

CAMBODIA RECENT BIRD REPORTS, MAY-JULY 2011

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 tevens@wcs.org and fredbaksey@yahoo.com. Earlier editions can be found at www.samveasna.org. Names follow Craig Robson (2008) *A field guide to the birds of Thailand and South-east Asia*. National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Protected Forest, Bengal Florican Conservation Area and are abbreviated as NP, WS, PF and BFCA. *Sam Veasna Center for Wildlife Conservation* and *Angkor Center for Biodiversity Conservation* are abbreviated SVC and ACCB respectively.

Next digest will cover August to October 2011

PHNOM PENH

Between the 1st and 10 May, both **Blue-winged** and **Hooded Pitta** were heard in a garden in central Phnom Penh (HN). This is the first time the latter species is noted on passage outside forested areas.

SOUTHEAST

At Boeng Prek Lepeuw, there were 28 **Lesser Adjutants** on 3 June, 100 **Asian Openbills** on 6 June and 70 **Painted Storks** on 12 July (SeV per RvZ).

SOUTH-WEST

At Kampong Trach, **Black-headed Ibis** counts peaked at 192 birds on 4 June, with 173 birds on 21 June and still 126 birds on 5 July (US per RvZ).

An islet in the bay south of Kampot estuary held 7 **Bridled Terns** on 17 May and could be a potential breeding location. The boat driver recalled collecting hundreds of tern eggs from this same islet approximately 20 years ago, although the species was not clear (RO). A **Red Knot** in breeding plumage – a first record for Cambodia, and two **Great Knots** were photographed in the estuary on 28 May (RO).

On 29 May, a **Slaty-breasted Rail** with two young were found near the entrance to Bokor National Park, and a female **Greater Painted-snipe** photographed there was the first for the south-west (RO).



**Red Knot at Kampot estuary,
28/05/2011. (Photo: Rob Overtoom)**

Details on records made during a SVC guide training trip conducted in the O'Som area, Central Cardamoms PF, at 600m, from 7 to 11 April were received too late to include in our previous review and are incorporated here (SM, SvO). Amongst the 123 species recorded was the first sighting for the south-west of **Zebra Dove** (seen in O'Som village), two **Golden-crested Mynas** and five **Hooded Pittas**. Two **Asian Emerald Cuckoos** and **Abbott's Babbler** were unusual altitudinal records. A single **Blue-breasted Quail** was flushed and a male **Pied Harrier** seen at grasslands near the crocodile lake, and **White-bellied Woodpecker** was present in the more open forest.

Mist-netting at Dalai Mountain, Phnom Samkos WS, caught a **Dark-sided Thrush** in hill evergreen forest at 1100m on 17 June (CS). This is only the sixth record of this species since first found in 2000.

TONLE SAP

One live and two dead **Greater Adjutant** chicks were confiscated from a small group of fishermen within Prek Toal Core Area during May, and two **Lesser Adjutant** chicks were confiscated from another group (SuV per SAW). These are the first such incidents for several years. The chicks were taken to ACCB for rehabilitation.

Another **Greater Adjutant** was found badly injured on 23 July in the Baray BFCFA. It was taken to ACCB, where one leg had to be amputated and it subsequently died (MH and SoV). On 24 July, 135 **Black-headed Ibises** and 88 **Lesser Adjutants** were found in the same reserve (per SoV).

NORTH-WEST

Hooded Pitta was noted at Kbal Spean from 17 May (MH), only the second known site for the species in the north-west.

A good news was a roost of at least 20 **Oriental Darters** at the Angkor Thom moat on 9 July (RO).

NORTH

For the second year in a row, **Spot-billed Duck** ventured in the northern plains, with two birds seen again at Trapeang Pring, Chhep PF on 11 June (HR).

A SVC guide training trip at Koh Ker on 27-28 June recorded three **Besras** and surprisingly, three **Black-naped Orioles**, a species not known to over-summer in Cambodia (SvO).

NORTH-EAST

An exceptional count of 128 vultures, including 86 **White-rumped** and 39 **Slender-billed Vultures**, was made at Western Siem Pang on 8 July; a single **Greater Adjutant** was amongst the vultures there on the same date (per SC).

Although partly falling outside the review period, a trail survey in Seima PF from 16 April to 5 May yielded many records of interest (JS). The most exciting find and a first record for Cambodia was undoubtedly the sighting of 3-5 **Collared Babblers** (apparently *G.t. luciae*) in mixed bamboo/semi-evergreen forest on 3 May. A **Brown Fish Owl** was seen along the main road on 2 May. At the “finfoot pond”, there was a single **Oriental Darter** on 17 April and a single **Purple Heron**, an addition for Seima PF, on 5 May. Other noteworthy records included two sightings of **Blue-throated Flycatcher**, daily contact with **Hooded Pitta** from 21 April onwards, four out of a group of ten **Dusky Broadbills** cooperatively building a nest on 3 May, a single **Black-backed Kingfisher** on 26 April, **Pale-legged Leaf-warbler** still present on 22 April and **Black-browed Fulvettas** seen at two sites.

OBSERVERS

| | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| CS | Chhin Sophea |
| HR | Hugo Rainey |
| JS | Jeff Schwilk |
| MH | Markus Handschuh |
| RO | Rob Overtoom |
| RvZ | Robert van Zalinge |
| SAW | Sophie Allebone-Web |
| SC | Song Chansocheat |
| SM | Sang Mony |
| SeV | Seng Vanna |
| SoV | Son Virak |
| SuV | Sun Visal |
| SvO | Sambovannak Orn (Johnny) |
| US | Uong Seth |



The female Greater Painted-snipe at Bokor foothills, 29/05/2011. (Photo: Rob Overtoom)