

Compiled by Frédéric Goes

Thanks to all contributors. Observers are invited to send records they think may be of interest to [fredbaksey@yahoo.com](mailto:fredbaksey@yahoo.com). Species names follow *The Birds of Cambodia, An Annotated Checklist* (Goes 2014).

National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Protected Forest, Bengal Florican Conservation Area and Sarus Crane Conservation Area are abbreviated as NP, WS, PF, BFCA and SCCA respectively. Siem Reap-based *Sam Veasna Center for Wildlife Conservation* and *Angkor Center for Conservation of Biodiversity* are abbreviated SVC and ACCB.

## PHNOM PENH & SOUTH-EAST

No records of interest received for the period.

## SOUTH-WEST

In **Trapeang Sangke**, a mangrove area between Kampot and Kep, a **Ruddy Kingfisher** was found on 24 September (AJ, SM).

## NORTH-WEST

At **Ang Tropeang Thmor** Sarus Crane Reserve, 20 **Small Pratincoles** on 5 July (SC, DN) and then two individuals on 10 July (CK) are the first for the northwest. The wet season movements of this riverine species are largely unknown, and it was never recorded that far from the Mekong River. Over 1,000 **Painted Storks** were seen south of the reservoir on 10 July (CK). Single **Milky Stork** was present on 10 and 29 July (CK, CS), two on 18 September (DN) and four birds on 23 September on the road to Phnom Srok district (SVC). Single or two **Black-necked Storks** were seen on six dates throughout the period (SVC team). Ten **Little Ringed Plovers** on 10 July (CK) and (number unreported) on 29 July (CS) may be of the resident *jerdoni* breeding along the Mekong. A single **Greater Adjutant** and four **Common Redshanks** were using the site on 11 August (CK). Other migrants of interest were five **Long-toed Stints** and single **Curlew Sandpiper** staging there on 18 September (DN).

In **Angkor** historical site, **Oriental Skylark** and 12 **River Lapwings**, another Mekong riverine species, were present at Western Baray on 30 August (SVC team).

A **Hainan Blue Flycatcher** stopped over in the **SVC garden** on 20 September (SVC).

A SVC guide team apparently conducted a short trip to Bos Thom in July and a survey in unexplored Varin district in August but very unfortunately no report or list were written.

## TONLE SAP

A River Tern survey covering the entire lakeshore from 2 to 30 July provided the most significant findings of the period (AC, PE). The survey confirmed that the Tonle Sap lake is an important habitat for the nationally Critically Endangered **River Tern** outside the breeding season. The species was found in small parties in the southern portion of the lake, mainly around Chhnuok Tru floating village. Focused efforts to census the total population lead to a count of 35-38 birds (20-30% of the estimated Mekong basin population). The availability of perching posts (mainly fishing poles) seems to be a population limiting factor. No direct threat was observed or reported, leaving the cause of sharp adult population decline unclarified.



A Ruddy Kingfisher, a poorly known species found exclusively in coastal areas (Photo Rob Overtoom)



A survey found that significant number of the threatened River Tern uses the Tonle Sap during July (Photo Suy Senglim)

near Reang Til (Pursat) on 7 July and **Hair-crested Drongos** at Gluk Kong Cheroot village and Koh Khaek village (Pursat) on 3 and 4 July are only the second Tonle Sap records. Of distributional interest were **Collared Kingfisher** near Kompong Luong (Pursat) and **Spotted Wood Owl** heard at Akol (Pursat) and near Chhnuk Tru and Don Sdaun (Kompong Chhnang). Unseasonal were three **Common Redshanks** near Akol on 3 July and single **Green Sandpiper** in the southwestern part on 27 July. **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** were mainly present around Boeng Chhma, plus one sighting at Chhnuk Tru.

During a trip to **Prek Toal**, 15 **White-shouldered Starlings** were seen in Mechrey and Prek Toal on 3 September (SMo). This is the earliest arrival (or autumn passage) date noted for this winter migrant.

In the **Phnom Kraom** area, one **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** was at Mechrey on 3 September (SMo) and an excellent find was two **Red-necked Phalaropes** at Chreav on 21 September (CK).

In **Stoung BFCA**, flocks of **Comb Ducks** totalling nearly 80 birds (15, 15, 40 and a few pairs) flying north on 15 July (SM, HC) constitute the largest number ever noted away from Ang Tropeang Thmor.

## NORTH

At **Koh Ker**, a pair of **White-rumped Pygmy Falcon** was found in the temple complex on 9-11 July (SMo, SSo, DN). **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** on 9 July (SMo) and three **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes** on 11 July were additions for the site (DN). **Streak-throated Woodpecker** on 25 July may be the first observed there since 2005 (DN). **White-rumped Munia** was found nesting near the temple entrance (nest made of rice hay, 4 meters above ground) on 3 August (SSo).

On the road to Koh Ker, a **Common Kingfisher** on 7 July was an unusual date (CS). On 3 August, an **Oriental Hobby** is the first recorded for the northern region, and a **Rufous-bellied Eagle** is also noteworthy (SSo). No less than five **White-rumped Pygmy Falcons** were encountered on 20 August: a pair at the regular site southwest of Koh Ker, another pair 1km further east and then a single near Sroyang village (CS). On 12 September, two **Oriental Hobbys** were spotted again en route, and 10+ **Purple-backed Starlings** were the first record for the north of this rare passage migrant (CS).

A **Masked Finfoot** survey covering 125 km along 10 rivers in Preah Vihear province in July-August yielded seven sightings at four sites, all within **Kulen Promtep WS**: a single along the Stung Sen river on 6 July, a pair along the Krolapeas river on 11 July and two pairs along the Stung Memay, one close to an army land concession boundary on 19 July and another close to Antil village on the next day. Along the latter stream a nest was also found by a local ranger (date unreported) but was found empty the next day, presumably due to predation (all TR, PS).

Still in the Wildlife Sanctuary, an **Indian Spotted Eagle** was observed at Veal Bromet (near Thmat Baeuy) on 8 August (RvZ).

## NORTH-EAST

No records of interest received for the period.

Also significant were records of the endemic **Cambodian Tailorbird**: a pair with 2-3 juveniles at Prek Dang Tung (east end of the lake, Kompong Thom) on 15 July, a pair with 3-4 juveniles at the same location on 25 July and a pair at Akol village (Pursat) on 16 July, extending the species known range to the western shore of the lake. A flock of four and seven **Orange-breasted Green Pigeons** north of Chhnuk Tru on 19 and 26 July respectively are the first records for the Tonle Sap. Two other additions for the lake were made: **Golden-bellied Gerygone** with near daily records, indicating recent colonisation of this species seemingly extending its inland range in Cambodia, and a single **Purple Sunbird** at Prek Dang Tung on 25 July. A single **Common Tern**

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**OBSERVERS**

(\* = SVC guides)

AC	Andrea Claassen	PS	Pheng Sokline
AJ	Ashish John	RvZ	Robert van Zalinge
CK *	Chhun Kunthea	SC *	Seab Chea
CS *	Chen Sophal ( <i>Naran</i> )	SM	Simon Mahood
DN *	Duong Nara	SMo *	Sang Mony
HC	Hong Chamnan	SSo *	Sanh Sophoan
KSR	Kong San Ratanak	SVC	SVC Facebook posts
PE	Paul Everingham	TR	Thaung Reth