



Cambodia Tour Report

7-20th March 2016

Tour Highlights

Because of rarity, excellent views or simply a group favourite; CE = Critically Endangered, E = Endangered Species

- Chestnut-headed Partridge
- Yellow-crowned Woodpecker
- Rufous-bellied Woodpecker
- White-bellied Woodpecker
- Black-headed Woodpecker
- Great Slaty Woodpecker
- Banded Kingfisher
- Large Hawk Cuckoo
- Himalayan Cuckoo
- Violet Cuckoo
- Alexandrine Parakeet
- Silver-beaked Needletail
- Oriental Scops Owl
- Brown Fish Owl
- Spotted Wood Owl
- Brown Wood Owl
- Savanna Nightjar
- Indian Nightjar
- Bengal Florican (CE)
- Sarus Crane
- Grey-headed Fish Eagle
- White-rumped Falcon
- Collared Falconet
- White-shouldered Ibis (CE)
- Giant Ibis (CE)
- Spot-billed Pelican
- Woolly-necked Stork
- Black-necked Stork
- Lesser Adjutant
- Greater Adjutant (E)
- Long-tailed Broadbill
- White-throated Rockthrush
- Mugimaki Flycatcher
- Neglected Nuthatch
- Lanceolated Warbler
- Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler
- Manchurian Reed Warbler
- Cambodian Tailorbird
- Van Hasselt's Sunbird
- Mekong Wagtail
- Asian Golden Weaver

LEADERS: Nick Upton & Sophoan Sanh

SUMMARY:

This list of highlight species above, seen on this birding tour to Cambodia, explains why this country is an exciting destination for birders. We found a high proportion of our target species which included many regional endemics and endangered species. Beginning at Siem Reap we visited the ancient ruins of Angkor Wat and surrounding temples and took a boat trip to Prek Toal reserve on the Tonle Sap, Southeast Asia's largest lake, before visiting the nearby "Florican Grasslands". We then travelled through some of Cambodia's Northern provinces visiting dry dipterocarp forest, full of Woodpeckers and the last refuge of Giant Ibis, before following the Mekong river south to Kratie, where we enjoyed a boat trip to look for Mekong Wagtail. Afterwards we continued further south, via Cambodian Tailorbird habitat, to Bokor National Park where we enjoyed spectacular views of another regional endemic; Chestnut-headed Partridge. For a large number of birds that are either regional endemics as well as many others of high conservation importance, Cambodia is a must-visit country in Southeast Asia.

Days 1-2; 7-8th March

With flights arriving from various places our meet-up at Siem Reap airport was well-coordinated and we were able to introduce ourselves to each other as well as meet our local guide, Sophoan Sanh, from the Sam Vaesna centre. The afternoon was spent resting in our pleasant accommodation, in order to have the energy to enjoy the trip, before a brief excursion to see several hundred roosting **Lyle's Flying Foxes** in the town centre and then a very good dinner.

Day 3; 9th March

We began our birding in Cambodia in one of the most spectacular settings imaginable; the World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat. The plan was to spend the whole day enjoying these amazing ruins of the Khmer Empire but with everyone keen to start birding we entered the temple complex from the rear where there remains some good forest. This was a lovely way to first see the temple, away from the crowds as it was gradually revealed through the trees and, of course, there were plenty of birds for us to get to grips with. Very shortly after our breakfast in the field we found our first **Asian Barred Owlet** quickly followed by a lovely **Black-collared Kingfisher**. The moat provided us with views of a few wetland species including **Chinese Pond Heron**, our first **Oriental Darter** and a **Little Egret** while in the huge trees inside the temple compound we had a flurry of birds – **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, **Lineated Barbet**, **Ashy Drongo**, **Red-breasted Parakeet**, **Black-naped Oriole** – all perched upon dead branches, catching the morning sun, a very nice way to start the trip. We also managed to get great 'scope views of a pair of **Shikras** that we later saw mating before deciding to target a few species that would be unlikely to be seen later in the trip. On our way to some likely habitat we came upon a very dark bird that when perched, turned out to be a **Large Hawk Cuckoo**. Certainly this was the darkest individual of this species I had ever seen, almost as black as a male Asian Koel. Birding in some tangled forest we managed to call in a female **Hainan Blue Flycatcher**, quickly followed by a female **White-throated Rockthrush**, two of our main targets here. As nice as these were, we were keen to see the colourful males and with a little effort we obtained excellent prolonged views of the males of both these species – well worth the effort! A bit more effort was required to get everyone onto a **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** which eventually showed well before walking off trail to look, unsuccessfully, for Forest Wagtail. However, this did lead us to a fruiting tree where we saw lots of **Common Hill Mynas**, several **Hair-crested Drongos**, a few **Thick-billed Green Pigeons** as well as a **Black-winged Cuckooshrike**. While looking at these we first heard and then saw a pair of **Forest Wagtails** marching around underneath the fruiting tree. This bird was high on the target list of several people in the group, so it was great to watch them at length, noting their side-to-side tail-wagging motion. After finding all of our target species we spent the remainder of the morning exploring Angkor Wat, taking a moment out to watch a couple of soaring **Black Bazas** from the temple galleries.



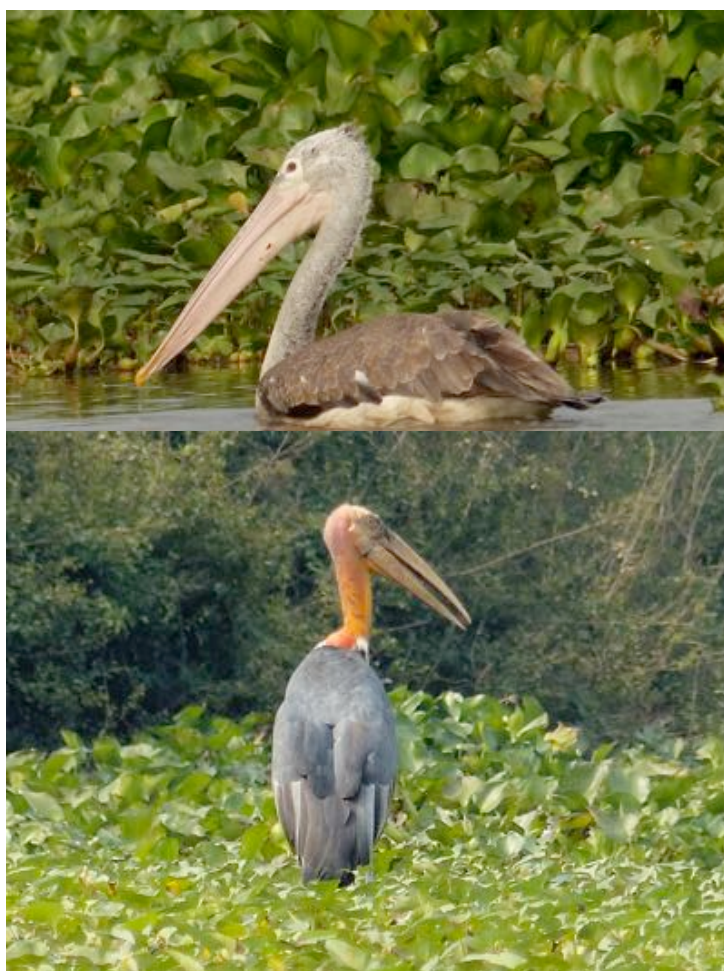
From Angkor Wat we visited the tree-clad site of Ta Proumh. This amazing temple has been left as-found, covered in climbing tree roots and even in the heat of the day it was hard not to be amazed by this site. We added one bird to our tally here; **Alexandrine Parakeet**.

After lunch and a rest at our accommodation we ventured out again to visit Bayon temple with its myriad of faces carved into the sides of the towers. Examining the carvings on the temples we could recognize several bird species including Greater Adjutant and Sarus Crane being assured by Sophoan that we would see these birds for real later in the trip.

In the evening we returned to Angkor Wat for a little more birding, finding a mixed flock of **Silver-backed** and **Brown-backed Noddies** drinking, in flight, from the moat. As it got dark we played the call of **Brown Hawk-owl** and it came in twice, at close range, but unfortunately flew away again before most people got a good view of it. A temple guard put an end to our efforts but it was nice to go back and enjoy dinner and beer in celebration of a great first day's birding.

Day 4; 10th March

An early start and a short drive took us to have breakfast on our boat as we travelled across the Tonle Sap towards Prek Toal Core Reserve in search of large waterbirds. Unusually low water levels in the lake meant that we ran aground at one point but this was soon sorted out and after cruising through the floating village we transferred to some smaller boats to enter the best birding areas. Trees full of **Indian Cormorant**, **Great Cormorant** and **Oriental Darter** lined the way and it was not long before we spotted some fly-over **Black-headed Ibis**. While photographing a fish trap Frank spotted a **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** sitting upon it which allowed us to get incredibly close before flying a short distance. A little further along we came across our first **Spot-billed Pelican**. This bird was to become a constant feature of our boat trip with good numbers of them feeding and in flight, many of them allowing us to pass within a few metres of them. Other birds that were abundant included **Asian Openbill**, **Purple Heron**, **Intermediate Egret**, **Little Egret**, **Eastern Great Egret** and Grey Heron but the real excitement came when we spotted our first **Lesser Adjutant** perched atop a bare tree in the distance. We soon got much closer to this impressive but rather ugly bird but incredibly it paled into insignificance as we spotted a **Greater Adjutant** a little ahead of our boats. This monstrous bird was one of our main targets here and it was to everyone's delight that we obtain superb views of this rare species. As it took off we were all surprised at how



huge it was and what a treat it was when it landed in the same bare tree as the Lesser Adjutant for comparison with the Greater Adjutant being much larger still. This was truly spectacular stuff and I cannot express enough how great it was to see all these impressive large waterbirds at such close quarters.

Boat trips are always enjoyable and it was cool in the heat of the day to be cruising along with a breeze and enjoying more **Lesser Adjutants**, **Oriental Darters** as well as the odd **Yellow Bittern**, a **Cinnamon Bittern**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**, **Western Osprey** and a flyover **Rufous Woodpecker**.

After a nice lunch on a floating restaurant we headed back across the Tonle Sap, passing by several **Black-winged Stilts** and some roosting **Whiskered Terns**. Such was the heat that Sophoan found us a sheltered place to rest, after arriving back, where we could look out over some rice fields. This proved to be a fruitful hour or so with close-up views of **Dusky Warbler**, **Himalayan Cuckoo**, **Plaintive Cuckoo**, **Racket-tailed Treepie** and **Scaly-breasted Munia** while a man walking through the rice fields flushed some nice birds for us including **Cinnamon Bittern**, **Greater Painted Snipe** and **Pin-tailed Snipe** while some muddy areas held **Wood Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank** and a flock of around 20 **Long-toed Stints**. After this pleasant, cool birding session, and refreshed by water melon and pineapple we headed out into some fields as the heat began to subside. Traditional agriculture in Southeast Asia always seems to provide good habitat to birds and it was no different here with exceptionally good views of **Lanceolated Warbler** being the highlight. **Oriental Pratincole**, **Bluethroat**, **Striated Grassbird** and **Paddyfield Pipit** were added to list before we spent some time with a pair of **Chestnut-capped Babblers**. These attractive birds just would not show themselves to some members of our party and it took quite some time before everyone got a good sighting; this was then our cue to head back to the comfort of our hotel and a lovely dinner.

Day 5; 11th March

With everybody packed and ready to move on to our next destination a **Western Barn Owl** flew overhead; a nice start to the day. A short drive to the grasslands continued our good start with an in-the-field breakfast watching the sun rise as several male **Bengal Floricans** strutted around in the long vegetation. This Critically Endangered species has a highly fragmented population so that the grasslands protected in Cambodia represent one of its best chances of



survival. Watching them at dawn while enjoying breakfast was a highly atmospheric way to enjoy these stunning birds. Our breakfast stop also presented us with lots of flight views of **Oriental Pratincoles**, lots of **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**, a small flock of **Knob-billed Ducks** in flight as well as a couple of **Oriental Skylarks** on the ground and a perched **Horsfield's Bushlark**. Our local guides, employed as part of the Florican conservation project, split up to look for some more of the specialities and it was not long before we were enjoying superb views of a **Manchurian Reed Warbler**, another rare species with a very small world range and close enough to be able to recognize the subtle plumage differences, longer tail, longer bill and distinctive behavior that

separates this bird from other similar *Acrocephalus* warblers. **Spotted Redshank, Plain Prinia, Asian Pied Myna** and **Eastern Marsh Harrier** were other additions to our list but it was a flock of 23 **Sarus Cranes** that really got us excited. Sarus Crane is another large waterbird that is highly threatened in Southeast Asia so it was a real privilege to watch this flock feeding. With all our major targets for the morning being seen well we decided to move on to our next location picking up **Red Avadavat**, nesting **Streaked Weavers, Indian Spot-billed Duck** and **Common Buttonquail** as we walked back to our vehicles concluding a really enjoyable morning's birding.

En-route we were to have a nice piece of luck (accompanied by some excellent spotting from Sophoan) with a male **White-rumped Falcon** sitting upon a dead tree a little way off the road in some remnant woodland. This scarce bird can be hard to locate so finding one along the way was a real bonus.

With Cambodia being an undeveloped country, traveling to our next site took some time, not least due to the terrible state of some of the dirt tracks we had to negotiate. However, we arrived at the village of Prey Veng with time for some late afternoon birding in good-quality dry dipterocarp forest. We quickly saw a number of the specialist species of this habitat – **Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Common Woodshrike, Brown Prinia, Rufescent Prinia, Small Minivet, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** and one of my personal favourites; **Black-headed Woodpecker**. We also had a few surprises in the form of a **Violet Cuckoo**, a **Green Imperial Pigeon** and incredible flight views of a **Spotted Wood Owl** flying directly at us through the forest before being mobbed by a **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**. This was a really exciting finish to a bird-filled afternoon session and although we were tired we revived ourselves with local beer and local cooking at our simple camp.

Day 6; 12th March

A very early start took us to the roost site of a pair of White-winged Wood Ducks. Unfortunately, the ducks had decided to move their roost site, one of those incidents that makes birding so unpredictable. However, after breakfast in the field we had a nice walk through more dry dipterocarp forest getting stunning views of a **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** as it drank sap from a nearby tree. Close range 'scope views of **Crested Treeswift, Burmese Shrike, Rufous-winged Buzzard, White-browed Fantail** and **Indochinese Bushlark** were all excellent but these were to be eclipsed by **Collared Falconet** sitting on a treetop feeding on large insects. A couple of **Black Bazas, Himalayan Cuckoo, Asian Drongo Cuckoo, Hair-crested Drongo** and a couple more **Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers** followed before we drove back to our accommodation to take a walk around the ancient Khmer reservoir that was nearby. The first birds we found on our circuit of the reservoir were several beautiful **Blossom-headed Parakeets** feeding on a fruiting tree but a few waterbirds were next, **Lesser Whistling Duck, Oriental Darter, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Bronze-winged Jacana** and **White-throated Kingfisher**. The increasing heat made birding a little tricky with low activity levels but we managed to 'scope a male **Orange-breasted Green Pigeon** before spotting a pair of **Woolly-necked Storks** on the marshy grassland adjacent to the water. This is yet another large wetland species that is doing very poorly in most of Southeast Asia but has a good population in Cambodia. It was also nice to find a pair of **Sarus Cranes** for our second sighting of this magnificent bird. With lunch approaching we walked back to our camp picking up **Yellow-vented** and **Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers** along the way.

A long afternoon break ensued, to wait out the heat of the day, but even then we found **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Two-barred Warbler** and **Radde's Warbler** from the dining.

After our rest we went out in the vehicles and found a couple of juvenile Black-necked Storks and a couple more Woolly-necked Storks resting in a small boggy area before we drove back to the White-winged Wood Duck "roost" site.

Alas, despite this second attempt and waiting until dark the ducks did not arrive. Still, a lot of good birds throughout the day were able to be appreciated over dinner.



Day 7; 13th March

This morning we would be targeting many of the Woodpecker species occurring in the dry woodland habitat around us. Driving a short distance we were in place at a good time and it was not long before we were watching **Black-headed Woodpecker**, **Common Flameback**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie** and a very obliging **Neglected Nuthatch**. The open nature of the forest allowed us to walk around where we liked and this allowed us to track down a pair of **Greater Yellownapes** and get more views of **Brown Prinia**. We had hoped for some large waterbirds at a boggy area but instead we saw some **Chestnut-tailed Starlings** nest-building, a distant **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** and a couple of **Red Junglefowl**. Never mind, things were about to get exciting as we heard the distant call of **Great Slaty Woodpecker**. We quickly walked towards them and when we were close a quick burst of call playback brought these spectacular birds flying right past us and giving us superb prolonged views in the 'scope. This is truly a wonderful bird and it was very pleasing to get such great views of it, particularly as it was very high on many people's target lists and ended up being in some participant's top five birds of the trip. Good birding continued with **Banded Bay Cuckoo**, **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**, **Black-hooded Oriole** and a feeding **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker**. A calling **Indian Cuckoo** was pretty hard to connect with but it eventually gave us several good flyover views but I was most satisfied with finding a male **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** in an area of degraded woodland, a scarce species that is by no means guaranteed. With this success we drove back to our camp where we had heard White-bellied Woodpecker a few days ago. On the approach I spotted a flock of larger birds and on getting out of the vehicles we were soon enjoying **White-bellied Woodpecker**, another stunner of a woodpecker. What a morning of great birds!

It was time to say goodbye to the villagers who had looked after us and move on to our next birding site of Tmatboey, where we arrived in time to settle into our rooms and meet the local guides who would help us track down a couple of the rarest birds in the world. The afternoon session was all about locating White-shouldered Ibis and things looked a little tricky when our first efforts proved fruitless. **Ashy Woodswallow**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Green-billed Malkoha**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** and **Bronzed Drongo** provided a distraction but suddenly the hunt was on with a large Ibis being seen heading in the direction of a marshy area within the dry woodland. Creeping up to the area we got what we were after – **White-shouldered Ibis** – seven individuals of which flew up to perch in surrounding trees and it was to everyone's amazement and delight when 3 **Giant Ibis** joined them in a pre-roost gathering. What a moment, two Critically Endangered species

in one tree! With our two key target species seen so quickly everyone was able to relax and enjoy the birds at length until eventually they flew off to their roost site. Wonderful stuff! Needless to say we all enjoyed a few beers with our excellent dinner to celebrate these much anticipated species.

Day 8; 14th March

With our Ibis in the bag we had a nice breakfast followed by a drive through the forest to look for Pale-capped Pigeon. Unfortunately, this species did not show at its usual spot but we did get a nice sighting of **Lesser Yellowname** and **Common Flameback** together. We also had the excitement of looking for **Yellow-streaked Warbler**. This species is either unrecorded in Cambodia or very rare but I frequently see it in the same habitat just across the border in Thailand so when I heard one call I was confident of the identification. Sadly, although we saw the bird we never saw it calling, even though I heard it call a few times when it was out of sight, and never got a good enough view to see the subtle plumage and structural differences that separate it from **Radde's Warbler**. For this reason I do not think anyone included this species in their personal lists although I have included it here and will submit the record to the Cambodian records. The highlight of the remainder of the session were several stunning **Van Hasselt's Sunbirds**, lit up light Christmas lights as they called from on top of nearby trees. **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Great Iora**, several fly-past **Green Imperial Pigeons** and a fly-over **Vernal Hanging Parrot** were also seen before we went on an owl hunt.

A short drive took us to an area where the local guides knew of a nest of **Brown Fish Owl** and after a hot walk through the forest we were able to watch two fully-grown juveniles sitting in a crack within a large tree. Another **White-shouldered Ibis** perched on a tree and more **Woolly-necked Storks** were also excellent sightings before we took a break back at our accommodation ensuring not to overdo things in hot conditions.

Our afternoon session consisted of approaching a water hole in the forest and waiting to see if any Pale-capped Pigeons came to drink. There were plenty of species that arrived; **Rufous Treepie**, **Shikra**, **Changeable Hawk Eagle**, **Hair-crested Drongo**, **Ashy Drongo**, **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **Green Imperial Pigeon** and **Large Woodshrike** to name just a few but none of the hoped for Pale-capped Pigeons. Still, the grand finale at dusk of **Savanna Nightjar** and **Indian Nightjar** was a really exciting way to finish the day.

Day 9; 15th March

With most of the potential species from this habitat already seen well we decided to check day roosts of several species of owl. Our first successfully located species was **Brown Wood Owl** where we also saw **Indian Cuckoo** and many of the commoner species of the forest here; **Small Minivet**, **White-browed Fantail**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Rufous-winged Buzzard**. The next target was **Spotted Wood Owl** which was found quite quickly and admired at length through telescopes. This is a really beautiful owl so it was a pleasure to be able to study it for so long. Having enjoyed the owls for a long time the heat was building so we headed back to the village where we were able to locate **Spotted Owlet** on its daytime roost. A three-owl morning felt pretty good as we took our break in the afternoon.

Later in the day we went out with a few more species in mind. The local guides took us to within viewing distance of a **White-shouldered Ibis** nest where we could see an adult and a juvenile. Then short walk got us really excellent views of a second **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** for the trip. It was interesting to see the strange foraging technique of this bird which is much more active than most Woodpecker species. Our local guides led us into the forest where **White-rumped Falcon** occurs and

it did not take long before a nice female flew in and perched in full view for prolonged views. With the day being all about quality rather than quantity we waited for dusk to try for our fourth owl of the day. And our local guides turned up trumps again with an **Oriental Scops Owl** calling when it was still light enough to see it really well – great success!

Day 10; 16th March

Giant Ibis is one of the main reasons to go to Tmatboey so we decided to use our final morning here to get another view of this species. Getting up early we were led to within viewing distance of a roost site and even in the dark we could see the silhouette of three **Giant Ibis** and 4 **Woolly-necked**

Storks. As it began to get light the Ibis began to preen and eventually call – a haunting duet that was reminiscent of something out of Jurassic Park – these are certainly very prehistoric birds and this may be why they have struggled to adapt to the modern world and habitat change. We kept a respectful distance from the roost site, keeping still and quiet until they flew away to their feeding grounds while calling at the same time; a very memorable experience. One of the three birds had



headed to a very close by area to feed so we walked very slowly towards this area and managed to get prolonged 'scope views of it as it fed in the long, damp grass. Backing off so as not to disturb this bird we went back to our accommodation where we packed up and prepared to leave, saying goodbye to the local villagers who had guided us and fed us so well. Hopefully, money from visiting birders can continue to be used for sustainable village development and the villagers' ongoing protection of the Ibis habitat.

A few hours drive and we arrived at our hotel in the small town of Kratie, overlooking the Mekong river, where we had lunch and cooled down in our air-conditioned rooms. Our afternoon session of birding took us to an area of rice fields and lotus ponds where we were able to see a lot of open-country and wetland species including **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **Black-backed Swamphen**, **Lesser Whistling Duck** and **Common Moorhen**. For us it was the perfect place to catch up with **Plain-backed Sparrow**, **Baya Weaver**, **Malaysian Pied Fantail** and some stunning **Asian Golden Weavers** in breeding plumage. Some of the skulking warblers are always high on people's lists of birds to see in wetlands so we made a special effort to get good views of **Oriental Reed Warbler** and **Black-browed Reed Warbler** both of which were abundant but tricky to see well. While catching up with these we also got a great sighting of **White-browed Crake** before successfully teasing out **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** which almost unprecedentedly came right out into the open several times for the best views that even myself and Sophoan had ever had. We finished the afternoon on the banks of the Mekong where we obtained rather distant views of a **Peregrine Falcon** and some flyover **Small Pratincoles**.

Day 11; 17th January

Time for another boat trip! This is always a nice way of finding birds and a short drive took us to where we boarded two small boats in order to take to the Mekong to look for another regional endemic – Mekong Wagtail. This species can only be found in the lower reaches of the Mekong river in Vietnam, Cambodia into Laos and Thailand. Our boatmen took us slowly out into the river, getting us close to islets and rocky outcrops in order to spot the wagtails and it did not take long before we located a pair of **Mekong Wagtails** collecting nest material. We were able to watch these special birds darting back and forth between different islets for some time before moving upstream a little. Here we got really close views of **Small Pratincole** and **Little Ringed Plover** in breeding plumage. A couple of **Pied Kingfishers** were nice, this is always an impressive bird to see performing its hovering flight. Further downstream we connected with a small pod of **Irrawaddy Dolphins** and huge numbers of **Little Cormorant**.



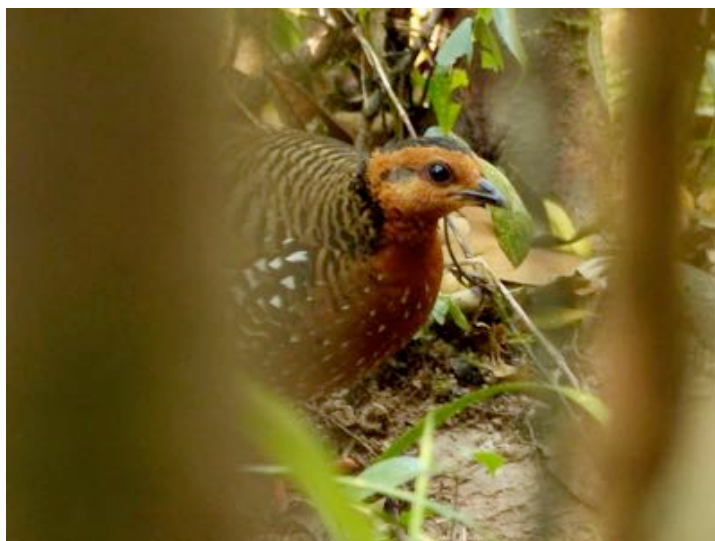
From Kratie we headed towards Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, stopping for lunch and then on the city's outskirts for a very special bird – **Cambodia Tailorbird**. This recently discovered species inhabits seasonally flooded scrub around Phnom Penh and nowhere else. It did not take very long at all before we were enjoying in-your-face views of this little bird, scolding at us for intruding into its territory. After enjoying one of Cambodia's endemic species we continued our journey to Kampot; a long day of travel but one with two species that are specialities of the area.

Day 12, 18th January 2016

Our final birding site of the trip was to be Bokor National Park for the next day and a half. This upland area gave us cooler temperatures than we had grown accustomed to and was a convenient short drive from our hotel in Kampot. On our first drive into the park we stopped part way up the hill to have breakfast but cloudy weather rather obscured the views. However, we spotted **Thick-billed Green Pigeon**, lots of **Asian Fairy Bluebirds**, a male **Scarlet Minivet** as well as a perched **Mountain**

Imperial Pigeon and a pair of **Barred Cuckoo Doves**. After arranging access we began birding along a forest trail. It proved to be fairly slow birding but with persistence we managed to see **White-browed Scimitar Babbler**, several fly past views of **Red-headed Trogon**, **Puff-throated Babbler** and a couple of wonderful **Long-tailed Broadbills**. The much hoped-for Chestnut-headed Partridges were only heard but we were determined to find them so planned to keep looking for them after lunch.

After a home-made curry for lunch Sophoan took us to a different trail. At first it looked like it would be very difficult to see anything in this thick forest but we managed to get most people onto a pair of **Streaked Wren Babblers** before hitting the jackpot; a pair of **Chestnut-headed Partridges**. These striking birds were detected by hearing them walking on the forest floor and then calling them towards the group for truly stunning views. We were able to observe these birds feeding and interacting for around 30



minutes at a distance of just a few metres. Chestnut-headed Partridge only occurs on the Cambodia-Thailand border and as the OBC have split the Thai version of the bird as Siamese Partridge, Chestnut-headed Partridge can be considered another endemic; it is a really beautiful bird.

We added **Blue-winged Leafbird** and a rather hard-earned **Banded Kingfisher** to our tally before heading back to Kampot for a shower and a good dinner.

Day 13, 19th March

Our last day together saw us back to the forest trails in Bokor National Park. Birding was again difficult but rather more productive than the previous morning. A perched **Grey-faced Buzzard** was nice and then a fruiting tree gave us **Eyebrowed Thrush** and some very beautiful **Moustached Barbets** as well as **Black-headed Bulbul**, **Oriental White-eye**, **Black-crested Bulbul** and **Ochraceous Bulbul**. Much of the morning was spent trying to lure in Blue Pitta which repeatedly made its contact call. Alas, only a couple of us got the briefest glimpse of this bird such was the nature of the habitat. With some effort we managed to add more species to our list including a couple of really nice birds, male **Mugimaki Flycatcher** and **Orange-headed Thrush**. With the morning drawing to an end we began our journey towards Phnom Penh where we checked into our very comfortable hotel, parted company with our drivers and had our final dinner together while discussing the favourite birds of the trip over some beers; a pleasant way to end a trip full of great birds.

Nick Upton

SYSTEMATIC LIST – CAMBODIA MARCH 2016

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Knob-billed (Comb) Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha haringtoni</i>

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Chinese Francolin	<i>Francolinus pintadeanus phayrei</i>
Chestnut-headed Partridge	<i>Arborophila cambodiana cambodiana</i>
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus gallus</i>
Silver Pheasant	<i>Lophura nycthemera lewisi</i>

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus episcopus</i>
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus</i>
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
White-shouldered Ibis	<i>Pseudibis davisoni</i>
Giant Ibis	<i>Pseudibis gigantea</i>

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata javanica</i>
Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
Javan Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola speciose continentalis</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>

PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

Spot-billed Pelican

*Pelecanus philippensis***SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Little Cormorant

Phalacrocorax niger

Indian Cormorant

Phalacrocorax fuscicollis

Great Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis***SULIFORMES: Anhingidae**

Oriental Darter

*Anhinga melanogaster***ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**

Western Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus***ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Black-winged Kite

Elanus caeruleus vociferus

Oriental Honey-buzzard

Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis

Black Baza

Aviceda leuphotes syama

Crested Serpent Eagle

Spilornis cheela burmanicus

Changeable Hawk Eagle

Nisaetus cirrhatu limnaeetus

Shikra

Accipiter badius poliopsis

Chinese Sparrowhawk

Accipiter soloensis

Besra

Accipiter vigatus affinis

Eastern Marsh Harrier

Circus spilonotus

Brahminy Kite

Haliaeetus indus indus

Grey-headed Fish Eagle

Haliaeetus ichthyaetus

Rufous-winged Buzzard

Butastur liventer

Grey-faced Buzzard

*Butastur indicus***OTIDIFORMES: Otididae**

Bengal Florican

*Houbaropsis bengalensis blandini***GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

White-breasted Waterhen

Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus

White-browed Crake

Porzana cinerea

Watercock

Gallixrex cinerea

Black-backed Swamphen

Porphyrio indicus viridis

Common Moorhen

*Gallinula chloropus chloropus***GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**

Sarus Crane

Grus Antigone sharpii

CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae

Common (Small) Buttonquail

*Turnix sylvaticus davidi***CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt

*Himantopus himantopus***CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Grey-headed Lapwing

Vanellus cinereus

Red-wattled Lapwing

Vanellus indicus atronuchalis

Little Ringed Plover

*Charadrius dubius jerdoni***CHARADRIIFORMES: Rostratulidae**

Greater Painted Snipe

*Rostratula benghalensis***CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

Pheasant-tailed Jacana

Hydrophasianus chirurgus

Bronze-winged Jacana

*Metopidius indicus***CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Pin-tailed Snipe

Gallinago stenura

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago gallinago

Eurasian Curlew

Numenius arquata orientalis

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Long-toed Stint

Calidris subminuta

Dunlin

*Calidris alpina***CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

Oriental Pratincole

Glareola maldivarum

Small Pratincole

*Glareola lactea***CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Whiskered Tern

*Chlidonias hybrid hybrida***COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Red Turtle Dove

Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis

Spotted Dove

Spilopelia chinensis tigrina

Barred Cuckoo-dove

Macropygia unchall minor

Zebra Dove
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon
Thick-billed Green Pigeon
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon
Green Imperial Pigeon
Mountain Imperial Pigeon

Geopelia striata
Treron bicinctus bicinctus
Treron curvirostra nipalensis
Treron phoenicopterus annamensis
Ducula aenea sylvtica
Ducula badia griseicapilla

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Greater Coucal
Lesser Coucal
Green-billed Malkoha
Asian Koel
Violet Cuckoo
Banded Bay Cuckoo
Plaintive Cuckoo
Asian Drongo Cuckoo
Large Hawk Cuckoo
Indian Cuckoo
Himalayan Cuckoo

Centropus sinensis intermedius
Centropus bengalensis bengalensis
Phaenicophaeus tristis tristis
Eudynamys scolopaceus chinensis
Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus xanth.
Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii
Cacomantis merulinus querulous
Surniculus lugubris
Hierococcyx sparverioides
Cuculus micropterus micropterus
Cuculus saturatus

STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl

Tyto alba stertens

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Oriental Scops Owl
Brown Fish Owl
Spotted Wood Owl
Brown Wood Owl
Asian Barred Owlet
Spotted Owlet
Brown Hawk-owl

Otus sunia distans
Ketupa zeylonensis orientalis
Strix seloputo seloputo
Strix leptogrammica laotiana
Glaucidium cuculoides deignani
Athene brama mayri
Ninox scutulata burmanica

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Indian Nightjar
Savanna Nightjar

Caprimulgus asiaticus asiaticus
Caprimulgus affinis monticolus

APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae

Crested Treeswift

Hemiprocne coronate

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

Germain's Swiftlet
Silver-backed Needletail

Aerodramus germani germani
Hirundapus cochinchinensis

Brown-backed Needletail
Asian Palm Swift
House Swift

Hirundapus giganteus indicus
Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus
Apus nipalensis nipalensis

TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

Red-headed Trogon

Harpactes erythrocephalus annamensis

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Indian Roller

Coracias benghalensis affinis

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Banded Kingfisher
Stork-billed Kingfisher
White-throated Kingfisher
Black-capped Kingfisher
Common Kingfisher
Pied Kingfisher

Lacedo pulchella amabilis
Pelargopsis capensis burmanica
Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra
Halcyon pileata
Alcedo atthis bengalensis
Ceryle rudis leucomelanurus

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

Green Bee-eater
Blue-tailed Bee-eater
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

Merops orientalis ferrugeiceps
Merops philippinus javanicus
Merops leschenaultia leschenaulti

BUCERITIFORMES: Bucerotidae

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops longirostris

BUCERITIFORMES: Bucerotidae

Oriental Pied Hornbill

Anthracoceros albirostris albirostris

PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae

Lineated Barbet
Moustached Barbet
Coppersmith Barbet

Psilopogon lineatahodgsoni
Psilopogon incognitus eurous
Psilopogon haemacephalus indicus

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker
Freckle-breasted Woodpecker
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker
White-bellied Woodpecker
Greater Yellownappe
Lesser Yellownappe

Dendrocopos hyperythrus annamensis
Dendrocopos canicapillus delacouri
Dendrocopos analis longipennis
Dendrocopos mahrattensis mahrattensis
Dryocopus javensis feddeni
Chrysophlegma flavinucha pierrei
Picus chlorolophus annamensis

Black-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus erythropygius erythropygius</i>
Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense intermedium</i>
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus guttacristatus</i>
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus annamensis</i>
Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentis harterti</i>

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

White-rumped Falcon	<i>Polihierax insignis harmandi</i>
Collared Falconet	<i>Microhierax caerulescens burmanicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus peregrinator</i>

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae

Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseate juneae</i>
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri faciata</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria siamensis</i>
Vernal Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis vernalis</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Tephrodornithidae

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus picatus</i>
Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus mekongensis</i>
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus orientis</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae

Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae

Common lora	<i>Aegithinia tiphia cambodiana</i>
Great lora	<i>Aegithinia lafresnayei xanthotis</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei siamensis</i>
Indochinese Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina polioptera polioptera</i>
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos avensis</i>
Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus sacerdos</i>
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus semiruber</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Lanidae

Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus confusus</i>
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Burmese Shrike

Lanius collurioides collurioides

PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae

White-bellied Erpornis

Erpornis zantholeuca canascens

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Black-naped Oriole

Oriolus chinensis diffusus

Black-hooded Oriole

Oriolus xanthornus xanthornus

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Black Drongo

Dicrurus macrocercus cathoecus

Ashy Drongo

Dicrurus leucophaeus leucogenis

Ashy Drongo

Dicrurus leucophaeus bondi

Bronzed Drongo

Dicrurus aeneus aeneus

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus remifer lefoli

Hair-crested Drongo

Dicrurus hottentottus hottentottus

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus paradiseus paradiseus

PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae

White-browed Fantail

Rhipidura aureola burmanica

Malaysian Pied Fantail

Rhipidura javanica longicauda

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch

Hypothymis azurea galerita

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Red-billed Blue Magpie

Urocissa erythroryncha magnirostris

Rufous Treepie

Dendrocitta vagabunda sakeratensis

Racket-tailed Treepie

Crypsirina temia

Large-billed Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Horsfield's Bushlark

Mirafra javanica williamsoni

Indochinese Bushlark

Mirafra erythrocephala

Oriental Skylark

Alauda gulgula herberti

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Black-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps

Black-crested Bulbul

Pycnonotus flaviventris johnsoni

Sooty-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus aurigaster germani

Stripe-throated Bulbul

Pycnonotus finlaysoni eous

Yellow-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus goiavier jambu

Streak-eared Bulbul
Ochraceous Bulbul
Grey-eyed Bulbul

Pycnonotus blanfordi conradi
Alophoixus ochraceus cambodianus
Iole propinqua simulator

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Sand Martin
Barn Swallow
Red-rumped Swallow

Riparia riparia taczanowskii
Hirundo rustica guttaralis
Cecropis daurica daurica

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Dusky Warbler
Yellow-streaked Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Yellow-browed Warbler
Two-barred Warbler
Pale-legged Leaf Warbler
Alstrom's Warbler

Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus
Phylloscopus armandi
Phylloscopus schwarzi
Phylloscopus inornatus
Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus
Phylloscopus tenellipes
Seicercus soror

PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae

Oriental Reed Warbler
Black-browed Reed Warbler
Manchurian Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus orientalis
Acrocephalus bistrigiceps
Acrocephalus tangorum

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae

Lanceolated Warbler
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler
Striated Grassbird

Locustella lanceolate hendersonii
Locustella certhiola certhiola
Megalurus palustris toklao

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Brown Prinia
Rufescent Prinia
Yellow-bellied Prinia
Plain Prinia
Common Tailorbird
Dark-necked Tailorbird
Cambodian Tailorbird

Prinia polychroa cooki
Prinia rufescens objurgans
Prinia flaviventris delacouri
Prinia inornata herberti
Orthotomus sutorius maculicollis
Orthotomus atrogularis nitidus
Orthotomus chaktomuk

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

White-browed Scimitar Babbler
Pin-striped Tit-Babbler
Chestnut-capped Babbler

Pomatorhinus schisticeps klossi
Macronus gularis saraburiensis
Timalia pileata dictator

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

Streaked Wren Babbler

Napothera brevicaudata griseigularis

Puff-throated Babbler

*Pellornium ruficeps dilloni***PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

Oriental White-eye

*Zosterops palpebrosus williamsoni***PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae**

Asian Fairy-bluebird

*Irena puella puella***PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**

Neglected Nuthatch

Sitta neglecta

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

*Sitta frontalis frontalis***PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

Common Hill Myna

Gracula religiosa intermedia

Great (White-vented) Myna

Acridotheres grandis

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis tristis

Vinous-breasted Starling

Acridotheres burmannicus leucocephalus

Black-collared Starling

Gracupica nigricollis

Asian Pied Myna

Gracupica contra floweri

Chestnut-tailed Starling

*Sturnia malabarica nemoricola***PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

Orange-headed Thrush

Geokichla citrina innotata

Eyebrowed Thrush

*Turdus obscurus***PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Oriental Magpie-Robin

Copsychus saularis erimelas

Asian Brown Flycatcher

Muscicapa dauurica dauurica

Hainan Blue Flycatcher

Cyornis hainanus

Verditer Flycatcher

Eumyias thalassinus thalassinus

Siberian Blue Robin

Larvivora cyane bochaiensis

Bluethroat

Luscinia svecica kobdensis

Siberian Rubythroat

Calliope calliope calliope

Taiga Flycatcher

Ficedula albicilla

Blue Rockthrush

Monticola solitarius pandoo

White-throated Rockthrush

Monticola gularis

Stejneger's Stonechat

Saxicola stejnegeri

Pied Bushchat

Saxicola caprata burmanicus

PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae

Blue-winged Leafbird

Chloropsis cochinchinensis auropectus

Golden-fronted Leafbird

Chloropsis aurifrons inornata

PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker

Dicaeum chrysorrheum chrysochlore

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum cruentatum cruentatum

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird

Chalcoparia singalensis koratensis

Brown-throated Sunbird

Anthreptes malacensis malacensis

Van Hasselt's Sunbird

Leptocoma brasiliana emmae

Purple Sunbird

Cinnyris asiaticus intermedius

Olive-backed Sunbird

Cinnyris jugularis flamaxiilaris

Black-throated Sunbird

Aethopyga saturate cambodiana

Little Spiderhunter

Arachnothera longirostra pallida

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus indicus

Plain-backed Sparrow

Passer flaveolus

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus malaccensis

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

Asian Golden Weaver

Ploceus hypoxanthus chryseus

Streaked Weaver

Ploceus manyar williamsoni

Baya Weaver

Ploceus philippinus angelorum

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

Red Avadavat

Amandava amandava punicea

Scaly-breasted Munia

Lonchura punctulata topela

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Forest Wagtail

Dendroanthus indicus

Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla tschutschensis macronyx

Mekong Wagtail

Motacilla samveasnae

Paddyfield Pipit

Athus rufulus rufulus

Olive-backed Pipit

Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis

Red-throated Pipit

Anthus cervinus



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