

**CAMBODIA 2011**

Feb 19, 2011 to Mar 3, 2011  
Phil Gregory



*Magnificent Angkor Wat was one of numerous highlights of the tour. Guide Phil Gregory brought back this image of the site, where there was a little restoration in progress.*

This was the inaugural Field Guides Cambodia tour, and we had a fine time of it with a nice combination of World Heritage temple sites around Angkor Wat and spectacular endangered birds. Weather was warm to hot but with no significant rain, and roads varied from good to rutted and dusty, but mercifully not too long on these latter.

We began with the paddyfield site at Kratie for Asian Golden Weaver, which proved tough amongst flocks of both Baya and Streaked weavers, though happily we got nice looks at a male and female eventually, plus a bonus of Watercock and a very obliging Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler.

Next day we were on the Mekong River after the recently described Mekong Wagtail, which finally showed very well and with a bonus of Irrawaddy dolphins nearby.

Kompong Thom grassland gave us good sightings of Bengal Florican and Pied Harrier plus flight views of Yellow-legged Buttonquail, though we all basically missed a frozen Small Buttonquail that the guides could see and which flushed before we had found it! A Great-spotted Eagle and male Siberian Rubythroat were unexpected here, and Sarus Crane gave good flight views.

The Siem Reap area is of course temple central, with Angkor the centerpiece and some amazing jungle-covered ruins nearby which can be quite good for birds. Black Baza, Alexandrine and Rose-breasted parakeets, Germain's (not German's) Swiftlet, Forest Wagtail for some, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, and Asian Barred Owlet were nice finds. The great wetland at Ang Trepeang Thmor gave us Pin-tailed Snipe, Yellow Bittern, White-browed Crake, and Black-backed Swamphen, whilst the day on Lake Tonle Sap yielded Greater and Lesser adjutants, Painted (and for some Milky!) Stork, Spot-billed Pelican, Black-headed Ibis, Oriental Darter, and many egrets and herons, all busy competing with the villagers for the fish stocks—it was a fantastic day out!

Our finale was down in the former Khmer Rouge forest strongholds around Tmatboey in Preah Vihear Province, where it was hot but very birdy in the cooler times of day. Owls were pretty amazing here and we saw Barn, Brown Fish, Asian

Barred, Brown Wood, and Oriental Scops, and we heard Brown Boobook. Woodpeckers are also outstanding with Great Slaty, Black-headed, White-bellied, Gray-capped Pygmy, Spot-breasted, and Common Flameback. The two megas here are of course Giant and White-shouldered ibises, and our guides got us to good areas for some nice looks at these rare creatures, a highlight of the tour.

So, the Last Chance to See tour lived up to its name and we got good looks at some very rare and hard-to-find species. Cambodia is also fascinating culturally, with good manners not yet extinct here as they are back home. Driving in the cities has some highly unorthodox techniques that wouldn't function in the west but which work here, where traffic lights are there to make suggestions only. Food was also quite good, though the deep-fried tarantulas were a one-off for a courageous few. Angkor is quite simply marvellous, and Bayon is a gorgeous temple—these alone make the tour worth doing, and a bit of birding is a nice sideshow here.

My thanks to the Sam Veasna Centre for organizing our schedule—one nice feature of the trip is that much of the money paid goes back into conservation initiatives that give some hope for the continued survival of some very rare species and also help the villagers earn income. Our local guides were excellent, and particular thanks to Johnny for his exemplary handling of our diverse requests and his good birding skills. Thanks also to Karen at Field Guides HQ for good logistics, the first run of a new tour is always a bit nerve-racking and we came through with colors flying. Why not join us for what is sure to be an unforgettable experience in 2012?

--Phil Gregory

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## KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: \* = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

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## BIRDS

### *Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)*

**LESSER WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna javanica*) – Six at paddies near Siem Reap and about 400 in paddies at ATT, a very high count.

**COMB DUCK** (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) – About 15 in the grasslands at ATT, this is quite a rare species in Cambodia.

**COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE** (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) – Three in paddies near Siem Reap and about 30 at ATT.

**INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK** (*Anas poecilorhyncha haringtoni*) – Just 4 day records, with 20 at Kratie and 6 on the Mekong the maximum.

**GARGANEY** (*Anas querquedula*) – 2 females at paddies near Siem Reap and 2 at Preah Khan temple on the moat there.

### *Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)*

**CHINESE FRANCOLIN** (*Francolinus pintadeanus*) – Heard at Tmatboey and Phil saw one by the roadside.

**BLUE-BREASTED QUAIL** (*Coturnix chinensis*) – George saw a pair briefly with the guide at Kompong Thom grasslands.

**RED JUNGLEFOWL** (*Gallus gallus gallus*) – Great views of a female at Tmatboey, poking about on a sandbar and with a white ear covert spot typical of the nominate race. Commonly heard there as well.

### *Podicipedidae (Grebes)*

**LITTLE GREBE** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis poggei*) – 6 of the yellow-eyed race *poggei* at Siem Reap and ATT.

### *Ciconiidae (Storks)*

**ASIAN OPENBILL** (*Anastomus oscitans*) – 6 near Siem Reap, about 150 at Prek Toal and 70 or so at ATT.

**WOOLLY-NECKED STORK** (*Ciconia episcopus*) – Two at Kompong Thom and 2 at Tmatboey on a trepeang there.

**LESSER ADJUTANT** (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – About 30 of this rare bird gave great views at Prek Toal, and a couple were seen at Tmatboey.

**GREATER ADJUTANT** (*Leptoptilos dubius*) – One of the mega-rarities of the trip, we had about 5 distantly at Prek Toal, which required clambering up a ladder to a platform to see via the scope. Happily one flew over the platform and the boat later. This was Jim and Marian's final stork for the set too.

**MILKY STORK** (*Mycteria cinerea*) – There was a nest visible from the platform which the guides told us was of Milky Stork, and one fledgling in it did indeed have whitish underwing coverts when it flapped, but what a shame none of us (including photographer Christian!) either saw or recognised the splendid adult he had on his camera from the river trip when he checked later...This is a very rare species in Cambodia with just odd pairs in Painted Stork colonies.

**PAINTED STORK** (*Mycteria leucocephala*) – Odd sightings around Siem Reap and Kompong Thom, and then about 300 in the colony at Prek Toal and some nice ones feeding by the road en route to ATT.

*Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)*

**INDIAN CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) – One on the Mekong on day one, and several hundred at Prek Toal.

**GREAT CORMORANT (EURASIAN)** (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) – A very few on Tonle Sap and at ATT.

**LITTLE CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax niger*) – A dozen on the Mekong on day 1, about 110 around Kratie and just 4 from Prek Toal.

*Anhingidae (Anhingas)*

**ORIENTAL DARTER** (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – Four day records, seen on the Mekong near Kratie where there was fine juvenile, about 60 at Prek Toal and one at ATT, it's another pretty rare bird these days. Clements at long last splits it too!

*Pelecanidae (Pelicans)*

**SPOT-BILLED PELICAN** (*Pelecanus philippensis*) – Great views of 100+ at Prek Toal, and 6 over ATT, this is another of the big, rare and declining waterbirds.

*Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)*

**YELLOW BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus sinensis*) – A couple at Kratie, 4 at Prek Toal and great views of a male and female at ATT, where the amazing camouflage was noted as a female impersonated a dead leaf.

**CINNAMON BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) – Singles at Kratie, Prek Toal and en route to ATT.

**BLACK BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*) – One was glimpsed at the weaver ponds at Kratie.

**GRAY HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*) – Four day records, max 15 at Prek Toal.

**PURPLE HERON** (*Ardea purpurea*) – Three day records, max. 5 at Prek Toal and ATT.

**GREAT EGRET (EURASIAN)** (*Ardea alba alba*) – Five day records, the only notable counts 150 at Prek Toal and 10 at ATT.

**INTERMEDIATE EGRET** (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – 4 from the boat en route to Prek Toal.

**LITTLE EGRET (LITTLE)** (*Egretta garzetta garzetta*) – Six day records, max. 30 at Prek Toal.

**CATTLE EGRET (ASIAN)** (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*) – Surprisingly few, we had six day records but numbers were very small with 60 around ATT the max. This taxon is split by many these days.

**CHINESE POND-HERON** (*Ardeola bacchus*) – Widespread in small numbers, with 70 at the two big wetland sites the most we saw.

**STRIATED HERON** (*Butorides striata*) – Just one at Prek Toal.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (EURASIAN)** (*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*) – 3 at Kratie, 30 at Prek Toal and 40 at ATT.

*Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)*

**BLACK-HEADED IBIS** (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) – The only ones we saw were 4 singles flying by at Prek Toal, the white wing tips are very distinctive.

**WHITE-SHOULDERED IBIS** (*Pseudibis davisoni*) – One flushed up out of a trepeang when a car dor banged, then one on a nest at Tmatboey with another flying in later for a good scope view. Finally 2 flying over at a trepeang next day.



*Bengal Florican in flight, by guide Phil Gregory*

**GIANT IBIS** (*Pseudibis gigantea*) – One of the great prizes of the trip, 2 birds were perched up for a scope view not long after dawn at Tmatboey, and even came into the trepeang before flying off. It's very rare and very shy, I am not optimistic about this one surviving the burgeoning human population. Jonny got us a site where we did not have to walk to far too, and there are about 30 pairs in the general area.

*Pandionidae (Osprey)*

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Just one on the Mekong near Kratie.

*Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)*

**BLACK BAZA** (*Aviceda leuphotes*) – Nice views at Bayon temple, also at Preah Khan and Tmatboey.

**ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD** (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – One at Tmatboey was a nice find.

**BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Just 3 day records, with 3 seen on the first day and a couple of singles later.

**BLACK KITE (BLACK)** (*Milvus migrans govinda*) – One at the grassland at ATT looks like the local race govinda of Black Kite. They are amazingly scarce in Cambodia.

**BRAHMINY KITE** (*Haliastur indus*) – 3 or 4 on the day at Prek Toal waterbird colony were the only sightings.

**GRAY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE** (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*) – A couple at Prek Toal were the only records.

**CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE** (*Spilornis cheela*) – One at Preah Khan temple and 4 at Tmatboey, quite vocal as usual.

**EASTERN MARSH-HARRIER** (*Circus spilonotus*) – A fine male went by us in paddies en route to ATT and there was another later.

**PIED HARRIER** (*Circus melanoleucos*) – Terrific looks at a young male at Kompong Thom, then a superb adult male flying close next day. Finally one at ATT and a female on the way back. One of the most striking of the genus.

**SHIKRA** (*Accipiter badius*) – The common accipiter, starting at Bayon and seen at most forest sites.

**RUFOUS-WINGED BUZZARD** (*Butastur liventer*) – Nice looks at Tmatboey after 3 at ATT which were all in poor light.

**GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE** (*Aquila clanga*) – One at Kompong Thom was unexpected and came right over us so we could see the dark underwing coverts, and regrettably eliminate Indian Spotted Eagle.

*Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)*

**WHITE-RUMPED FALCON** (*Polihierax insignis*) – A great find on the final morning, they call not long after dawn and our guide Ieng Sary knows of 4 recent sites for this difficult rare species. Luckily for us the second site paid off with Christian spotting a fine male which sat for good scope views- they are amazingly shrike-like, and why they are falcons not falconets is beyond me, Barbara saw a second bird too so I think this was a pair here.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*) – One female at Kompong Thom grasslands, flying rapidly by and pitching into the grass where it vanished from view.

*Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)*

**WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – George saw one in the moat at Preah Khan temple.

**RUDDY-BREASTED CRAKE** (*Porzana fusca*) – One was poking about in a drainage ditch en route to ATT, and allowed modest scope views.

**WHITE-BROWED CRAKE** (*Porzana cinerea*) – Barbara saw several at sites where we heard them, then ATT came through with 3 birds showing nicely, much to George and Lucy's relief!

**WATERCOCK** (*Gallicrex cinerea*) – A few folks saw a male at the Kratie paddies, and a female type bird flushed several times there, an unexpected addition to the triplist.

**PURPLE SWAMPHEN (BLACK-BACKED)** (*Porphyrio porphyrio indicus*) – The taxon here is indicus and belongs in the Black-backed group, which is split by many. A pity the different New Guinea and Australian samoensis birds also go by this name though...

**COMMON MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Seen near Siem Reap and at ATT, max. 3 birds.



*Painted Stork, photographed by guide Phil Gregory*

Otididae (Bustards)

**BENGAL FLORICAN** (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) – A pair at Kompong Thom, with the male showing nicely after a bit of a thrash through the grasslands. Then an unexpected male in the grassland at ATT, where a few pairs of this rare bird survive.

Gruidae (Cranes)

**SARUS CRANE** (*Grus antigone sharpii*) – The local taxon *sharpii* seems darker than Australian birds and sounds a bit different, given the large gap in the range some genetic work here might be interesting. We saw 4 at Kompong Thom with 3 at the florican site next day, then about 30 at ATT.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

**RED-WATTLED LAPWING** (*Vanellus indicus*) – Seen at ATT and Tmatboey only.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (INDIAN)** (*Charadrius dubius jerdoni*) – Seen along the Mekong near Kratie and at ATT.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

**BLACK-WINGED STILT** (*Himantopus himantopus*) – Small flocks near Siem Reap and ATT.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

**PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) – Seven seen at Siem Reap paddies and 30 or so ATT, with none in breeding dress, it is very localised here.

**BRONZE-WINGED JACANA** (*Metopidius indicus*) – This was only seen at ATT, with about 10 birds, quite a striking species and clearly very scarce in Cambodia.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

**GREEN SANDPIPER** (*Tringa ochropus*) – One was seen (and heard) near Kratie.

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*) – A beguiling flock of 14 were swimming and paddling about in a wet paddy en route to ATT.

**COMMON GREENSHANK** (*Tringa nebularia*) – Four day records at wetland sites, very small numbers.

**MARSH SANDPIPER** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – One briefly at a paddy en route to ATT.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** (*Tringa glareola*) – Heard near Kratie and singles seen at Kompong Thom and the paddy near ATT.

**COMMON SNIPE** (*Gallinago gallinago*) – Singles at Kratie and Kompong Thom, and a couple at ATT.

**PIN-TAILED SNIPE** (*Gallinago stenura*) – One in flight at Kompong Thom, then a prolonged scope study of one found by Christian in a paddy at ATT. We even paid a local boy to go flush it for flight views and photos. The very broad supercilium before the eye and short bill made it clearly not Common Snipe, and the lack of white trailing edge to the wings is a useful character in flight.

Turnicidae (Buttonquail)

**SMALL BUTTONQUAIL** (*Turnix sylvaticus*) – This was a shame, as the local guides saw one at Kompong Thom and tried hard to get the rest of us onto it frozen in the grass. Sadly we failed and only got a brief flight glimpse, and of course this was the only one of the day!

**YELLOW-LEGGED BUTTONQUAIL** (*Turnix tanki*) – We flushed at least 3 at Kompong Thom from beside dense bushy thickets near the wet grass, with quite good flight views. The prominent pale wing coverts margined with white helped eliminate Small Buttonquail, and buffy undertail with generally yellowy appearance eliminate Barred.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

**ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE** (*Glareola maldivarum*) – These seem to be back early from Australia, we had about 20 at



*These Rufous-winged Buzzards provided a great look!  
(Photo by guide Phil Gregory)*

Kompong Thom and then 70 or so at ATT.

**SMALL PRATINCOLE** (*Glareola lactea*) – Distant views of 3 on the Mekong near Kratie.

*Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)*

**BROWN-HEADED GULL** (*Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*) – Quite good flight views of 5 singles on Lake Tonle Sap, much more extensively black in the primaries than with Black-headed Gull.

**CASPIAN TERN** (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Christian and I saw one on the Mekong in Phnom Penh, and one was seen at Kratie.

**WHISKERED TERN** (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – Hundreds at Prek Toal but no other sightings.

*Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)*

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) – A few feral pigeons in the towns. [I]

**RED COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) – Small numbers were widespread, seen on 6 days.

**SPOTTED DOVE** (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Also widespread, with most at Tmatboey.

**ZEBRA DOVE** (*Geopelia striata*) – This is the tiny dove of the towns, we saw it at Siem Reap and Kompong Thom.

Vocally and plumage-wise very distinct to Peaceful Dove, which may be feral here.

**PINK-NECKED PIGEON** (*Treron vernans*) – One female at Tmatboey.

**ORANGE-BREASTED PIGEON** (*Treron bicinctus*) – Nice looks at a couple of males and females at Tmatboey.

**THICK-BILLED PIGEON** (*Treron curvirostra*) – A couple seen perched at Tmatboey on one day.

**GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON** (*Ducula aenea*) – A few at Tmatboey near fruiting trees.

*Psittacidae (Parrots)*

**ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET** (*Psittacula eupatria*) – Only seen at Tah Prom, where they were vocal and sat up nicely, and some saw it at Tmatboey.

**BLOSSOM-HEADED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula roseata*) – One immature at Tah Prom, then nice scope views at Tmatboey, a delightful little parakeet.

**RED-BREASTED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula alexandri*) – Most at Tah Prom where they were very vocal, and a few at Tmatboey.

*Cuculidae (Cuckoos)*

**LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO** (*Hierococcyx sparverioides*) – Two at Bayon, with one giving fine scope views.

**HIMALAYAN CUCKOO** (*Cuculus saturatus*) – The species formerly known as Oriental Cuckoo now comprises 3 species: We saw two individuals at Bayon and one at ATT, presumably this taxon though without song this and *C. optatus* are inseparable in the field.

**PLAINTIVE CUCKOO** (*Cacomantis merulinus*) – Seen from the boat at Kratie, then a couple in fields en route to ATT.

**ASIAN KOEL** (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) – A male and female were seen at Tmatboey and it was heard daily there.

**GREEN-BILLED MALKOHA** (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*) – One en route to Tmatboey and a couple of sightings from there.

**GREATER COUCAL** (*Centropus sinensis*) – One was seen at Tmatboey by most and it was heard at several sites.

**LESSER COUCAL** (*Centropus bengalensis*) – Seen at Kratie and Kompong Thom.

*Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)*

**BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*) – Fantastic views of one at Tmatboey pre-dawn, and again after dark the same day.

*Strigidae (Owls)*

**ORIENTAL SCOPS-OWL** (*Otus sunia*) – Jonny taped one in at Tmatboey, it came in from way-off and landed, flushing just as I got the scope on it, so we did it again and it landed right by us for great views.

**BROWN FISH-OWL** (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) – We were lucky here and our local guide got us one perched up at a roost, they have been difficult of late it seems. We flushed a second later from riparian woods when we were after Wood Owls.

**ASIAN BARRED OWLET** (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) – Great views at Bayon in daylight, and then another at Tmatboey.

**BROWN WOOD-OWL** (*Strix leptogrammica*) – Yay! This was a lifer for me, but the first attempt when I was feeling poorly resulted in flight views only for most of us. Luckily we had time for a rematch next day, and this time got it sat perched high in a tall shady tree, allowing scope views before it flew.

**BROWN HAWK-OWL** (*Ninox scutulata*) – One was calling around dawn at the Giant Ibis site, but did not respond to

my playback and we had other priorities just then! [\*]

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

**LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus macrurus*) – Heard at Tmatboey and I think Christian saw one.

**SAVANNA NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus affinis*) – Nice looks at Tmatboey, they have a distinctive raspy almost Eurasian Woodcock-like flight call and a male responded well.

Apodidae (Swifts)

**HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET** (*Aerodramus brevirostris*) – Hmm, well, I think the dark brown swifts with no pale rump and quite well forked tails that we saw well en route to ATT must be this species. Common Swift does not occur here and nothing else comes remotely close.

**GERMAN'S SWIFTLET** (*Aerodramus germani*) – We had good looks at a few of this taxon with the large whitish rump at Angkor late one afternoon. Note it is named after M. Germain and should be Germain's Swiftlet, the scientific name *germani* is a mis-spelling. It's split off from Edible-nest Swiftlet so check where you have seen that, I discovered this is not a tick for me after all, and I still need Edible-nest Swiftlet as the Singapore and Malaya birds are apparently this thing.

**ASIAN PALM-SWIFT** (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) – Widespread and quite common.

Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)

**CRESTED TREESWIFT** (*Hemiproctes coronata*) – Only seen at Tmatboey where we saw a few each day.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

**COMMON KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*) – Seen on 6 days, with some nice looks, starting at Kratie.

**STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER** (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – Two were seen at Tmatboey.

**BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon pileata*) – One at Preah Khan, it flew in over the moat, sat high in a tree, and was the only one we saw.

**COLLARED KINGFISHER** (*Todiramphus chloris*) – One was seen from the cars as we were leaving Phnom Penh, but most of us missed it and we saw no more.

**PIED KINGFISHER** (*Ceryle rudis*) – Amazingly scarce, we saw a couple over the Mekong at Kratie and then a handful at Prek Toal. I can only assume human persecution keeps the numbers low as this species is abundant on say Lake Victoria, yet rare on Tonle Sap.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

**GREEN BEE-EATER** (*Merops orientalis ferrugineiceps*) – The chestnut-capped race was seen very nicely at Tmatboey, these Green Bee-eater taxa seem pretty darn distinct to me, be good to have some genetic data on them.

**BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER** (*Merops philippinus*) – Widespread in small numbers, starting at Kratie, then Kompong Thom, 30 at Prek Toal and a few at ATT.

**CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER** (*Merops leschenaulti*) – Good looks at Tmatboey of a couple of birds.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

**INDIAN ROLLER** (*Coracias benghalensis*) – Scarce, seen near Kratie and again at Tmatboey, small numbers only.

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

**EURASIAN HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*) – A couple of sightings from Tmatboey.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

**ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL** (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) – One near Tmatboey then a couple perched near the river there one day. Sad how such species have become so rare with hunting and habitat destruction.

Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)

**LINEATED BARBET** (*Megalaima lineata*) – Vocal in forest but hard to see, we finally nailed them at Bayon and then



*Mekong Wagtail, one of numerous specialties on the tour, photographed by guide Phil Gregory*

Preah Khan and Tmatboey.

**COPPERSMITH BARBET** (*Megalaima haemacephala*) – Heard more than seen, some saw it at Preah Khan.

*Picidae (Woodpeckers)*

**GRAY-CAPPED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*) – Seen at Tmatboey.

**FULVOUS-BREASTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos macei analis*) – A nice view of a Spot-breasted Woodpecker *D. analis* at Tmatboey, now split from Fulvous-breasted, with Clements as usual being woefully outdated.

**RUFOUS WOODPECKER** (*Ceelus brachyurus*) – Christian saw one at Prek Toel and there was one briefly at Tmatboey. This now also transferred out of the New World *Ceelus* genus and into *Micropternus*.

**WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus javensis*) – A fine male just as we were trying for the Brown Wood owl, unfortunate timing.

**GREATER YELLOWNAPE** (*Picus flavinucha*) – One was seen briefly and heard at Tmatboey.

**BLACK-HEADED WOODPECKER** (*Picus erythropygius*) – Great views of 3 vocal birds by the road as we came into nice dry forest en route to Tmatboey, a new one for Marian and Jim. Also seen in the forest at Tmatboey.

**COMMON FLAMEBACK** (*Dinopium javanense*) – One at Tmatboey.

**GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER** (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*) – A fine pair came though and showed well at Tmatboey, a spectacular species.

*Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)*

**COMMON WOODSHRIKE** (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) – A few at Tmatboey, always seen singly with the white outer tail feathers being very distinctive.

*Aegithinidae (Ioras)*

**COMMON IORA** (*Aegithina tiphia*) – A couple at Tmatboey.

*Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)*

**LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE** (*Coracina macei*) – Seen at Bayon and Tmatboey.

**INDOCHINESE CUCKOO-SHRIKE** (*Coracina polioptera*) – One barred female at Tmatboey and several sightings of males at Bayon.

**ASHY MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*) – Two small flocks at Bayon.

**SMALL MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*) – Good views near Tmatboey.

*Laniidae (Shrikes)*

**BROWN SHRIKE** (*Lanius cristatus*) – A few in transit by roadsides.

**BURMESE SHRIKE** (*Lanius colluriooides*) – Only seen around Tmatboey where it lives in the forest.

*Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)*

**BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE** (*Oriolus chinensis*) – Seen at Bayon.

**BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE** (*Oriolus xanthornus*) – This attractive bird was seen several times at Tmatboey.

*Dicruridae (Drongos)*

**BLACK DRONGO** (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) – Quite common in the north, often seen in open country.

**ASHY DRONGO** (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – A few from the Tmatboey area, of an ashy taxon.

**HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) – One at Bayon and then again at Tmatboey. George and Lucy had trouble with this one.....

**GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) – A few from Tmatboey and Preah Khan.

*Rhipiduridae (Fantails)*

**PIED FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura javanica*) – A few from ATT and Tmatboey.

*Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)*

**BLACK-NAPED MONARCH** (*Hypothymis azurea*) – Nice looks from Bayon and Tah Prom.

*Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)*

**EURASIAN JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius leucotis*) – One of this white-faced race was unexpected at Tmatboey, be good to have some genetics done on these various distinctive Jay taxa.....

**BLUE MAGPIE** (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*) – A couple of singles at Tmatboey, but not very obliging.

**RUFOUS TREEPIE** (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) – Christian saw this at Tmatboey.

**LARGE-BILLED CROW** (*Corvus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos*) – Amazingly scarce, we had just 4 day records and only singles and two's observed, from Prek Toel and Tmatboey. Note this is now split as Southern Jungle Crow *C. macrorhynchos* with more northerly Large-billed as *C. japonensis*.

*Alaudidae (Larks)*

**AUSTRALASIAN BUSHLARK** (*Mirafrja javanica horsfieldii*) – A couple seen at Kompong Thom.

**INDOCHINESE BUSHLARK** (*Mirafrja erythrocephala*) – Great looks at this odd short-tailed species in the dry forest at Tmatboey, where it was usually in pairs.

**ORIENTAL SKYLARK** (*Alauda gulgula*) – One seen at Kompong Thom.

*Hirundinidae (Swallows)*

**PLAIN MARTIN** (*Riparia paludicola chinensis*) – The former Brown-throated Martin is now known as Gray-throated Martin and split as *R. chinensis*, no doubt Clements will catch up at some stage. It was seen nicely at Kratie.

**BANK SWALLOW** (*Riparia riparia*) – Just a few seen at Kompong Thom.

**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*) – Widespread in the wetland areas.

**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*Cecropis daurica*) – A couple at Kratie and again at Kompong Thom.

*Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)*

**GRAY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER** (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) – A few folks saw this at Tmatboey.

*Sittidae (Nuthatches)*

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta castanea tonkinensis*) – Great looks at a noisy bird by the road in the forest as we neared Tmatboey, this is now split as Neglected Nuthatch in the revised SE Asia guide.

**VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta frontalis*) – Some folks saw this at Angkor.

*Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)*

**BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*) – Absurdly scarce, I saw just one bird at Preah Khan.

**SOOTY-HEADED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*) – A few around at Tmatboey.

**STRIPE-THROATED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus finlaysoni*) – One at Preah Khan gave very nice looks.

**YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) – A few around Siem Reap and Kompng Thom.

**STREAK-EARED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus blanfordi*) – This was seen at Kratie and then again at Tmatboey. One of Lucy's favorites!

*Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)*

**DUSKY WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*) – Quite vocal and skulking at Kratie and ATT.

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) – A few seen and calling at Tmatboey, but hard to see well.

**PALE-LEGGED LEAF-WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*) – The distinctive metallic shrill call was heard at Angkor and Tmatboey. [\*]

*Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)*

**BLACK-BROWED REED-WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*) – Good views at Kratie, and sadly I conclude the bird we spent a lot of time checking out at Kompong Thom was this species, the head pattern was too well defined for



*Bayon temple stone face, Angkor Wat (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)*

Manchurian Reed.

**ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus orientalis*) – Seen nicely at Kratie and one at ATT.

*Megaluridae (Grassbirds and Allies)*

**LANCEOLATED WARBLER** (*Locustella lanceolata*) – Christian saw one skulking in the paddies near Siem Reap.

**PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER** (*Locustella certhiola*) – This usually skulking bird sat up on a stick and gave scope views at Kratie paddies!

**STRIATED GRASSBIRD** (*Megalurus palustris*) – A striking and large species, we saw it well at Kratie and Kompong Thom.

*Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)*

**ZITTING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola juncidis*) – Seen at Kratie, and amazingly well at ATT where it was Lucy's favorite bird- go for the whole set Lucy, no-one else has yet!

**COMMON TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus sutorius*) – Seen at Kompong Thom.

**DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) – Elusive and a source of angst for George and Lucy, we heard a few at Tmatboey.

**BROWN PRINIA** (*Prinia polychroa*) – A good view of one at the forest near Tmatboey, which amazingly proved to be the only one of the trip!

**PLAIN PRINIA** (*Prinia inornata*) – Seen at Kompong Thom and ATT.

*Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)*

**ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa dauurica*) – A few from Angkor.

**HAINAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis hainanus*) – Some nice sightings of males and a female from the Angkor and Bayon areas.

**SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT** (*Luscinia calliope*) – A stunning male at Kompong Thom was a very nice find.

**BLUETHROAT** (*Luscinia svecica*) – Nice looks at Kratie paddies and Kompong Thom, also at Prek Toel.

**ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** (*Copsychus saularis*) – One by the hotel at Kratie.

**WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA** (*Copsychus malabaricus*) – Elusive but vocal in the forest at Bayon and Tah Prom, some folks got looks at them.

**STONECHAT (SIBERIAN)** (*Saxicola torquatus przewalskii*) – This taxon is often now split as Eastern or Siberian Stonechat, we had a few from Kratie and Kompong Thom, also at ATT.

**PIED BUSHCHAT** (*Saxicola caprata*) – A handful from the early part of the trip at Kratie and Kompong Thom.

*Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)*

**BLUE ROCK-THRUSH** (*Monticola solitarius pandoo*) – A couple at Angkor were of this blue-bellied taxon.

**BLUE ROCK-THRUSH** (*Monticola solitarius philippensis*) – One at Angkor was developing chestnut on the belly, this race is a good candidate for a split.

*Timaliidae (Babblers)*

**WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Garrulax leucolophus*) – Great looks at 7 vocal birds at Preah Khan and also seen at Tmatboey.

*Sturnidae (Starlings)*

**COMMON HILL MYNA** (*Gracula religiosa*) – Just 4 birds at Bayon.

**WHITE-VENTED MYNA** (*Acridotheres grandis*) – 10 at Kratie and 7 at ATT, surprisingly sparse.

**COMMON MYNA** (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Decidedly uncommon though we saw small numbers on most days.

**VINOUS-BREASTED STARLING** (*Acridotheres burmannicus*) – One flying over at Kratie paddies, George found one in Siem Reap during lunch, then 2 at Tmatboey. Quite uncommon and a good trip addition.

**BLACK-COLLARED STARLING** (*Gracupica nigricollis*) – Small numbers around ATT and Tmatboey.

**WHITE-SHOULDERED STARLING** (*Sturnia sinensis*) – Two small flocks flew by at Kompong Thom, and there were 2 at Tmatboey.

*Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)*

**BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD** (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*) – One at Tmatboey.

*Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)*

**SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) – Heard more than seen, we had singles in the forest areas.

*Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)*

**PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes malacensis*) – One male was at Tah Prom, also called Brown-throated Sunbird.

**PURPLE SUNBIRD** (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) – Nice looks at males at Tmatboey.

**OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** (*Cinnyris jugularis flammixillaris*) – This species was seen at Bayon and then at Prek Toel it's quite a bit duller than the Oz birds with orange pectoral tufts.

**EASTERN CRIMSON SUNBIRD** (*Aethopyga siparaja*) – Just one male at Kratie.

*Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)*

**EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla tschutschensis simillima*) – This taxon is now usually subsumed into the nominate. We only saw a handful of birds at Kratie and Kompong Thom, I was surprised how scarce wagtails were this trip.

**MEKONG WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla samveasnae*) – Two at Kratie, we got very nice looks out on the river as they perched in bushes then on sandbars. They look amazingly like African Pied Wagtail and are a specialist of this riverine habitat.

**ORIENTAL PIPIT** (*Anthus rufulus*) – A few at Kompong Thom where one looked to be nesting, and also at ATT.

**OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT** (*Anthus hodgsoni*) – One or two at Tmatboey in the woodland there.

**RED-THROATED PIPIT** (*Anthus cervinus*) – A winter pumage bird showed well at Kompong Thom, and we other fly-bys there and at ATT.

**FOREST WAGTAIL** (*Dendronanthus indicus*) – A couple of folks saw one at Tah Prom.

*Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)*

**HOUSE SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*) – This was seen at Kratie and ATT, they seem to be increasing in Cambodia.

**PLAIN-BACKED SPARROW** (*Passer flaveolus*) – One fine bird at a fuel stop en route to Kratie, it sat for ages.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) – Widespread in small numbers.

*Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)*

**STREAKED WEAVER** (*Ploceus manyar*) – Some small flocks at Kratie paddies were a good trip bird, most were non-breeding dress but a few were starting to show some colour.

**BAYA WEAVER** (*Ploceus philippinus*) – Also at Kratie paddies and readily told by the rather plain underparts.

**ASIAN GOLDEN WEAVER** (*Ploceus hypoxanthus*) – We spent ages sorting through the weavers in the tall grass at Kratie paddies, eventually finding just one male Asian Golden in quite good breeding dress. A large-billed female was also seen later but this was by far the rarest of the weavers and seems to be in continuing decline.

*Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)*

**RED AVADAVAT** (*Amandava amandava*) – A small flock zipped over at Kompong Thom but a bad flight view was it.

**WHITE-RUMPED MUNIA** (*Lonchura striata*) – A few in the paddies at Kratie.

**NUTMEG MANNIKIN** (*Lonchura punctulata*) – Five in the paddies at Kratie.

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## MAMMALS

**FRUIT BAT SP.** (*Pteropus vampyrus*) – The big fruit bats at ATT are this species, the Large fruit-bat.

**CRAB-EATING MACAQUE** (*Macaca fascicularis*) – More usually called long-tailed macaque, we saw this in Phnom Penh and at Bayon.

**PIGTAIL MACAQUE** (*Macaca nemestrina*) – This was a surprise at Bayon, where a couple of the Northern pig-tailed macaques were in with the long-tailed species, easily told by the short tail and better marked face pattern.

**FINLAYSON'S SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus finlaysoni*) – Usually called variable squirrel it's an attractive dark red species with a white patch at the base of the tail in Cambodia. We saw them at Bayon.

**CAMBODIAN FLYING SQUIRREL** (*Tamiops rodolphii*) – American mammal names are just as confusing as the Clements renamings of so many species. This diminutive thing is usually called the Cambodian Striped Squirrel and I don't think it can fly! We saw just one at Tmatboey.

**IRRAWADDY DOLPHIN** (*Orcaella brevirostris*) – Great encounters with maybe 10 or so of them on the Mekong at Kratie, where about 60 animals provide a good living for the boatmen who take the tourists out to see them.

**MUNTJAC (BARKING DEER)** (*Muntiacus muntjak*) – One was seen at Tmatboey when we were looking for Brown Wood Owl.

**ELD'S DEER** (*Rucervus eldii*) – This was a very pleasing find at ATT where the local guide knew where to go, we saw a fine large brow-antlered stag with a female and a young one. Later some folks saw 5 more, it's a rare and threatened species which was really good to locate. Lifer for Phil.

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## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Birds of the trip were varied, but White-rumped Falcon and Bengal Florican take the prize, followed variously by Pin-tailed Snipe, Brown Wood Owl, Blossom-headed Parakeet, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, and Zitting Cisticola.

Best temple: Bayon

Best mammal: Eld's Deer (PG!), with Irrawaddy dolphin a close second

Best gecko: the amazing Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gekko*) at Tmatboey that lived in the kitchen; that call is quite incredible, it really does sound like a human voice saying "gek-ko."

Best snake: a beautiful green-and-black patterned tree snake on the ruins at Preah Khan

Best bee swarms: *Apis dorsalis* in huge clusters high in trees at Preah Khan

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**Totals for the tour: 214 bird taxa and 8 mammal taxa**