

Vietnam, January 04 – 13, 2011

- Dalat Highlands, Di Linh and Cat Tien -

This trip-report is a part of a journey that also includes Cambodia and Thailand. On this trip we not only had the privilege to see about 420 species of birds, of which a number now is on the brink of extinction, but also a few of the rarest mammals in the region. We traveled westward, from southern Annam in Vietnam, through northern Cambodia and ended by the Burmese border in the northern part of the Thai peninsula, giving us a cross-section of habitats as well as impressions of how nature and wildlife preservation function in these countries.

The other two reports are also available on this web site.

Participants:

- Bengt Legnell – Stockholm/Thailand (organizer and tourleader)
- Henrik Hultén – Malmö
- Mathias Karlsson – Västervik
- Göran Elmquist – Malmö
- Olof Karlsson – Jönköping



Photo: Bengt Legnell

Grey-crowned Crocias. *Crocias langbianis* During his second expedition to Annam (1938-39) a young Swede, Bertil Björkegren, managed to collect 5 specimens of an unknown bird from the Dalat area, for the Museum of Natural History in Stockholm. A year later they got scientifically described by famous Swedish Ornithologist Nils Gyldenstolpe from the museum. That was probably the last anyone saw of the bird, until the 1994 re-discovery by Jonathan Eames and team along the south-western shores of Tuen Lam reservoir just outside of Dalat city. It is still only known from a handful of sites around Dalat and is classified as “Endangered”. Only one of many Vietnam endemics.

This was my 3'd visit to Vietnam, Göran had been there once before and it was the first time for the other 3 members of the team. We had just arrived at the newly built airport in Saigon and as spring-calves let out of the barn, after having been locked up the whole winter, we happily (and to the amazement of all local travelers) ran around the airport parking-lot. With bins and telescopes in "attack" mode, we scored our first "tick" ...and as it proved later, even a "first" for Saigon. According to well-known Vietnamese birder Nguyen Hoai Bao – or Bao for short – who we met the following day in Dalat, where he was to become our guide during the stay in Vietnam, **Yellow-vented Bulbul** had never been seen in Saigon before. So we were on to a good start, even though this bird is very common elsewhere...it apparently is expanding its range, esp. favoring urban habitats...but most importantly, it proved this was a tight group of birders who meant business – ha!!!

...well, the fact was that we were stuck in Saigon for about 5 hours w/o anything to do, until our flight left for Dalat in the south Annam highlands...so we had nothing to do, except discovering birds...

We were to stay 3 full days in the Dalat area, centered around this old French-built Hill-station, where French officers and diplomats built retreat mansions to flee to, when the hot summer months made it "unbearable to stay on in Saigon", during colonial times. Now, Dalat City was filled with affluent Vietnamese business people and party-members who flee Saigon not only for that reason...the enormous fleet of 2- stroke motorcycles has made that city the most air-polluted in the world...and now they come here by the 1000's during weekends...our hotel parking-lot got filled with brand new Mercedes cars with "SL, 500 and 4x4" pressed in chrome on their trunks...the Saigon Mercedes-dealer had a "follow –up" meeting with their customers. A couple of days later, when we visited the reservoir Tuen Lam - where the Grey-crowned Crocias was re-discovered about 16 years earlier by the first Birdlife International team in Vietnam, doing the first surveys since before all French and American wars - we were met by luxurious, Hollywood-style mansions along the waterfront...most built just a year ago, or so. In-between was coffee-plants...and more coffee plants on any available plot of dirt! The soil is rich in the Dalat' valley and there are huge coffee-plantations here, mixed with commercial vegetable and cut-flower plantations that has replaced parts of the forest that grew here 40 – 50 years ago.

January 5: Our first day was mostly spent in Ta Nueng Valley (TN) and it was the charismatic **Grey-crowned Crocias** that was the primary goal for the day. TN, not far outside of the city, is about the



Gray-crowned Crocias

Photo: Bengt Legnell

only place a foreign visitor can see this bird, as a lot of the areas further away from Dalat still is “off limits” for foreigners without a special permit.

We soon heard the bird and after a while a group of about 4 birds were seen. It surely lived up to its reputation...! Other birds seen in this heavenly little valley - that surprisingly is privately owned; yet another “communist” Vietnam mystery! – was **Red-vented, Golden-throated** and **Indochinese Barbet** (recent split from Black-browed), **Bay Woodpecker, Lesser Shortwing, Mugimaki Flycatcher, White-cheeked Laughing-Thrush, Scarlet Minivet, Slaty-backed Forktail, White-rumped Munia** and more montane birds

like **Blue-winged Minla** (may soon be a new “split”), **Mountain Fulvetta, Rufous-backed Sibia** (may soon be a new “split”), **Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Gould’s Sunbird** and **Black-throated Sunbird** (may also soon be a new “split”). A very good start!

There are presently 6 endemic bird species only in the Dalat area, Dalat Shrike-Babbler, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Orange-breasted Laughing-Thrush, Collared Laughing-Thrush and Grey-crowned Crocias...with Red Crossbill, Black-throated Sunbird and Blue-winged Siva on their way to be new splits...

Isn’t it mind-boggling to think a country like Vietnam, with a history of one war after the other, does have one of the highest percent of endemic birds and mammals in the world, esp. if you count the land area? There are presently 12 species of birds endemic to the country, with about 5 more that probably soon will be splits. Another 35 species are semi-endemic, with habitats in the border-regions to neighboring countries. Many of these birds and mammals were scientifically described for the first time within the last 15 years.



Indochinese Barbet

Photo: Bengt Legnell



Black-throated Sunbird

Photo: Henrik Hultén

The afternoon was spent at Da Tan La. A touristy place with a waterfall but in good surroundings with mixed pine and evergreen forest. A quick stop here produced a few new species. Amongst them **Blue Whistling-Thrush, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Blyth's Leaf-Warbler** and **Mugimaki Flycatcher**.

January 6: The following day we headed to Lang Biang mountain – 2169 meter - early in the morning. This time it was the extremely shy **Collared Laughing-Thrush** that was our goal. Birding groups often have to return without seeing this very colorful bird and be satisfied to only hear this endemic Dalat specialty. There are two peaks on the mountain, the northern and southern peak. A road leads up to the northern part, that has view-points, restaurants etc. This is where 100's of visitors go every day...but halfway up this road, on the right-hand side, there is a trail-mouth that leads up to the other top. It is on this much less frequented trail the birders try their skills finding the famous

Using an old Russian jeep, we started our climb up.

...to the top of Mt. Lang Biang



Photo: Bengt Legnell



Photo: Göran Elmquist

Not a very good shot...but maybe it gives the feeling...



Collared Laughing-Thrush

Photo: Bengt Legnell

Mt Lang Biang endemics. We found our bird on the last part of the trail leading up towards the top, on the steep, densely scrubby part, before the last 4-500 meters left to the top. We had a very good view of two birds (I got so spellbound I didn't dare take my eyes off the birds and snap some photos until it was almost too late, thus the photo-quality) A very special moment indeed! Then, to top that up, Mathias "Falcon eyes" suddenly saw something he remembered the picture of from the guidebooks and shouted out "**Siberian Thrush!!!**" ...and, yes, a male and a female showed up very well for a short moment, long enough for the whole group to see!

Some other birds we saw at Lang Biang were **Peregrine Falcon, Golden-throated Barbet, Orange-bellied Leafbird, White-throated Rock-thrush, Mountain Tailorbird, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Spot-throated Babbler, Black-throated Tit, Gray-chinned Minivet, Black-backed Sibia, Oriental White-eye** and the newly split, new south Vietnam endemic **Black-crowned Fulvetta**.

January may not be the optimal month to go to the Dalat area, but in order to get the most out of all the destinations in three countries, there is need of compromise...and we not only got our target, we got one of the first records of **Siberian Thrush** in the Dalat region.



Green-backed Tit

Photo: Bengt Legnell

After a very good lunch at a small restaurant (?) in Dalat we headed for the eastern side of Tuen Lam Reservoir where we spent the afternoon birding by the road. Unfortunately this is where a lot of constructions now are carried out. New luxurious mansions are being built by the reservoir. In spite of this we had a few good hours of birding that rewarded us with **Gray-faced Buzzard**, **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Large Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Gray Bushchat**, **Slender-billed Oriole** and our first **Vietnamese Greenfinch**. Another target bird!



Gray-faced Buzzard

Photo: Henrik Hultén

Before heading to our hotel in Dalat we stopped by the Flower Garden. The garden was closed but we still got some good views of different kinds of herons (the Chinese and Javan Pond-Herons are quite difficult in winter plumage, if not impossible...) and a few starlings. Amongst them the new **Black-collared** and **White-shouldered Starlings**.

January 7: The morning of day 3 was spent checking out the much less (but some new construction sites there as well) exploited western side. Until recently, this side was quite un-accessible, but a new road has changed that. One of the targets we were looking for here was the beautiful endemic



Vietnamese Cutia

Photo: Bengt Legnell

Vietnamese Cutia and it didn't take long for Henrik to find, not only one, but 3 Cutias, running along thick horizontal branches in an old tree. We were in real luck with the target species so far. And it was going to last... (See the trip reports from Cambodia and Thailand!).

For several minutes we could watch this charismatic bird. And we got some good pictures as well!

The forest still seems to be quite good on this side of the reservoir and we had a good couple of hours birding here. Along the trail different kinds of forest (both evergreen and secondary growth with some larger patches of pine) were passed. This gave us a nice variety of species. Except for the already mentioned *Cutia* we had amongst others **Bar-backed Partridge (heard)**, **Black Eagle**, **Wedge-tailed Pigeon**, **Indochinese Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Long-tailed Minivet**, **Chestnut-crowned Warbler**, **White-bellied Yuhina**, **Yellow-billed Nuthatch (nice!)**, and **Red Crossbill (meriodinalis)**.

Small numbers of **Vietnamese Greenfinches** sat

in the tree-tops, but not in the numbers I had seen in previous years. I think the flocks are breaking up in January and the birds start teaming up in pairs. We heard a few males singing.



Long-tailed Minivet

Photo: Bengt Legnell

After the long walk in the morning we took a long lunch and siesta (with some birding of course!) at Da Tan La (the waterfall place). This didn't produce a lot of new species but gave us a good opportunity to look a little closer at a few previously seen. There was even time for some shopping! One that was new was a warbler in the difficult *seicercus* complex. By us thought to be a **Plain-tailed Warbler**. Correct? You'll be the judge!



Plain-tailed Warbler (?)

Photo: Henrik Hultén

We then headed for a bit of late afternoon/dusk birding at Ta Nueng Valley. This time the **Gray-crowned Crocias** was only heard. As at Da Tan La it was mostly old acquaintances but the main reason was to perhaps get an owl or two. And two it was, namely **Collared Scops-Owl** and **Brown Hawk-Owl**. A good end to a great day!

January 8: The last morning in the south Annam Highlands we had a very early start. The goal was to get to Di Linh highlands before the good morning hours had passed. Once you get there forest is quite good as you turn left to highway 28 at Di (is pronounced Djee) Linh, and drive for an hour



Streaked Spiderhunter

Photo: Bengt Legnell

towards the coast. Logging is still done in the area, but along the road the forest looked OK. Immediately after leaving the van we had a bird party that put our skills to the test. We mainly birded along the road and only left it twice. Once to bird a narrow trail leading in to the evergreen forest and again on a dirt road leading to a cultivation (we didn't go all the way). Di Linh was very rewarding and in about 4-5 hours of birding we had 53 different kinds of species.

Some of the more memorable birds seen here were **Japanese Sparrowhawk, Large-tailed Nightjar, Red-headed Trogon, Black-and-Red and Long-tailed Broadbills, Brown-rumped Minivet, 7 species of Bulbuls, Great Iora, Blue Rock-thrush, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Orange-**

breasted Laughing-Thrush (only heard), **Gray-faced Tit-Babbler, Black-chinned Yuhina, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Plain and Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, Maroon Oriole** as well as the target, the endemic **Black-headed Parrott-bill** (only heard).

The Team at Di Linh from left to right. Henrik Hultén, Mathias Karlsson, Bao, Göran Elmquist & Olof Karlsson.

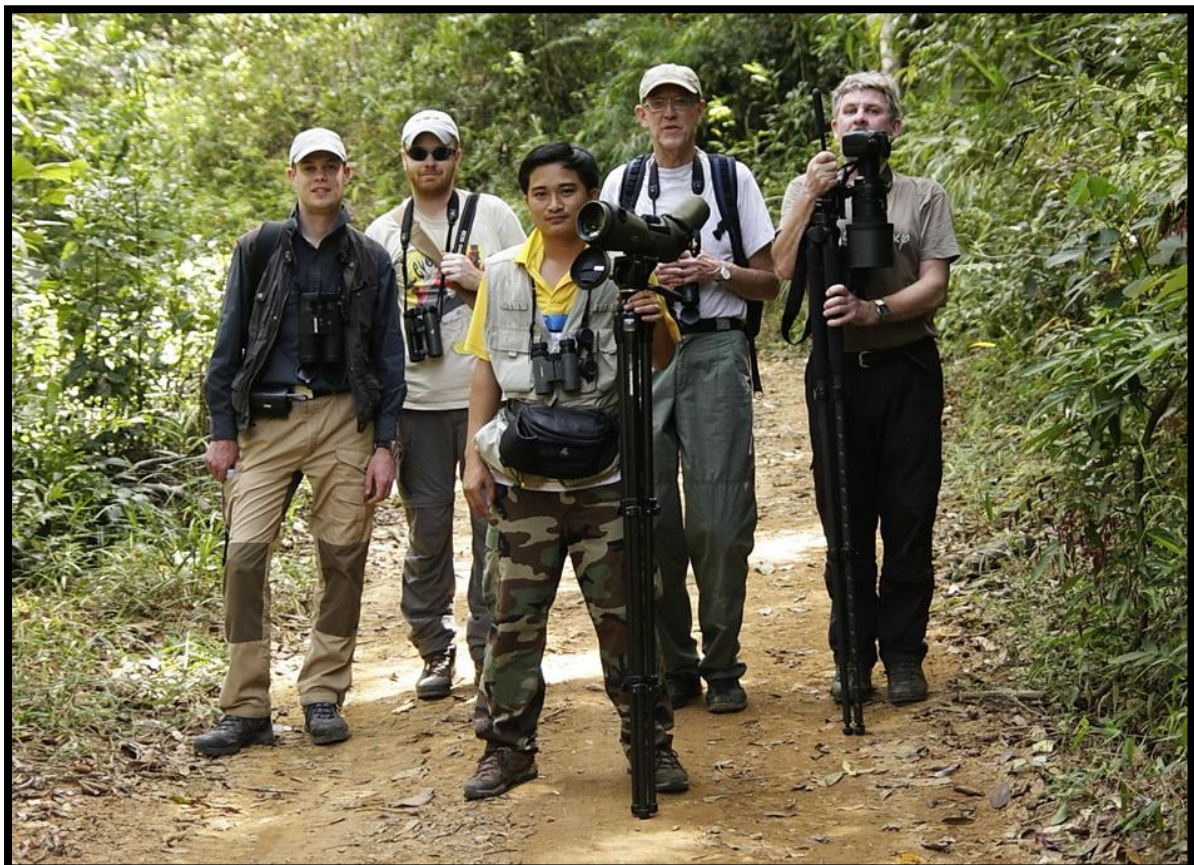


Photo: Bengt Legnell

After having spent the morning in Di Linh we drove down to Cat Tien National Park, a drive of about 4 – 5 hours. This thick lowland rainforest used to be the headquarters for Viet-cong operations against Saigon in the old days. Parts of the forest got showered with Agent Orange. Despite all of that, the forest is very rich in wildlife. Just 15 years ago a stunned scientific world marveled at the infra-red photographs of the first record of Javan Rhinoceros outside of Java, Indonesia, taken in the north-western part of the forest. Unfortunately, that discovery may have been too late, there have been no traces of the animals for 5-6 years now and scientists fear the worst. Hunting is still rampant in this region, with many weapons floating around since the war. Further west, towards the Cambodian and Lao border, in 1993, a likewise perplexed scientific world got reports of a stunning antelope-type mammal...and the beautiful Saola was discovered...in years to come a number of *Muntjak* deer, Giant Muntjak among them, as well as Civets and Hares, new to science, were discovered in the same forests. This is also where the Kouprey - if it still exists, - is believed to hold out. It was last seen in Thailand 1988.



Photo: Henrik Hultén

We stayed in nice bungalows at the park headquarters just across the river, on the eastern border of the park. The bungalows were very popular and inhabited by a couple of lizards and numerous spiders). The

toad that lived in the bathroom in Bengt, Henrik and Matthias room took a real shining to Henrik. During the night it had crawled from the bathroom and into his bag! Not sure it would like the Swedish winter so it was carefully removed and placed outside.

January 9 The morning was spent walking the rainforest trails (Uncle Tan's etc.) just north of headquarters. It was an excellent start with several new birds including **Scaly-breasted Partridge (heard), Besra, Vernal Hanging-Parrot, Orange-breasted Trogon, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Lineated Barbet, Rufous Woodpecker, White-bellied Woodpecker, Bar-bellied Pitta (2), Ashy Minivet, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Common Iora, Pale and Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher, Scaly-crowned Babbler, Eastern Crimson-Sunbird, Hair-crested Drongo AND MANY MORE!**

After a great lunch at the restaurant (there's only one but the food is better than expected) we headed out to the grasslands south of headquarters. It's quite far to reach the best parts so a car (hired with driver at the headquarters) is needed. Since you sit on the back of a pick-up the drive itself produces a good number of birds. Birds seen in the grasslands included **Green**

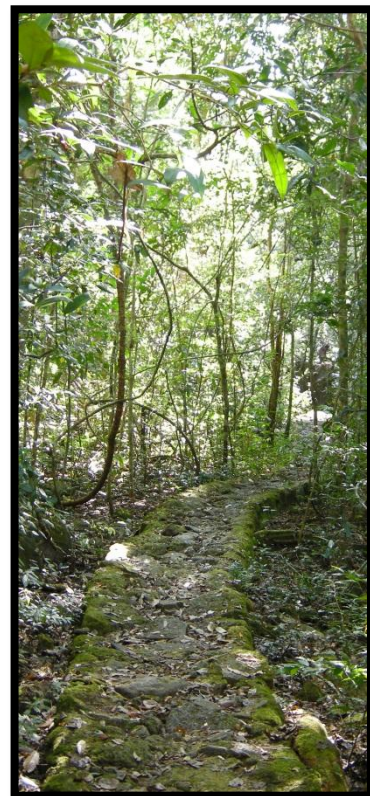


Photo: Henrik Hultén

Peafowl (a beautiful male), **Chinese Francolin**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Pompadour Green-Pigeon**, **Green Imperial-Pigeon**, **Gray-headed**, **Blossom-headed**, **Red-breasted** and **Rose-ringed Parakeets**, **Lesser Coucal**, **Dollarbird**, **Chestnut-capped Babbler** and a lot of **Ashy Wood-Swallows**.

In Cat Tien we were joined by Bao's wife and their son. Our scopes came in handy for him to tick both Green-billed Malkoha and Laced Woodpecker. Nice to see that birding and conservation is passed on to younger generations.



Bao with his son (and Olof, nice caps!) Photo: Göran Elmqvist

You don't have to walk to much if you don't want. The grounds around the headquarters are a

good place for several birds. Just the 2 minute walk to the restaurant in the evening can be rewarding, even after sunset. We had both **Great-eared Nightjar** and **Brown Hawk-Owl**.



Brown Hawk-Owl

Photo: Henrik Hultén

Another great dinner at the restaurant where we were greeted by the Park Chief. By now we were used to our pets and were soon asleep after an eventful day with many new species.

January 10: The second day in Cat Tien we walked the trail up to Crocodile Lake, as well as the grasslands around the lake. The walk to the lake actually didn't produce that many species. The forest is quite dense and therefore it's hard to pick out the birds. Even so we managed to see one of the targets along the trail, **Siamese Fireback**. Also **Germain's Peacock-Pheasant**, **Dusky Broadbill** and **Great Hornbill** were heard.



Giant tree with enormous buttress-root on the way to Crocodile lake

Photo: Bao

At the lake there's a small camp that serves you lunch and you can also stay for the night. We didn't though. The lake and the area around are easier to bird than along the trail. A good tip is to leave the camp and walk along the lake shore. From the camp and along the shore we had several good observations.



The camp dining area at Crocodile lake Photo: Henrik Hultén



Lesser Adjutant

Photo: Henrik Hultén

Amongst others, **Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns, Woolly-necked Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Oriental Honey-Buzzard, Gray-headed Fish-Eagle, Changable Hawk-Eagle, Gray-headed Lapwing, , Indochinese Bushlark, Asian Paradise-Flycatcher.**

Walking along the lake was a very hot endeavor so we had a siesta after having lunch. Both in order to get our strengt back and to wait for the birds to get a bit more active. Even sitting and chating at the camp gives you good opportunities for birding and taking a few pictures...



Dark-necked Tailorbird

Photo: Bengt Legnell



Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

Photo: Henrik Hultén



Stripe-throated Bulbul

Photo: Henrik Hultén



Siamese Crocodile

Photo: Henrik Hultén

The Siamese crocodiles were introduced to the lake about 15 years ago after having been almost extinct in the wild throughout its complete range in South-east Asia.

A mentality similar to the hot debate about the dangers of wild wolves in Sweden, as well as extensive hunting for their hides to make expensive leather-ware decimated the wild population of crocs to almost nil in a very short while about 30 - 50 years ago.

It is rumored a very industrious Thai business-man had most of the remaining population captured, in an attempt to monopolize in the trade of croc-hides...expecting the population of other croc-species, like Saltwater Crocodile, Nile-Crocodile and American Alligators would be more or less protected by government law. This was the beginning of the very lucrative Crocodile-farming for meat and hides that spread across the region.

After a long day walking to and from Crocodile Lake (we were actually driven to and from the trailhead leading to the lake but still a lot of walking) some of us still managed to squeeze out the last energy for a walk westwards from the main headquarters. Not a lot was seen though, but it was a nice evening walk. Birds included **Green-billed Malkoha, Oriental Pied-Hornbill, Laced Woodpecker, Greater Flameback, White-rumped Shama** and our first **Black-headed Bulbul**.

January 11: We spent the first half of day 3 along the beautiful forest close to the “heavenly rapids” trail (mistakenly labeled “waterfall-trail” in the attached bird-list). This is also called “Botanical Garden”. This was an excellent part of the forest. Larger and older trees had been left during the logging in earlier times. This proved to be a good place, especially for Woodpeckers.

Among the birds found here was **Banded Kingfisher** (heard), **White-bellied Woodpecker** (a total of at least 4 – great sight!), **Greater Yellownape** (4, also a great woodpecker), **Great Slaty Woodpecker** (worlds largest woodpecker. We saw at least 4 and heard a number more), **Laced Woodpecker, Greater Flameback, Banded Broadbill, Blue-winged** and **Golden-fronted Leafbird,**



Great Slaty-Woodpecker

Photo: Olof Karlsson

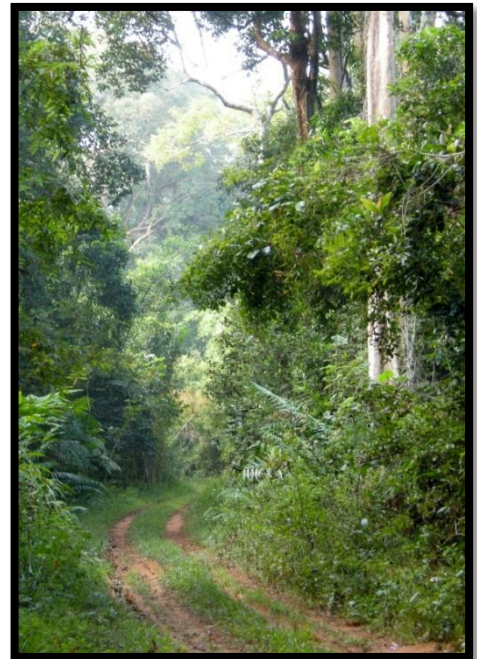


Photo: Henrik Hultén

Hainan Blue-Flycatcher, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Purple-naped Sunbird, Little Spiderhunter and Black-hooded Oriole.

After a few hours of birding we left for the headquarters to pack our things together. Walking to the restaurant for our final meal before heading towards Saigon, we had the only **Violet Cuckoo** of the trip.

For those who have visited the park headquarters I can report that the “massage-parlor” that used to be there now is closed. Phu! Apart from the good restaurant, there is bicycle-rental, guide-service etc at the headquarters.



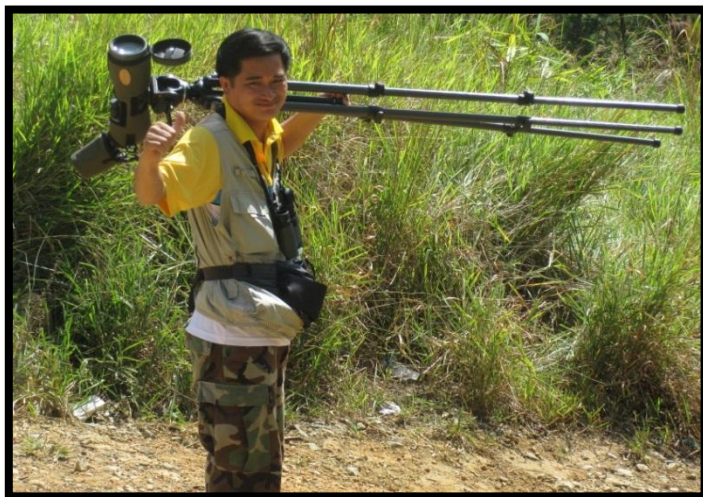
Without a doubt the funniest picture of the trip. A painted Green lora is “chasing” a live lizard on the wall of the restaurant.

Photo: Henrik Hultén

During our visit to Cat Tien we also saw Black-shanked Langurs, heard Yellow-cheeked Gibbon (talking about new species...as I write this, a new species of Gibbon is reported just west of Cat Tien; the Northern Buff-cheeked Gibbon!!)

After our visit to Cat Tien we drove down to Saigon (beware of traffic, there is only one road – in bad shape – that connect Hanoi with Saigon!!!) and on to Siem Reap in Cambodia (see report from Cambodia)

We spent about US\$ 800 during our stay in Vietnam, incl. all food, accommodations, transport (domestic flight Saigon – Dalat incl.), guides etc. Hotels are plentiful and cheap (US\$20 -30 for a room with 2 beds) in Dalat.



Bao in action

Photo: Göran Elmquist

Accommodations in Cat Tien are OK...though make sure to pre-book...it sometimes is fully booked. We used Bao birdvietnam@gmail.com as our guide and we all felt he was doing a good job. As this is written he leads a party of Russian scientists to do a survey in the Mekong delta in search of Spoonbilled Sandpiper wintering/migration grounds.

If you have questions, feel free to write me (Bengt) at kontakt@orientbirding.com Below is a list of Birds seen during our visit.

The report was a joint effort of Bengt Legnell and Henrik Hultén

Species list Vietnam January 4 -13 2011

Chinese Francolin	One briefly seen, a few heard in the grasslands south of headquarters, Cat Tien.
Rufous-throated Partridge	A couple heard at Lang Biang Mt., Dalat
Bar-backed Partridge	One heard at Tuen Lam reservoir, Dalat
Scaly-breasted Partridge	Heard daily in Cat Tien
Red Junglefowl	One heard in Di Linh. Daily herd in Cat Tien
Siamese Fireback	Seen twice in Cat Tien, on the way to Crocodile Lake
Germain's Peacock-Pheasant	Unfortunately only heard once on the Uncle Tan trail, Cat Tien
Green Peafowl	One male seen in the grassland south of headquarters, Cat Tien.
Little Grebe	About 10 in the Tuen Lam Reservoir
Gray Heron	About 3 seen around Crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Purple Heron	More populous than Gray at Crocodile Lake
Great Egret	A few at Crocodile Lake
Intermediate Egret	Seem to be more numerous than Great Egret in S. Vietnam. Seen in Dalat etc.
Little Egret	Seen almost daily in great numbers
<i>Chinese Pond-Heron</i> <i>Javan Pond-Heron</i>	Since "black on wing-tips" may be unreliable to identify these birds in winter-plumage, we let this question pass....plenty of "Pond-Herons" around
Cattle Egret (Eastern)	Common
Yellow Bittern	A few around crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Cinnamon Bittern	One at Crocodile lake, Cat Tien.
Woolly-necked Stork	2-3 at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien
Lesser Adjutant	2-3 at Crocodile Lake.
Osprey	1-3 seen most days in Dalat and Cat Tien.
Oriental Honey-buzzard	One seen in Cat Tien
Black-shouldered Kite	Two in the grassland, south of headquarters, Cat Tien.
Gray-headed Fish-Eagle	Adult bird seen twice at Crocodile lake, Cat Tien.
Crested Serpent-Eagle	Heard along the Waterfall trail, Cat Tien.
Shikra	Single bird seen in Dalat and Cat Tien
Japanese Sparrowhawk	Single bird in Di Linh.
Besra	Single bird by the river in Cat Tien.
Gray-faced Buzzard	One at Tuen Lam Reservoir, Dalat
Black Eagle	Single bird on the west side of Tuen Lam reservoir, Dalat
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	Single bird at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien
Peregrine Falcon	Single bird at Lang Biang Mt
Purple Swamphen	About 10-15 at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien.
Bronze-winged Jacana	15-20 at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien.
Gray-headed Lapwing	7-8 at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien.
Red-wattled Lapwing	Common in grassland and around Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien
<i>Pin-tailed Snipe</i> <i>Common Snipe</i>	A few flew up around Crocodile Lake. We were unable to identify them
Common Sandpiper	3-4 along the reservoir in Dalat and along the river in Cat Tien
Common Redshank	A couple at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien
Rock Pigeon	Seen most days in Dalat and along main roads.
Red Collared-Dove	Common in the grassland, Cat Tien

Spotted Dove	Seen daily. Common in populated areas
Pompadour Green-Pigeon (phayrei)	One seen in the grassland south of headquarters, Cat Tien
Thick-billed Pigeon	A small flock along the road in Di Linh and 4 at the waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Wedge-tailed Pigeon	2 on west side of Tuen Lam Reservoir, Dalat
Green Imperial-Pigeon	Common in the grassland, a few in forest. Cat Tien
Mountain Imperial-Pigeon	Seen almost daily in Dalat. Common
Rose-ringed Parakeet	3 in the grassland south of headquarters
Gray-headed Parakeet	A few in the grassland south of headquarters, Cat Tien
Blossom-headed Parakeet	Common at the grasslands south of headquarters, Cat Tien
Red-breasted Parakeet	Common at the grasslands south of headquarters, Cat Tien
Vernal Hanging-Parrot	A few in Di Linh and in Cat Tien
Banded Bay Cuckoo	This bird followed us in all 3 countries, at most locations
Violet Cuckoo	2 birds showed nicely at headquarters, Cat Tien
Green-billed Malkoha	1-3 seen most days in Dalat and Cat Tien.
Greater Coucal	A few seen daily in Cat Tien.
Lesser Coucal	2 seen in the grassland south of headquarters. Cat Tien.
Collared Scops-Owl	Seen and heard in Ta Nueng Valley, Dalat
Collared Owlet	Heard in Di Linh, and in Cat Tien
Asian Barred Owlet	Heard at Cat Tien
Brown Hawk-Owl	One bird seen and heard daily at headquarters, Cat Tien
Great Eared-Nightjar	Seen daily at the headquarters in Cat Tien
Large-tailed Nightjar	1 seen and more heard in Di Linh
Indochinese Swiftlet	Seen in Ta Nueng and Di Linh
Silver-backed Needletail	A few daily in the flocks of swifts/swallows in Cat Tien
Asian Palm-Swift	Common in Cat Tien (and along main roads
House Swift	5 - 10 seen the first day in Dalat
Red-headed Trogon	2 in Di Linh
Orange-breasted Trogon	2 at Cat Tien, Uncle Tan's trail
Common Kingfisher	1-3 seen in Tuen Lam Reservoir, Dalat and Crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Blue-eared Kingfisher	1 bird along a stream, Cat Tien
Banded Kingfisher	Heard a few times along the waterfall trail, Cat Tien
White-throated Kingfisher	A few seen daily along the river in Cat Tien
Pied Kingfisher	3-4 at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	Daily in Cat Tien. Fairly common
Indian Roller	Common in the grassland south of headquarters. A few elsewhere in Cat Tien
Dollarbird	A few in the grassland south of headquarters, Cat Tien
Oriental Pied-Hornbill	Daily in Cat Tien. Quite common
Great Hornbill	A few heard in the forest, Cat Tien
Red-vented Barbet	A few in Ta Nueng Valley and Tuen Lam, Dalat. Heard twice in Cat Tien
Lineated Barbet	Seen and heard daily around headquarters, Cat Tien
Green-eared Barbet	Fairly common in Cat Tien
Golden-throated Barbet	4-5 seen in Ta Nueng Valley. 2 in Lang Biang Mt
Indochinese Barbet	Common in Ta Nueng and Tuen Lam, Dalat
Blue-eared Barbet	Heard and seen daily in Cat Tien. Common

Coppersmith Barbet	Seen/heard daily in Cat Tien, esp around headquarters
Gray-capped Woodpecker	2-3 around Tuen Lam reservoir, Dalat, 2 at Da Tan La
Rufous Woodpecker	1 at Cat Tien, north of headquarters
White-bellied Woodpecker	About 6 of this magnificent birds where seen in Cat Tien.(4 at waterfall-trail)
Greater Yellownape	4 birds along waterfall trail
Laced Woodpecker	Seen daily in Cat Tien, mostly along waterfall trail (4)
Greater Flameback	2-4 seen daily in Cat Tien. More where heard
Bay Woodpecker	One in Ta Nueng Valley. One on the west side of Tuen Lam reservoir.
Great Slaty Woodpecker	About 5 where seen along the waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Black-and-red Broadbill	One seen in Di Linh. Seen and heard daily in Cat Tien
Long-tailed Broadbill	One seen in Di Linh
Banded Broadbill	2 seen along waterfall trail, heard elsewhere in Cat Tien
Dusky Broadbill	Heard once at trail to Crocodile Lake in Cat Tien
Bar-bellied Pitta	One seen on Uncle Tan's trail, Cat Tien
Indochinese Bushlark	One at Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien
Barn Swallow	Seen daily. Common.
Striated Swallow	A few daily in the flocks of swallows/Swifts, Cat Tien
Asian House-Martin	A few the first day in Cat Tien
Olive-backed Pipit	Common on Mt. Lang Biang
White Wagtail	2 flew by in Dalat city
Gray Wagtail	3-5 daily in Dalat. One first day in Cat Tien
Large Cuckoo-shrike	One at Tuen Lam reservoir
Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike	A couple of birds daily in Dalat & Di Linh. Also first day in Cat Tien
Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike	One bird in Di Linh.
Brown-rumped Minivet	One at Di Linh
Ashy Minivet	4-5 north of headquarters, Cat Tien
Long-tailed Minivet	A couple of birds on the west side of Tuen Lam reservoir, Dalat
Scarlet Minivet	A flock of birds in Ta Nueng Valley, Dalat
Gray-chinned Minivet	1-4 birds in Mt.Lang Biang and around the reservoir, Dalat
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	2-3 daily in Dalat area. Also one bird first day in Cat Tien
Black-headed Bulbul	A few birds south of headquarters, Cat Tien
Black-crested Bulbul	Seen daily in numbers throughout the trip
Red-whiskered Bulbul	3-4 birds on mt. Lang Bia as well as a few birds around the reservoir
Sooty-headed Bulbul	Seen almost daily
Stripe-throated Bulbul	A few birds seen daily, Cat Tien
Flavescent Bulbul	Daily in Dalat, also in Di Linh
Streak-eared Bulbul	a few around headquarters and in the grassland, Cat Tien
Puff-throated Bulbul	Seen in small numbers most of the days both in Dalat and Cat Tien
Ochraceous Bulbul	One in Di Linh
Gray-eyed Bulbul	2 in Di Linh and 3 at waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Buff-vented Bulbul	3 in Di Linh and 2 at waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Mountain Bulbul	Small numbers everyday in Dalat, as well as in Di Linh
Ashy Bulbul	Small numbers every day in Dalat and Di Linh
Black Bulbul	Bigger and smaller flocks daily in Dalat/Di Linh
Blue-winged Leafbird	2-5 birds daily, Di Linh & Cat Tien

Golden-fronted Leafbird	2-3 birds in Di Linh and waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Orange-bellied Leafbird	One bird at Mt. Lang Biang, Dalat
Common lora	Often seen and herd around headquarters in Cat Tien
Great lora	A few in Di Linh and forest in Cat Tien
White-throated Rock-Thrush	One male in Mt. Lang Biang
Blue Rock-Thrush	2 Di Linh
Blue Whistling-Thrush	One at Da Tan La and heard at Ta Nueng Valley
Siberian Thrush	A male and female seen well on Mt. Lang Bia.
Lesser Shortwing	A few seen and heard daily at Ta Nueng, Mt. Lang Bia and at the reservoir
Hill Prinia	A few at Ta Nueng and west-side of Tuen Lam Reservoir. Also in Di Linh
Yellow-bellied Prinia	A couple in grassland south of headquarters, Cat Tien
Plain Prinia	5 at Crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Mountain Tailorbird	A few seen and heard daily in forested areas in Dalat
Common Tailorbird	Common throughout the trip in Vietnam
Dark-necked Tailorbird	A few in Di Linh and in Cat Tien at Crocodile Lake
Dusky Warbler	A few seen and herd along the road and around Crocodile Lake, Cat Tien
Yellow-browed Warbler	Common throughout the trip in Vietnam
Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler	2-4 heard daily in forest, Cat Tien
<i>Blyth's Leaf-Warbler</i> <i>White-tailed Leaf-Warbler</i>	Difficult to come to grips with these warblers since both were seen and herd daily in Dalat, simultaneously. Have to trust our superb guide...?
Plain-tailed Warbler	One seen at Da Tan La, Dalat
Gray-cheeked Warbler	One was seen in Ta Nueng Valley, Dalat
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	A couple seen at Tuen Lam Reservoir, Dalat
Yellow-bellied Warbler	One bird was seen at Mt Lang Biang
Dark-sided Flycatcher	One bird seen in Di Linh
Asian Brown Flycatcher	A few birds daily in Di Linh and Cat Tien
Mugimaki Flycatcher	1-2 birds daily in Dalat. 2 males, the rest female/juv.
Taiga Flycatcher	Common throughout our trip to Vietnam
Little Pied Flycatcher	One bird in Ta Nueng Valley, Dalat
Verditer Flycatcher	1-3 most days in Dalat
Hainan Blue-Flycatcher	One at the headquarters, Cat Tien
Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher	1+ 2 at Uncle Tan's and Trail to Crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Gray-headed Canary-flycatcher	A couple in Ta nueng Valley, Dalat and along Uncle Tan's, Cat Tien
Oriental Magpie-Robin	A couple where hanging around headquarters, Cat Tien
White-rumped Shama	A few seen and heard daily in Cat Tien
Slaty-backed Forktail	One was seen along the stream in Ta Nueng Valley, Dalat
Stonechat	Very common in grassland, Dalat and Cat Tien
Gray Bushchat	Common at Mt. Lang Biang and around reservoir, Dalat
White-throated Fantail	A few daily in Dalat and Di Linh
Black-naped Monarch	2 in Di Linh. Daily around headquarters in Cat Tien
Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	1 on trail to Crocodile Lake, one along Waterfall-trail, Cat Tien
White-crested Laughingthrush	Daily seen and heard in Cat Tien
White-cheeked Laughingthrush	Groups of 5 -7 birds at Ta Nueng V.and Tuem Lam R, Dalat
Orange-breasted Laughingthrush	Heard in Di Linh
Collared Laughingthrush	We actually managed to <u>SEE</u> two of these shy birds! Mt. Lang Biang

Abbott's Babbler	One at Crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Spot-throated Babbler	Mt. Lang Bia and Tuem Lam reservoir, Dalat
Puff-throated Babbler	A couple in Di Linh and on trail to Crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Scaly-crowned Babbler	2 Cat Tien trail north of headquarters
Rufous-capped Babbler	Seen and heard almost daily
Striped Tit-Babbler	One on the waterfall-trail, Cat Tien
Gray-faced Tit-Babbler	Herad daily in Cat Tien.
Chestnut-capped Babbler	Along Uncle Tan's trail and in grasslands, Cat Tien
Vietnamese Cutia	3 seen well on the west side of Tuem Lam
Blue-winged Minla	3-5 seen daily in Dalat
Black-crowned Fulvetta	5 seen on Mt. Lang Biang, Dalat.
Mountain Fulvetta	Seen daily in Dalat
Gray-crowned Crocias	A flock of 4, some smaller groups of 1-2, also heard both visits to Ta Nueng
Rufous-backed Sibia	A few at Ta Nueng and Di Linh
Black-headed Sibia	One at Mt. Lang Bia as well as in Di Linh
Black-chinned Yuhina	A flock of 7 in Di Linh
White-bellied Yuhina	A couple on Mt. Lang Bia
Oriental White-eye	One single bird at Mt. Lang Biang
Black-headed Parrotbill	Unfortunately only heard in Di Linh
Black-throated Tit	Single bird in Ta Nueng and Mt. Lang Biang. 1 bird in Di Linh was of the <i>annamensis</i> race.
Green-backed Tit	Fairly common in wooded areas in Dalat and Di Linh
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	A few seen daily in wooded ares, Dalat
Yellow-billed Nuthatch	Good view of one bird on the west side of Tuem Lam Reservoir, Dalat
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	1 Di Linh and 3 at Cat Tien, trail north of headquarters
Purple-naped Sunbird	A couple on the waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Olive-backed Sunbird	A few around headquarters in Cat Tien
Gould's Sunbird	Quite common in Ta Nueng and Mt. Lang Biang
Black-throated Sunbird	A few seen most days in Dalat/Di Linh
Eastern Crimson Sunbird	Male and female trail north of headquarters, Cat Tien
Little Spiderhunter	2 waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Streaked Spiderhunter	2-7 seen most days in Dalat
Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	A small party in Di Linh
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	A few in Ta Nueng and around Tuen Lam
Plain Flowerpecker	A small party in Di Linh
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	A few on the trails north of headquarters, Cat Tien and at Croc. Lake
Black-naped Oriole	2 - 7 daily in Cat Tien
Slender-billed Oriole	2 + 2 around Tuen Lam Reservoir, Dalat
Black-hooded Oriole	A few around headquarters and in grasslands, Cat Tien
Maroon Oriole	One heard in Di Linh
Asian Fairy-bluebird	A couple seen in Ta Nueng valley and Di Linh
Brown Shrike	Seen daily in Vietnam, quite a widespread, adaptable bird
Burmese Shrike	2-10 seen daily in Dalat
Ashy Drongo	Seen daily, a few different races. (wintering and resident)
Bronzed Drongo	A few daily in Di Linh and Cat Tien

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	2 + 2 sen in Ta nueng Valley, Dalat
Hair-crested Drongo	Small parties close to headquarters in Cat Tien
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	2 – 5 seen daily in Cat Tien
Ashy Woodswallow	3 along Tuen Lam, a small party in grasslands, Cat Tien
Racket-tailed Treepie	2-4 in the grassland and around Crocodile lake, Cat Tien
Golden-crested Myna	A few along the road and along waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Common Hill Myna	A few along trail to Crocodile lake and waterfall trail, Cat Tien
Common Myna	Some in Dalat city and along highways
Vinous-breasted Starling	3-4 along the road to western side of Tuen lam reservoir, Dalat
Black-collared Starling	3-5 daily in Urban areas around Dalat, as well as in grassland, Cat Tien
White-shouldered Starling	A flock of about 20 in Dalat city
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Common in urban areas throughout the trip
White-rumped Munia	Small flock in Ta nueng valley, Dalat
Nutmeg Mannikin	Common in grassland all days in Dalat
Red Crossbill	A group of about 7 on Mt. Lang Biang, Dalat
Vietnamese Greenfinch	Small numbers (2-6) on Mt. Lang Biang and around Tuen Lam Reservoir

231 species, not counting the Pond-herons, Snipes or Blyth's/White-tailed Warbler.