

CAMBODIA RECENT BIRD REPORTS, JUNE-AUGUST 2010

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Thanks to all contributors. In the future, please send any records you think may be of interest (for current or earlier months) to tevens@wcs.org and fredbaksey@yahoo.com. Earlier editions of the digest can be found at www.samveasna.org. Names follow Craig Robson (2008) *A field guide to the birds of Thailand and South-east Asia*.

Next digest will cover September and October 2010

GENERAL

The two annual vulture censuses were held at seven coordinated vulture restaurants from Mondulkiri to Preah Vihear on 10 and 24 June. Total counts were 245 and 289 respectively, suggesting that total numbers are holding steady or perhaps increasing. Peak species counts were 46 **Red-headed Vultures**, 201 **White-rumped Vultures** and 45 **Slender-billed Vultures** (many observers per PB and HR).

SOUTH-EAST

On 3 July all the **Small Pratincoles** had left their dry season nesting site at Koki beach but one **Oriental Pratincole** was seen well there (TDE).

At Basset marshes Important Bird Area there were 3 **Spot-billed Pelicans**, 1 **Oriental Darter**, 3 **Great Cormorants** and 4 **Streaked Weavers** (new for the site) on or near the main lake on 14 August and 3 **Oriental Darters** and 40-50 **Great Cormorants** but no pelicans around the north side of this lake and the smaller northern lake on 28 August (all TDE). Human use of the north lake has clearly increased greatly in the past few years.

At least one pair of **Streaked Weavers** were building a nest close to 7+ active Baya Weaver nests in a garden in Takeo during June. A juvenile **Crested Serpent-eagle** landed in a garden tree there on 14 July (all RO).



Streaked Weaver / Photo: Rob Overtoom

SOUTH-WEST

Sarus Cranes were still present at Kampong Trach in good numbers in June, with 61 on 3 June and the final observation of 21 birds on 15 June (per SKH).



Grey-tailed Tattler
Photo: Rob Overtoom

An **Oriental Darter** was seen in mangroves in the Kampot estuary on 13 June and a flock of 22 **Sanderlings** was photographed at the Kampot salt pans on 27 June. Successive visits in Kampot estuary were most notable by the presence of 4 **Grey-tailed Tattlers** on 11 July, and the increasingly-numerous **Little Tern** families: 3 adults and 2 well-grown, independent juveniles, 4 adults and 6 juveniles, and 3 adults and no less than 10 juveniles on 3, 11 and 17 July respectively. These are the first indication of breeding of the species in coastal Cambodia. Other noteworthy Palearctic waders (presumably early returnees) were 28 **Whimbrels** and 11 **Sanderlings** on 3 July, 6 **Grey Plovers** on 11 July,

2 **Ruddy Turnstones** and 4 **Bar-tailed Godwits** on 17 July. A single and 7 **Caspian Terns**, probably on passage, on 11 and 17 July were also notable (all RO).

Chestnut Munia / Photo: Rob Overtoom



There was a notable influx of large waterbirds at Prey Nup mangroves on 6 June, with 2 **Lesser Adjutants**, 4 **Woolly-necked Storks** and at least 37 **Black-headed Ibises** feeding in the rice fields, plus 5 **Painted Storks** overhead (all RO). An **Oriental Darter** has also been on several dates around the same time (JS per RO). On 13 June counts had increased to 12 **Lesser Adjutants**, 8 **Woolly-necked Storks** and 50 **Black-headed Ibises**, and at least 31 **Painted Storks** on 27 July. In the adjacent ricefields, 8 **Chestnut Munias**, including 3 juveniles, on 13 June suggested local breeding, while there were 20 birds on 27 July. The species had not been recorded in the southwest in 10 years. In the mangroves, **Ruddy Kingfishers** and **Little Bronze Cuckoos** (up to 7 birds) were recorded at each

visit in June and July, **Copper-throated Sunbird** on two occasions and a single **Black-and-red Broadbill** on 4 and 27 July (all RO).

At Kep NP, a single **Great Hornbill** was again recorded on 18 July (RO) and conclusive reports that a pair has bred near Jasmine Valley Café have been received (OB).

TONLE SAP

No significant record received for this period.

NORTHWEST

Sarus Cranes remained in good numbers at Ang Trapeang Thmor into at least early June, with 138 there in the first week of June (per RvZ) and 43 there on 10 June (HN). Other notable records were 7 **Milky Storks** (observer did not note whether this group might have included hybrids), 1 **Black-necked Stork** and 27 **Black-tailed Godwits** on 10 June (all HN) and 7 **Black-tailed Godwits** on 29 June (SM per SS).

A male **Siamese Fireback** was photo-trapped at the edge of the ACCB grounds, at the foothills of Kbal Spean on 17 June. On the top of Kbal Spean, there was a pair of **Silver-breasted Broadbills** on 1 August and 3 **Oriental Bay Owls** heard (one seen) on 8 August (all MH). This is the only site where these three species are known in the northwest. And to add to this exclusive list, 3 **Jerdon's Buzards** seen there on 22 August were the first for the northwest (per MH).

An albino juvenile **Eurasian Tree-sparrow** was seen at Angkor Golf Course on 19 July (SM).

NORTH

A single **Forest Wagtail** at Koh Ker temple on 29 August was the first returnee reported this season (SS), and apparently the first record for the northern plains.

NORTH-EAST

A **Giant Ibis** was camera-trapped on 23 June at a pool in the Conservation International project area in Veun Sai district, a new location for the species (per BR).

During vulture counts several other interesting birds were also recorded. At the Sesan restaurant, Stung Treng, two **Giant Ibises** were seen on 10 June, one **Greater Adjutant** on 24 June and two **Greater**



Copper-throated Sunbird / Photo : Rob Overtoom

Adjutants plus four **Giant Ibises** on 16 July. At the Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary restaurant there were 2 **Greater Adjutants** on 24 June. At the Western Siem Pang restaurant three **White-shouldered Ibises** visited on 24 June and one **Greater Adjutant** on 14 July, whilst at the Preah Vihear Protected Forest restaurants 3 **Giant Ibis** were seen on 15 July and 2 **Black-necked Storks** on 25 July (many observers per PB).

Several visits in the O'Ramis valley, just out of Sen Monorom at an altitude of 650m found rarely recorded species such as **Speckled Piculet** (7th recent record) and **Yellow-bellied Warbler** on 12 August, **Silver-breasted Broadbill** and **Orange-headed Thrush** (2nd record for the northeast) on 15 August and 6 **Black-throated Laughingthrushes** on 16 August. **White-throated Fantail** and **Black-browed Fulvetta** were recorded on several occasions at the site in August (all TNEG).

Observers

BR	Ben Rawson
HN	Howie Nielsen
HR	Hugo Rainey
JS	Jos Spiers
MH	Markus Handschuh
OB	Owen Beck
PB	Pech Bunnat
RO	Rob Overtoom
RvZ	Robert van Zalinge
SKH	Seng Kimhout
SM	Sang Mony
SS	Sat Sophoan
TDE	Tom Evans
TNEG	Tom Gray