

CAMBODIA RECENT BIRD REPORTS, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

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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 fredbaksey@yahoo.com. Earlier editions can be found at www.samveasna.org.

Species 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 are abbreviated as NP, WS, PF and BFCA respectively. Siem Reap-based *Sam Veasna Center* and *Angkor Center for Biodiversity Conservation* are abbreviated SVC and ACCB.

Next digest will cover January to March 2012

ERRATA 2011

A few errors have surfaced in the previous reports, and corrected here. In the January-February digest, the Painted Stork colony at Ang Tropeang Thmor settled on 17 trees and held 165 nests (not 17 as reported). In the March-April review, the Long-tailed Shrike mentioned in the Tonle Sap region was actually recorded at Veal Krous, Preah Vihear PF in the North. Finally, in the August-October reports, the Small Pratincoles reported from Takeo in September were misidentified Oriental Pratincoles, which did not deserve reporting!

SOUTH-EAST



Golden-bellied Gerygone (Photo: Rob Overtoom)

On 11 November, a tail-less female **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was perched with a prey in a town garden, a second record for the southeast, and first for the province. The same day, one **sand-martin** photographed on a road off Takeo matched Pale Sand-martin as shown in Robson (2008), but many authorities considered the species nearly impossible to confidently identify in the field.

Four **Golden-bellied Gerygones** were seen in *Acacia* trees at the Provincial Health Department compound of Takeo on 17 November, and another one on 30 November. Seven **Black Bazas** were also noted there on 7 December (all RO). One **Golden-bellied Gerygone** was also singing in a stand of *Eucalyptus* trees at Basset marsh on 17 December (TE).

This spurt of records may indicate that the species is actively spreading inland.

At Prek Sdach, three **Temminck's Stints** and three **Long-toed Stints**, both rarely recorded species, were seen at a pond on 26 November and were still present on 3 December (TE).

SOUTH-WEST

Birding at the foothills of Bokor NP recorded a **Dark-sided Flycatcher** on 12 November, a scarce passage migrant in Cambodia (RO).

A **Green Peafowl** seen with two juveniles was reported on 14 December from the same area, and heard calling for a few weeks after (per RO). The species is nearly extirpated from the park, and this is one of the few recent evidences of its persistence there.



Dark-sided Flycatcher at Bokor foothills, 12/11/2011 (Photo: Rob Overtoom)

At Kampot estuary, a single **Far Eastern Curlew** was present on 13 November, and on 12 December, there were four **Great Knots**, three **Ruddy Turnstones** and one **Black-tailed Godwit** amongst the high number and diversity of waders, as well as two **Black-headed Ibises** (all RO).

An SVC trip to Prey Nup mangrove found one male **Little Bronze Cuckoo** on 11 December, nine **Painted Storks** and six **Black-headed Ibises** were in the adjacent fields. **Black-naped Oriole** and **Pale-legged Leaf-warbler**, the latter in the mangrove, were additions for the site (all SS/SVC).

TONLE SAP

A survey for Bengal Florican in Community Forests of upland areas in Kompong Thom province was conducted on 13-20 December. A single male **Bengal Florican** was found at Prey Ou Ta Kreh and at Prey Tropeang Sandan. The survey was followed by a synchronized large waterbird counts at Baray BFCA on 21-22 December, during which 10 **Sarus Cranes**, one **Black-necked Stork** and 225 **Black-headed Ibis** were recorded (all SeS).

NORTH-WEST

Omitted from the previous review was the third country record of **Eurasian Wryneck**: a single bird seen along the dyke at Ang Tropeang Thmor reservoir on 20 October (SS).



The aberrant Little Egret seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 25/11/2012 (Photo: Duong Nara)

A grey-mottled **Little Egret** was photographed at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 25 November (DN), and stayed for another week or two (per SvO). This is most likely the same individual revisiting, as a similar aberrant-plumage bird was present at the reservoir around the same time in 2010. On 21 December, the reservoir hosted a flock counting 86 **Spotted Redshanks**, the second highest count on records at the site (TK).

On the avian flyway above Angkor, two **Lesser Adjutants** were cruising on 9 December (TK), while the next day, a juvenile **Himalayan Griffon** crashed onto Angkor Wat moats (AM)! The bird was rescued by a local villager in charge of 'cleaning' the temple moats and transferred four days later to the ACCB for revalidation. It unfortunately died soon after, due to water infiltration in the lungs (per MH). It is the first record of this vagrant species from the northwest.

Birding in flooded ricefields east of Sisophon town yielded noteworthy records of a single **Greater Spotted Eagle** and one **Bluethroat** on 6 December (earliest date on record for this winter visitor), 190 **Painted Storks** on 14 December and presumably the same **Greater Spotted Eagle** on 22 December (all TK).

NORTH

A camera-trap photo captured a **Coral-billed Ground-cuckoo** north-west of Phnom Pul, in Kulen Promtep WS on 5 December (RV).

Two **Himalayan Griffons** were amongst the 44 vultures gathered at the Tropeang Krous vulture restaurant, Preah Vihear PF on 18 December (per SC). A few individuals are now annually recorded at vulture restaurants in Cambodia.

The birding season at Thmat Bauey started with a surprise find: two **Black Storks** in flight on 26 December, a second Cambodian record for this vagrant species (SS/SVC). A single was recorded in 2001 in eastern Preah Vihear.

A **Verditer Flycatcher** photographed at Phnom Tbeng on 6 November (AJ) was only the second record traced from the region, certainly indicating the species is under-reported.

NORTH-EAST

A wildlife survey in Western Siem Pang undertaken during 3-18 December focused on areas adjacent to the Lao border. The results presented below were extracted from the biodiversity report for the proposed Protected Forest, and are certainly fragmentary. Two first records for the country: **Von Schrenck's Bittern** (along a river) on 8 December and **Blyth's Leaf-warbler** in semi-evergreen forest are listed without further details. Eight other species were added to the site birdlist now reaching 300 species, including the restricted range **Bay Woodpecker** and the rare **Blue-rumped Pitta**. A **Jerdon Baza** was also noteworthy. Amongst sensitive riverine species, a minimum of 8 **Great Thick-knees** and 39 **River lapwings** were counted between Siem Pang town and the Lao border, but no **River Tern**, confirming the precipitous decline of the latter species. The lack of record of **White-winged Duck** may indicate the species is nearly or already extirpated, while perhaps of potential concern too was the absence of fish-eagle and fish-owl records (all RT).

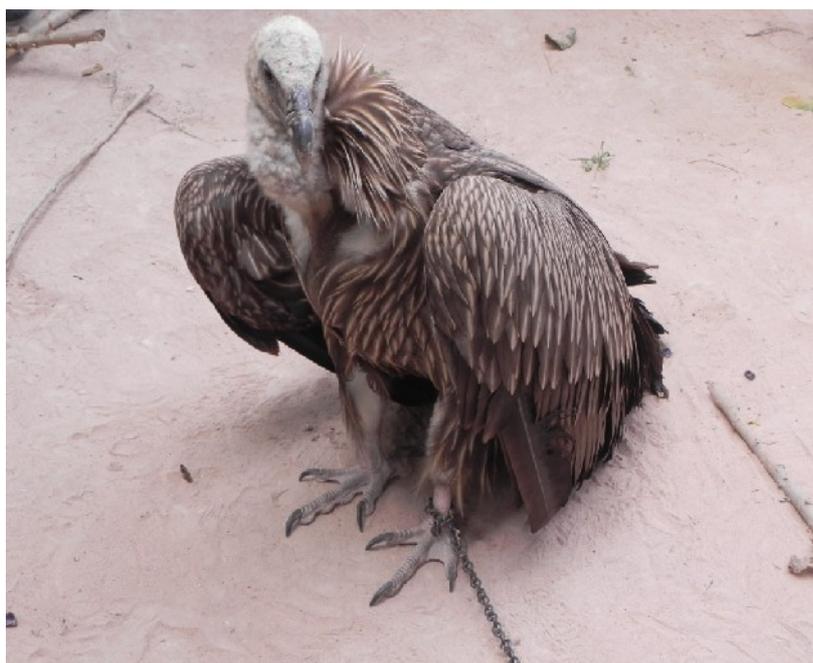
One **Citrine Wagtail** in flight over a quarry within semi-evergreen forest at Seima PF on 7 November, presumably on passage, is the fourth country record and the first one away from the Tonle Sap region. An **Oriental Hobby** was noted there on 13 November (all MH).

Speckled Piculet and **Jerdon's Baza** were of interest during an SVC reconnaissance survey along Andong Kraleung trails, in northern Seima PF on 27 November-1 December (VT/SVC).

Two **White-shouldered Ibises** were seen at the vulture feeding site in Phnom Prich WS on 27 December (per SC).

OBSERVERS

AJ	Ashish John
AM	Alistair Mould
DN	Duong Nara
MH	Markus Handschuh
RO	Rob Overtoom
RT	Rob Timmins
RV	Rours Vann
SC	Song Chansocheat
SvO	Sambovannak Orn (Johnny)
SS	Sanh Sophoan
SeS	Sen Sienglay
TE	Tom Evans
TK	Thomas Kuenzel
VT	Vanh Tharath



The juvenile Himalayan Griffon fallen in Angkor moats, and held by villagers on 14/12/2011 (Photo: Alistair Mould/ACCB)