

CAMBODIA RECENT BIRD REPORTS, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

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Thanks to all contributors. In the future, please send any records you think may be of interest (for current or earlier months) to tevans@wcs.org and fredbaksey@yahoo.com. Earlier editions of the digest can be found at www.samveasna.org. Names follow Craig Robson (2008) *A field guide to the birds of Thailand and South-east Asia*.

Next digest will cover January and February 2011



Zebra Dove / Photo: Ashish John

PHNOM PENH

On 23 November a flock of **Asian Openbills** was seen soaring over the scene of the lethal Koh Pich bridge stampede in Phnom Penh, with photos posted on a Khmer news website. As a result a rumour went around that a flock of vultures had attended the scene of the deaths. Several **Zebra Doves** were seen in various locations in central Phnom Penh during December (RvZ, TDE).

A birding trip at Boeng Pompey in the outskirts of town recorded 32 species on 27 December, including **Barred Buttonquail** and **Baya Weavers** (NE).

SOUTHEAST

The most exciting story of the period is undoubtedly the visit of **Black-faced Spoonbill** to Cambodia – the first record of this Endangered species (ACE). Online satellite tracking of birds originating from Korea (<https://sites.google.com/a/conservationecology.asia/en/home/tracking-bfsb>) shows that a group was wintering in southern Vietnam. One tagged bird – reportedly travelling in a group of three – entered Cambodia on 29 or 30 November, and flew straight to Takeo town, then moved to the southeast of the province, before crossing the border back into Vietnam on 4 December. The bird then hesitated between the two countries, but finally decided to settle in Cambodia. Since 7 January 2011 (and until the date of writing, i.e. end of the month), the bird stayed around Boeng Prek Lapeuv Sarus Crane Reserve although neither birders nor the local conservation team have seen or heard reports of this special host thus far!!

A visit on 30th December was unsuccessful in locating the spoonbills, although three large white birds spotted at dusk in a muddy field on the way back to Borey Cholsar flew off with extended necks. Over 200 **Black-tailed Godwit** and 20+ **Garganeys** on that day at Boeng Prek Lepeuw were of note (RO).

SOUTH-WEST

At Bokor NP, a **Rufous-bellied Eagle** was seen at the foothills on 1 November and a **Black Eagle** on the plateau on 20 November (RO; see photo); a male and female **Mugimaki Flycatcher** were photographed at the waterfall on 21 November (AJ).

Ten **Lesser Frigatebirds** were seen on the ferry crossing from Sihanoukville to Koh Rong Samloen on 19 November and five on the return trip on 21 November (HN).

On Koh Ta Kiev, near Ream National Park, on 21-22 November, nearly 20 migrant species were recorded in a few hours, including 5 **Brown-rumped Minivets**, an **Eastern Crowned Warbler** and a **Sand Martin** (Pale Martin not excluded) which is, surprisingly, the first record for the Southwest. Amongst the forest residents, the highlights were two **Buffy Fish Owls** and some **Scaly-crowned Babblers** (TDE).

Kampot estuary produced two excellent photographic records on 19



Black Eagle at Bokor / Photo: Rob Overtoom

December: 15 **Great Knots** – a second record for Cambodia (with the first made in the same area in 2007), and a **Black-headed Gull**, the first coastal record since 1996 (RO).

During 29-30 December the rice fields adjacent to Prey Nup mangroves held 6 **Painted Storks**, 10 **Black-headed Ibis** and 1 **Lesser Adjutant**, but in the mangroves themselves neither Ruddy Kingfisher nor Little Bronze Cuckoo responded to playback (TDE).

TONLE SAP / No records of note were received during this period.

NORTHWEST

One **White-browed Crake** and an aberrant grey-plumage **Little Egret** were noted on a visit to Ang Tropeang Thmor on 8 November (RO). In Siem Reap, a new **House Sparrow** colony was reported at Psar Kraom in December (MH).

A Birdlife/PACT survey in five Community Forests of Oddar Meanchey during November recorded 174 species. The presence of **Green Peafowl** and a single **Black-necked Stork** in Sorng Rokavorn, plus a single **Greater Adjutant** in Prey Srong were the most significant findings. **White-rumped Falcon** and **Siamese Fireback** were found at three and two sites respectively. A **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, a rarely recorded species, was seen at Sorng Rokavorn. On a distributional note, no less than 77 species were first recorded from this little known province. This included nine firsts for the northwest: **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, **Brown Fish-Owl**, **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, **Hooded Pitta**, **Asian Stubtail** (6th national record), **Eastern Crowned Warbler**, **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush**, **Plain Flowerpecker** (10th record) and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** (nominate subspecies). **Rosy Minivet** (nominate form) found in Sorng Rokavorn is only the 7th country record. Last but not least, “**Blyth's-type**” **Leaf Warbler** and **Buff-throated Warbler** were first records for Cambodia (all FL and VE).



Dusky Thrush at
Tmatboey
Photo: Doung Nara

NORTH

An SVC bird tour group visiting Tmatboey photographed a male **Dusky Thrush** on 17 November (DN, MM, TF, KW, see photo). This is a rather unexpected first for Cambodia, as the nearest records are from northwest Thailand (Robson 2008).

Masked Finfoots (probably two different individuals) were caught by camera traps at two well-separated locations along the Stoung Memay, Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary on 20 and 27 November (per RV).

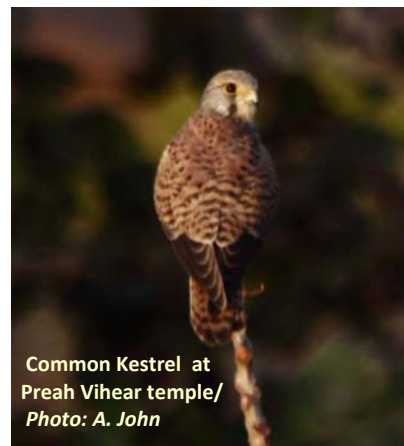
A **Common Kestrel** was again seen at Preah Vihear temple on

25 December (AJ; see photo), the first confirmed record for the northern plains after the sighting of a kestrel sp. at the same site in October.

Photos of **Puff-throated Bulbul** were taken at O'Koki on 9 December (AJ) and their identity was confirmed by Craig Robson. This makes past claims from this area of the sister species, Ochraceous Bulbul, increasingly unlikely.

NORTH-EAST

A visit to Seima Protection Forest during 19-22 November found about 20 **Ashy-headed Green-Pigeons** (the largest flock recorded in Cambodia) and an unseasonal **Hooded Pitta** (RvZ). A **Pale Blue Flycatcher** on 28 and 30 November near the km 164 station (SVC team per HN) could actually be the first for Cambodia – the fifth case within a single month! - as the reviewers could not trace any confirmed record despite it being mentioned in Robson's guide 2000 and 2008 edition.



Common Kestrel at
Preah Vihear temple/
Photo: A. John

Two **White-shouldered Ibis** were seen on 19 November at the Se San vulture restaurant in Stung Treng. In addition, 11 active vulture nests (4 **Red-headed** and 7 **White-rumped**) were found across four sites in the Northern Plains, Western Siem Pang and the Eastern Plains during November (all per SC).

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