

Tam Dao and Cuc Phuong, Viet Nam

29 April – 7 May 2006

Björn Anderson



Dawn view over the clouds at Tam Dao



View towards Cuc Phuong

General

Joakim Hammar from HK and I initially wanted to do the central part of Viet Nam. However, the logistic situation at Mount Ngoc Linh would probably have prevented us from seeing a couple of the target birds. We instead opted for doing the more classic northern part, covering Tam Dao and Cuc Phuong. The timing coincided with the Golden Week in China when I was off work. First it looked like a good time to go, with many of the target birds (i.e. Pittas) being in the breeding season. As it turned out it was probably not such a wise decision, as it seemed that the Pittas had by then gone almost totally quiet. Probably mid April would be better. Finding Pittas when not calling is a tough challenge and we ended up with four species heard and between us, only the two classic Bar-bellied (me) and Blue-rumped (Jocke) were seen. Rather frustrating to say the least as we devoted most of the time looking for Pittas. We heard at least four Blue-naped at Tam Dao and at least one Eared at Cuc Phuong.

At Tam Dao we had many nice views of my personal targets Grey Laughler and Short-tailed Parrotbill, although the Rufous-headed very annoyingly eluded us.

Cuc Phuong was an excellent place, with good birding just around the corner from the bungalow. Highlights besides the Pittas were for me the two Fulvettas (Rufous-throated and Black-browed) and Limestone Wren-Babbler.



Bjorn and Jocke in the myriads of butterflies

Itinerary

29/4

Jocke arrived at Hanoi in the late afternoon and went straight out to Tam Dao, while I did not arrive at Hanoi until 23.00. As it is only a little bit more than one hours drive, I checked in at the Green World Hotel already at 00.30 for a short night sleep.

30/4

Sunrise was at 5.30 so already before 5.00 we were walking the newly constructed Watertank "road". Jocke had scouted the area the evening before so we knew that it would be a couple of km to walk to good trails. At the end of the road there are two trails (are these the same as being described as the "three-trail junction" in other reports?) and we first chose the upper one. It passed through some dense bamboo forest and we soon bagged two of the target birds, i.e. Grey Laughing and Short-tailed Parrotbill. In the late morning we heard a contact call from a Pitta, presumably Blue-naped, although we did not have a recording of this type of call. The bird moved through the forest and did not really respond to playback and after a while it had disappeared leaving two faces looking like twenty past eight. We continued along this trail almost to the top of Tam Dao II, where most of the bamboo disappeared and was replaced by more stunted forest. In the late morning we walked back down and then took the lower Watertank trail during the entire afternoon until the evening. As darkness fell about 18.30, we walked back the road to the village.

1/5

Almost the same procedure as previous day, with the exception of us was checking the area around the old watertank around dawn. Here we heard the contact call of the presumed Blue-naped Pitta, but again with no response.

This day we started walking the lower Watertank trail and roughly saw the same birds as yesterday. Once again we encountered a flock of White-hooded Babblers, but it did not yield any Rufous-headed Parrotbills. The afternoon was spent along the upper Watertank trail before returning to the village after dark. As usual birders' accommodations are seldom seen in daylight!

2/5

Having failed to see any RH Parrotbill or Blue-naped Pitta, we decided to change tactics and try a new trail during the last morning. At dawn we walked up the steps to the transmitter tower. The forest was fairly ok, but the bamboo was not as extensive and the trail much shorter. Just before 10.00, while trying to tape in a Green Cochoa, suddenly a Blue-naped Pitta called from just below us and got another two responding above us! In order to get away from the crowds on the trail, we cautiously sneaked into the forest and played a snatch of the recording. One of the Pittas responded, but only once and then stayed silent. We then spent a considerable time waiting for anything to happen, but all the Pittas had gone totally quiet, except for a fourth bird that called briefly above us. We eventually gave up and returned to the hotel and packed up and left Tam Dao shortly after 11.00. On the way down the mountain we stopped a couple of times in the hope of getting Pale-footed Bush-Warblers to rock along, but nothing but cicadas was heard.

The drive to central Hanoi took two hours and we had a quick stop for internet and a beer before continuing south to Cuc Phuong. The invention of ring roads is certainly something that would be useful in Hanoi. As the situation is now, the quickest way is to go right through the epicenter of town. Anyway Cuc Phuong was only another three hours drive and we arrived there around 17.00.

After a speedy check-in in our bungalow, we immediately set off to the Loop trail and walked up to the ridge while listening for Eared Pittas. When darkness fell we had still not heard any and we walked back down and rounded off the day with dinner in the nearby restaurant.

3/5

At the crack of dawn we started walking the Loop trail clock-wise, spending significant time around the gully just over the top of the steps. Until about midday, we did not meet any other people nor did we see any Pittas. We heard Limestone Wren-Babbler at one place, but got no response. Shortly after passing the ancient tree we came to an area with limestone rocks. I played the call and one silent Limestone Wren-Babbler came in and circled us at close range, frequently right out in the open! Soon after that we also had excellent views of a nesting pair of Long-tailed Broadbills.

Back at the staff accommodation at 14.00 we recharged our energy reserves and I then set out on the main road for a couple of hours while Jocke went to the HQ in order to make some phone calls. Our attempt to get Eared Pitta along the start of the Loop trail was hampered by the only serious rain of the trip. I instead walked along the Valley trail, but could only hear one Blue-rumped Pitta through the noisy rain. After dark we were both back by the bungalow and had dinner and downed a few beers, while contemplating how to nail down the Pittas.

4/5

Many trip reports had mentioned both BBP and BRP in the grid and along the main road, so this was our target for today. We thoroughly worked the grid for about an hour (only one BBP heard calling three times) until started walking the main road. In the mid-morning we heard another, but distant, BBP calling although it shut up very soon and did not respond after that. By late morning we were back at the grid in the hope of bumping into a Pitta, but again with no result. A quick lunch and we were game again. Jocke, being fed up with the grid, took the main road and with perseverance I returned to the grid. Pittas still proved as common as snow in hell.

In the late afternoon we met up on Loop trail above the Chalets and eventually we heard at least one Eared Pitta calling. It was not too far away, but not surprisingly there was no response and by then it was dark enough not to be able to see anything inside the forest. Anyway, it was nice to at least hear it and confirm that they existed after all!

5/5

Having been so unsuccessful with finding Pittas, we had decided the day before to give in and call for local expertise. Before dawn one of the local guides met up and confidently led us the way to the grid where we were supposed to see a BRP at a certain spot. Not surprisingly, no Pitta was to be found and we continued to a couple of other stake-outs around Bong and along the main road. By then, we had almost given up on seeing one and in a strange way it was a relief that not even the local guy managed to find any. We spent the entire morning looking for Pittas and a site for Red-collared Woodpecker. By lunch we decided to re-charge and continue on our own. I spent much time at the grid as well as along the main road, while Jocke walked down the Valley trail. In the afternoon we again met up at the Eared Pitta site and slowly walked through the dense forest. One Eared Pitta was calling, but was alas not approachable.

In the evening we had our last dinner at the restaurant and with a bus-load of students it was all set for party-time.

6/5

Our last morning and our final shot at the Pittas. We decided to split up again. Jocke took the Loop trail and I initially walked the grid for BRP just after dawn (no result), then the end of the Loop trail for BRP (no result) and then back at the grid for BBP (no result). The last key site was the stream-bed some way down the main road, so I arranged a motor-bike that swiftly brought me there. As soon as the sound of the motor-bike had died off, I heard a BBP calling from inside the forest. I entered the forest and took up a good position and played the tape. The bird obviously responded by moving in a half-circle, and by then I felt that this would be IT! However, it did not take long until it started calling again from a distance and then it soon vanished. I decided to creep up the stream-bed in the hope of finding it feeding there. I then heard a call that was vaguely similar to the contact call of BBP from just nearby and it was answered by another one on the other side of me. The call was no perfect match to my recording and was actually the same call as I had heard at this site the day before. With nothing better to do, I decided to pursue the source of the call and

while creeping through the undergrowth I suddenly came across the most stunning male Bar-bellied Pitta!! I spent quite some time watching it as it hopped back and forth in front of me, giving the contact call frequently in response to my playback. If there is anything like being satisfied with views of this brilliant bird, I eventually let it go and continued up the stream-bed. No BRP was in view and I only heard another BBP calling distantly. On the way back down the stream-bed, I again stumbled across the same BBP and enjoyed even better views of it.

By then it was time to call it a day and I hitched a lift back to the Chalets and met up with Jocke. He had had some success as well and had seen a close-up BRP at the top of the steps near the gully as well as heard at BBP.

After a quick lunch, our driver arrived and took us back to Hanoi airport, where Jocke got onto the flight to HK and I checked in at the nearby airport hotel.

7/5

After an uneventful mid-morning flight from Hanoi and a stop-over in Guangzhou, I returned to Beijing in the mid-afternoon.



Jocke being exhausted in the bamboo forest at Tam Dao

Weather

The weather Gods were with us all the time with nice clear or overcast weather. A heavy downpour ruined only one evening. Even the usually foggy Tam Dao proved excellent. Tam Dao offered very pleasant temperatures, while lowland Cuc Phuong was decidedly hotter.

Logistics

Both Tam Dao and Cuc Phuong are pretty straight-forward to visit and access is described in various trip reports. As we were short of time and wanted to minimize any hassle, we decided to make use of the excellent services of Exotissimo Travel:

Do Bui Hung (Mr.) or Richard Craik

EXOTISSIMO TRAVEL VIETNAM

Ho Chi Minh City - VIETNAM

Tel (848) 825.17.23 - Ext 243 _Fax (848) 829.58.00, GSM (849) 03.78.09.31

E mail: buihung@exotissimo.com or Richard@exotissimo.com Website: <http://www.exotissimo.com>

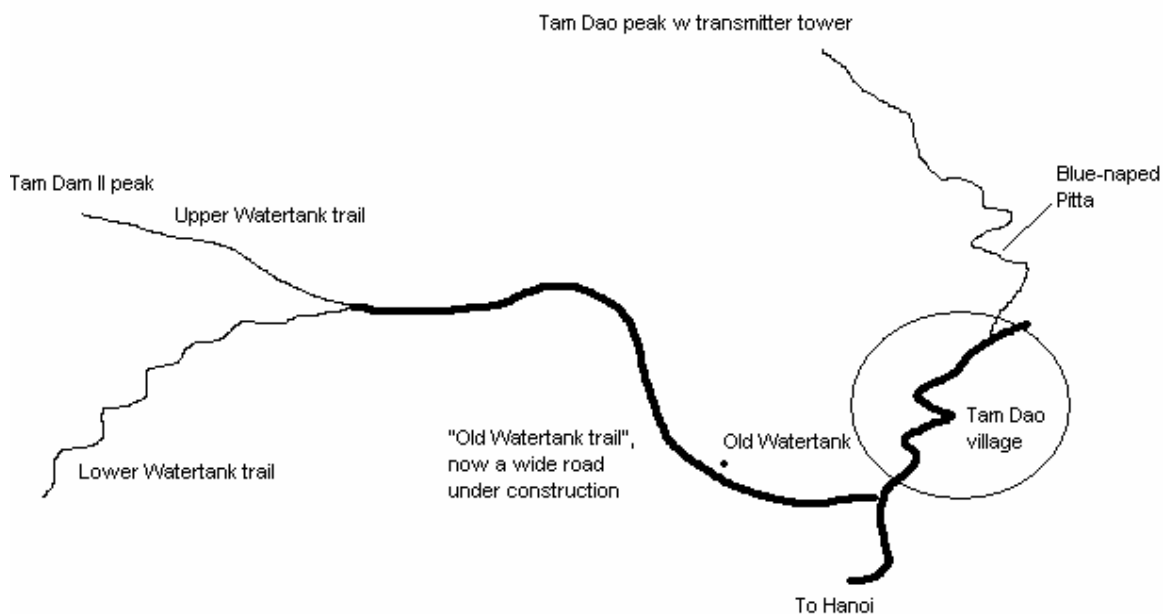
Exotissimo was very helpful in all aspects and we would also like to thank Richard for providing some additional support regarding the birding.

Site descriptions

Tam Dao

Tam Dao is a famous birding spot in Viet Nam and is well described in many reports. The well-known Watertank trail is nowadays destroyed for most parts as it is transformed into a wide road. It is however still possible to reach good forest if one continues along the new road to where it currently ends about 2-3 km from the main road. At the end of the road there are two good trails, which both pass through excellent bamboo forest. In this report they are called upper and lower Watertank trails respectively, in memory of the famous real Watertank trail. Here we had many encounters with Grey Laughers and Short-tailed Parrotbills, two of the areas specialties. Rufous-headed Parrotbills have been seen, although we failed to find any in spite of two days searching. Other good birds included several White-gorgeted Flycatchers, Chestnut Bulbul, White-hooded Babbler, Spectacled Barwing, Black-throated Laughler, Coral-billed, Streak-breasted & Red-billed Scimitar-Babblers, Slaty-bellied Tesia and Ratchet-tailed Treepie. We also had an observation of a presumed Pitta giving the contact call, both along the upper Watertank trail as well as just next to the old watertank. Green Cochoa was heard a few times both from the lower Watertank trail as well as from the steps to the transmitter tower. During our last morning we heard four, almost simultaneously, calling Blue-naped Pittas about 2-300 m up the steps to the transmitter tower.

Map of Tam Dao



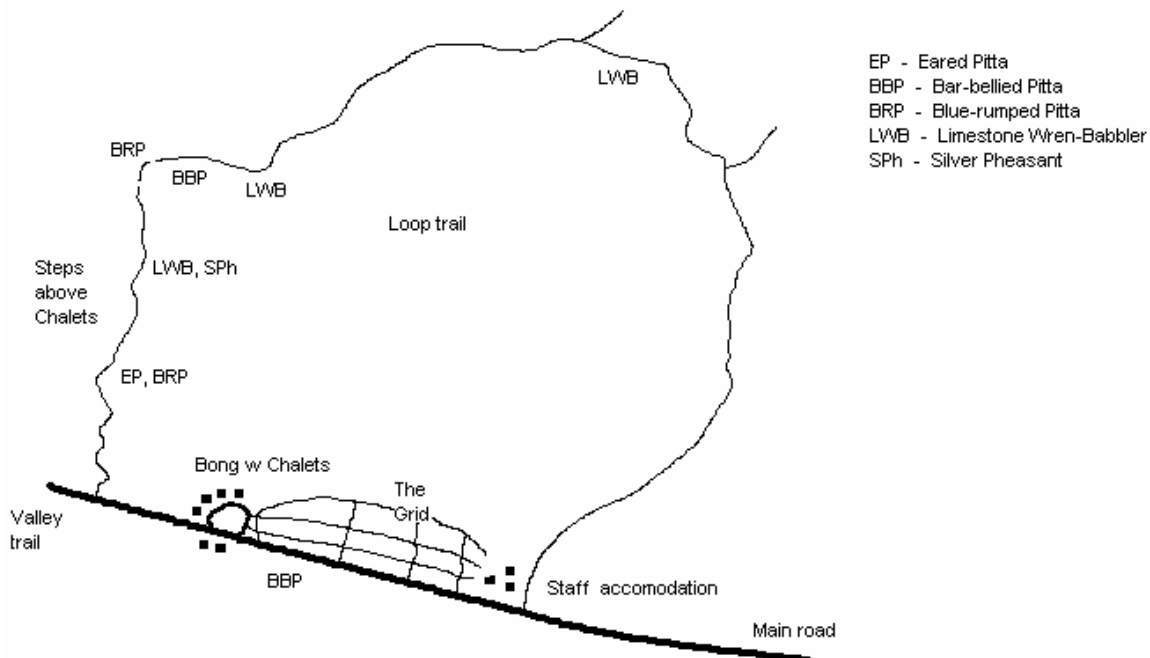
Cuc Phuong

Another very well-known birding site in northern Viet Nam. Famous for key species like Bar-bellied, Blue-rumped and Eared Pittas as well as Limestone Wren-Babbler. Good birding along the Loop trail, the grid and the main road. To stay at the Chalets (bungalows) at Bong is highly recommended and the nearby restaurant offers good food.



Map of Cuc Phuong. Bong station is at No 7 and the entrance and HQ is the bottom right corner.

Map of Cuc Phuong around Bong station



Birds

Subspecies have been assigned mostly based on literature references rather than actual field characters.

Chinese Pond-Heron, *Ardeola bacchus*

One south of Hanoi.

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis coromanda*

20 near Hanoi.

Crested Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis cheela ricketti*

At least one bird seen several times at Cuc Phuong.

Crested Goshawk, *Accipiter trivirgatus indicus*

One at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao, one pair at Cuc Phuong.

Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis malayensis*

One at the main road, Cuc Phuong.

Eagle sp

One at Tam Dao over the pine forest was neither a Black nor a Serpent.

Bar-backed Partridge, *Arborophila brunneopectus henrici*

Two heard at the Loop trail halfway up the steps above the Chalets, one heard from the main road and one heard at the lower Loop trail just above the staff accommodation, Cuc Phuong.

Scaly-breasted Partridge *Arborophila chloropus tonkinensis*

One heard at the top of the Loop trail, Cuc Phuong.

Red Junglefowl, *Gallus gallus jabouillei*

One male and two females seen on the main road, two more heard at the Loop trail and one pair at the main road, Cuc Phuong.

Silver Pheasant, *Lophura nycthemera nycthemera*

One pair seen halfway up the steps at the Loop trail above the Chalets, Cuc Phuong.

Red Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis*

One just outside Cuc Phuong.

Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica indica*

One plus two at the main road, Cuc Phuong.

Thick-billed Green-Pigeon, *Treron curvirostra*

Six plus one probable at Bong, Cuc Phuong.

White-bellied Green-Pigeon, *Treron sieboldii murielae*

Frequently heard at the Loop trail and four seen by Jocke, Cuc Phuong.

Imperial-Pigeon sp, *Ducula* sp

One seen from the main road at Cuc Phuong by Jocke.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparverioides sparverioides*

A total of about ten at Tam Dao.

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus nasicolor*

Three at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Indian Cuckoo, *Cuculus micropterus concretus*

Five at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao and common at Cuc Phuong.

Banded Bay Cuckoo, *Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii*

One heard at Bong at Cuc Phuong during two evenings.

Asian Drongo-Cuckoo, *Surniculus lugubris dicruroides*

One or two heard at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao and at least five at Cuc Phuong.

Asian Koel, *Eudynamys scolopacea scolopacea*

One heard at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao and one heard at Cuc Phuong.

Greater Coucal, *Centropus sinensis intermedius*

One heard at Bong, Cuc Phuong.

Lesser Coucal, *Centropus bengalensis bengalensis*

One heard at Bong, Cuc Phuong.

Mountain Scops-Owl, *Otus spilocephalus latouchi*

One heard at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao and one or two heard at Bong, Cuc Phuong.

Collared Scops-Owl, *Otus lettia lettia*

One heard in the daytime and two more heard in the evening at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Collared Owlet, *Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*

5+ at Tam Dao and one heard at the main road, Cuc Phuong.

Asian Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium cuculoides whitelyi*

Five heard and one seen at Cuc Phuong.

Grey Nightjar, *Caprimulgus indicus jotaka*

One heard at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Swiftlet sp

Three at Cuc Phuong by Jocke (Indochinese Swiftlet?).

Silver-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus cochinchinensis cochinchinensis*

Four at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao and three (same?) at the transmitter tower at Tam Dao and around ten unidentified Needletails at Cuc Phuong.

Red-headed Trogon, *Harpactes erythrocephalus intermedius*

Two heard at the Watertank Trail and one heard at the transmitter steps at Tam Dao and about ten at, Cuc Phuong.

Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*

One just outside Cuc Phuong.

Black-backed Kingfisher, *Ceyx erithacus erithacus*

At least ten at Cuc Phuong.



Black-backed Kingfisher

Bee-eater sp, *Merops* sp

Three at Bong, Cuc Phuong. Probably Blue-tailed.

Dollarbird, *Eurystomus orientalis orientalis*

At least five at Cuc Phuong.

Red-vented Barbet, *Megalaima lagrandieri rothschildi*

Ten, mostly heard, at Cuc Phuong.

Green-eared Barbet, *Megalaima faiostricta praetermissa*

Ten, mostly heard at Cuc Phuong.

Golden-throated Barbet, *Megalaima franklinii franklinii*

10+ at Tam Dao.

Blue-throated Barbet, *Megalaima asiatica davisoni*

Two at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Rufous Woodpecker, *Micropternus brachyurus fokiensis*

Two at Bong, Cuc Phuong.

Lesser Yellowname, *Picus chlorolophus chlorolophus*

One at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao and at least five at Cuc Phuong.

Greater Flameback, *Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacrastatus*

One at the Loop trail, Cuc Phuong.

Bay Woodpecker, *Blythipicus pyrrhotis pyrrhotis*

Four at Tam Dao and one at Cuc Phuong.

Silver-breasted Broadbill, *Serilophus lunatus elisabethae*

One pair at the Loop trail, five at the main road and one at the grid, Cuc Phuong.

Long-tailed Broadbill, *Psarisomus dalhousiae dalhousiae*

One pair at a nest at the Loop trail and a few more seen by Jocke at the Loop trail, Cuc Phuong.

Eared Pitta, *Pitta phayrei*

One or possibly two heard at 17.40 1/3 up the Loop trail above the Chalets and heard again at 17.00 the evening after, Cuc Phuong. It only called very sporadically and was not possible to track down.

Blue-naped Pitta, *Pitta nipalensis hendeei*

Four heard singing briefly at 10.00 about 200-300 up the steps to the transmitter tower during the last morning, just before we had to leave. We spent about an hour searching for one of these birds, but failed to connect.

One probable regularly calling in the late morning with a "typical" contact call at the upper Watertank Trail Tam Dao and the same call at the old Watertank on Watertank Trail early morning. Another unidentified bird came flying in to a played BNP song at exactly the same spot as the first bird was heard. Unfortunately it was totally obscured from where I was sitting and it soon flew back in to the forest again.

Blue-rumped Pitta, *Pitta soror tonkinensis*

One briefly heard at beginning of the Loop trail in the evening, one briefly heard at the Valley trail in the evening, one briefly heard at the main road in the mid morning and one heard singing for a long time 1/3 up the steps on the Loop trail above the Chalets in the evening, Cuc Phuong. One fat bouncing bird was also seen by Jocke at close range at the top of the steps on the Loop trail above the Chalets.

[Pitta unidentified, *Pitta* sp

One heard 1/3 up the steps on the Loop trail above the Chalets, Cuc Phuong. It could have been a very odd call of Bar-bellied, although the call was not unlike Rusty-naped Pitta.]

Bar-bellied Pitta, *Pitta elliotii*

One heard by Jocke at the grid in the early morning, one heard by the main road in the late morning and the same bird called more persistently in the afternoon (by Jocke), one heard by Jocke behind the top of the steps on the Loop trail above the Chalets, Cuc Phuong. It was not until the very last hours of birding that I eventually connected with one stunning male along the main road. First I heard one singing persistently a fair bit into the forest and I managed to establish an audio dialog, although the forest did not permit any views. A few minutes later, while walking up a dry streambed, I heard two BBP calling frequently with the contact call, although it took me quite a while before I had astonishing views of this most beautiful Pitta. Even better views were obtained while walking back down the streambed in the late morning. Another singing bird was also heard further up the same streambed.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

A few between Cuc Phuong and Hanoi.

Scarlet Minivet, *Pericrocotus flammeus elegans*

One pair at the main road, Cuc Phuong.

Grey-chinned Minivet, *Pericrocotus solaris griseogularis*

Ten at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Black-crested Bulbul, *Pycnonotus melanicterus vantynei*

Five at Cuc Phuong.

Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus hainanensis*

Five at Bong, Cuc Phuong.

Puff-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus pallidus henrici*
 Two at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao and ten at Cuc Phuong.

Chestnut Bulbul, *Hemixos castanonotus canipennis*
 Ten at Tam Dao, mostly at the Watertank Trail.

Mountain Bulbul, *Hypsipetes maclellandii similis*
 Five at Tam Dao.

Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* ssp
 Five at Cuc Phuong.

Blue-winged Leafbird, *Chloropsis cochinchinensis kinneari*
 Two at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Great Iora, *Aegithina lafresnayei innotata*
 Two at the main road, Cuc Phuong.

Orange-headed Thrush, *Zoothera citrina aurimacula*
 Two heard at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao and one seen by Jocke.

Yellow-bellied Prinia, *Prinia flaviventris sonitans*
 One seen just outside Cuc Phuong.

Rufescent Prinia, *Prinia beavani* ssp TBD
 Five at Bong, Cuc Phuong, by Jocke

Slaty-bellied Tesia, *Tesia olivea*
 One heard at the upper Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Common Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius longicaudus*
 Common in Tam Dao village and along the road down from Tam Dao and a few at Cuc Phuong.

Dark-necked Tailorbird, *Orthotomus atrogularis nitidus*
 Two heard at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao and a few at Cuc Phuong.

Arctic Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealis* ssp
 Four at Tam Dao and four at Cuc Phuong. Song as the mainland (not Japanese) taxa.

Greenish Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochiloides* ssp
 One heard calling and singing at the upper Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Yellow-browed Warbler, *Phylloscopus inornatus*
 Two at Tam Dao and one at Cuc Phuong.

Seicercus sp
 Two unidentified Seicercus at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao. One called with single “dju”.

Yellow-bellied Warbler, *Abroscopus superciliaris euthymus*
 One by Jocke at Cuc Phuong.

Siberian Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sibirica sibirica*
 One at the transmitter steps at Tam Dao and one at the Loop trail, Cuc Phuong.

Asian Brown Flycatcher, *Muscicapa dauurica* ssp
 Two at Tam Dao, and one at Cuc Phuong by Jocke.

Ferruginous Flycatcher, *Muscicapa ferruginea*
 One at the upper Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Mugimaki Flycatcher, *Ficedula mugimaki*
 One at the upper Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

White-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula monileger*
 Six at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni australorientalis*
 Two by Jocke at Cuc Phuong.

White-tailed Flycatcher, *Cyornis concretus cyanea*
 One pair at the Loop trail and one male along the Loop trail just above the staff accomodation, Cuc Phuong.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis hainanus*
 10-20 at Cuc Phuong.

Hill Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis banyumas whitei*

Three at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea*

One at the transmitter steps at Tam Dao.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis erimelas*

Five at Cuc Phuong.

White-rumped Shama, *Copsychus malabaricus interpositus*

Two at the grid, Cuc Phuong.



White-rumped Shama

Green Cochoa, *Cochia viridis*

One or possibly two heard at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao. One heard at the transmitter steps at Tam Dao. Too far away to haul in.

White-throated Fantail, *Rhipidura albicollis celsa*

One at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Black-naped Monarch, *Hypothymis azurea styani*

Three at Cuc Phuong.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone paradise indochinensis*

Five at Cuc Phuong.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax pectoralis robini*

Five at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao and ten at the upper Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Grey Laughingthrush, *Garrulax maesi maesi*

Flocks heard at almost 15-20 occasions and seen a few times.

Black-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax chinensis chinensis*

Two heard at the Watertank Trail and one heard at the transmitter steps at Tam Dao.

Buff-breasted Babbler, *Pellorneum tickelli fulvum*

Two heard at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao and 10-15 at Cuc Phuong.

Puff-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum ruficeps oreum*

Ten at Cuc Phuong.

Scaly-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron cinereum indochinense*

10-15 at Cuc Phuong.

Large Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos tickelli*

Two heard at the main road, Cuc Phuong.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis reconditus*

One at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps ochraceiceps*

One at the lower Watertank Trail and one by Jocke at the transmitter station at Tam Dao.

Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus orientalis*

8-10 at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Limestone Wren-Babbler, *Napothera crispifrons annamensis*

One heard at the gully beyond the top of the steps at the Loop trail above the Chalets and two seen very well near the 1000 year old tree at the Loop trail and one heard halfway up the steps at the Loop trail, Cuc Phuong.

Streaked Wren-Babbler, *Napothera brevicaudata stevensi*

One at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Eye-browed Wren-Babbler, *Napothera epilepidota amyae*

One seen nicely at the upper Watertank Trail and two heard at the transmitter steps at Tam Dao.

Golden Babbler, *Stachyris chrysaea aurata*

Common at Tam Dao.

Grey-throated Babbler, *Stachyris nigriceps yunnanensis*

Three at Tam Dao and 5+ at Cuc Phuong.

Spot-necked Babbler, *Stachyris striolata tonkinensis*

5+ heard at Tam Dao.

Striped Tit-Babbler, *Macronous gularis lutescens*

Common at Cuc Phuong.

Silver-eared Mesia, *Leiothrix argentauris ricketti*

30-50 at Tam Dao.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius flaviscapis ricketti*

Ten at Tam Dao.

White-hooded Babbler, *Gamsorhynchus rufulus torquatus*

Three seen twice at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Spectacled Barwing, *Actinodura ramsayi yunnanensis*

Five at the Watertank Trail Tam Dao.

Rufous-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe rufogularis stevensi*

10-20 at Cuc Phuong.

Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia schaefferi*

Common at Tam Dao.

Black-browed Fulvetta, *Alcippe grotei grotei*

One at main road by Jocke and one seen by me at the Loop trail just above the staff accomodation. It was only well into my third day that I caught up with this species that is supposedly common in the area!

Black-chinned Yuhina, *Yuhina nigrimenta intermedia*

40 at Tam Dao.

White-bellied Yuhina, *Erpornis zantholeuca tyrannula*

Ten at Tam Dao and five at Cuc Phuong.

Short-tailed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis davidianus tonkinensis*

2+2+5+1 (Watertank Trail) + 1 (transmitter steps) at Tam Dao.



Short-tailed Parrotbill

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, *Sitta frontalis frontalis*
One by Jocke at Cuc Phuong.

Purple-naped Sunbird, *Hypogramma hypogrammicum lisettae*
One at main road, Cuc Phuong.

Olive-backed Sunbird, *Cinnyris jugularis rhizophorae*
Three at Cuc Phuong.

Fork-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga christinae latouchii*
One at Tam Dao.

Crimson Sunbird, *Aethopyga siparaja tonkinensis*
One by Jocke at Cuc Phuong.

Streaked Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera magna musarum*
Ten at Tam Dao, five at Cuc Phuong.

Buff-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum ignipectus ignipectus*
5+ at Tam Dao.

Maroon Oriole, *Oriolus traillii traillii*
One heard at the Loop trail, Cuc Phuong.

Black-naped Oriole, *Oriolus chinensis diffusus*
One at Bong, Cuc Phuong.

Asian Fairy-Bluebird, *Irena puella puella*
Three at Cuc Phuong.

Tiger Shrike, *Lanius tigrinus*
One at the transmitter station at Tam Dao.

Large Wood-Shrike, *Tephrodornis gularis hainanus*
One by Jocke at Cuc Phuong.

Bronzed Drongo, *Dicrurus aeneus aeneus*
Three at Tam Dao and five at Cuc Phuong.

Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus hopwoodi*
A few at Cuc Phuong.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus paradiseus grandis*
Two at Cuc Phuong.

Green Magpie, *Cissa chinensis chinensis*
One at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao and one unidentified at the transmitter steps at Tam Dao,
two unidentified at main road, Cuc Phuong.

Ratchet-tailed Treepie, *Temnurus temnurus*
2+1 at the lower Watertank Trail Tam Dao, one at the Loop trail by Jocke and one at the main road,
Cuc Phuong.

Common Hill Myna, *Gracula religiosa intermedia*
One at Cuc Phuong by Jocke.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus malaccensis*
Several between Cuc Phuong and Hanoi.