

# THAILAND

20 MARCH – 5/10 APRIL 2011

## TOUR REPORT

This year we repeated our Thailand tour with an extension to the south, and were rewarded with a wonderful journey around some of the richest of mainland Asian forests, recording 463 species in just three weeks despite some very unseasonal weather that tested us. We began strongly with Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Nordmann's Greenshank, White-faced and Malaysian Plovers around the coast, while in the forests we saw Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Black-and-Red and Heart-spotted Woodpeckers, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Banded Kingfisher, Black-and-Red and Silver-breasted Broadbills, Orange-headed Thrush, Limestone Wren Babbler, and Rufous-browed Flycatcher. In the northern hills we saw Green Peafowl, Ashy Woodpigeon, Hodgson's Frogmouth, Black-tailed Crake, Black-headed Woodpecker, Giant Nuthatch, Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Spot-throated Babbler, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Rufous-backed Sibia, Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler, Spectacled Barwing, White-browed Laughingthrush, Crested Finchbill, Chinese Leaf Warbler, Spot-winged Grosbeak, Green Cochoa, Dark-sided Thrush and Slender-billed Oriole. Our extension to the south was very birdy, with stunning looks at Mangrove Pitta, Brown-winged and Ruddy Kingfishers in the mangroves of Krabi, while at Khao Phra Bang Khram we had breath-taking views of male Banded Pitta, plus Rufous-collared Kingfisher, and my personal favourite – the Green Broadbill. Two good mammals were both write-ins; we saw a Binturong drying off after a rainstorm, and a Leopard Cat with a tiny kitten.

Once Bangkok airport had released all its arrivals, we assembled and then drove via the city of Bangkok south-westwards to the huge area of salt pans and fishponds that line the Gulf of Thailand. Our first saltpan stop was at Pak Thale, and after a few minutes of scanning we found a Red-necked Phalarope, then nearby we found our target bird of Spoon-billed Sandpiper, ambling along one of the bunds that separate the ponds and showing off his thick cutlery to good effect. We then found a second bird at very close range, and had a splendid lengthy view as he used his eponymous appendage to preen and refresh his otherwise rather plain plumage. Also here were many Eurasian Curlew, Red-necked Stints, Curlew and Marsh Sandpiper, Eastern Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Mongolian Plovers and Sanderling. Dragging ourselves away from here we visited an area of fresh ponds and mangrove nearby, finding a flock of White-shouldered Starling, Slaty-breasted Rail, Pintail Snipe, Wood Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint, hordes of Egrets and Javan Pond Herons and some big ugly Water Monitors. As dusk fell, we

headed off to our beachfront hotel and dined al fresco with a view of the 'supermoon' rising over the sea. A truly idyllic start to the tour.

The next morning we headed back to the saltpans to see the Spoon-billed Sandpiper once more. We eventually found three of them roosting on the banks, the water levels rising as today the ponds were being filled. We saw many of the same species as the previous day plus some Great Knot, before moving further down the coast to some more saltpans where we found a couple of Painted Storks, a flock of Pied Avocets, and streams of Bar-tailed Godwits and Great Knot passed overhead heading for the coastal mudflats. Clearly the tide was going out, so we moved to Laem Phak Bia and boarded boats that would take us out to the spit of sand that protrudes off the coast here. As we chugged along we found a fine Chinese Egret feeding at the waters edge, and on landing on the beach we quickly found a female White-faced Plover, which offered good views as it scooted around at high speed in crab-chasing mode, a distinctive individual in jizz and behaviour more than in plumage. We also found several Malaysian Plovers here, while on the exposed sand bars were a collection of Brown-headed Gulls, Lesser and Great Crested Terns, Little and Common Terns. As we came to leave, the spring tide of equinox meant that we became stranded on the muddy bottom as the tide raced out of the channel, and we had to relay in a smaller boat so that the larger boat could get off the bottom and eventually we could head back to the village harbour. After some food and cold drinks we scanned the saltpans once more, but all the waders seemed to have headed out to the exposed mud on this very low tide, so we headed inland towards our accommodation at Kaeng Krachan, an uneventful journey except for the flock of 35 Black Baza that appeared from nowhere.

We left early the following morning and drove into Kaeng Krachan along the single access track, and on reaching the top end we were greeted with a Swinhoe's Minivet, Streaked Spiderhunters, Mountain Imperial and Thick-billed Green Pigeons, Great and Blue-throated Barbets. We ate our breakfast next to some busy fruiting trees, and a short walk along the track presented us with an obliging Black-throated Laughingthrush, a Little Cuckoo-dove singing away from a tall tree, and then our main target appeared – a pair of Ratchet-tailed Treepies that gave us a great show as they crowed and cackled at us from some roadside bamboo. Further along the way we found White-browed Shrike-Babbler, and in the forest understorey we had a great look at a Rufous-browed Flycatcher singing its little heart out. It was rather hot and humid yet we continued to find birds throughout the day, adding Golden and Spot-necked Babblers, Red Junglefowl, Long-tailed Broadbill sat on his ragged dangling mess of a nest, Hill Blue Flycatcher, a brief view of Southern Brown Hornbills, and at lower levels we found Banded Broadbill and a delightful pair of Silver-breasted Broadbills, a large Tortoise and an Asian Elephant by the roadside as we drove out of the park.

The next day we returned to the forested ridge where we had enjoyed so many good birds the previous day, and began well with a delightful pair of Raffle's Malkoha, although a vocal Blue Pitta on an inaccessible slope never offered a glimpse. We breakfasted at the roadside as the clouds grew ominously, and then we were caught in a torrential

downpour that eventually forced us to retreat to the campsite and find hot coffee. Once the rain had turned to drizzle we ventured out again, finding Common Green Magpie, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Green-billed Malkoha, Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, and a sleepy but damp Binturong posing for us in a tree. After lunch we headed back up onto the ridge, and managed to get a brief view of a vocal male Grey Peacock Pheasant that appeared on the edge of the road. The other birds seemed not to recover from their drenching, except for an enchanting pair of Silver-breasted Broadbills building a nest over the road, and as we headed out of the park we found Grey-headed Woodpecker, Sultan Tit, and a gorgeous pair of Black-and-Red Broadbills perched side by side.

The next morning we headed out on a cross-country drive, towards ominous clouds that soon turned to rain. Our first stop was at the area of fresh ponds and mangrove once more, and here we quickly found Slaty-breasted Rail, a female Greater Painted Snipe and an obliging Ruddy-breasted Crake. From here we moved to the nearby salt pans, and sheltered inside a salt barn while we watched several Nordmann's Greenshank stood together with Bar-tailed Godwits on a nearby pond. We headed on a circuitous route around Bangkok, and stopped at a pond that had Asian Golden Weavers, numerous Yellow Bitterns, a pair of Stork-billed Kingfishers, Dusky Warbler, Black-browed Reed Warbler, Plain and Yellow-bellied Prinias. We paused for some lunch by the river in Ayuttaya, then headed for a temple nestled against some limestone crags where we quickly found our target of Limestone Wren Babbler, hopping about on the rocks as he is supposed to do. This was the last stop of the day, and we headed for our accommodation on the edge of Khao Yai National Park.

We drove into the park early the following morning, and began trying to see some of its specialities. Never easy in these forests where the birds are famously antisocial, but we began with Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Little Spiderhunter, Blue-bearded Bee-eater and a wonderful pair of Banded Kingfishers, the male of which surprised us by posing on a telephone wire before retreating into the forest, following which the female entertained us with some crown-feather flaring. Grey-eyed and Puff-throated Bulbuls appeared, and a Barred Cuckoo Dove shot by. Mountain Imperial Pigeons were a little more obliging, and a male Red-headed Trogon showed briefly. We made a couple of attempts at seeing Blue Pitta, but they were too keen on eluding us. Higher up the hill we found a very tame and confiding female Red-headed Trogon, a pair of vocal Large Woodshrikes appeared, and an Orange-headed Thrush showed very well as it fed on the forest floor. The afternoon was quieter, with just Green-eared Barbet, another Blue-bearded Bee-eater and a Crested Serpent Eagle that showed well, but protracted 'going-in' sessions for Blue Pitta drew a blank once again, the birds just seemed to head away from us whenever we tried to lure or approach them!

Another day of hard work produced a Black-and-Buff and a Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Yellow-vented, Fire-breasted and Thick-billed Flowerpeckers, Eastern Crowned, Two-barred and Radde's Warbler, and although we got very close to a vocal Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo, he wouldn't shift himself into view. A final hour before leaving threw up

a couple of Greater Flameback and Laced Woodpeckers, and then we headed away to Bangkok airport for the next sector of our tour, the north of the country. We flew to Chiang Mai, then drove north towards the town of Chiang Dao, and just had enough time for some birding at the foot of Doi Chiang Dao. A foray along the steps to a temple produced a very obliging Streaked Wren Babbler that hopped around in the pot plants, plus we saw a couple of Common Green Magpies and a Great Iora.

Starting early the next day to reach the higher parts of Doi Chiang Dao, on arriving we wondered why we had bothered, as thick mist engulfed the mountain and visibility was just ten metres! Slogging around in the damp produced no birds, until a pair of Spot-throated Babblers was persuaded to dance in the open for us, and from thereon things began to improve. The mist began to lift, and we opened our scoring of the many birds hereabouts. White-browed Shrike-Babbler and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch appeared, then Giant Nuthatch arrived with his loud beeping, perched on top of high snags. One such snag hosted a Giant Nuthatch, a Grey-capped Woodpecker, and then a Collared Falconet all in sequence within the space of a minute! We also found Stripe-breasted Woodpeckers, Large Cuckooshrikes, Hume's Warbler, Hill and Rufescent Prinia, a shy White-bellied Redstart, Slender-billed Oriole, Grey-backed and Burmese Shrikes, Grey-headed Parrotbill and a female Spot-winged Grosbeak that whistled away over our heads as we ate our lunch at the sub-station. We slowly wound our way down the mountain in the late afternoon, satisfied to have snatched victory from the jaws of defeat and some nasty Belgian weather.

Another early assault on the mountain was necessary, and we were in pole position in the pre-dawn and walked the ridgeback in search of Pheasants, but to no avail. We continued our birding through the morning although it never really picked up due to the cold temperatures, yet we did manage to flush a pair of Mountain Bamboo Partridges, and found Slaty-backed, Slaty-blue and Little Pied Flycatchers, more Giant Nuthatches, Grey-cheeked Fulvettas, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, and Blue-throated Barbet. As we headed back down the mountain, a very spotty kitten bounded off the track. Stopping quickly we were drawn to it by its loud yelp, answered by another yelp from its mother, a gorgeous Leopard Cat! The tiny youngster struggled along across the rough grassy slope, its mother returning to it to ensure it was following. Brilliant!

Returning to the lowlands, we then headed towards the Burma border and northwards to our next destination, Doi Ang Khang. We paused en-route to study Striated Swallows and Plaintive Cuckoos, and reaching the higher forested ridges near the border we found Silver-eared Mesia, Dark-backed Sibia, Striated Yuhina, Blue-winged Siva, Mrs Gould's Sunbird and Brown-breasted Bulbuls. It was cold and grey up here, and the temperature dipped to a remarkable 9.8 degrees Celsius at our accommodation, which did at least have electric blankets!

The next morning once again we met the fog. This time it cleared after a couple of hours, and we were able to get stuck into the specialities of the area. We found a confiding

Scarlet-faced *Liocichla* that gave us some stunning looks at close range, a male White-tailed Robin, Lesser Shortwing, Rufous-backed *Sibia*, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, White-browed Laughingthrush, and a Spot-breasted Parrotbill that gave us a brief view before disappearing. We also found Striated Bulbul and some dapper Crested Finchbills, Buff-throated Warbler, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Hume's and Chinese Leaf Warblers, Gould's Sunbirds in the hotel garden, Common Rosefinches and Asian House Martin. We made a nocturnal excursion and managed to locate a vocal Hodgson's Frogmouth, and even managed to get a brief glimpse as he sat high in a pine tree before refusing to play any more.

We spent our second morning here in a cool valley, where White-gorgeted Flycatchers taunted us for a while before good views were acquired. Also here were Lesser Shortwing, Marten's Warbler, and the unseen Spot-breasted Laughingthrush did his usual trick of singing from a densely vegetated slope. In more open country we managed to get a good look at a stunning Spot-breasted Parrotbill, while Large Hawk Cuckoo and Siberian Rubythroat played hide-and-seek. After checking out we headed for the plains, where in paddies and river margins we found Pied Harriers, Temminck's Stint, Green Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plovers, Grey-headed Lapwing, Eurasian Wryneck, Pintail Snipe, Yellow-eyed Babbler, a large gathering of Citrine Wagtails, a few Eastern Grey-headed and Swinhoe's Wagtails, Rosy and Richards Pipits, and a surprise write-in of Purple-backed Starling that was well-received.

The following morning we thought the rain had followed us, but it soon desisted and we set out across the paddyfields once more, and saw Chestnut-capped and Yellow-eyed Babblers, several Siberian Rubythroats that hopped around in the open, a flock of Red-throated Pipits, Barred Buttonquails, Grey-breasted Prinias, and several Oriental Pratincoles that sat down in dry fields and made the appearance of nesting yet without mobbing behaviour, seeming to indicate that egg laying was imminent. We drove south towards Chaing Mai and visited the Huai Hong Khrai Royal Project, and almost immediately upon our arrival we espied a male Green Peafowl casually strolling along the shore of one of the ponds there. This was a fortuitous sighting, as he disappeared after several minutes and we saw no others! A little exploration around these dry woodlands and ponds produced some Grey-headed Lapwings, Black-capped Kingfisher, Black Baza, and a finale of great views of both Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and Puff-throated Babbler.

Our next stop was Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest mountain and our home for four nights. We drove to the summit the following morning, arriving at dawn and before any of the weekend tourists. The second vehicle had a good start as they saw three Rufous-throated Partridges feeding at the roadside on their way up, then all together we stepped onto the summit marsh trail and were immediately greeted by a male White-browed Shortwing that bounced up the path towards us, only veering off when he was 2m from us! Creeping around the boardwalk we found numerous Shortwings, the males all engaging in energetic song and feisty displays of bouncing off tree trunks, plus we found a Pygmy Wren Babbler (hopping along a mossy log just as the brochure said it would!)

Yellow-bellied Fantails, Silver-eared Laughingthrushes, Blyth's Leaf Warbler, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, and Green-tailed Sunbirds fed around the flowerbeds as we drank coffee. Further down the mountain we saw Short-billed Minivets, two Asian Emerald Cuckoos, an initially perplexing conundrum of a male Black-eared Shrike-Babbler associating with a female Chestnut-fronted Shrike Babbler, Slaty-bellied Tesia, Large Niltava and Golden-throated Barbet. We paused for lunch, and then found White-headed Bulbuls, were taunted by a calling Green Cochoa, had great views of a Speckled Piculet, and at a last stop in the lower altitude dry woodlands we saw Collared Falconet and had a great view of a stunning Chestnut-winged Cuckoo.

The following day was rather quieter, yet searching for the Green Cochoa yielded a total of three birds – all glimpsed in flight, with one that perched for a short while for a lucky few. None were tape-responsive, in actual fact it seemed to repel them! We saw a dozen Ashy Woodpigeons, a pair of Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babblers, Yellow-cheeked Tits, Spectacled Barwing, Rufous-backed and Dark-backed Sibias, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, more showy White-browed Shortwings, and had a fine view of a pair of Slaty-backed Forktails on a waterfall shared with some Blue Whistling Thrushes.

A final day on Doi Inthanon began with a walk in the lower altitude dry deciduous forests, where we found two groups of colourful Black-headed Woodpeckers, Collared Falconets mating on top of a dead snag, Golden-fronted Leafbirds, a handsome pair of Neglected Nuthatch and a Black-hooded Oriole. As we moved up the road we found Rufous-winged Buzzards and Oriental Honey Buzzards, White-gorgeted and Little Pied Flycatchers, and we got close to Green Cochoa, calling while hidden in dense foliage and departing before we could get a look. A return to the summit marsh in the afternoon was eventually successful in finding a Dark-sided Thrush that fed in the darkest shadows, mashing his way through the leaf litter and giving us a little bit of sub-song. An evening sojourn at the campsite was also successful, when two Black-tailed Crakes came running out into view on some short grass.

The next day, after finding a Spotted Owlet in our hotel garden, we drove to Chiang Mai airport and flew to Krabi via Bangkok. Despite the south of Thailand having just suffered the worst flooding in living memory, with many areas still under mud and water, we had no trouble reaching our well-appointed resort, situated alongside the mangrove-lined river. We stepped out into a very hot and humid garden and found Olive-winged and Yellow-vented Bulbuls, Rufous-bellied and Pacific Swallows, Brown-throated Sunbird, Black-capped Kingfisher and Common Flameback, then as a Mangrove Pitta started calling we managed to get some brief views of one that came out onto the tidal mud before flying off. The next day we took to boats and chugged our way up the narrow creeks, finding a stunning pair of Spotted Wood Owls perched in waterside trees, several noisy Brown-winged Kingfishers, and Ruddy Kingfisher and Mangrove Pitta that only obliged us with flight views. We also saw Ashy Tailorbird, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Japanese Sparrowhawk, Brahminy Kite, Dollarbird, and out in the bay we found shorebirds standing on wooden posts and platforms that included Eurasian Whimbrel, Terek

Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Bar-tailed Godwits, plus a few Common Terns. Heading back onto dry land we had a remarkable hour in our hotel garden, with a responsive Mangrove Pitta singing in the open at close range. Soon afterwards we found a pair of Ruddy Kingfishers, with some calling and wing-flicking in a presumed courtship display. Not to be outdone, our trusty guide Pipith located a pair of Buffy Fish Owls for us in the mangroves, and we had some good looks at these before they melted away in to the trees. We drove from here to Khao Phra Bang Khram, where early explorations of the surrounding habitat yielded little except for a pair of Spectacled Spiderhunters.

The next day we began our search for Gurney's Pitta, but as none were making themselves available we strolled through the forest, finding a gorgeous Green Broadbill, Chestnut-winged Babblers and Yellow-bellied Bulbuls, then our local guide Mr Yothin took us into his temporary hide, where just in front was feeding a male Banded Pitta! It allowed us prolonged eye-popping views until we were sated and walked away. The afternoon picked up well and we saw Black-and-Yellow Broadbill, Puff-backed Bulbul, and had stunning views of both Red-throated and Red-crowned Barbets. We made a night birding excursion, which was successful in hearing an Oriental Bay Owl, but the bird would not budge in our direction. Renewing our search the following morning, we found Moustached and Black-capped Babblers, Hairy-backed Bulbul, Yellow-rumped Flycatcher and Asian Paradise Flycatcher. We also found Scaly-crowned Babbler, Grey-breasted Spiderhunter, and a trio of Rufous-winged Philentoma engaged in nuptial chases. After lunch we visited another area of forest where we saw Maroon Woodpecker, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, Drongo Cuckoo, Short-tailed Babbler, and an exquisite male Rufous-collared Kingfisher that sat high on a perch uttering his mournful whistle.

On our final morning in these birdy forests, Mr Yothin and his assistants continued to scour the forest for the Gurneys Pittas, while we birded along a track and found Grey-cheeked and Puff-backed Bulbuls, Green Broadbill, Yellow-breasted and Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers, an obliging Buff-rumped Woodpecker and a Black-naped Monarch sat on its cone-like nest. Unfortunately the time had come to leave, and we packed up and sped off towards Phuket airport. We made a stop for lunch en-route in a rather rustic restaurant in some mangroves, and we were surprised to find a Ruddy Kingfisher sat on the handrail just a few metres in front of us! Reaching Phuket airport we all headed in our separate directions, homeward bound after this fantastic trip. Despite numerous setbacks with bad weather and a no-show by Gurney's Pitta (in what was paradoxically some of the birdiest forests of the whole trip!) this country continues to offer world-class birding, and we had enjoyed some of the best of it.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H)

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL)

### PHASIANIDAE

Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* (H): Heard distantly at Doi Inthanon.

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis*: A lucky encounter for the second vehicle as we drove up Doi Inthanon in the early morning, as three were seen on the forest edge at the roadside. For the rest of us, it was a 'heard-only'.

Bar-backed Partridge *Arborophila brunneopectus* (H): Heard distantly at Kaeng Krachan.

Scaly-breasted Partridge *Arborophila chloropus* (H): Heard at Khao Yai.

Mountain Bamboo-partridge *Bambusicola fytchii*: Several heard calling at Doi Chiang Dao, with a pair seen well in flight there.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: Seen frequently at Kaeng Krachan, also seen at Khao Yai, Doi Ang Khang and Huai Hong Khrai.

Grey Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*: A notable success from our short time at Kaeng Krachan, we managed to lure a vocal male on the ridge up to the roadside.

Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*: Despite their alleged abundance at Huai Hong Khrai, we saw just one male, with a partly-moulted tail, that disappeared after a few minutes of lakeside parading, back into the forest. Although it felt easy, as the bird was on show as soon as we arrived there, I think we were rather fortunate.

### ANATIDAE

Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*: Flocks were seen on the wet areas near Samut Songkhram, and also in good number at the lake near Bang Len.

### PODICEPIDIDAE

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Seen at Bang Len, Huai Hong Khrai and also on the reservoir at Kaeng Krachan.

### CICONIIDAE

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*: At least six seen around the Laem Phak Bia area, and a couple more as we drove around the Bangkok area.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*: Hundreds seen in the wet paddies and swamps that surround the Bangkok area.

### ARDEIDAE

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: Six birds were seen around the pond at Bang Len.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*: A single was flushed at Bang Len, and another was seen by the 'Big C' at Krabi.

Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: A couple of singles were seen at Laem Phak Bia Kings Project.

Little Heron (Striated H) *Butorides striata*: Seen at Laem Phak Bia, Khao Yai and Krabi.

Chinese Pond-heron *Ardeola bacchus*: Seen commonly and almost daily, many in attractive breeding plumage.

Javan Pond-heron *Ardeola speciosa*: Clearly identifiable in their breeding plumage, we found them at various wetland sites around the Gulf of Thailand.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*: Encountered regularly in typical habitat.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: A few were seen around the Phetchaburi wetland sites.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Plenty seen at Laem Phak Bia, and also on many of the wetlands in the Phetchaburi and Bangkok area.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*: A few seen at Laem Phak Bia with the Egret hordes.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: Many seen in wetlands and paddies in the central part of the country.

Pacific Reef-egret *Egretta sacra*: A single was seen near Laem Phak Bia as we lunched, and two were seen at Krabi.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*: A surprise find at Laem Phak Bia, we had some great views of one as it fed along the shallow margins of the creek.

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*: Numerous around the wet areas around Phetchaburi and Bangkok.

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*: A staggering number seen around the Phetchaburi wetlands, with hundreds gathered around one fishpond alone.

#### FALCONIDAE

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens*: One at Doi Chiang Dao was unexpected, then we saw two pairs in the dry woodland on Doi Inthanon including one pair noisily copulating on the top of a dead tree.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: A male at Thaton was the only one of the tour.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: One zipped over the salt pans at Pak Thale, flushing a big flock of Curlews, and one other was seen hunting Swiftlets at dusk at our Krabi hotel.

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*: A flock of 35 birds flew low over us as we drove into Kaeng Krachan, and singles of this attractive raptor were seen at Huai Hong Khrai and Doi Inthanon.

Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: A small number were seen, at Doi Ang Khang, Doi Inthanon and Krabi.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*: A single was seen at Bang Len, and three were at Thaton.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*/Black-eared Kite *Milvus lineatus*: A single seen near Pak Thale was not assigned to species, but probably refers to *lineatus*.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: A few were seen in the Laem Phak Bia area, also seen at Krabi.

White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: One seen very well in the mangroves at Krabi.

Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela*: Singles were seen at Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai, Doi Chiang Dao and Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Eastern Marsh-harrier *Circus spilonotus* (NL): One seen at Thaton.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*: Two or three immature birds seen near Thaton, plus a male seen by some.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: Two displaying birds showed well at Doi Ang Khang, and single was seen at Doi Inthanon.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*: A single at Kaeng Krachan, another at Doi Inthanon, and two soaring birds were seen at a lunchstop near Chiang Dao.

Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis*: Two birds soared over the mangrove creek at Krabi.

Rufous-winged Buzzard *Butastur liventer*: Three birds seen at lower altitudes on Doi Inthanon, soaring around on warming air.

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* (NL): One seen at Doi Ang Khang.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*: Singles were seen at Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: Three were seen soaring over the ridge at Kaeng Krachan.

#### RALLIDAE

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus*: Good looks at a couple of birds at Laem Phak Bia.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: A few sightings in suitable habitat, such as at Laem Phak Bia Royal Project.

Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor*: Not the kind of birding that favours the impatient! We made several attempts at waiting for this fellow to emerge from his favourite swamp at Doi Inthanon, finally getting satisfaction on our last attempt, with two of these attractive birds stepping out onto the grass in front of us.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*: A prolonged view of two birds at Laem Phak Bia, walking around in the open without a care in the world!

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Some in the Laem Phak Bia area, also seen at Huai Hong Khrai.

#### TURNICIDAE

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*: A reasonable if brief view of two at Thaton, initially running along the ground and subsequently in flight. Also heard at Khao Yai.

#### BURHINIDAE

Indian Thick-knee *Burhinus indicus* (NL): One seen on the way to Pak Thale.

## PLUVIALIDAE

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*: A fair few seen on the salt pans around Phetchaburi.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: Fifty or more seen on the salt pans around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia, and a lone bird at Krabi.

## RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: Found commonly on the wetlands of the Phetchaburi and Bangkok area.

## VANELLIDAE

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*: Two were seen on the salt pans at Laem Phak Bia, then six were seen at Thaton, and another four by the lakes at Huai Hong Khrai.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*: Found regularly in open country and also along the roadsides at Kaeng Krachan and clearings at Khao Yai.

## CHARADRIIDAE

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: One on our first day at Laem Phak Bia, then several were by the river at Thaton.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: Fairly numerous on the salt pans at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia.

White-faced Plover *Charadrius dealbatus*: We enjoyed a good long look at a female of this 'new' species at Laem Phak Bia, a subtle bird that shows more differences the longer one observes it, with its 'jizz' and behaviour clearly different to the adjacent Kentish Plovers on the beach. It has clearly heavier skull, and also an ability to outrun everything else on the beach!

Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*: At least four available on the beach at Laem Phak Bia, with both sexes showing very bright and striking plumage, yet nudged into second priority as the above species takes the limelight!

Lesser Sand-plover (Mongolian P) *Charadrius mongolus*: The default plover on the salt pans at Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia, they numbered in scores or even hundreds with many attaining the rich tones of breeding plumage.

## JACANIDAE

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*: At least four seen in roadside ditches as we traveled through the Ayuttaya area.

## ROSTRATULIDAE

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*: The first to be seen on this tour for many many years, we had a good view of a female feeding in a wet ditch at Laem Phak Bia.

## SCOLOPACIDAE

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*: Several were seen at Laem Phak Bia Kings Project, and three in a dry paddy at Thaton.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: A few were with the above species at Laem Phak Bia Kings Project.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*: A surprise find at Pak Thale, with one seen swimming about in the shallows on a saltpan.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: Some sizable flocks in the wetlands around Pak Thale.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: Also in good number around the coastal saltpans, with many in breeding plumage already.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: At least 30 seen around the fish-traps at Krabi.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*: A large flock of a few hundred at Pak Thale, most of them cleared off when the Peregrine came steaming through.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*: At least 60 standing on the fish-traps at Krabi.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: Regularly seen in ones and twos around the coastal wetlands, at Krabi along the tidal creek and also at Thaton.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: A couple were seen at Thaton, and a single at Huai Hong Khrai.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: Quite a few seen in the coastal wetlands around Laem Phak Bia and Pak Thale.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: Fewer than the above in the coastal wetlands.

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*: At least 30 of these much-desired creatures found on the saltpans at Laem Phak Bia, watched as we huddled inside the salt barn in the torrential rain! They are remarkably similar to Common Greenshank, with a rather subtle range of ID features.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: Many feeding in the shallows of the coastal saltpans.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: Quite a few seen at Laem Phak Bia Kings Project, then we saw an airborne flock of 17 at Thaton.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: Just a couple found around the saltpans, then many more at Krabi roosting on one of the small islands.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*: Good numbers (250+) at the Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia saltpans, and a handful seen at Krabi. Most were in breeding plumage.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: A few seen around the saltpans and also on Laem Phak Bia sand spit.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmeus*: Great looks at three of these highly-prized birds at Pak Thale, our first stop on this tour and our first bird appearing within minutes of us arriving! We got pretty close to one of them that stood preening and fidgeting on a bank, and we returned the following day for repeat views when we found three on the narrow bunds.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*: A reasonable number seen on the saltpans.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: Just a single, on the river at Thaton.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*: A small number seen around the coastal wetlands, most being at Laem Phak Bia Kings Project.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: A few at Pak Thale, some acquiring breeding plumage.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*: Associating with the above, we saw at least 20 birds on the salt pans.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: A quartet seen on the fish-traps at Krabi.

#### GLAREOLIDAE

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*: A gathering of birds in the fields at Thaton were clearly about to nest, though without any mobbing behaviour we deduced no eggs were yet laid, but it wouldn't be long! They allowed some nice prolonged close views anyway. Also seen at Kaeng Krachan and on the runway at BKK.

#### STERNIDAE

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*: Only seen around the coastal sites where they were in good number around the salt pans.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*: A flock of a dozen on the Laem Phak Bia salt pans.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*: A few seen around the salt pans and wetlands along the coast.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: Hundreds of birds scattered throughout the coastal wetlands.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: At least 40 birds sat on a sandbar off Laem Phak Bia, plus another 10 around the fish-traps at Krabi.

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*: Eight sat on a sandbar off Laem Phak Bia.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*: A single with the above species.

#### LARIDAE

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*: Some hundreds seen around the coastal salt pans.

#### COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Tick.

Ashy Woodpigeon *Columba pulchricollis*: Up to 12 birds seen in flight, high up on Doi Inthanon.

Oriental Turtle-dove *Streptopelia orientalis*: One seen flying away at Doi Chiang Dao, with at least one other heard singing there.

Red Collared-dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: Very common in open country in Central Thailand and around the coastal wetlands.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Regularly seen in small numbers throughout the tour.

Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall*: A single fly-by at Khao Yai, then a good view of one stood on the track at Doi Chiang Dao.

Little Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia ruficeps*: A good start to our first day at Kaeng Krachan, with a singing bird showing reasonably well on the ridge.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: In good number at Kaeng Krachan where they are not so shy, and also seen at Khao Yai.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*: Regularly seen in open country in Central Thailand, also found at Krabi.

Thick-billed Green-pigeon *Treron curvirostra*: Seen on several occasions at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai.

Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon *Treron sphenura*: A male seen at Khao Yai.

Mountain Imperial-pigeon *Ducula badia*: Some great close views of some relaxed birds at Kaeng Krachan and at Khao Yai, also seen at Doi Chiang Dao.

#### PSITTACIDAE

Vernal Hanging-parrot *Loriculus vernalis*: Seen at Kaeng Krachan and at Khao Yai, almost always zipping overhead calling.

#### CUCULIDAE

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus*: An exciting encounter with a vocal and inquisitive individual in the woodland at the foot of Doi Inthanon.

Large Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveriioides*: Heard singing at Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Inthanon and Doi Ang Khang, and one was seen at the latter site.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* (H): Singles heard at Kaeng Krachan and Doi Inthanon.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*: Heard at Kaeng Krachan, Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon, with one actually seen at a lunch stop near Chiang Dao.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: Two were seen in fields near Chiang Dao, and singles were seen at Thaton and at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*: Some great views of both sexes at Doi Inthanon, seen on all three days there.

Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*: One in the rain at Kaeng Krachan, and another at Khao Phra Bang Khram. Also heard at Doi Chiang Dao.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*: Seen frequently, typically flying past rapidly.

Coral-billed Ground-cuckoo *Carpococcyx renauldi* (H): A vocal bird at Khao Yai could not be lured into view, staying hidden from us in a dense thicket. I think it was wise to our tricks!

Black-bellied Malkoha *Rhopodytes diardi*: A single bird was seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram, hiding in foliage.

Green-billed Malkoha *Rhopodytes tristis*: Seen in all the forests we visited except for in the south.

Raffles's Malkoha *Rhinortha chlorophaeus*: A pair showed well to us at Kaeng Krachan just before the rain came. Also heard at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: A few seen, at Thaton, Krabi and Kaeng Krachan, more often heard.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*: A couple of birds seen in the grass at Thaton.

## TYTONIDAE

Oriental Bay Owl *Phodilus badius* (H): Frustratingly invisible, stuck in a dense thicket of evergreen as it sung to us hauntingly, at Khao Phra Bang Khram. A typical encounter for yours truly!

## STRIGIDAE

Mountain Scops-owl *Otus spilocephalus* (H): A couple of distant birds were heard at Doi Ang Khang.

Collared Scops-owl *Otus lettia* (NL): Heard only, at Inthanon resort.

Buffy Fish-owl *Ketupa ketupu*: A nice find by Pipith just before we left Krabi, we were able to watch a pair in the day-time, trying to hide in the mangroves. A write-in for this tour.

Spotted Wood-owl *Strix seloputo*: Another surprise in the mangroves at Krabi, with a pair seen roosting as we chugged up the creek in the longtail boats, before they moved further into the mangroves on our approach.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*: Heard at Kaeng Krachan, Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Ang Khang and seen briefly at Khao Yai.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: Seen during the day at Kaeng Krachan, Huai Hong Khrai and Doi Inthanon.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*: A single bird was seen at Inthanon Highland Resort on our last morning.

Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata* (H): Two were heard in the day-time at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

## PODARGIDAE

Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*: After a lot of teasing this elusive bird showed in the open for a short while, sat high in a tall pine at Doi Ang Khang.

## CAPRIMULGIDAE

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*: Many seen zipping off the roadsides as we drove into Kaeng Krachan in the pre-dawn, with one bird dazzled and offering great views at close range. Also seen on our second ascent of Doi Chiang Dao, and heard near the lodgings at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

## APODIDAE

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*: Only seen at Doi Ang Khang where they were in good number.

Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani*: Hundreds all along the coast in the Phetchaburi area, with an epidemic of 'Swiftlet towers' being built for the nest trade. Also seen at Krabi and Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*: Several seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram, flying bat-like on 'butterknife' wings over the treetops.

Asian Palm-swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: Regularly seen in lowland open country.

Fork-tailed Swift (Pacific S) *Apus pacificus*: Hordes of these appeared at Kaeng Krachan with the rain, also seen along the ridges at Doi Ang Khang.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*: Several noted at Krabi, Doi Chiang Dao and near Phetchaburi.

#### TROGONIDAE

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* (H): Heard on a couple of occasions at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai, but never coming close.

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*: Heard at Kaeng Krachan, and both sexes were seen well at Khao Yai with an exceptionally tame female viewed at length.

#### CORACIIDAE

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*: One or two living around our Inthanon hotel, also seen in open country around Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai and Thaton.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*: Several sightings at Kaeng Krachan, plus singles seen at Khao Yai and Krabi.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus*: A great view of male at Khao Phra Bang Khram, that once had settled gave us a superb long look as he sat on a branch softly calling.

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella*: A startling male perched out on a roadside wire at Khao Yai, then shortly afterwards we found the female sat in a roadside tree, gently but persistently flaring her crown feathers for several minutes. Also heard at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*: We had a great look at a pair flying around calling near Bang Len.

Brown-winged Kingfisher *Halcyon amauroptera*: Some great encounters with these noisy birds in the mangroves at Krabi.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*: After much effort for just a flight view in the mangroves at Krabi, we tried once more in the garden of our hotel and had an instant result with a pair perched up, calling and wing flicking in some kind of display. We had a surprise encounter with one, as we stopped for lunch on our last day at a floating restaurant in mangroves near Phangnga, appearing on the handrail just a few feet in front of us!

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*: Scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*: Several sightings, especially at Krabi and along the creek at Laem Phak Bia.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*: Like the above, a few in coastal habitats.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: A handful of sightings in suitable habitat.

#### MEROPIDAE

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus* (H): A calling bird at Khao Phra Bang Khram remained unseen.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*: Two were seen at Khao Yai, also heard at Doi Chiang Dao.

Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*: A couple at the roadside en-route to Kaeng Krachan were the only ones.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*: A few were seen around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia on our first afternoon.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*: Some nice views of these at Khao Yai, hawking for prey in the rain. Also seen at the roadside on Doi Inthanon.

#### UPUPIDAE

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: Several seen on Doi Chiang Dao, plus one other at Inthanon Highland Resort.

#### BUCEROTIDAE

Southern Brown Hornbill *Ptilolaemus tickelli*: A brief flight view of a couple of vocal birds on the ridge at Kaeng Krachan.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoseros albirostris*: Several noisy individuals were seen at Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*: Seen at Kaeng Krachan on both days, and some singles were seen at Khao Yai.

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*: A single at Kaeng Krachan was the only sighting.

#### RAMPHASTIDAE

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*: Several seen well on our first morning at Kaeng Krachan, thereafter only heard, on all three of the northern mountains.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*: Heard at Doi Inthanon and also at Krabi, the only ones seen were at a lunchstop by the river at Ayuttaya.

Green-eared Barbet *Megalaima faiostricta*: A few were seen with some good views acquired, at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai.

Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon* (H): Calling but hidden at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Red-crowned Barbet *Megalaima rafflesii*: Great views of two at Khao Phra Bang Khram, showing off their colours to good effect.

Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos*: Like the above, great views at Khao Phra Bang Khram, and two or three showed well.

Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*: Seen well on multiple occasions on Doi Inthanon, also heard at Doi Ang Khang.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*: Several seen on our first morning at Kaeng Krachan, also a couple seen on Doi Chiang Dao.

Moustached Barbet *Megalaima incognita*: A couple of birds were seen at Khao Yai, also heard at Kaeng Krachan.

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*: Several were seen at Kaeng Krachan, also heard at Khao Yai and Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*: Singles appeared at Doi Inthanon, Krabi, and near Kaeng Krachan.

#### PICIDAE

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*: An obliging bird sat around in open fields at Thaton, plus a second one there skulking in a hedge.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*: One seen on a rainy day in Kaeng Krachan, then great looks at a curious individual at Doi Inthanon.

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*: Singles of these little gems were seen at Kaeng Krachan, Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon, typically around the big bamboo thickets.

Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*: Only seen on Doi Chiang Dao where we found several.

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus*: Some great looks at these, with three seen at Doi Chiang Dao, and a male at Doi Ang Khang.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus*: A single bird was seen at Kaeng Krachan.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* (H): One called back at us from lush forest on Doi Inthanon, but refused to enter our field of view.

Greater Yellownappe *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*: A single bird was seen at Kaeng Krachan.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: A responsive male was seen well at Kaeng Krachan, also heard at Khao Yai and Doi Chiang Dao.

Black-headed Woodpecker *Picus erythropygius*: This beauty is often a hard bird to see on this tour, we met a pair plus a trio in one morning on Doi Inthanon.

Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*: A female was seen in the rain at Kaeng Krachan, and a pair seen on our last morning at Khao Yai that appeared to have a nest.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*: A couple of singles seen at Kaeng Krachan, and two more at Krabi.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*: Three seen on our last morning at Khao Yai were the only ones of the trip.

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*: Two or three birds called from a thicket at Khao Phra Bang Khram, but only glimpses and flight views were on offer.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* (H): Heard only at Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*: A nice find at Khao Phra Bang Khram, with a long look at one at the roadside.

Black-and-Buff Woodpecker *Meiglyptes jugularis*: Good looks at a responsive individual at Khao Yai.

Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente*: A brief look at a flying bird at Khao Yai.

#### EURYLAIMIDAE

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*: One of my favourites, we had great looks at two of these in the forest at Khao Phra Bang Khram, while others were heard uttering their weird calls.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*: Seen well at Kaeng Krachan where we also saw three of their dangling nests, one of which had a brooding occupant visible! Also a single seen at Doi Chiang Dao.

Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus*: Some great looks at several of these at Kaeng Krachan, including a tame pair that were in the middle of nest building.

Black-and-Red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus*: A pair appeared at the roadside at Kaeng Krachan, perched out in the open side by side.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*: A single that appeared high in a tree at Kaeng Krachan was the only sighting. Also heard at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Black-and-Yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*: A good look at one at Khao Phra Bang Khram, sat high in a big tree.

#### PITTIDAE

Blue-winged Pitta *Pitta moluccensis* (H): A bird calling from the canopy at Khao Phra Bang Khram remained hidden from us.

Mangrove Pitta *Pitta megarhyncha*: A series of encounters that got steadily better! We began with some brief looks near our hotel at Krabi, with two birds that hopped along the muddy mangrove forest floor, then on our boat trip we had a couple of glimpses of flying birds only. Returning to Krabi, a short stroll along the edge of the mangroves revealed a very confiding songster that hopped onto an open branch and proceeded to sing in full view for several minutes. Great stuff!

Blue Pitta *Pitta cyanea* (H): Always a frustrating bird, this year they were especially so. At Kaeng Krachan we heard a couple birds calling in places that were nigh on impossible to view (just before the rain started!) and at Khao Yai we made several attempts to chase, lure, or just wait for them, but they *always* headed in the opposite direction!

Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana*: Eye-popping views of a stunning male of this species in front of Yothin's hide at Khao Phra Bang Khram. Despite missing out on Gurney's Pitta, the views of this bird (arguably the best looking Pitta!) went a long way to compensate, and we elected this as our 'Bird-of-the-trip'.

#### ACANTHIZIDAE

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea* (H): Only heard, in the Laem Phak Bia area.

#### VIREONIDAE

White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: We had multiple sightings of this on all of the northern 'Doi's', and a female was also seen at Kaeng Krachan.

Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*: A male was seen well in the forest at Doi Inthanon, rather confusingly associating with a female of the following species.

Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus*: At least five birds seen on Doi Inthanon, with good looks at both sexes.

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*: Only seen at Khao Yai where we found two or three.

#### CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Large Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina macei*: Two seen on Doi Chiang Dao, heralded by their distinctive flight call.

Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaschistos*: Often seen at Khao Yai, and a single at Doi Chiang Dao.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*: A great view of a male perched on a ridgetop tree, virtually the first bird we saw at Kaeng Krachan.

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*: A pair were seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram, but only in flight over our heads.

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*: Two singles were seen, at Kaeng Krachan and at Doi Inthanon.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: A small number were seen in the pines on Doi Chiang Dao, and also at Doi Ang Khang.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*: Our first at Doi Ang Khang gave us some nice close views, and we saw more on Doi Inthanon,

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*: The most widespread of the family, we saw them at Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai, Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon.

#### ORIOLIDAE

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris*: A good if distant view of a male singing from a treetop at Doi Chiang Dao, plus another there seen less well.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*: Several birds seen at Khao Yai, also seen at Kaeng Krachan.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*: A great look at a curious male in the dry woodlands on Doi Inthanon.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* (H): Heard several times in the northern forests.

#### ARTAMIDAE

Ashy Wood Swallow *Artamus fuscus*: Seen frequently on wires at the roadside in open country.

#### GENERA INCERTA SEDIS

Large Wood-Shrike *Tephrodornis gularis*: A vocal pair at Khao Yai showed well, and also seen at Doi Chiang Dao.

Common Wood-Shrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* (H): Heard in the dry woodland on Doi Inthanon.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus*: We bumped into these at several locations, such Khao Yai, Kaeng Krachan and Doi Chiang Dao.

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhoptera*: A trio of birds at Khao Phra Bang Khram zipped around the undergrowth at high speed in some kind of nuptial frenzy, oblivious to the watching observers.

#### AEGITHINIDAE

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*: A few seen, at Doi Chiang Dao, Thaton and Krabi.

Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayei*: Two birds seen, at opposite ends of the country. At Wat Tam Phla Phlong we saw a male of the race *innotata*, and at Khao Phra Bang Khram we had a good look at a male of the nominate black-backed *lafresnayei* race.

#### RHIPIDURIDAE

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha*: Several of these busy fellows at the summit of Doi Inthanon.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: Regularly seen on Doi Ang Khang, also on seen on Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*: Quite a few seen in open country habitats such as around Laem Phak Bia.

#### DICRURIDAE

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*: Frequently seen in open country.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: Frequently seen in all the main forests, except in the south.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: Just odd ones seen, at Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Inthanon and Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*: Not uncommon and often vocal, in some of the more montane forests.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: Scattered sightings in the drier forests, also at Krabi in the mangroves.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*: Highest counts were at Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan, also seen at Doi Chiang Dao.

#### MONARCHIDAE

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*: Singles were seen at Kaeng Krachan and Doi Inthanon, they were also at Khao Phra Bang Khram where we found a nest on our last morning, with the male sat on top of it.

Asian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*: A couple seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

#### CORVIDAE

Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus leuclantii*: Seen throughout, though always in small numbers.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: A single bird was seen at Doi Chiang Dao, of the *leucotis* race.

Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*: Odd ones seen at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai, with some better looks at a couple at Wat Tam Phla Phlong.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*: A single was glimpsed at Inthanon Highland Resort.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*: Seen on the ridge at Kaeng Krachan, and again in the north at Doi Ang Khang.

Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*: Some good views at Laem Phak Bia, Kaeng Krachan and Thaton.

Ratchet-tailed Treepie *Temnurus temnurus*: A great look at a vocal pair on the ridge at Kaeng Krachan, a relief to find it on our first morning as the weather then turned for the worse!

#### LANIIDAE

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*: Regularly encountered in open country.

Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*: A single was seen well on Doi Chiang Dao, and another was found in the fields at Thaton.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: Only seen in the fields at Thaton where they were making an eerie trilling in the early morning drizzle.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*: A couple of singles were seen on Doi Chiang Dao.

#### NECTARINIIDAE

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*: Not encountered until we went south, with a couple of pairs found in the garden of our Krabi Hotel, and also seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*: We saw just one singing male at Doi Inthanon, but he made quite a show.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*: Seen regularly in suitable habitat.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*: A small number of stunning males were seen at Doi Ang Khang, plus one other at Doi Inthanon.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*: Remarkably few around the summit of Doi Inthanon, we saw odd ones feeding in flower beds there.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*: Regularly encountered, in most of the forests that we visited.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*: Odd singles seen, at Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai and Doi Chiang Dao.

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*: At least one adult was feeding two fledged young in the forest at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Grey-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera affinis*: At least three seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram, even around our lodgings.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*: Fairly common at Kaeng Krachan, also seen at Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Ang Khang.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*: Seen at Khao Yai and Khao Phra Bang Khram, and heard elsewhere.

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*: Two calling birds seen well on our first evening at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

#### DICAEIDAE

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*: A single bird at Khao Yai was wagging his tail in typical fashion.

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum maculates*: A single juvenile was seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*: A couple emerged after the rain at Kaeng Krachan, and another two were seen at Khao Yai.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*: A male at Khao Phra Bang Khram was our only sighting.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Buff-bellied F) *Dicaeum ignipectus*: A male seen at Khao Yai was of the 'fire-free' *cambodianum* race, with more typical ones seen on Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*: A scattering of sightings.

#### CHLOROPSEIDAE

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*: Commonly encountered at Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*: Only seen on Doi Inthanon where we found several songsters in the dry woodland.

#### IRENIDAE

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*: Seen commonly at Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan.

#### PLOCEIDAE

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*: Fairly numerous at Thaton where we saw some nesting.

Asian Golden Weaver *Ploceus hypoxanthus*: Four splendid examples were seen at the pond near Bang Len.

#### ESTRILDIDAE

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: Not uncommon at Thaton, also seen at Bang Len and near Doi Ang Khang.

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra*: A single was seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram as we waited to go in the hide, adjacent to a messy nest.

#### PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: A couple at Thaton and one en-route to Pak Thale.

Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus*: A couple of pairs of this brightly-coloured fellow were seen at Thaton.

Eurasian Tree-sparrow *Passer montanus*: Seen throughout, around human habitation.

## MOTACILLIDAE

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*: Three birds, at least one in breeding pinks, were seen at Thaton.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*: A good number of these were seen in the paddies at Thaton.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*: In good number at Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Ang Khang, with a couple more at Doi Inthanon.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: A small group of these in the paddies at Thaton, flying around calling.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*: Quite common at Thaton, always a lot scruffier than the previous species.

Swinhoe's Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] ocularis*: Two or more were seen along the river at Thaton.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: Rather numerous along the tracks at Kaeng Krachan, also seen at Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon.

Eastern Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla [tscutschensis] macronyx*: At least 20 at the Thaton paddies, though they were getting mixed up with the following species!

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*: A remarkable concentration in the paddies at Thaton, with an estimated 120 birds seen flying to roost.

## FRINGILLIDAE

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*: A few small flocks were seen in the cherry trees at Doi Ang Khang.

Spot-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas melanozanthos*: A surprise find at Doi Chiang Dao, we watched a calling bird by our picnic spot at length, a female despite its presumed singing. Only the second time I have seen this species in Thailand.

## SITTIDAE

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: Fairly widespread, we found these in good number at Doi Chiang Dao and Ang Khang

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*: We saw several at Doi Ang Khang, where they called very like a Eurasian Greenfinch!

Neglected Nuthatch *Sitta neglecta*: We found a handsome pair in the dry woodland at Doi Inthanon, and were able to watch them at length.

Giant Nuthatch *Sitta magna*: Our primary quarry on Doi Chaing Dao and we were not disappointed. We had multiple views of several vocal birds in the pines there, once the fog had lifted!

## STURNIDAE

White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis*: Common in open country throughout, though fewer in the south.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: Encountered throughout.

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*: We saw many of these attractive birds around Thaton paddies.

Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*: Seen fairly frequently in open country in the central part of the country.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*: Two seen on wires as we left Wat Phra Phuttabatnoi.

White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensis*: A write-in for this tour, we saw 30 presumably going to roost at Laem Phak Bia, and another 20 were seen at Bang Len.

Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus sturninus*: A smart male gave us several views as he perched up on bushes in the paddies at Thaton. Also a write-in for this tour, and a well-received one!

Common Hill-myna *Gracula religiosa*: A few seen at Khao Yai.

#### TURDIDAE

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*: One at Khao Yai allowed us several good views as it fed on the ground close to a path.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*: Two birds came off the ground and were glimpsed as they paused on a perch, before melting away into the forest at Doi Chiang Dao.

Dark-sided Thrush *Zoothera marginata*: After much searching we found one on the summit marsh at Doi Inthanon, deep in a shady thicket and warbling a little sub-song while feeding among the mud and leaf litter.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*: Flocks of them at Khao Yai and Doi Ang Khang, but so shy they were virtually impossible to get a look at!

Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis*: A total of three individuals seen in one day on Doi Inthanon, but more by luck than design. All tape-luring attempts failed, as the birds, although singing, always went the opposite way! First one was glimpsed in flight from the roadside, then a pair crossed a track in front of us, one of which perched low in a tree for a short while before disappearing once more.

#### MUSCICAPIDAE

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*: A couple of these skulking little songsters were seen very well at Doi Ang Khang, also heard a few times on Doi Inthanon.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*: Doi Inthanon summit marsh must be, without a doubt, the best place in the world for this bird. We had multiple entertaining encounters with numerous fearless singing males there.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*: After a couple of birds that were typically skulking and furtive, we had great views of several males hopping around in the open at Thaton paddies.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*: A small number were seen at Thaton.

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucurum*: Great views of a male at Doi Ang Khang while we were trying to see a *Liocichla*.

Blue Rock-thrush *Monticola solitarius*: A few singles seen along our route.

Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush *Monticola rufiventris*: A male doing song-flights between treetops was seen at Doi Ang Khang.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus*: Fairly common at Doi Ang Khang, also seen on Doi Inthanon.

Eastern Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*: A few seen in the Doi Ang Khang area, then rather commonly at Thaton paddies.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*: Seen in paddies at Thaton and near Chiang Dao.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*: Great looks at two of these on the Vachirathan waterfall on Doi Inthanon.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* (H): Their high-pitched calls was heard coming from forested streams at Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon.

Blue Whistling-thrush *Myiophonus caeruleus*: Quite a few were seen on Doi Inthanon, with several giving a good show in the mid-stream of the Vachirathan waterfall.

White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*: A female-plumaged songster appeared briefly from the thick grass at Doi Ang Khang.

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*: We saw a male at Doi Chiang Dao that was singing from the canopy of a tall tree with gusto.

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas*: Several birds seen, and often heard, at Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai and Doi Chiang Dao.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*: Two seen very well in some bamboo at Huai Hong Khrai. Also heard at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* (H): A few hidden songsters at Doi Inthanon.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*: Good looks at these pretty birds at Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*: At Doi Inthanon a male was glimpsed, and a female showed well as it came to mealworms behind Mr Daeng's shop.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*: A female was seen at Doi Ang Khang, and on Doi Inthanon we saw three males in a morning.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* (H): A singing bird at Doi Ang Khang.

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia*: A male perched up in the early morning at Khao Phra Bang Khram

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii*: Several of both sexes were seen on all three of the northern mountains.

White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monileger*: At Doi Ang Khang we saw three or four, after a lengthy duel to see the first! Also seen on Doi Inthanon.

Rufous-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula solitaris*: A great look at a songster in the understorey at Kaeng Krachan on our first morning there.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*: Just a female seen on Doi Inthanon summit.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: A male was seen at Doi Chiang Dao, and a couple more were at Doi Inthanon.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*: A couple of singles were seen in the undergrowth at Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Ang Khang.

Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla*: Seen frequently, but not in the south.

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*: Two or three were seen flycatching in typical fashion at Kaeng Krachan, and another was seen well at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*: Seen at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai, plus several more in the south.

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis*: Frequently encountered, particularly around gardens.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*: Several of these rich songsters seen at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai, with a couple more seen in the north.

#### PARIDAE

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus sibilator*: Several sightings of this perky fellow on Doi Inthanon.

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*: A pair of these big Tits seen both at Kaeng Krachan and at Khao Yai.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* (NL): One seen at Doi Inthanon summit.

#### STENOSTIRIDAE

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: A few singles seen, at Kaeng Krachan, Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon

#### ALAUDIDAE

Australasian Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*: A couple of song-fighting birds were seen at Thaton paddies.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*: A single singing at Thaton paddies.

#### PYCNONOTIDAE

Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons*: We saw five of these attractive Bulbuls in one afternoon on Doi Ang Khang.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*: Never common, but we saw a few on Doi Ang Khang and Doi Inthanon.

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*: A couple were seen at Kaeng Krachan, and at Khao Phra Bang Khram they were common and noisy.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris*: Common at Kaeng Krachan, also at Khao Yai where they were of the ruby-throated *johnsoni* race, and a few more seen at Doi Inthanon and Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Puff-backed Bulbul *Pycnonotus eutilotus*: A nice encounter with a good songster at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*: A small number were seen at Kaeng Krachan and at Khao Yai.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*: First seen at Kaeng Krachan, then commonly on the northern mountains.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*: Only seen at Krabi where there were two in the hotel garden.

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*: A dull fellow seen at Krabi and Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*: Dull like the above, occasionally seen in marginal habitats.

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*: Two seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*: A rather poor view of one at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: Noted at Khao Yai, Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Ang Khang.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*: Quite a few seen at Doi Ang Khang, a fairly attractive Bulbul with a very localised range in Thailand.

Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua*: Found at Khao Yai where its nasal call drew our attention, also heard at Doi Chiang Dao.

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*: A couple of singles briefly seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*: A couple of vocal birds seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram, though never well.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres*: Very vocal at Khao Phra Bang Khram, we saw them on a couple of days there.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*: Common in northern Thailand.

Puff-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus pallidus*: Not uncommon at Khao Yai, and also encountered at Doi Chiang Dao.

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*: Fairly numerous and noisy at Kaeng Krachan, also seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*: Two were seen at Kaeng Krachan and a single at Doi Chiang Dao.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclllandii*: Seen fairly often in the northern mountain forests

Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*: A few seen at Doi Chiang Dao, and a handful more on Doi Inthanon.

White-headed Bulbul *Cerasophila thompsoni*: A good view of this localised bird, with three that posed by the roadside for us at Doi Inthanon.

#### HIRUNDINIDAE

Asian House-martin *Delichon dasypus*: A small flock were seen at Doi Ang Khang, with a larger flock at Doi Inthanon.

Common Sand-martin *Riparia riparia*: A flock of 30 seen over forest clearings at Khao Yai

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Seen throughout except in the south.

House Swallow (Pacific S) *Hirundo tahitica*: Rather common around Krabi.

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*: Flocks of these were seen on a number of occasions – at Khao Yai, near Doi Ang Khang and Thaton, but perched views were never possible, so there is a certain amount of presumption in their identification.

Rufous-bellied Swallow *Cecropis badia*: No mistaking these beauties, we saw several around Krabi.

## CETTIIDAE

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*: Two were seen in the bamboo at Kaeng Krachan on our first morning there.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*: Heard in the northern forests, and seen on a couple of occasions at Doi Ang Khang and Inthanon.

Aberrant Bush-warbler *Cettia flavolivacea*: Good views of one or two at Doi Ang Khang, also glimpsed at Doi Chiang Dao.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*: Great looks at two or three in the forest at Doi Inthanon.

## PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

Marten's Warbler (Omei W) *Seicercus omeiensis*: A single vocal bird at Doi Ang Khang showed well, its call being the diagnostic pointer.

Plain-tailed Warbler *Seicercus soror*: Heard at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai, with a glimpse of one at the latter site.

Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus*: Just one seen, hiding in the grass at Doi Chiang Dao.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*: Just a couple of poor sightings at Doi Inthanon.

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*: A single seen at one of the Khao Yai campsites.

Davison's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*: Often heard at Doi Ang Khang, and several good looks at them there too. Also recorded at Doi Inthanon and Khao Yai.

Blyth's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*: Only seen on Doi Inthanon where they showed well around the summit.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*: A couple of singles seen, at Krabi and at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Pale-legged Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes*: Great views of one feeding close to the ground at Mr Daeng's on Doi Inthanon. Also seen briefly at Khao Yai

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*: One seen at Khao Yai.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*: A few seen around the summit of Doi Inthanon.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*: Like the above, a few seen around Inthanon's summit.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: Frequently encountered, the most common warbler.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*: Several birds seen and more heard, on Doi Chiang Dao and at Ang Khang. These all refer to the race *mandelli*.

Chinese Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*: A single bird was identified at Doi Ang Khang, and showed fairly well.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*: Furtive ground dwelling fellows seen at Khao Yai and Doi Chiang Dao.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*: Rather common in the ditches at Thaton.

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis*: A few were seen around the pines on Doi Ang Khang.

## TIMALIIDAE

- Grey-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus gularis*: A rather brief look at a pair zipping through the bushes at Doi Chiang Dao.
- Spot-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis guttaticollis*: After a welcome but rather unsatisfactory brief look at one that flew across the road at Doi Ang Khang, we were rewarded with some great views on our last afternoon there. What a bird!
- Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*: Two small groups of these endearing Babblers were seen at Thaton.
- Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus*: A single was seen at Khao Yai, then a flock of ten was found at Doi Chiang Dao.
- Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*: Regularly encountered along our route.
- Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*: A nice surprise to find one singing with gusto above our breakfast stop at Kaeng Krachan, just before the heavens opened!
- Striated Yuhina *Staphida castaniceps*: A lovely flock of ten birds performed well at Doi Ang Khang.
- Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe fratercula*: A few seen on Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon, but very common in the forest on Doi Ang Khang.
- Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala*: Several seen on our first day at Kaeng Krachan.
- Spot-necked Babbler *Stachyris striolata*: Some great looks at a pair of these handsome birds by the roadside at Kaeng Krachan.
- Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*: A sneaky little fellow, we saw odd ones in the northern forests.
- Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera*: Several sightings at Khao Phra Bang Khram.
- Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus*: A couple of sightings at Doi Chiang Dao included one that came off its nest in a bank, yet despite a close inspection we couldn't find it!
- White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*: Several seen, at Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai and Doi Ang Khang.
- Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*: One showed extremely well at close range on the summit of Doi Inthanon, and even hopped along a mossy log like the brochure said it would!
- Golden Babbler *Stachyrdopsis chrysaea*: Frequently encountered, usually in small mixed flocks.
- Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyrdopsis rufifrons*: A couple of sightings, at Kaeng Krachan and at Doi Chiang Dao.
- Pin-striped Tit-Babbler (Striped T-b) *Macronus gularis*: Frequently encountered at Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai, also heard at Khao Phra Bang Khram.
- Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*: Three of these attractive birds came out of the grass at Thaton.
- Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*: Multiple views of a couple of responsive birds at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*: A single seen at Kaeng Krachan, but best of all were the views at Huai Hong Khrai where one walked up to my feet!

Spot-throated Babbler *Pellorneum albiventre*: Some of the best views possible of this notorious skulker, with a pair of birds that jumped out on the edge of a grassy thicket at Doi Chiang Dao. Heard also at Doi Ang Khang.

Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre*: Some good looks at these initially perplexing fellows at Khao Phra Bang Khram, lacking any moustache at all!

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*: A small party in the forest at Khao Phra Bang Khram

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*: Just one seen, as we waited to enter Yothin's hide.

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*: Seen well in Khao Yai (singing 'free-beer-for-me!') also one seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis*: A responsive and energetic bird was seen at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Limestone Wren-babbler *Gypsophila crispifrons*: Good views of at least four birds present at Wat Phra Phuttabatnoi, jumping around on the limestone as they are supposed to do!

Streaked Wren-babbler *Napothera brevicaudata*: A great view of one at Wat Tam Phla Phlong, jumping in and out of flower pots and hopping up the concrete steps!

Collared Babbler *Gampsorhynchus torquatus*: Three birds came through the bamboo at Kaeng Krachan, being vocal and showy.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Pseudominla castaneiceps*: Only found on Doi Inthanon where we had several views of them, particularly around the summit boardwalk.

Black-throated Laughingthrush *Dryonastes chinensis*: Great looks at this beautiful songster at Kaeng Krachan, and also seen less well at Khao Yai.

White-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax strepitans* (H): Some hidden birds were calling at Doi Chiang Dao.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*: Frequently seen in small flocks at Khao Yai.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*: One or two singles seen poorly with the above.

Spot-breasted Laughingthrush *Stactocichla merulina* (H): Another year, another 'heard-only' one of these! Singing away in the thick undergrowth at Doi Ang Khang, and totally uninterested in moving closer!

White-browed Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus sannio*: Some brief looks at these fellows at Doi Ang Khang, never very showy!

Silver-eared Laughingthrush *Garrulax melanostigma*: Some glimpses of very furtive birds at Doi Ang Khang, then at Doi Inthanon they were one of the tamest residents on the summit!

Scarlet-faced Liocichla *Liocichla ripponi*: A great look at a curious individual, from inside a thicket on Doi Ang Khang.

Bar-throated Minla (Chestnut-tailed M) *Chrysominla strigula*: Numerous on the summit of Doi Inthanon.

Blue-winged Siva *Siva cyanouroptera*: Several views of these around Doi Ang Khang, and also seen at Doi Inthanon.

Silver-eared Mesia *Mesia argenteauris*: These delightfully colourful birds were numerous at Doi Ang Khang, and also seen at Doi Inthanon.

Dark-backed Sibia *Malacias melanoleucus*: First seen at Doi Ang Khang where they showed well, also seen regularly in the forests of Doi Inthanon.

Rufous-backed Sibia *Leioptila annectans*: Our first was at Doi Ang Khang, then at Doi Inthanon they were heard regularly, and a single furtive bird was seen.

Spectacled Barwing *Actinodura ramsayi*: Two at Doi Ang Khang showed very well, and we had the pleasure of seeing more at Doi Inthanon. A lovely bird with a delicate pattern.

#### ACROCEPHALIDAE

Black-browed Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*: One seen at the pond near Bang Len was the only sighting.

#### MEGALURIDAE

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (H): Of several heard calling at Thaton, none would present themselves.

Russet Bush-warbler *Bradypterus mandelli* (H): A single songster heard at Doi Ang Khang.

#### CISTICOLIDAE

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: A single seen at Thaton.

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*: A couple of pairs seen in the Krabi mangroves.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*: A single bird appeared for viewing at Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*: Seen at Kaeng Krachan, Khao Yai and Khao Phra Bang Khram.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*: A handful of sightings, typically in gardens.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*: A couple of sightings in the grass at Doi Chiang Dao.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*: An active little party of these in the grass at Thaton.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: Some good views of these nice little birds at Thaton, and also at Bang Len.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*: Seen at Bang Len and Thaton.

Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*: A couple of these popped into view at Doi Chiang Dao and at Ang Khang.

#### MAMMALS

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*: A single was seen well at Khao Yai.

Grey-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus caniceps*: These fellows with black-tipped tails were seen at Khao Yai.

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*: These ones with rusty bellies were seen down south.

Finlayson's Squirrel (Variable S) *Callosciurus finlaysonii*: Some of the whitish or pied *bocourti* race were seen in the Khao Yai area, and at Kaeng Krachan we saw a reddish form.

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maccllellandi*: Some of these tiny animals were zipping about in the trees at Kaeng Krachan.

Cambodian Striped Squirrel *Tamiops rodolphei*: Like the above, but seen at Khao Yai.

Binturong *Arctictis binturong*: A great thrill to see one sat in a tree in the daytime at Kaeng Krachan, drying off after the torrential rain.

Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis*: Seen skipping off the road at Doi Chiang Dao, with a tiny spotty kitten stumbling after it. The kitten was easy to locate as it yelped for its mother, and we saw the female coming back twice to encourage its progress. Gripping stuff!

Dusky Leaf Monkey *Presbytis obscurus*: The common Langur at Kaeng Krachan.

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*: Some seen in the Laem Phak Bia area, and a few more in the mangroves at Krabi.

Northern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca leonina*: Plenty of these roaming the roadsides at Khao Yai.

White-handed Gibbon *Hylobates lar*: Their manic whooping cries were heard frequently at Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan, and we managed to get some good views of them swinging about at the latter site.

Fea's Muntjac *Muntiacus feae* (H): Heard calling at Kaeng Krachan.

Indian Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak*: Commonly encountered at Khao Yai.

Sambar *Cervus unicolor*: Plentiful at Khao Yai.

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*: One lurked in the roadside bushes at Kaeng Krachan!

