus		8			2	1			2					
69	Little Cormorant	Microcarbo niger	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓			✓
70	Indian Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscicollis	✓	✓												
71	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo		✓	✓											
72	Oriental Darter	Anhinga melanogaster	1	✓								1				
73	Black-headed Ibis	Threskiornis melanocephalus		✓	✓											
74	White-shouldered Ibis	Pseudibis davisoni				4										
75	Giant Ibis	Pseudibis gigantea					1+									
76	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		✓	✓											
77	Yellow Bittern	Ixobrychus sinensis			1											
78	Cinnamon Bittern	Ixobrychus cinnamomeus			1											
79	Black Bittern	Dupetor flavicollis		3+												
80	Striated Heron	Butorides striata		3+												
81	Chinese Pond Heron	Ardeola bacchus	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
82	Javan Pond Heron	Ardeola speciosa		2												
83	Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
84	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea		✓	✓	✓					1		✓			
85	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea		✓	✓	✓										
86	Great Egret	Ardea alba	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓			
87	Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia		✓	✓	✓						✓				
88	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓
89	Spot-billed Pelican	Pelecanus philippensis		✓	✓	✓										
90	Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus			1	1										
91	Crested Honey Buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus												2		
92	Jerdon's Baza	Aviceda jerdoni												3	2	
93	Black Baza	Aviceda leuphotes			✓	✓										

	E=Endemic, N=Nea	ar-endemic I=Introduced							Jan	uary						
	Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
94	White-rumped Vulture	Gyps bengalensis									✓	✓				
95	Slender-billed Vulture	Gyps tenuirostris									✓	✓				
96	Red-headed Vulture	Sarcogyps calvus									✓	✓				
97	Crested Serpent Eagle	Spilornis cheela					1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
98	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus nipalensis												1	1	
99	Rufous-bellied Eagle	Lophotriorchis kienerii													1	
100	Greater Spotted Eagle	Clanga clanga			6											
101	Crested Goshawk	Accipiter trivirgatus							1					1	2	
102	Shikra	Accipiter badius	1				1	✓	✓	1		✓		✓	✓	✓
103	Eastern Marsh Harrier	Circus spilonotus			4	✓					1					
104	Pied Harrier	Circus melanoleucos				✓										
105	Black Kite	Milvus migrans			4											
106	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus ichthyaetus		3						1						
107	Rufous-winged Buzzard	Butastur liventer				2+	6+	✓	✓							
108	Eastern Barn Owl	Tyto javanica			1											
109	Oriental Bay Owl	Phodilus badius								Н	Н					
110	Collared Scops Owl	Otus lettia					1	Н								
111	Oriental Scops Owl	Otus sunia					Н				Н	Н				
112	Brown Fish Owl	Ketupa zeylonensis							1							
113	Spotted Wood Owl	Strix seloputo			1											
114	Brown Wood Owl	Strix leptogrammica						2								
115	Collared Owlet	Glaucidium brodiei												Н		
116	Asian Barred Owlet	Glaucidium cuculoides	2+		2			4	Н	1	✓					
117	Spotted Owlet	Athene brama			2											
118	Brown Hawk-Owl (Boobook)	Ninox scutulata							Н		Н					
119	Orange-breasted Trogon	Harpactes oreskios							Н	1	✓				Н	
120	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops				1	1	1	Н			1			✓	
121	Great Hornbill	Buceros bicornis											1	Н	1	
122	Oriental Pied Hornbill	Anthracoceros albirostris		1		1		2+	2	2	н	2	✓	✓	✓	
123	Indochinese Roller	Coracias affinis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
124	Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis											1		1	
125	Banded Kingfisher	Lacedo pulchella								Н				Н		

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	Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
126	Stork-billed Kingfisher	Pelargopsis capensis		✓					1	Н						
127	White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis		✓			1	1			1			1	1	1
128	Black-capped Kingfisher	Halcyon pileata			1											
129	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis		✓	✓	✓							2			1
130	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis			3								1			
131	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis athertoni								Н	Н			1		
132	Green Bee-eater	Merops orientalis			1	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	\checkmark	✓	✓	✓
133	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	Merops philippinus		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓			
134	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	Merops leschenaulti	2					1	✓	2	✓					
135	Red-vented Barbet	Psilopogon lagrandieri											Н		Н	
136	Lineated Barbet	Psilopogon lineatus	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
137	Green-eared Barbet	Psilopogon faiostrictus								н	Н		✓		✓	
138	Indochinese Barbet	Psilopogon annamensis													2	✓
139	Blue-eared Barbet	Psilopogon duvaucelii							1				✓	✓	✓	
140	Coppersmith Barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus	✓		✓		Н	Н			✓	✓			✓	
141	Heart-spotted Woodpecker	Hemicircus canente											2			
142	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus canicapillus				1	1	1			1	✓				
143	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	Leiopicus mahrattensis									1					
144	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	Dendrocopos hyperythrus					1+					2				
145	White-bellied Woodpecker	Dryocopus javensis					Н	2+		Н	3					
146	Laced Woodpecker	Picus vittatus		н					Н	н	Н					
147	Black-headed Woodpecker	Picus erythropygius					Н	2			✓	4+				
148	Grey-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus									1					
149	Common Flameback	Dinopium javanense			2	1	✓			✓	Н					
150	Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus						1		✓		1				
151	Bay Woodpecker	Blythipicus pyrrhotis													1	
152	Rufous Woodpecker	Micropternus brachyurus				1										
153	Great Slaty Woodpecker	Mulleripicus pulverulentus					4	5		4	✓	3				
154	White-rumped Falcon	Polihierax insignis									1	2				-
155	Collared Falconet	Microhierax caerulescens	_									1	2		3	
156	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	_			2										1
157	Blossom-headed Parakeet	Psittacula roseata					 ✓ 	✓				1				

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158	Red-breasted Parakeet	Psittacula alexandri	✓			✓	✓	✓		Н	✓	✓				✓
159	Alexandrine Parakeet	Psittacula eupatria	✓													
160	Vernal Hanging Parrot	Loriculus vernalis						✓		Н	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
161	Banded Broadbill	Eurylaimus javanicus											Н		3	
162	Dusky Broadbill	Corydon sumatranus													7	
163	Bar-bellied Pitta	Hydrornis elliotii								1	Н		Н		Н	
164	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus						2	2	✓				✓	✓	
165	Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis virgatus									4+					
166	Common Woodshrike	Tephrodornis pondicerianus				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
167	Ashy Woodswallow	Artamus fuscus			3							2		3	✓	
168	Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia					1	2		✓	✓	✓			✓	
169	Small Minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
170	Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus speciosus						1	✓					2	✓	
171	Ashy Minivet	Pericrocotus divaricatus	✓							✓	✓					
172	Rosy Minivet	Pericrocotus roseus							2							
173	Large Cuckooshrike	Coracina macei					1	3		✓	✓	✓				
174	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	Lalage melaschistos											1	\checkmark	✓	
175	Indochinese Cuckooshrike	Lalage polioptera					1	2	✓		✓					
176	Brown Shrike	Lanius cristatus			✓	✓	1	✓				✓		✓	✓	
177	Burmese Shrike	Lanius collurioides				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			1	
178	White-bellied Erpornis	Erpornis zantholeuca								✓				✓	✓	
179	Black-naped Oriole	Oriolus chinensis	✓						✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
180	Black-hooded Oriole	Oriolus xanthornus				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
181	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
182	Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus	✓		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
183	Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus							✓	✓	✓				✓	
184	Hair-crested Drongo	Dicrurus hottentottus					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
185	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus	✓		1			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
186	White-browed Fantail	Rhipidura aureola				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				
187	Malaysian/Sunda Pied Fantail	Rhipidura javanica		✓	1							✓				
188	Black-naped Monarch	Hypothymis azurea					Н	✓	✓	✓	✓					
189	Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone affinis						1	Н	✓	✓					

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190	Eurasian/White-faced Jay	Garrulus glandarius													1	
191	Red-billed Blue Magpie	Urocissa erythroryncha					2	✓	✓	✓						
192	Rufous Treepie	Dendrocitta vagabunda						1		2						
193	Racket-tailed Treepie	Crypsirina temia		2							1	2				
194	Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
195	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis						2	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
196	Horsfield's/ Australasian Bush Lark	Mirafra javanica				✓										
197	Indochinese Bush Lark	Mirafra erythrocephala				✓	✓	✓								
198	Oriental Skylark	Alauda gulgula				✓										
199	Black-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus atriceps													~	
200	Black-crested Bulbul	Pycnonotus flaviventris					✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	~	
201	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus												✓	✓	
202	Sooty-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus aurigaster			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
203	Stripe-throated Bulbul	Pycnonotus finlaysoni											✓			
204	Yellow-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus goiavier	✓	~	✓							✓	✓			
205	Streak-eared Bulbul	Pycnonotus conradi	✓	✓				✓	✓				✓	✓		
206	Puff-throated Bulbul	Alophoixus pallidus							✓					✓		
207	Ochraceous Bulbul	Alophoixus ochraceus													~	
208	Grey-eyed Bulbul	lole propinqua							✓	✓	✓		Н	✓	✓	
209	Ashy Bulbul	Hemixos flavala													~	
210	Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus									2			✓	✓	
211	Sand Martin (Pale Martin)	Riparia riparia (diluta)		✓		✓										
212	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	✓
213	Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
214	Yellow-bellied Warbler	Abroscopus superciliaris												5		
215	Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	✓	Н	Н	Н	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Н	✓	~	
216	Radde's Warbler	Phylloscopus schwarzi	✓						✓							
217	Dusky Warbler	Phylloscopus fuscatus		✓	✓				✓			✓				
218	Eastern Crowned Warbler	Phylloscopus coronatus												1		
219	Alström's Warbler	Phylloscopus soror								1						
220	Two-barred Warbler	Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus	2							✓				1/2	~	
221	Pale-legged Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus tenellipes	✓				1		 ✓ 	✓	✓	✓	Н	Н	н	

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222	Arctic Warbler	Phylloscopus borealis								✓						
223	Oriental Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus orientalis			✓											
224	Black-browed Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus bistrigiceps			2											
225	Manchurian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus tangorum				2/3										
226	Lanceolated Warbler	Locustella lanceolata				1/2						Н				
227	Striated Grassbird	Megalurus palustris				✓										✓
228	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis				✓						✓				✓
229	Brown Prinia	Prinia polychroa					✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	
230	Rufescent Prinia	Prinia rufescens				1		✓			✓					
231	Grey-breasted Prinia	Prinia hodgsonii											✓		✓	
232	Yellow-bellied Prinia	Prinia flaviventris										✓				
233	Plain Prinia	Prinia inornata			✓			✓								✓
234	Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	Н	н	✓	
235	Dark-necked Tailorbird	Orthotomus atrogularis	✓	✓											✓	
236	Cambodian Tailorbird - E	Orthotomus chaktomuk														3
237	Rufous-capped Babbler	Stachyridopsis ruficeps									✓	Н				
238	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	Macronus gularis		н				Н	✓	✓						
239	Grey-faced Tit-Babbler	Macronus kelleyi												✓	✓	
240	Chestnut-capped Babbler	Timalia pileata													2	
241	Abbott's Babbler	Malacocincla abbotti							Н	Н						
242	Scaly-crowned Babbler	Malacopteron cinereum							✓	✓						
243	Puff-throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps					2				2					
244	White-crested Laughingthrush	Garrulax leucolophus							✓	✓	✓					✓
245	White-cheeked Laughingthrush	Garrulax vassali														1
246	Indian White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus												✓	✓	
247	Asian Fairy-bluebird	Irena puella								1			1	2	✓	
248	Burmese Nuthatch	Sitta neglecta									1	✓			2	
249	Golden-crested Myna	Ampeliceps coronatus													4	✓
250	Common Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa	✓						✓	✓			2	2		
251	Great Myna	Acridotheres grandis		✓	✓							✓				
252	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
253	Vinous-breasted Starling	Acridotheres burmannicus						4			2+	✓		2	✓	

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254	Black-collared Starling	Gracupica nigricollis			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
255	White-shouldered Starling	Sturnia sinensis										✓				
256	Chestnut-tailed Starling	Sturnia malabarica					1				1	✓	1		✓	
257	Oriental Magpie-Robin	Copsychus saularis		Н				2			1			✓	✓	✓
258	White-rumped Shama	Copsychus malabaricus						2	✓	✓	Н					
259	Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
260	Hainan Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis hainanus	✓					2	✓					✓	✓	
261	Indochinese Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis sumatrensis						1	✓							
262	Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
263	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius	✓													
264	White-throated Rock Thrush	Monticola gularis								1	1					
265	Siberian Stonechat	Saxicola maurus			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
266	Pied Bush Chat	Saxicola caprata			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
267	Blue-winged Leafbird	Chloropsis cochinchinensis							✓	✓	✓		2	✓	✓	
268	Golden-fronted Leafbird	Chloropsis aurifrons					1	3				✓		✓	✓	
269	Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	Dicaeum chrysorrheum												✓	✓	
270	Plain Flowerpecker	Dicaeum minullum												✓		
271	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	Dicaeum ignipectus													✓	
272	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum cruentatum		✓	Н									✓	✓	
273	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	Chalcoparia singalensis							✓					✓		
274	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	Leptocoma brasiliana							✓						✓	
275	Purple Sunbird	Cinnyris asiaticus				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
276	Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		✓	
277	Langbian/Black-throated Sunbird	Aethopyga saturata johnsi												✓	✓	
278	Crimson Sunbird	Aethopyga siparaja												✓	✓	
279	Little Spiderhunter	Arachnothera longirostra												✓		
280	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓			✓
281	Plain-backed Sparrow	Passer flaveolus			✓	✓		1				✓	✓			✓
282	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	1	1	✓	✓			✓
283	Streaked Weaver	Ploceus manyar				2										
284	Baya Weaver	Ploceus philippinus			✓							✓				
285	Asian Golden Weaver	Ploceus hypoxanthus										✓			1	

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286	Red Avadavat	Amandava amandava				✓										
287	White-rumped Munia	Lonchura striata						✓								
288	Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
289	Chestnut Munia	Lonchura atricapilla				3										
290	Forest Wagtail	Dendronanthus indicus	3													
291	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea												1		
292	Chinese White Wagtail	Motacilla alba leucopsis		✓												
293	Mekong Wagtail	Motacilla samveasnae											1 ð			
294	Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus rufulus			✓	✓		✓				✓				
295	Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni				✓	Н	✓						Н		
296	Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus			✓	✓						✓				

Mammals

1	Crab-eating (Long-tailed) Macaque	Macaca fascicularis	6											
2	Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	Macaca leonina	1											
3	Black-shanked Douc Langur	Pygathrix nigripes									6	c4	1+	
4	Germain's Langur	Trachypithecus germaini						3/6			6			
5	Pileated Gibbon - N	Hylobates pileatus	4					3						
6	Southern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon - N	Nomascus gabriellae										5+		
7	Pallas's Squirrel	Callosciurus erythraeus										1	1	
8	Indochinese Ground Squirrel	Menetes berdmorei			1	✓	✓							
9	Black Giant Squirrel	Ratufa bicolor						1	✓			1		
10	Cambodian Striped Squirrel	Tamiops rodolphii			3	✓		✓	✓			1	\checkmark	
11	Yellow-throated Marten	Martes flavigula											2	
12	Irrawaddy Dolphin	Orcaella brevirostris									c10			
13	Variable Squirrel	Callosciurus finlaysoni	✓			✓	✓	3	✓					
14	Lyle's Fruit Bat	Pteropus lyles		√										
15	rat sp.						1	✓		1				

Dragonflies

Variagated Flutterer, *Rhyothemis variegata* Russet Percher, *Neurothemis fulvia* Blue Dasher, *Pachydiplax longipennis* Pied Percher, *Neurothemis tullia* Asian Amberwing, *Brachythemis contaminata* Common Blue Skimmer, *Orthetrum glaucum* Common Red Skimmer, Crocothemis chinensis

Butterflies

Dark Blue Glassy Tiger, *Ideopsis vulgaris* Grey Pansy, *Junonia atlites* Crow sp.

Others

Hummingbird Moth sp. Cicada sp. Giant Tree Frog sp Common House Gecko, *Hemidactylus frenatus* noctule bat sp. Ruby Darter

Common Wanderer, *Pareronia valeria* Red-spot Marquis, *Euthalia monilis* Cleopatra sp.

damselfly sp. Scorpion sp. Tree Frog sp. horseshoe bat sp. Peacock Pansy, *Junonia almana* Jesabelle sp.

Stick Insect sp. Tokay Gecko, *Gecko gecko* Pit Viper sp. pipistrelle bat sp.



Irrawaddy Dolphin