

CAMBODIA RECENT BIRD REPORTS, APRIL 2010

compiled by Tom Evans and Frédéric Goes

Thanks to all contributors. In the future, please send any records you think may be of interest (for current or earlier months) to tevans@wcs.org and fredbaksey@yahoo.com.

GENERAL

For the first time an additional **Sarus Crane** census was conducted in late April this year, on 24th-25th. 719 birds were recorded across Cambodia and Vietnam, similar to the March total (Vietnam data per TT). 89% of the birds found were concentrated at just three sites – ATT (51%), Kampong Trach/Phu My and the Tonle Sap grasslands. This is clearly a very vulnerable time of year for these birds.

SOUTH-EAST

No **Sarus Cranes** were using Boeung Prek Lapeuv during the census, but a flock of 22 did fly over, heading we know not where (per SKH). A visit on 21 March found a breeding colony of **Asian Golden Weavers** with an estimate of 20 pairs present and 50 nests spread across two Eucalyptus trees and a bush (RO). This is the largest documented colony in Cambodia.

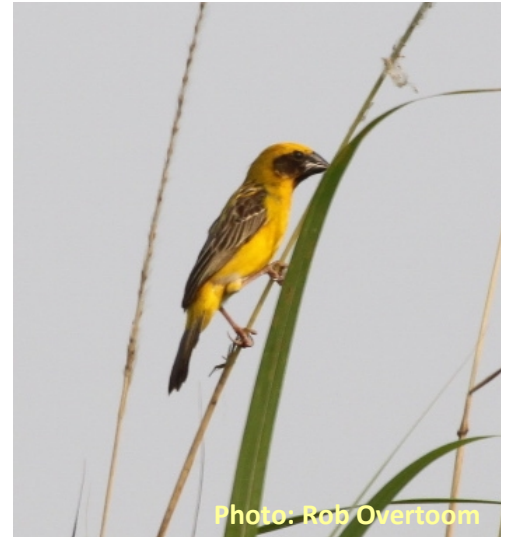


Photo: Rob Overtoom

SOUTH-WEST

RO's amazing run on his home ground continued this month. In the Kampot estuary on 25 April he photographed at least one **Sanderling** in full winter plumage, with possibly as many as 8 present in a range of other plumages. This is another first for the country. There were also two **Little Terns** on the same day; the only other coastal record of this species since at least the 1960s was another sighting by RO of a single in April 2006.



Photo: Rob Overtoom

A **White-bellied Sea-eagle** over Kampot town on 18 April was the first noted there for at least six months (RO).

A **Spotted Wood-owl** at Prey Nup mangroves on 17 April was new for the site and the Southwest (RO). A **Rusty-rumped Warbler** there on 4 April was also notable.

At Kampong Trach the **Sarus Crane** census produced 203 birds (US, ED and SoV per SKH) plus 10 just over the border in Phu My (per TT).

NORTHWEST

The first **Blue-winged Pitta** of the season reported to us was in forest behind the Angkor Centre for Biodiversity Conservation near Phnom Kulen on 16 April (MH).

A single **Caspian Tern** at Ang Trapeang Thmor on 22 April was notable for the site (MH). High counts of approx 150 **Northern Pintails** and 10 **Common Coots** there on 6 February have just come to light (HN).

TONLE SAP

At Prolay, 11 **Oriental Plovers** (one of them a partial albino with whitish head and upper breast) and 400+ (possibly as many as 1000) **Yellow-breasted Buntings** were seen on 17 April (MH and HW). The **Sarus Crane** census found 61 birds in the florican grasslands, 20 at Stoung and 41 at Baray (per RvZ).



NORTH

A SVC guide training event at O Koki/Krasang (Preah Vihear Protected Forest) and Prey Veng (Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary) in mid April produced several good records including **Green Peafowl** on three days out of four at O Koki/Krasang, one **White-winged Duck** each at Krasang and Prey Veng, **Grey-headed Fish-eagles** at all sites, 1 **Cinereous Vulture** (soaring over Dangphlet on 23 April), 2 **Giant Ibis** at Prey Veng and 2 **Himalayan Black Bulbuls** at Krasang on 21 April. The first **Blue-winged Pitta** of the season was heard at O Koki on 22 April (all HN and SVC team).

The **Sarus Crane** census produced 13 birds in Preah Vihear Protected Forest and 14 in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (field teams per RvZ).

NORTH-EAST

A sub-adult **Himalayan Griffon** joined the vulture restaurant in Siem Pang on 4 April (per PB). A new individual **Indian Spotted Eagle** was seen on 5 and 6 April far west of the site of previous recent observations, with 25 **Streaked Weavers** in the same location during 4-7 April and a **Spot-bellied Eagle Owl** heard on 7 April (HW).

In Mondulkiri Protected Forest on 5 April a **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** was seen along the O Rovei and Trapeang Tmat produced 3 **Sarus Cranes**, 2 **Giant Ibises**, a **Black-necked Stork** and a **Red-headed Vulture** simultaneously (TNEG).

A visit to the forest at 850 m around Dak Dam border crossing in Mondulkiri on 24-25 April resulted in one party of **White-cheeked Laughingthrushes** and records of **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Blue-winged Minla**, **Annam Barbet** and **Ashy Bulbul**. A **Lesser Adjutant** soaring over the grasslands at this site is a candidate for the highest altitude record in Cambodia (TNEG).

OBSERVERS

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