

Compiled by Frédéric Goes

Thanks to all contributors. Observers are invited to send records they think may be of interest to 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.

GENERAL

The fifth **White-shouldered Ibis census** was conducted across five key sites in the north and north-eastern regions in mid-month from July through October (per SP). The highest count reached 973 birds on 15-16 September, with Siem Pang accounting for nearly half of the total, with a stunning 451 birds. This surpasses the previous census by over 200 hundred birds (754 birds counted in 2012). Taking into account higher site counts were made in other months, the census reaches 1,036 birds, allowing an upward review of the species global population estimate.

Data from **vulture restaurants and censuses** for 2013 were finally received (per SM). The most successful restaurants attracted 101 vultures at Veal Krous, Preah Vihear PF in January, including 84 White-rumped Vultures (highest number ever for this site and the second highest for all sites) and 112 vultures at Western Siem Pang on 20 June, holding a record high of 41 Slender-billed Vultures. The synchronized census organized across six restaurants on 10 and 20 June totalled 218 birds, the second lowest since 2006. Yearly census decrease noted since 2010 are worrying and may indicate genuine population decline.



White-shouldered Ibis along the Kratie – Stung Treng Mekong, a key area for this Critically Endangered species

(Photo Jeff Schwilk)

PHNOM PENH

A **Red-whiskered Bulbul** was present at Wat Phnom on 16 November (SSI), probably stemming from captive bird (merit-released or cage bird). A **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** was seen in central Phnom Penh again, this time at Stung Meanchey on 5 December (KSR).

SOUTH-EAST

In **Takeo**, six **Vinous-breasted Mynas** photographed at the Provincial Health Department on 9 November were in unusual habitat, and indeed the first recent sighting since historical times from the southeast. The next day, a tree fallen during a storm revealed it was occupied by a **Barn Owl** and a nest holding two nearly-fledged but dead **Scaly-breasted Munias** (all RO).

The most interesting records from floodplain shrublands at **Prek Ksach**, are also first for the region: on 26 October, an **Eastern Grass Owl** was flushed from the ground where it was sitting on a dead rat (SM) and then on 15 December an **Eurasian Wryneck** was also flushed from the ground (RvZ).

SOUTH-WEST

In **Bokor NP**, there was one **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** near the plateau (SM, AJ).

At **Kampot salt pans**, two **Long-toed Stints** were flanked by at least one **Sanderling**, a species with only three previous records, on 27 October (RO).

At **Prey Nup mangrove**, there were two **Oriental Pied Hornbills** on 4 November and the regular wintering **Greater Spotted Eagle** was first seen on 19 November (RO).

NORTH-WEST

In **Siem Reap**, a first-year female **Siberian Blue Robin** was a nice addition to the SVC town garden on 15 October (SM).

A female **Violet Cuckoo** and a **Rufous-bellied Eagle** were good birds at **Kbal Spean** on 1 November (DN).

At **Ang Tropeang Thmor** Sarus Crane Reserve, 400+ **Painted Storks** were staging at the reservoir on 10 December, and amongst a number of migrant waders on same date, five **Temminck's Stints** and 'many' **Long-toed Stints** were of interest (CSO). On 26 December, there was a single **Short-toed Snake Eagle** at the reserve (SSO). Last but not least, a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was reported on 16 December (DN) without any notes or other details allowing to properly assess this record, a would-be second for the country (the first was made at the same site the previous year and published in BirdingAsia).

TONLE SAP

At **Prek Toal**, a female **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** was spotted flying between emergent vegetation on 15 October (SM), the first noticed there since 2006. A **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** on 19 October (VT) might be the first confirmed from the site. The first **Painted Stork** returnees were noted on 29 November (CK) while the first **Milky Stork** was seen on 15 December (DN).

Small numbers of **Comb Duck** (up to four birds) have been repeatedly reported but without specified location during trips from Siem Reap to Prek Toal (SVC guides), as well as five **Grey-headed Lapwings** on 14 December (SSO) and a single on 17 December (CSO).

In **Chikreng BFCA**, a single **Chestnut-eared Bunting** and one **Spotted Wood Owl** were recorded at Prohoot grasslands on 19 December (LA, SSO). Eight **Asian Woollynecks** (recent split from Woolly-necked Stork, and listed as Vulnerable), two **Chestnut Munias**, a single **Large Hawk Cuckoo** and a single **Greater Spotted Eagle** are good records from Prohoot grasslands on 27 December (SSO).

NORTH

At **Koh Ker temple**, a **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** was spotted on 11 November (SC). Single **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were reported on 30 November and 5 December (DN). Noteworthy records were also made along the road to Koh Ker on 6 November: 20 **Grey-headed Lapwings** (SC) and a female **Siberian Rubythroat** on a roadside bush, two **Thick-billed Warblers** at Svay Leu, and last but not least, a female **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** in a flowering tree (DN). The latter, as well the Prek Toal record, extends the known autumn passage period of this species in Cambodia by nearly two months!

Further records of **Masked Finfoot** were received from **Kulen Promtep WS**: one female with four chicks were feeding at Daun Tom, Kulen Cheung village on 10 October (RV); one adult female/sub-adult was also noted along the Stung Memay near Antiel village, on 18-19 November (SM). In the Thmat Baeuy area, a nest of Black-necked Stork had an exceptional four chicks near Tropeang Pring on 11 November and one **Indian Spotted Eagle** was sighted at on 23 November (DN). One **White-rumped Pygmy Falcon** was seen on the way to Prey-veng reservoir on 12 November and the next day, an *Aquila* reported as **Greater Spotted Eagle** (no identification notes provided) en route to Preah Vihear temple is best left unconfirmed (VT).



Silver-eared Mesia, a little gem restricted to the Dak Dam corner

NORTH-EAST

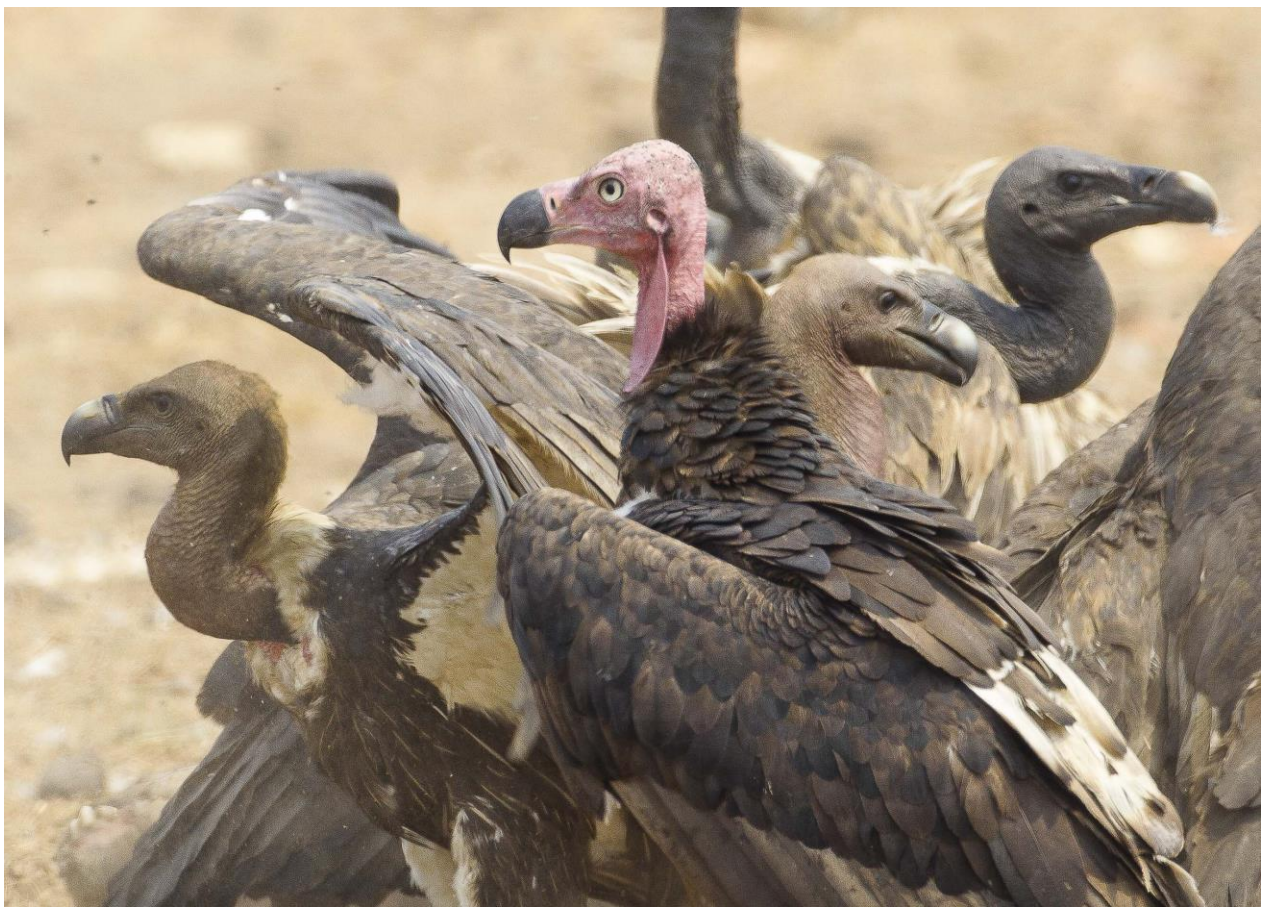
Although out of the review period, an exceptional 37 **White-shouldered Ibis** seen in flight at Tuol, near **Koh Ngeak** in mid-September (LA) is worth reporting, being much higher than any census count for Mondolkiri PF/Phnom Prich WS.

In eastern Mondolkiri, **Dak Dam** specialities sighted on 5-6 November included a male **Maroon Oriole**, and a couple of **Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babblers** and **Silver-eared Mesias** (SMo), all species with few records.

OBSERVERS

(* = SVC guides)

AJ	Ashish John	SC *	Seab Chea
CK *	Chhun Kunthea	SM	Simon Mahood
CSO *	Chen Sophal (Naran)	SMo *	Sang Mony
DN	Duong Nara	SP	Sum Phearun
KSR	Kong San Ratanak	SSi *	San Sikol (Srun)
LA	Lisa Arensen	SSI	Suy Senglim
RV	Rours Vann	SSo *	Sanh Sophoan
RvZ	Robert van Zalinge	VT *	Vanh Tharath



The three resident vulture species at a recently killed carcass along the upper Cambodian Mekong
(Photo Jeff Schwilk)