

Vietnam, March - April, 2002

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General information

We spent six weeks in Vietnam travelling and birding. This was our first time to the country and birding was not the first priority of this trip. We had just spent four weeks birding in Malaysia. When we arrived in Saigon we had no plans on where to go, neither did we know much about any good birding sites in Vietnam.

It's a fairly new destination since the country hasn't been open for travelling until the early 1990's, but now it seems to be increasingly popular also among birders. On our trip we visited only a few good places for birding, e.g. Da Lat, Cuc Phuong and Sapa. Birds were very scarce outside these areas since the pressure from hunting, farming and logging has made it very difficult for birds to survive outside the national parks. Vietnam is, however, still home to 10 endemic species and several more considered as globally endangered or vulnerable. In 3-4 weeks, if experienced and well organized, you can possibly expect something like 350 species by visiting most of the key sites in the south and north.

Flights and visas

We flew KLM from Copenhagen to Saigon with a stop-over in Malaysia. The return ticket was 9 850 SKr. You need a visa to visit Vietnam and application forms can be obtained from the Vietnamese Embassy at www.vietnamemb.se

Language

Vietnamese! Not many people speak English and very few speak French. We had a few mishaps due to communication problems but most of the time the message came through by using sign language. But you really never knew!

Money

The local currency is called Vietnamese Dong and 1SkR was equivalent to about 1500 Dong at the time of our visit. US dollars were widely accepted and preferred to the Dong. For best rates we changed our money at the banks. Withdrawal was possible with Visa and Master Card. Traveller's Cheques seemed widely accepted but make sure you have enough money before you set off into more remote areas. Vietnam is still very cheap, friendly and safe. We were told though, that criminality is an increasing problem in Saigon and Nha Trang.

Health

For immunisation check with your local GP. Contrary to advise we didn't take any prophylaxis against malaria. We consulted a local French doctor in Saigon who considered the risk as low at the time of our visit. Mosquitos were a bit annoying at Cuc Phuong but very few elsewhere. The same goes for the leeches. We carried leech-proof socks and a mosquito-net from home. The local insect repellent "Nomozzbite", sold at the local pharmacies proved better on the mozzies than any Swedish equivalent. The local food is generally good and cheap. Most places we visited also had several western-style restaurants to choose from. Beer, bottled water and soft-drinks are widely available.

Transport and accomodation

The roads in Vietnam are mostly very poor and travelling overland takes time and can't be considered as very safe, particularly if travelling at night. We used the chartered minibuses, tourist-style buses that operates between major destinations, wich were very cheap and didn't even consider local buses. Expect delays, overbooking and a sore back and you'll be fine. We flew Vietnam Airlines between Danang and Hanoi and from Hanoi back to Saigon to save time and discomfort. We also travelled by train, taxi and motorbike.

Going birding to Vietnam with limited time and if expences can be shared, the best option must be to rent a car with a driver. Other birders have organized this through a Mr Nguyen Van Viet vietntn@hcm.fpt.vn who runs a travel agency in Saigon. For more details see the trip reports listed below.

Weather

In the south it was sunny, hot and humid with up to 39 C in Saigon. In Dalat heavy rain from noon onwards made birding difficult since the trails virtually turned into minor waterfalls and the birds went very quiet. When cloudy the temperatures dropped remarkably. In Cuc Phuong it was cloudy and most mornings and afternoons were a bit misty with fine rain. Birding was pleasant through the day. In Sapa, known for it's unpredictable weather, we had sunshine and nice weather every day even though the mornings were a bit chilly due to the high altitude. There doesn't seem to be any good or bad season to visit Vietnam if you are planning to visit different regions of the country.

Preparations

We came poorly prepared since birding wasn't the main priority of this trip. We didn't have a guidebook to the birding sites in Vietnam and we decided to visit sites mentioned in the trip reports we used, that were en route. Unfortunately we couldn't visit Cat Tien NP in the south as planned, since we were informed that all accommodation were fully booked at the time for our supposed stay. It's possibly a good idea to book accommodation and transport from home if your time is limited and you plan to visit the national parks. We didn't carry a telescope which had been useful at certain times. For instance, several raptors had to be left unidentified. We didn't use any tapes or play-backs to attract birds. If not very familiar with the birds of the region it's a good idea to listen in to a tape or CD-ROM covering the birdcalls of SE Asia.

References/literature

Robson, C. (2000) **A Fieldguide to the Birds of South-East Asia**. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd.
Trip Reports by Aidan G. Kelly 1998-99 found at www.birdtours.co.uk and Alfred Chia, March 99 found at www.worldtwitch.virtualave.net We also carried the **Lonely Planet guidebook to Vietnam**.

Sites

Mui Ne Beach 020314-20

This beautiful beach situated 200 km east of Saigon is a very nice place for relaxation and by no means a birding destination. We did some birding along the Fairy Spring (Suoi Tien), a tiny freshwater stream that flows through the otherwise semi desert-like landscape, and therefore attracts the birds. Birds not seen elsewhere included **Indian Nightjar, Racket-tailed Treepie, Streak-eared Bulbul and Plain-backed Sparrow**. There are several places of different standard to stay at in Mui Ne. We stayed at Thai Hoa just by the spring and paid 10 USD for a small bungalow with attached bath. The bus from Saigon was 5 USD.

Da Lat 020323-27

Dalat at 1475 m is an old hill station on the Lang Bian Highlands located within the Central Highlands, about 300 km north-east of Saigon. The sites are spread out but can easily be reached by motorcycle taxis from the town centre. There are still patches of tropical montane forest and pine forest in the otherwise cleared area. The area holds four endemic species: **Black-hooded Laughingthrush, Collared Laughingthrush, Vietnamese Greenfinch and Grey-crowned Crocias**. We only managed to see the Greenfinch, possibly partly due to bad weather at the time of our visit. We stayed at Hotel Binh Yen, a family run hotel with only three rooms with attached bath and hot shower for 8 USD. 7/2 Hai Thuong St, Tel (063) 823631. There are buses daily from Saigon and Nha Trang to Dalat. We visited the following sites:

Datanla Falls

Datanla Falls is about 5 km from the town centre down Highway 20. The entrance is about 200 m past the turn-off to Quang Trung Reservoir (Tuyen Lam Lake) to your right coming from Dalat. The area is very small with a path leading down to the waterfall with surrounding tropical forest and pines. Despite the small area we saw some good birds here and birding was very easy. Behind the toilets at the bottom of the main trail there is a smaller trail that goes uphill back to the main road. You can then follow the main road back to the entrance and bird the pine forest. Keep your ticket, there's an entrance-fee of 5000 VD, if you want to do another loop. Birds not seen elsewhere included **Besra, Lesser Shortwing, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird and Black-throated Sunbird**.

Ho Tuyen Lam

Lake Tuyen Lam or Quang Trung Reservoir, is an artificial lake 7 km from Dalat. Turn right from Highway 20 (see Datanla Falls) and continue for about 2 km until you reach the main boat jetty. At the opposite side of the lake there's still some good tropical forest as well as pine forest. To get there you'll have to take a boat and ask to be dropped off and later picked up at a pre-arranged time. The trip takes about 30 min and costs 10 USD two ways. (Map available from Chia's report). Our driver knew the precise site but the water-level was low so we had to wade through the mud to get to the embankment and the trail leading to the forest. We found the site very confusing and we couldn't make anything out from the map. The paths were very difficult to find and often ended abruptly due to charcoal burning and logging in the area. Supposedly the site is not as good as it has been although we saw some good birds only wandering about in the general area. It rained most of the time on both our visits. Birds here included **Chinese Francolin, Black-headed Woodpecker, Barred Cuckoo Dove, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Cutia, Ruddy-breasted Crake, Mugimaki Flycatcher, Siberian Rubythroat, Burmese Shrike, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo and Yellow-billed Nuthatch**.

Mount Lang Bian

To get to this site you head for Lat village, situated at the base of the mountain, 12 km north of Dalat. The mountain is the third highest in the Dalat plateau and is mostly covered by pine forest and later tropical forest closer to the peak. A new driveable road was under construction at the time of our visit, taking you to the saddle of the mountain. The trail to the peak is clearly marked to your right where the road makes a sharp left bend. The walk from the gate to the peak trail takes about 2 hours and with the new road built it's a good idea to take a motorcycle or car all the way to this point and perhaps walk down. This will cost you a little extra but is well worth it. You no longer need a permit to visit the mountain. Unfortunately we could only spend a couple of hours in the "good" forest since heavy rain made the paths very slippery, standing ankle deep in water. Birds here included **Vietnamese Greenfinch, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Indochinese Cuckoo Shrike** and **White-throated Rock Thrush**.

Cua Dai Beach 020403-04

This nice beach lies 5 km east of Hoi An. Another non birding site. Going to the beach from Hoi An you'll find some salt pans and rice paddies to your left just before a large bridge. If there, it might be worth a visit. Some **Tringas** and **Long-toed Stints** were seen in the salt pans.

Cuc Phuong National Park 020407-11

This park is situated about 120 km south-west of Hanoi. Established in 1962 this was the first national park in Vietnam. It covers an area of 22,200 hectares, primary tropical forest, and is probably one of the better places for birds and wildlife in the country. You can either stay by the HQ near the entrance gate or at the Bong Substation Park Centre, another 20 km along the paved road into the park. Try to book accommodation in advance since the park is also popular with the Vietnamese, particularly during weekends. This can be done by contacting the park HQ on tel 030-848006, fax 030-848008 or through its Hanoi office, tel 04-8292604. We stayed in one of the basic and overpriced bungalows at Bong Substation for 25 USD. The last night we stayed at the HQ where the bungalows were 20 USD. Meals are preordered and served at arranged times. Water can be bought but it's good to bring some fruit, biscuits etc for day-trips. At Bong there's no electricity after 10 pm.

Birding is good along the main road between the gate and Bong Substation. If staying at Bong Substation you can also try the Valley Trail which first passes through a cleared area in the valley north-west of the camp before leading into bamboo and tropical forest. You'll have to walk the same way back again. The Ridge Trail starts 100 m down the road from Bong to the left by some buildings. From here it's uphill along the trail to "the old tree" about halfway. Continue and the trail will make a loop, finally leading you downhill to the start of the Valley Trail near Bong. Poor maps can be obtained from the HQ. To get to Cuc Phuong we hired a private car with driver from Hanoi. We arranged with the same driver to pick us up and take us back to Hanoi four days later. For this he charged us 60 USD.

Birding in Cuc Phuong was great and several good birds were seen including: **Red-collared Woodpecker, Red-vented Barbet, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Blue-rumped Pitta, Bar-bellied Pitta, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Light-vented Bulbul** and more.

Sapa 020413-16

Sapa is an old hill station in the north-west corner of Vietnam, close to the Chinese border. It's beautifully situated in a valley at an elevation of about 1700 m. Most tourists come here for the Saturday Market arranged by the different hill-tribe communities in the area. It used to be difficult to get here, but with the upgraded roads this is no longer a problem. We saw two species here, **Small Pratincole** and **White-naped Yuhina**, that shouldn't occur in this region according to the distribution text in Robson's Field Guide. Both reported to Birdlife Vietnam, but without reply. To get there we took an overnight train from Hanoi to Lao Cai, the Royal Train. The soft sleeper berths were good value at 12 USD return fare, booked through our hotel. From Lao Cai you take one of the waiting mini-buses by the station for the remaining 38 km to Sapa, another 5 USD.

We stayed at the Mountain View Hotel, tel 020-871334 fax 020-871783 or ninhong@hn.vnn.vn next to the Royal Hotel, near the town centre. A double with attached bath and hot shower was about 10 USD.

Ham Rong Gardens

These gardens are situated on the hillside overlooking the town. The entrance-fee is 15,000 VND. Bird along the paved paths among the plantations, bushes and sometimes more open areas. The birdlife was surprisingly good and birding was very easy. Also check out the private gardens, when walking down the steps, back to the town centre again. Good birds here included **Small Niltava, White-browed Laughingthrush, Black-headed Greenfinch, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Vinous-throated Parrotbill** and **Brown-breasted Bulbul**.

Tram Ton Pass and the Silver Waterfall

This pass lies along the road to Lai Chau about 15 km from Sapa. The waterfall is to your right about halfway there and can't be missed. At 19 000 m, this is the highest mountain pass in Vietnam and there are still some montane tropical forest left in the area. Access to the forest was however very difficult and it wasn't until the last day we got into some good forest. To get to this forest from Sapa you pass the waterfall and continue another 2,5-3 km. At this point the road makes a sharp bend to the right and there's a lay-by to the left with a big board saying Lai Chau Km 89. There was a "house" under construction by this pull-off at the time of our visit. From here there is a fairly well-marked path that goes down the hill through bush-like forest that opens up into an open grassy area and then into the good forest. We spent more time in a bush-like forest with lots of bamboo about 600 m to the left down the road from the Lai Chau Km 89 board, where the valley opens up at a sharp right bend. Birding by the waterfall was also quite good. To get here from Sapa we took motorcycle-taxis and asked the drivers to pick us up at a pre-arranged time in the afternoon. Good birds here included **Short-billed Minivet, Little Forktail, Plumbeous Water Redstart, Black-faced Warbler, Red-billed Leiothrix, Whiskered Yuhina, White-collared Yuhina, Green-tailed Sunbird, Mountain Bamboo Partridge, Golden Parrotbill and White-naped Yuhina.**

Systematic list of birds following:

A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia by Craig Robson.

Chinese Francolin	One male seen at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Scaly-breasted Partridge	A few heard at Cuc Phuong.
Mountain Bamboo Partridge	2 flushed at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Red Junglefowl	Several heard at Cuc Phuong.
Silver Pheasant	One male at Datanla Falls, Dalat. Another male along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Little Grebe	Several at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake, Dalat.
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodp.	A few at Datanla Falls and Mount Liang Bian, Dalat.
Lesser Yellownappe	Fairly common at Cuc Phuong.
Greater Yellownappe	A few recorded at Cuc Phuong.
Red-collared Woodpecker	One male along the Ridge Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Black-headed Woodpecker	One male at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Common Flameback	Fairly common at Cuc Phuong.
Bay Woodpecker	One seen at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Great Barbet	A few heard at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Red-vented Barbet	Several heard and a few seen at Cuc Phuong.
Green-eared Barbet	Common by call at Cuc Phuong. A few seen.
Black-browed Barbet	Fairly common by call around Dalat. A few seen.
Red-headed Trogon	A few seen and heard at Cuc Phuong.
Green Bee-eater	Very common at Mui Ne.
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	Common at Mui Ne. Also a few at Cua Dai Beach.

Common Kingfisher	A pair in the Fairy Spring at Mui Ne. 2 at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake, Dalat.
White-throated Kingfisher	Several at Mui Ne. Typicall roadside bird.
Black-capped Kingfisher	One at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake and one at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Pied Kingfisher	2 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Indian Cuckoo	Fairly common by call at Dalat and Cuc Phuong. A few seen.
Eurasian Cuckoo	One calling at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Oriental Cuckoo	One calling near the park entrence at Cuc Phuong.
Banded Bay Cuckoo	Common by call at Dalat and Cuc Phuong. A few seen.
Plaintive Cuckoo	Several heard and seen at Mui Ne. Also at Dalat, Cuc Phuong and Sapa.
Drongo Cuckoo	2 heard at Ho Tuyen Lam and 2 at Cuc Phuong.
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	One male seen along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Green-billed Malkoha	3 at Datanla Falls and one at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat. One at Cuc Phuong.
Greater Coucal	A few at Mui Ne. Also heard at Cuc Phuong.
Indian Roller	3 on wires between Mui Ne and Nha Trang.
Dollarbird	One at Mui Ne and 2 along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
(Himalayan Swiftlet)	About 15 seen at Cuc Phuong in bad weather were believed to be this species.
Silver-backed Needletail	15-20 seen in the open area by the dam along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Brown-backed Needletail	2-4 seen with the Silver-backed Needletails at Cuc Phuong.
Asian Palm Swift	Fairly common at Mui Ne. A few at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Fork-tailed Swift	Several seen at Cuc Phuong and fairly common at Sapa.
House Swift	Common in Saigon and around Dalat. Also seen elsewhere.
Mountain Scops Owl	One heard at dusk from Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Brown Wood Owl	One calling after dark near the entrence gate at Cuc Phuong.
Large-tailed Nightjar	3 at dusk near the entrence gate at Cuc Phuong.
Indian Nightjar	2 flushed on the dunes by the Fairy Spring at Mui Ne.
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	Fairly common around Dalat.
Thick-billed Green Pigeon	7 seen in a fruiting tree along the Ridge Trail and one near the entrence gate, Cuc Phuong.
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	One seen perched along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	2 seen at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Spotted Dove	A few at Mui Ne. One at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.

Red-collared Dove	Several at Mui Ne. Several between Mui Ne and Nha Trang.
Barred Cuckoo Dove	2 at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Emerald Dove	2 along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
White-breasted Waterhen	2 in the Fairy Spring at Mui Ne and 2 at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake, Dalat.
Ruddy-breasted Crake	One at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake, Dalat.
Common Redshank	4 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Masrsh Sandpiper	2 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Common Greenshank	5 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Wood Sandpiper	25-30 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Common Sandpiper	A few at Mui Ne Beach and 5 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Long-toed Stint	3 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Little Ringed Plover	One at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Kentish Plover	Fairly common at Mui Ne Beach.
Pacific Golden Plover	One by the Fairy Spring at Mui Ne.
Small Pratincole	2 ad at Lao Cai Train Station, Sapa. Shouldn't occur in this region according to the distribution text in the guidebook.
Whiskered Tern	One between Mui Ne and Nha Trang.
Osprey	One daily at Mui Ne and 2 at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake.
White-bellied Sea Eagle	One subad at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake on both visits. Also one ad when snorkeling offshore Nha Trang!.
Crested Serpent Eagle	Heard from the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Black Eagle	One seen at Cuc Phuong near the HQ.
Pied Harrier	One female in the open area along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Japanese Sparrowhawk	Good views of one male at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Besra	One ad at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Black Baza	A flock of about 40 were seen near the HQ at Cuc Phuong.
Black-shouldered Kite	One ad between Nha Trang and Dalat.
Oriental Honey Buzzard	2 seen from the main road at Cuc Phuong.
(Mountain Hawk Eagle)	One Spizaetus seen perched along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong was possibly this species, but too far away for a positive identification.
Peregrine Falcon	One ad at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Little Egret	Fairly common in paddyfields along the coast.

Pacific Reef Egret	One at Mui Ne Beach.
Grey Heron	Only 2 seen in paddyfields close to Nha Trang.
Great Egret	Several seen in paddyfields along the coast.
Intermediate Egret	A few seen in paddyfields along the coast.
Cattle Egret	Common in paddyfields along the coast.
Chinese Pond Heron	Common in wetlands all over Vietnam.
Little Heron	3 at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake, Dalat.
Yellow Bittern	One at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne.
Cinnamon Bittern	A few at Ho Tuyen Lam Lake, Dalat.
Blue-rumped Pitta	One heard along the Valley Trail and one near the entrance gate at Cuc Phuong.
Bar-bellied Pitta	One heard along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Long-tailed Broadbill	2 seen along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Silver-breasted Broadbill	Several seen at Bong Substation and along the Ridge Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Blue-winged Leafbird	A few at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Orange-bellied Leafbird	Singles on three dates at Cuc Phuong.
Brown Shrike	One along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Burmese Shrike	A few in the pines at Ho Tuyen Lam.
Long-tailed Shrike	One along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Grey-backed Shrike	One along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Black Drongo	A few on wires over paddyfields in south-east Vietnam.
Ashy Drongo	Fairly common around Dalat and a few at Cuc Phuong.
Crow-billed Drongo	A few at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	A few at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Spangled Drongo	A few at Cuc Phuong.
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Several at Cuc Phuong.
Eurasian Jay	5 at Datanla Falls and 3 at Mount Lang Bian, Dalat.
Common Green Magpie	2 at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Racket-tailed Treepie	A few seen at the Fairy Spring at Mui Ne.
Ratched-tailed Treepie	Several along different trails at Cuc Phuong.
Common Iora	A few at Mui Ne and Cuc Phuong

Great Iora	2 along the Valley Trail and one near the entrance gate at Cuc Phuong.
IIndochinese Cuckooshrike	3 at Mount Lang Bian and one at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike	Fairly common around Dalat and a few at Cuc Phuong.
Large Woodshrike	One at Datanla Falls, Dalat. One at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Ashy Minivet	A flock of 30 along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Long-tailed Minivet	Fairly common around Dalat.
Short-billed Minivet	A few seen at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Scarlet Minivet	Several at Cuc Phuong and one at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
White-throated Fantail	A few at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne. Fairly common at the Dalat sites. One at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Black-naped Monarch	Fairly common at Cuc Phuong.
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	3 at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
White-throated Rock Thrush	One female at Mount Lang Bian, Dalat.
Blue Rock Thrush	One at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne and 2 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Blue Whistling Thrush	One at Datanla Falls, Dalat and 2 along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Asian Brown Flycatcher	Only one at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Ferruginous Flycatcher	One at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Red-throated Flycatcher	A few seen at all sites visited, except Mui Ne.
Rufous-browed Flycatcher	One seen at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Verditer Flycatcher	Fairly common around Dalat and Sapa.
White-tailed Flycatcher	A few at Bong Substation and along the Ridge Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	Several at the Dalat sites and Sapa.
Mugimaki Flycatcher	One female/1 st winter male seen at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Little Pied Flycatcher	Several at the Dalat sites.
Large Niltava	A few at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Small Niltava	Up to 5 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Hainan Blue Flycatcher	A pair along the Ridge Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Lesser Shortwing	One seen at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Siberian Rubythroat	One male seen at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Siberian Blue Robin	One male along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Oriental Magpie Robin	Several along the main road at Cuc Phuong.

White-rumped Shama	Several along different trails at Cuc Phuong.
White-tailed Robin	One male along the Ridge Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Little Forktail	One ad at the Silver Waterfalls, Sapa.
Slaty-backed Forktail	One ad at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Plumbeous Water Redstart	A pair at the Silver Waterfalls, Sapa.
Common Stonechat	2 at Cuc Phuong and fairly common around Sapa.
Grey Bushchat	Fairly common around Dalat and Sapa.
Black-collared Starling	4 at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne and 4 at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Common Myna	2 in Saigon and 2 at Lat village, Dalat. A few between Mui Ne and Nha Trang.
Hill Myna	Several at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	Fairly common at the Dalat sites.
Yellow-billed Nuthatch	One in a birdwave at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Green-backed Tit	A few seen at the Dalat sites.
Yellow-cheeked Tit	3 at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Black-throated Tit	Common at the Dalat sites.
Barn Swallow	Common all over Vietnam.
Striated Swallow	Several at Cuc Phuong and Sapa.
Black-crested Bulbul	A few at Datanla Falls, Dalat. Several at Cuc Phuong.
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Several at the Dalat sites. Common at Cuc Phuong.
Brown-breasted Bulbul	Up to 4 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Light-vented Bulbul	One or two flocks of 60 birds along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Sooty-headed Bulbul	2 seen at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat and 3 at Cuc Phuong.
Stripe-throated Bulbul	Only seen with 2 along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Flavescent Bulbul	A few at Ho Tuyen Lam and Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Yellow-vented Bulbul	Common at Mui Ne.
Streak-eared Bulbul	A few at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne.
Puff-throated Bulbul	2 at Datanla Falls, Dalat. Common at Cuc Phuong.
Grey-eyed Bulbul	A single bird along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Ashy Bulbul	A few at the Dalat sites.
Mountain Bulbul	4 at Mount Lang Bian and 4 at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.

Black Bulbul	Common at Dalat and fairly common at Cuc Phuong.
Hill Prinia	Common around Sapa.
Rufescent Prinia	A few at Cuc Phuong and Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Plain Prinia	A few at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat.
Mountain Tailorbird	Fairly common at the Dalat sites and Sapa.
Common Tailorbird	A few at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne. Several at Cuc Phuong.
Asian Stubb-tail	2 along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Zitting Cisticola	Common in paddyfields all over Vietnam.
Dusky Warbler	One at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Yellow-streaked Warbler	Up to 3 along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Yellow-browed Warbler	Fairly common at the Dalat sites and Cuc Phuong. A few around Sapa.
Eastern-crowned Warbler	One at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Two-barred Warbler	Several at the Dalat sites.
White-tailed Leaf Warbler	A few seen at the Dalat sites.
Japanese White-eye	2 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Black-faced Warbler	3 seen at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	One seen at Ho Tuyen Lam, Dalat and one at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
White-spectacled Warbler	Very good views of 2 birds at Datanla Falls. A few more Seicercus at the Dalat sites were believed to be this species
(Bianchi's Warbler)	One Seicercus at Ham Rong Gardens and 2 at Tram Ton Pass were believed to be this species.
(Grey-cheeked Warbler)	Two Seicercus along Ridge Trail at Cuc Phuong calling with a very high pitched "switt" call, were believed to be this species.
White-crested Laughingthrush	4 along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
Black-throated Laughingthrush	2 along the main road at Cuc Phuong.
White-cheeked Laughingthrush	17 seen at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
White-browed Laughingthrush	Up to 4 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Buff-breasted Babbler	Several seen at Cuc Phuong.
Puff-throated Babbler	Common at Cuc Phuong and 2 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
White-browed Scimitar Babbl.	2 seen at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Streaked Wren Babbler	2 seen along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Rufous-capped Babbler	Several at the Dalat sites.

Grey-throated Babbler	Fairly common at Cuc Phuong.
Striped Tit Babbler	Fairly common at Cuc Phuong.
Cutia	2 seen at Ho Tuyen Lam.
White-browed Shrike Babbler	Several seen at the Dalat sites.
Chestnut-fronted Shrike Babbl.	Several seen at the Dalat sites.
Blue-winged Minla	Fairly common at the Dalat sites and a few at Sapa.
Red-billed Leiothrix	Several at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Rufous-winged Fulvetta	2 seen at Mount Lang Bian, Dalat.
Streak-throated Fulvetta	2 at Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Rufous-throated Fulvetta	6 at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Rusty-capped Fulvetta	3 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Mountain Fulvetta	Common at the Dalat sites.
Black-browed Fulvetta	Several seen at Cuc Phuong.
Spectacled Barwing	One seen on two dates at Ham Rong Gardens in Sapa. Several heard.
White-naped Yuhina	One on two dates at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa. Shouldn't occur in the region according to the distribution text in the guidebook.
Whiskered Yuhina	Several at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
White-collared Yuhina	A few at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
White-bellied Yuhina	A few at the Dalat sites. Common at Cuc Phuong.
Vinous-throated Parrotbill	4 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Ashy-throated Parrotbill	2 at Ham Rong Gardens and 2 at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Golden Parrotbill	One at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	One along the main road, Cuc Phuong.
Plain Flowerpecker	2 seen at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Several at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne.
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	Only one at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Olive-backed Sunbird	Common at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne and 2 at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
Mr's Gould's Sunbird	Fairly common at the Dalat sites.
Green-tailed Sunbird	A few at the Tram Ton Pass, Sapa.
Black-throated Sunbird	2 seen at Datanla Falls, Dalat.
Streaked Spiderhunter	Several at the Dalat sites. Several at Cuc Phuong.

Paddyfield Pipit	2 at Lat village, Dalat and 1 at Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An.
Olive-backed Pipit	Common around Dalat, Cuc Phuong and Sapa.
Forest Wagtail	A few at Bong Substation, Cuc Phuong.
White Wagtail	2 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
Yellow Wagtail	2 along the Valley Trail at Cuc Phuong.
Grey Wagtail	2 at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne.
Plain-backed Sparrow	Very common at the Fairy Spring, Mui Ne.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Common in urban areas.
Common Rosefinch	3 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.
White-rumped Munia	2 in central Hanoi.
Scaly-breasted Munia	Very common at Mui Ne.
Black-headed Greenfinch	Several at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa
Vietnamese Greenfinch	5 at Mount Lang Bian, Dalat.
Red Crossbill	2 at Mount Lang Bian, Dalat.
Little Bunting	Fairly common around Sapa.
Chestnut Bunting	5 at Ham Rong Gardens, Sapa.