

Report of a Birding Trip to

Southern Vietnam

26th March to 4th April 2022

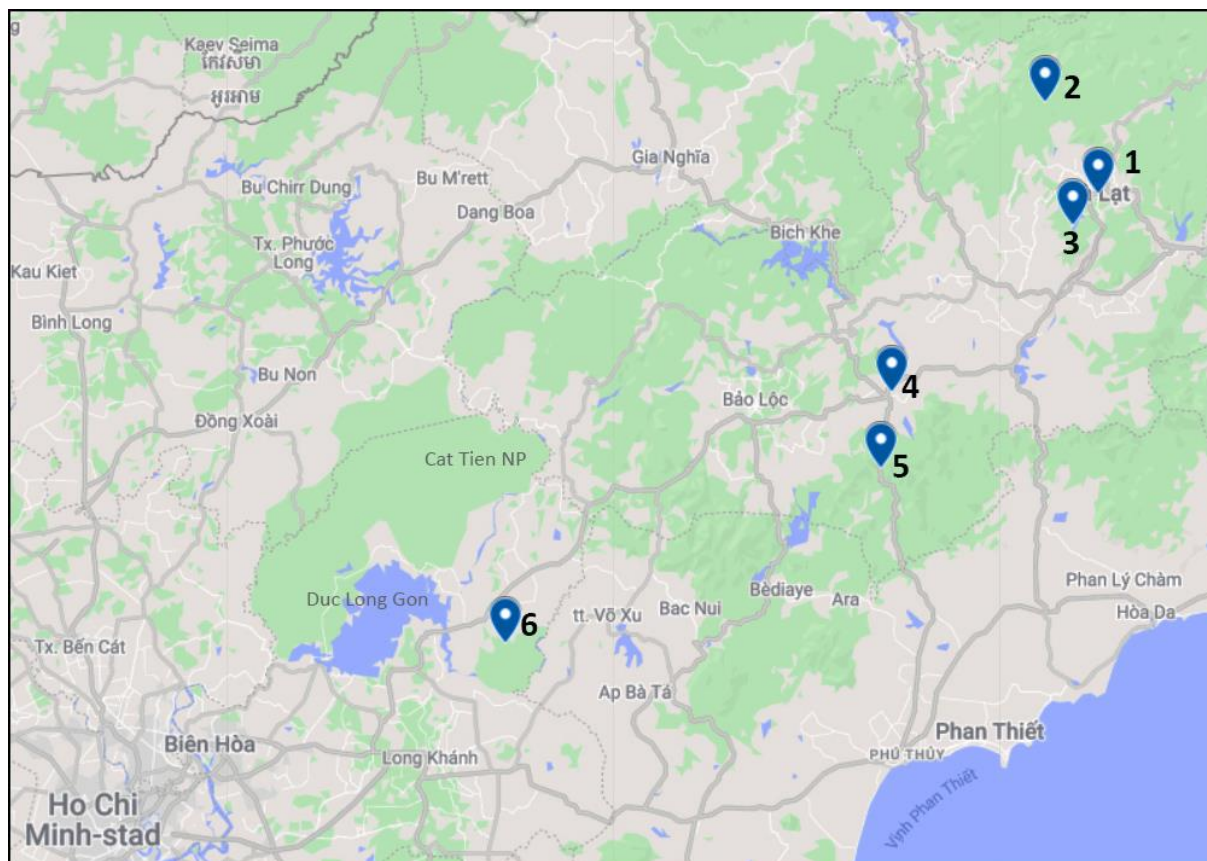
Participants:

Jan van der Laan, Dinh Thinh (Tim)(guide)



Rusty-naped Pitta – *Hydrornis oatesi bolovenensis*, 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng, Vietnam; © Jan van der Laan.

Map(s)



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Đà Lạt | 4. Di Linh |
| 2. Bidoup Núi Bà National Park | 5. Deo Nui San pass |
| 3. Hồ Tuyền Lâm (Tuyen Lake), Đà Lạt | 6. Tân Phú Forest Enterprise |



Waiting for boarding time for flight VJ364 to Đà Lạt, 26 March 2022, Domestic Airport, Ho Chi Minh City; © Jan van der Laan.

Introduction

Between 27th March and 4th April 2022 I travelled to Vietnam in order to find three species of Pitta plus seeing as many Indochinese endemics as possible, with special emphasis on Laughingthrushes. Initially, I had planned to travel with Arjan Brenkman to Sri Lanka a month earlier, but I was diagnosed to have covid-19 a few days before departure. We only could postpone this trip to January 2023, because Arjan had no spare time left the rest of the year. I decided to go on my own to Vietnam, as Arjan had travelled here before and because I wanted to see Bar-bellied and Blue-rumped Pitta as soon as possible.

I contacted Dinh Thinh (Tim) from [Annam Birding](#) whom I knew from Facebook and who was willing to guide me to southern Vietnam doing the Đà Lạt plateau first, followed by the Deo Nui San pass and finally to Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, a good stretch of lowland rain forest and a good alternative for Cat Tien.

Vietnam had re-opened its borders on 15 March 2022 after a two-year lockdown. At first it seems a one-day quarantine was mandatory, but in the end only a negative test (either PCR or Antigen rapid test) was required. A visa was obtained via [this site](#). I booked my international flight ticket from Amsterdam to Ho Chi Minh City via Singapore Airlines. The domestic ticket to Đà Lạt was booked by Tim via VietJet Air.

Itinerary

25 Mar I took flight SQ329 from Singapore Airlines from **Amsterdam** to Singapore at 10:25 hours. When checking in the people from Singapore Airlines already felt sorry for me because of my length and put me on the emergency-exit row, although I had Premium Economy ticket with enough leg space! The flight departed on time and I watched several movies, but there was not a great deal of choice.

26 Mar We arrived at 6:00 hours at **Changi Airport** in **Singapore**. My next flight was SQ178 to Ho Chi Minh City at 9:50 hours. The airport was almost deserted. The plane departed and arrived on time at **Tân Sơn Nhất Airport** in **Ho Chi Minh City** at 11:00 hours. This airport was even more deserted, but due to highly efficient bar-code scanning my health declaration and visa were quickly registered and in a few minutes I found out my suit case had arrived too, so I walked to the domestic airport to take my flight to Đà Lạt. The domestic terminal is a few 100 meters from the International terminal. I checked in my suit case and went to terminal for the departure of flight VJ364 to Đà Lạt at 15:45 hours. After a long wait the plane departed at 16:00 hours and around 17:00 hours I arrived at **San Bay Cam Ly Airport, Đà Lạt**. A very happy Tim was already waiting for me and he introduced me to Len, our faithful driver for the coming ten days. We drove to Đà Lạt, had a quick dinner at a small restaurant along the road and finally I checked in at the [River Prince Hotel](#) in **Đà Lạt**, where I would stay for four nights. I went to sleep as early as 20:00 hours.

27 Mar In the morning we drove north to a part of the **Bidoup Núi Bà National Park** along road **722**. First birds were Spotted Dove, Dalat Shrike-babbler (the first endemic!), Kloss's Leaf Warbler, Indian Cuckoo, Mountain Bulbul, Necklaced Barbet, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, Green-backed Tit and Black-throated Bushtit. We heard a Blue Pitta and Collared Laughingthrush and had bad views of a Black-headed Parrotbill. We arrived at the hide just before nine, so I became a little bit nervous. The hide was rich of birds: Mountain Fulvetta, Lesser Shortwing, Large Niltava and White-tailed Robin were present almost all the time. At 9:40 a large blob appeared in the background: a female Rusty-naped Pitta! I never expected it to see it here in Vietnam. The bird fed on the mealworms and disappeared again. Not long after the male also made an appearance. Also here was a Dark-sided Thrush and one or two Rufous-throated Partridges, both giving excellent views. After an hour or so we returned to the road again and looked for some time along an old logging road for Green Cochoa, but we only heard a Vietnamese Cutia and Hume's Treecreeper and saw White-throated Fantail. At noon we took a short break for lunch and around 13:00 hours we went to another hide supposed to be good for Orange-

breasted Laughingthrush and Short-tailed Scimitar-Babblers, but the Orange-breasted did not show itself. However, we managed to see White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Verditer Flycatcher, Siberian and Orange-headed Thrush, Rufous-browed Flycatcher, Black-headed Sibia and finally a family of four Short-tailed Scimitar-Babblers! Unfortunately it was very dark due to some passing clouds, so my photographs were not very good. We left the place at 14:30 hours and spent the rest of the day roadside birding along the **road 722**. Best birds were Green-backed Tit, Rufous-capped Babbler, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Annam (Long-tailed) Minivet and Plain (Blue-winged) Minla. We had dinner in **Đà Lạt** and again I went to bed early, not before I took the liberty having a bath in my hotel room.

28 Mar This morning we went back to **Bidoup Núi Bà National Park** along road **722** and we would bird the old logging road that runs from road 722 to the southwest. On our way to this spot we saw our first House Swifts, several Green-backed Tits and the best bird, a pair of Vietnamese Cutia's! I learned the best trick is to play the sound of Collared Scops Owl to get them into viewing distance. Also here were Chestnut-sided Nuthatch, White-faced Jay, Chinese Francolin (heard-only), Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler (heard-only) and White-browed Scimitar Babbler (also heard-only), Annam (Gould's) Sunbird, Flavescent Bulbul and Rufous-capped Babbler. We started birding the trail at around 8:00 hours and traced birds like Pygmy Cupwing, Red-headed Trogon, Little Spiderhunter, Maroon Oriole (common), White-bellied Erpornis and White-browed Piculet. A Scaly Thrush and a Grey Wagtail were flushed from the side of the trail and soon we found a flock with Yellow-cheeked Tits and Yellow-billed Nuthatch in it. Suddenly a thrush-like bird came flying in and sat before us on a branch. With the Sumatran Cochoa from 2014 still in my mind I quickly identified it as a male Green Cochoa! According to Tim there are four birds present in this general area. We continued birding and a Black-crowned Fulvetta made a close appearance, followed by Pale Blue Flycatcher, Spotted Forktail (nice!), Hume's Treecreeper (well seen) and finally the call of Collared Laughingthrush was heard. Tim whistled back and immediately a pair of Collared Laughingthrushes came out the undergrowth. What a bird! Further along the trail we had cursory views of a Yellow-crowned Green Magpie and Black-headed Parrotbill. Today was a hot day, so we decided to drive back to **Đà Lạt** and try Grey-crowned Crocias in the afternoon. So after a short lunch break, we found ourselves at 15:00 hours at **southwest of Đà Lạt** in some secondary growth habitat which was also supposed to be good for Dalat Bush Warbler. We found several House Swifts, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Brown-backed (Ashy) Bulbul (the subspecies *remotus*, very nice and a possible future split), Plain Minla, Clicking Shrike-babbler, Indochinese Barbet and our main quarry, the Grey-crowned Crocias (nice close-by)! The other target, the Dalat Bush Warbler was not cooperative, so we decided to check another spot further along the road. There it was noisy, because of people on scooters were returning home. The best birds were Chinese Pond Heron, Black-collared Starling, Hume's White-eye and a distant group of Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush (heard only). We drove back at 17:00 hours to **Đà Lạt** and saw our first Brown Shrike. In **Đà Lạt** we had dinner in a pizza restaurant opposite the hotel. At 20:00 hours I went to bed.

29 Mar Again we went to the old logging road in the **Bidoup Núi Bà National Park** along road **722**. On our way we had a group of five Vietnamese Cutia's, a single Vietnamese Greenfinch, two Large Cuckooshrikes, several Green-backed Tits and Black-headed Bushtits, White-faced Jays, two Scaly Thrushes, Black Bulebuls, Rufous-throated Partridge (calling from a distance), a male Mugimaki Flycatcher and a Blue Pitta calling at close range, but it came not into view. At the start of the logging road a lone Vietnamese Greenfinch showed itself quite well (finally) and a male Long-tailed Minivet. Along the logging road we observed Red-headed Trogon (heard-only), Grey-throated Babbler, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Little Pied Flycatcher, White-browed Scimitar Babbler (heard-only), White-spectacled Warbler, Necklaced Barbet, Collared Laughingthrush (same pair as yesterday), Black-headed Sibia, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, White-crowned Forktail, Greater Yellow-nape and finally, good views of the Yellow-crowned Green Magpie. It was a pair with two recently fledged juveniles. We returned to **Đà Lạt** for a short break and in the afternoon we went back to the Dalat Bush Warbler site,

southwest of Đà Lạt. A Burmese Shrike and Grey Bush Chat were even new species for me. House Swifts were passing over our heads and suddenly a Dalat Bush Warbler responded to my playing! For half an hour we tried to get views, but in the end we had seen every body part, but never simultaneously. Tim managed to get a good picture. Next we drove to the southwestern part of **Tuyen Lake** for Vietnamese Crossbill and Slender-billed Oriole. Best birds were Vinous-breasted Myna, Slender-billed Oriole, Ashy Woodswallow, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo (heard-only), Chinese Pond Heron, Little Grebe, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Scarlet Minivet and Burmese Shrike. Unfortunately, no Vietnamese Crossbill came to drink. When the sun set, we returned to **Đà Lạt** where we had dinner at the same restaurant as the first evening. Around 20:00 hours Tim and Len dropped me at the hotel and I went to sleep at 21:30 hours.

30 Mar In the morning we went again to the southwestern part of **Tuyen Lake** to try again for Vietnamese Crossbill. Again no crossbills turned up, so we went to another track that runs to Tuyen Lake and where is good mixed forest. In the past birders had seen Dalat Sibia here plus Eye-browed Wren-Babbler here. My most wanted bird here, however, was Black-hooded Laughingthrush. We went off trail into the darker part of the forest and we managed to find a pair of Black-hooded Laughingthrushes and an elusive Eye-browed Wren-Babbler. After this success we continued looking for Dalat Sibia. No Sibia's were found, but we found Red-vented Barbet, Indochinese Green Magpie, White-tailed Robin, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Grey-crowned Crocias (heard-only), Annam Sunbird and close views of Plain Minla. At 10:00 we gave up on the Vietnamese Crossbill and the Dalat Sibia. We drove back to the hotel, checked out and went south, but quickly we had to drive back for my passport to collect at the hotel. Tim knew a good spot for Langbian Sunbird at **Thác Datanla** (Datanla Waterfall), but we found Blue-whistling Thrush, Rufous-capped babbler and Vietnamese Cutia instead. Next we drove to **Di Linh**, our base for the next days. We checked-in at the [Bao Phu Hotel](#), where we had a basic room with very hard mattresses. After a quick lunch we drove in the direction of the **Deo Nui San pass**. On our way to the pass we looked for Annam Prinia on the local rubbish dump. No Prinia, but Asian Koel, Germain's Swiftlet, Dusky Warbler, a sparrowhawk species, Lineated and Indochinese Barbet. We continued to the pass and the first birds there were Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Great Iora, Ashy Drongo (white-faced form), Black-headed Parrotbill and finally a male Langbian Sunbird (the only one we had the entire trip). We put a considerable effort trying to find Orange-breasted Laughingthrush, but in vain. We had dinner at the small roadside café and waiting till the night fell. When it was dark enough, we started to look for Hodgson's Frogmouth, but no success. We heard Oriental Bay Owl, Collared Scops Owl and Mountain Scops Owl, but none of these came into view. After an hour or two we went back to the hotel in **Di Linh** and went to sleep quickly, although the mattress did hurt quite a lot.

31 Mar Early morning we returned to the rubbish dump south between **Di Linh** and the **Deo Nui San pass**. In Di Linh we picked up two Vietnamese birders. At the rubbish dump we had a coffee and suddenly the Annam Prinia responded and sat in top of a bush in front of us! Other birds seen or heard were Asian Koel, Racket-tailed Treepie, Ashy Drongo, Vinous-breasted Starling, Zebra Dove Sooty-headed Bulbul, Plaintive Cuckoo and Flavescent Bulbul. At 7:45 we began our vigil in the hide at the **Deo Nui San pass**. First bird was a Mugimaki Flycatcher followed by two Blue-rumped Pitta's! I could not believe my eyes as I only expect them to be a lowland species. The birds showed themselves very well and the second new pitta species for me was in the bag. Other birds here were White-throated Rock Thrush, Long-tailed Broadbill, Siberian Blue Robin, Bay Woodpecker, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Blue-Pitta (heard-only), Hainan Blue Flycatcher and very good views of a pair Indochinese Green Magpies. We took a short break at a roadside restaurant overlooking the valley and saw Blue-winged Leafbird, Streak-breasted Spiderhunter and Olive-backed Sunbird. The rest of the afternoon we birded along **road 28** in the vicinity of the **Deo Nui San pass**. Birds observed were Ashy and Bronzed Drongo, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Dark-necked Tailorbird, White-rumped Munia, Large

Woodshrike, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater and Vernal Hanging Parrot. We spent actually all our time trying to find Orange-breasted Laughingthrush and Annam Streaked Wren-Babbler, but we could not find any trace of both. Just before dark we returned to the roadside restaurant to pick up the other two Vietnamese birders. I managed to see a Black Eagle soaring over. We returned to **Đi Linh** where we had dinner with all of us and drank a few beers to celebrate the Blue-rumped Pitta at restaurant **Nhà Hang Tam Chau**, which proved to be very nice. At around 21:00 we returned to the hotel and went to sleep.

1 Apr

We rose very early (4:00) to get to the **Deo Nui San pass** to look for Hodgson's Frogmouth. We heard Brown Wood Owl and Collared Scops Owl, but no Frogmouth. When sun rose, we had some coffee and listened for Orange-breasted Laughingthrush on at least four locations. We only managed to see Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Yellow-vented Green Pigeon, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Indochinese Barbet, Long-tailed Broadbill, Green-billed Malkoha, Scarlet Minivet, Ashy Bulbul, Flavescent Bulbul, Red-headed Trogon, Yellow-bellied Warbler and a Jerdon's Baza. Again no trace of Orange-breasted Laughingthrush or Annam Streaked Wren-Babbler. We returned to **Đi Linh** at around noon, packed our stuff and checked out of the hotel at 11:00 hours and drove first **Bảo Lộc** to have a short lunch and eventually to **Tân Phú** where we checked in at c 14:30 hours in motel **Nhà nghỉ Xuân Trang** (no internet site) in **Định Quảng**, where we would stay for three nights. After we dropped our luggage, we went to the **Tân Phú Forest Enterprise**, the home patch of Tim. We drove to the favourite spot for Bar-bellied Pitta and we waited for several hours. First birds were White-throated Kingfisher, Grey-eyed, Strip-throated and Ochraceous Bulbuls, Pale-legged Leaf Warbler, Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher, Abbott's Babbler, Narcissus Flycatcher, Scaly-crowned Babbler, Green-eared Barbet and finally a calling Bar-bellied Pitta (heard-only). At around 18:00 we were back at the hotel again. I was too tired for any dinner and definitely not hungry, so I said some bananas were OK for me, so at around 20:30 hours I was asleep already.

2 Apr

Today we birded the whole day in the **Tân Phú Forest Enterprise**. First we went to a hide that was supposedly the best for Bar-bellied Pitta. First birds were Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Ochraceous Bulbul, Puff-throated Babbler, Abbott's Babbler, Grey-faced Tit-Babbler, Narcissus Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin and White-throated Rock Thrush. At 7:30 a pair of Bar-bellied Pitta's made an appearance. Especially the female gave a good show, the male was a little bit suspicious. After a short lunch break we went to another hide where Dat (Tim's brother) had seen a Siamese Fireback at 9:00 hours in the morning. Birds observed here were Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Greater Coucal and Common Emerald Dove. Suddenly, behind the hide I heard some scratching and when I turned my head I saw it was a partridge one meter behind the hide. Unfortunately, the bird noticed me and ran away, but it suddenly appeared before the hide and I could identify it as an Orange-necked Partridge! The rest of the afternoon we spent on road birding with a few side trails looking for Heart-spotted Woodpecker. This search produced Bay Woodpecker, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Common Flameback and a pair of Large Scimitar Babblers. When we returned at the hotel, I found the lock of my hotel room to be broken. A group of repair men managed to fix it after an hours work, resulting in a brand new lock. Later, we had dinner at a nice restaurant (**Com Nieu Cay Bang**) and at 20:30 hours we were back at the hotel. At c 22:00 hours I went to sleep.

3 Apr

This morning we went again to the **Tân Phú Forest Enterprise** and tried for the Siamese Fireback first. The fireback did not show itself, but we observed Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher, Scaly-crowned Babbler, Laced Woodpecker, Greater Coucal, Red-headed Trogon, Blue-winged Pitta (heard), another Orange-necked Partridge, Banded Kingfisher, Great Iora, Heart-spotted Woodpecker and Crested Serpent Eagle. Next, we went to another place, supposedly best for Orange-necked Partridge. This was a piece of forest dominated by bamboo (an inflexible, long and sharp thorns). We waited not that long when a beautiful Orange-necked Partridge appeared and showed itself for quite some time. A Blue-

winged Pitta was also present, giving good photographic opportunities. We heard a Asian Barred, Red-headed Trogon and Red Junglefowl. It was a hot day and around noon we took a break at a nearby restaurant, where we had cold drinks, a hammock and rice with eggs. The remainder of the afternoon we birded at the hide we had visited on the morning of 2 April. No new birds, but good sightings of Grey-faced Tit-Babbler and Abbott's and Buff-breasted Babblers. It started to rain very hard so we returned to the hotel and had dinner again at **Com Nieu Cay Bang**. At 19:00 hours we were back at the hotel again, with rain pouring even harder, so no owling tonight. As we had to leave the next day, I already packed and sorted my stuff and went to sleep at 22:00 hours.

4 Apr The last morning at the **Tân Phú Forest Enterprise** we first checked the hide of the Siamese Fireback. The Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher was already present. Grey-faced Tit-Babblers were calling around the hide and a small group showed itself for a short period. A Blue-winged Pitta called as were Blue-eared Barbet, Blue-bearded Bee-eater and Asian Emerald Cuckoo. Greater Coucal and Greater Racket-tailed Drongo showed themselves at close range. At 7:16 hours a male Siamese Fireback made a short appearance and disappeared instantly. We decided to go to the first hide as Bar-bellied Pitta's were calling there. Indeed a pair gave a good show, with another pair calling nearby. Again an Orange-necked Partridge crossed the patch before the hide! Best bird was a Green-backed Flycatcher, however, a rare bird in this region. Then Dat came back with the message he had a calling Germain's Peacock-pheasant at the Orange-necked Partridge site of yesterday. We ran into the forest and looked and listened for an hour or so, but in vain. When walking back to the car we saw Banded Broadbill, Black-naped Monarch and Crested Goshawk. At 10:30 we had to leave the forest and drove back to the hotel. I packed my things, had a quick shower, changed clothes and prepared for the long trip to home. At 11:30 we left the hotel and had lunch at the same restaurant **Com Nieu Cay Bang**. At 12:15 it was time to say goodbye to Tim as he was not joining Len and me back to Ho Chi Minh City. The ride to **Ho Chi Minh City** was smooth with no problems and at 14:50 we arrived at the airport **Tân Sơn Nhất**. I said goodbye to Len and thanked him for his faithful and safe driving during the whole trip. At the airport I had to wait till 16:40 hours before I could check in. In the meantime I had a nice conversation with a Dutch girl, who worked in Vietnam as a teacher and was now visiting her parents in the Netherlands again. She had not been in the Netherlands for two years due to the lockdown. As I upgraded my ticket to Singapore to business class, I could sit in the business class lounge, making the three-hours wait very comfortable. I also met a Dutch birder Marc Stoop who lived in Singapore and exchanged information about Plain-pouched Hornbills in Malaysia. At 21:20 we started to board and at 22:00 hours flight SQ185 to **Singapore** departed. At 23:00 we arrived at **Terminal 1**, so we had to transfer to **Terminal 3**. There boarding went without delay and I had no passenger sitting next to me. At 0:20 hours flight SQ324 departed to **Amsterdam**.

5 Apr After an uneventful flight with hardly any turbulence I landed at 7:50 hours at **Schiphol Airport**. After a little more than half-an-hour waiting for my suit case, I was able to catch a train in time and I arrived in **Alkmaar** at 9:35 hours.

Species Accounts

Order and nomenclature follows www.worldbirdnames.org, version 12.1. Species important to me are in capitals. In some cases I preferred to use the names used in the Birds of Vietnam. The photographs are in chronological order.

Recommended Literature

I used Birds of Vietnam by Richard Craik and Lê Quý Minh (2018, Lynx Edicions), an excellent field guide with a very progressive taxonomy.

Trip reports can be found at www.cloudbirders.com, www.surfbirds.com and www.birdtours.co.uk

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following persons: Tim Dinh for excellent guiding and being good company, Len for safe and sound driving, Dat Dinh (Tim's brother) for great help at Tân Phú, Vincent van der Spek for his excellent bird report, Arjan Brenkman for support and useful information, Jur van der Laan for some financial sponsoring and finally my dear girlfriend Marieke Wiringa for bringing me to the airport and taking care of the home front.

[Jan van der Laan](#), Alkmaar April 2022.



Tim trying to lure the elusive Dalat Bush Warbler, 29 March 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Kloss's Leaf Warbler; right: Necklaced Barbet, both on 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



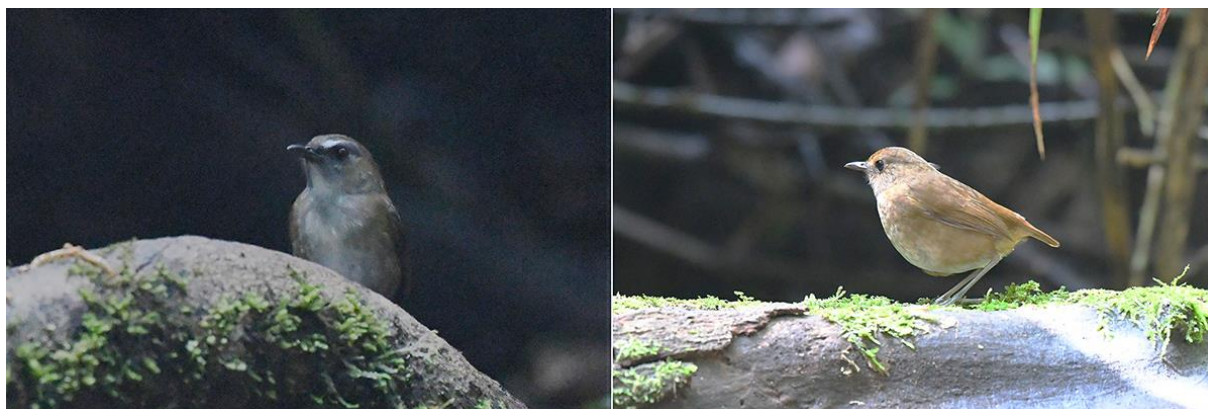
Left: Southern Mountain Bulbul; right: Grey-crowned Bushtit, both on 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: White-tailed Robin; right: Mountain Fulvetas, both on 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left and right: Large Niltavas (male & female), 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Lesser Shortwings, male (left) and female (right), both on 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Dark-sided Thrush, 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



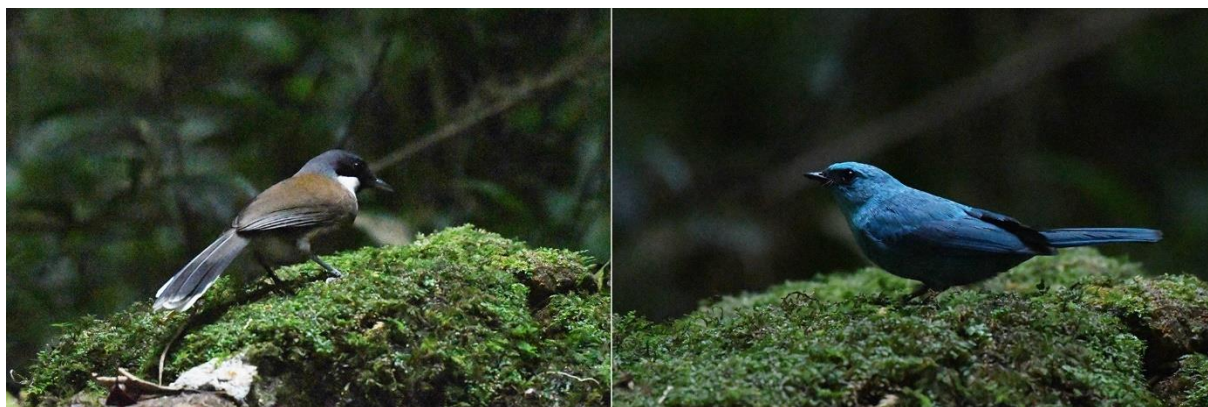
Rufous-throated Partridge, 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Male Rusty-naped Pitta (ssp. *bolovenensis*), 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Female Rusty-naped Pitta (ssp. *bolovenensis*), 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: White-cheeked Laughingthrush; right: Verditer Flycatcher, both on 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: female Siberian Thrush; right: Orange-headed Thrush, both on 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Family of Short-tailed Scimitar Babblers or Indochinese Wren-babblers, 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.

It was very dark due to overcast weather and therefore there is much noise in this series of photographs.



Two endemic subspecies, both good candidates for a future split: left: White-spectacled or Black-headed *Sibia* ssp *robinsoni*; right: female Annam or Long-tailed Minivet ssp *annamensis*, both on 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



One of the nicest and most wanted Indochinese endemics: Vietnamese *Cutia*, male (left) and female (right), 28 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Maroon Oriole; right: White-browed Piculet, both on 28 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: White-browed (aka Dalat) Shrike-babbler; right: Spotted Forktail, both on 28 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP; © Jan van der Laan.



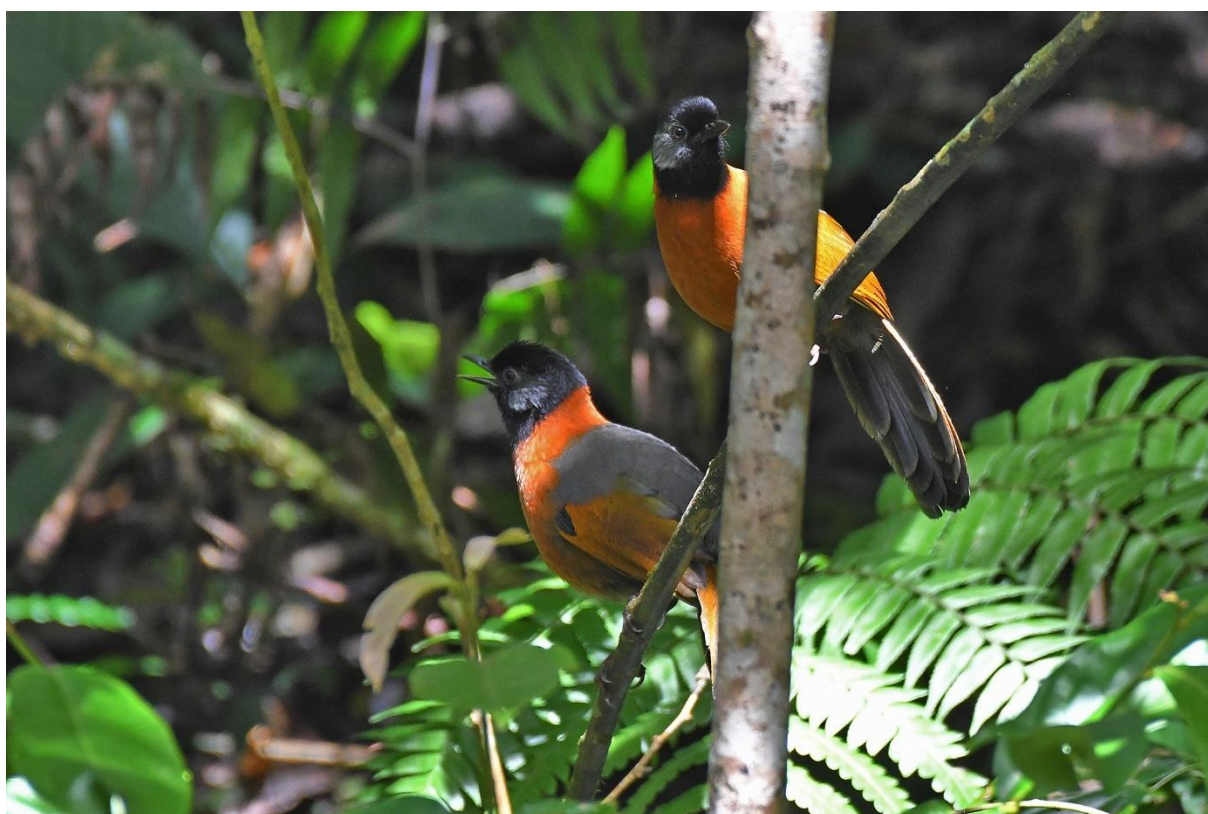
Male Green Cochoa, 28 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Another Đà Lạt Plateau endemic: Black-crowned Fulvetta, 28 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP; © Jan van der Laan.



The most beautiful bird of Vietnam? Collared Laughingthrushes, 28 March 2022 Bidoup Núi Bà NP; © Jan van der Laan.



Same pair of Collared Laughingthrushes, now in the sun, 28 March 2022 Bidoup Núi Bà NP; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Pale Blue Flycatcher (or a female Verditer? Suggestions are welcome); right: Hume's Treecreeper, both on 28 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Another endemic, the Grey-crowned Crocias, 28 March 2022, southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



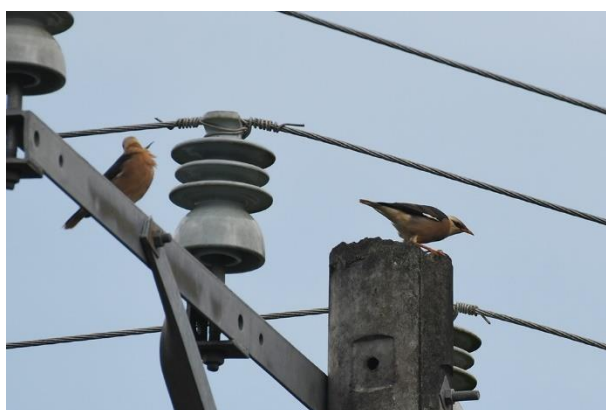
Left: Mugimaki Flycatcher; right: Little Pied Flycatcher, both on 29 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP; © Jan van der Laan.



Recently fledged Yellow-crowned Green Magpie (*ssp margaritae*), 29 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP; © Jan van der Laan. The feathers on the belly are still fledgling feathers, the breast feathers are already green like an adult. A yellow feather on the crown is just visible (inset).



Another local species one must see: Yellow-billed Nuthatch, 29 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Vinaceous Starling or Myna, 29 March 2022, Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan; right: the endemic and always skulking Dalat Bush Warbler, seen after a lot of effort, 29 March 2022, Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Tim Dinh.



Left: Scarlet Minivet ssp *semiruber*; right: Sooty-headed Bulbul ssp *germani*, both on 29 March 2022, Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Vietnamese Greenfinches, 29 March 2022, Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Slender-billed Oriole; right: Ashy Woodswallow, both 30 March 2022, Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Annam Sunbirds, male (left) and female (right), both on 30 March 2022, Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



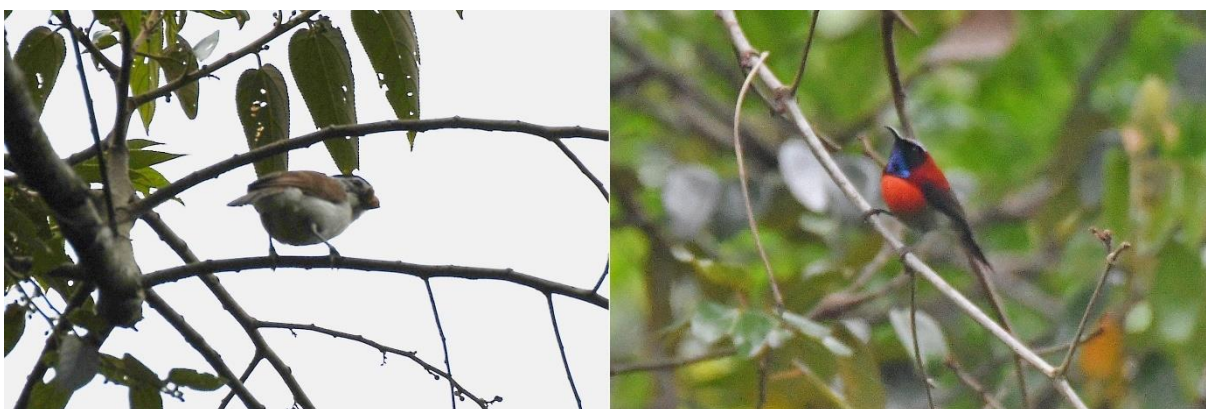
Plain Minla, 30 March 2022, Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan. Note the light eye and plain appearance plus the lack of blue margins on the wings.



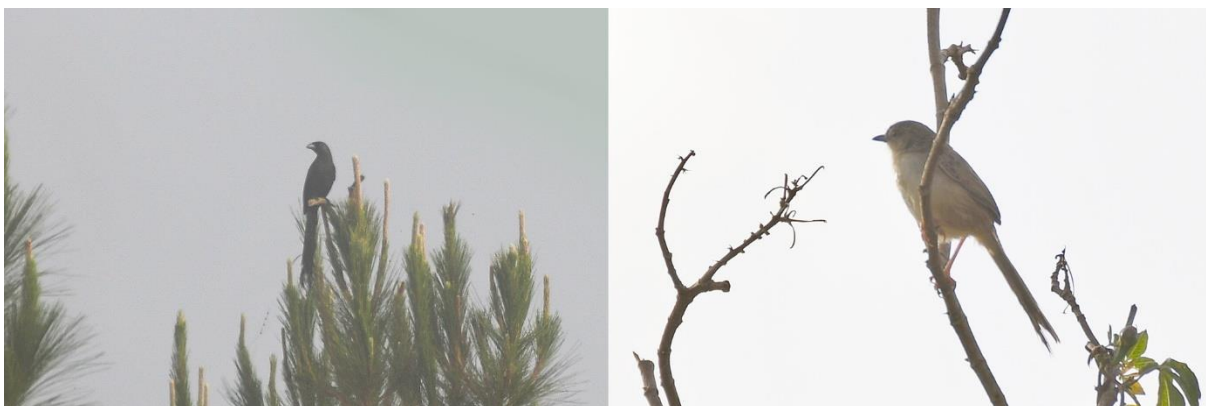
Left: Red-vented Barbet; right: Indochinese Barbet, both on 30 March 2022, Hồ Tuyên Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Singing Mountain Imperial Pigeon showing three steps: inflating, bowing and hooting; 30 March 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Black-headed Parrotbill; right: Langbian Sunbird, both on 30 March 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Racket-tailed Treepie; right: Annam Prinia, both on 31 March 2022 south of Di Linh, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Male Blue-rumped Pitta, 31 March 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



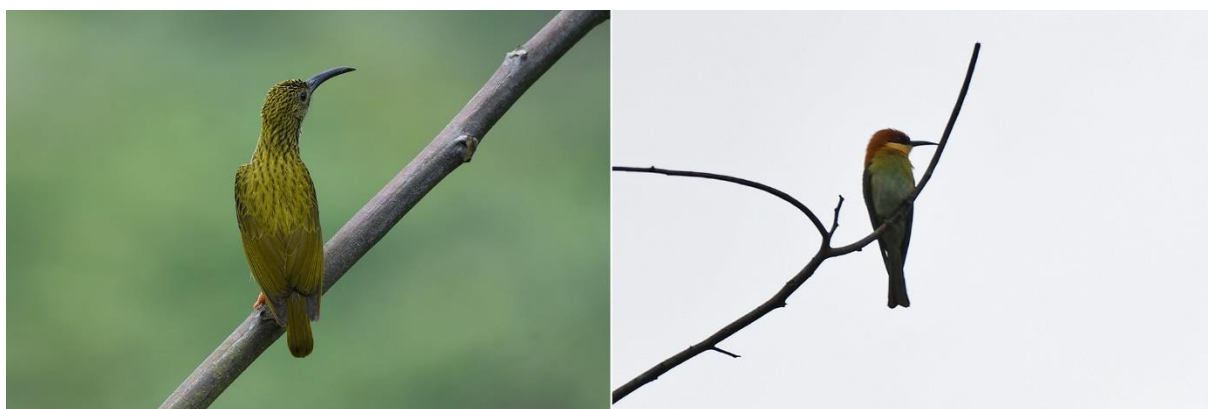
Female Blue-rumped Pitta, 31 March 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan. Note the bird has a fly on the lower eye lid.



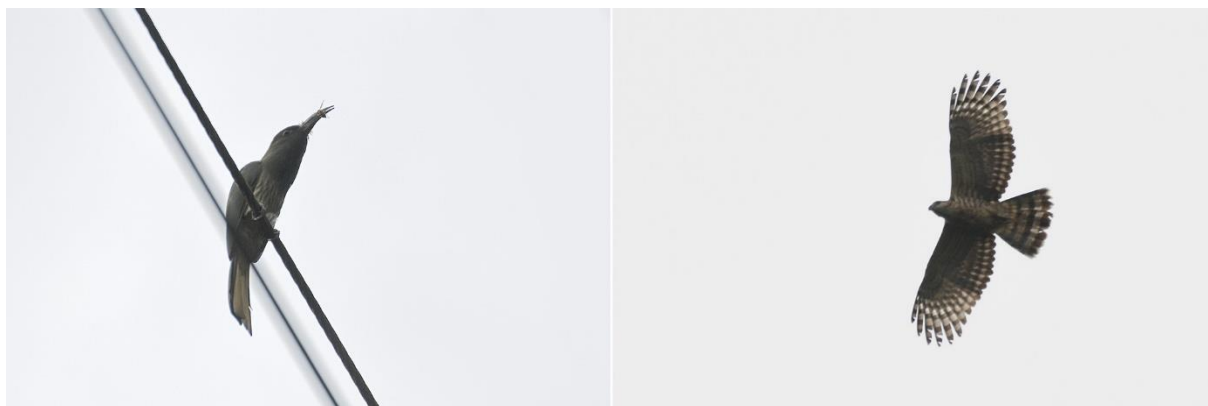
Left: male White-throated Rock Thrush; right: Indochinese Green Magpie, both on 31 March 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Hainan Blue Flycatcher, male (left) and female (right), 31 March 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Streaked Spiderhunter; right: Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, both on 31 March 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Blue-bearded Bee-eater; right: Jerdon's Baza, both on 1 April 2022, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Common Emerald Dove; right: Stripe-throated Bulbul, both on 1 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Grey-eyed Bulbul; right: Siberian Blue Robin, both on 1 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Ochraceous Bulbul; right: Narcissus Flycatcher, both on 1 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Narcissus Flycatcher; right: Puff-throated Babbler, both on 2 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left and right: female Bar-bellied Pitta, 2 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



The same female Bar-bellied Pitta, 2 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



A pair of Indochinese Blue Flycatchers, both on 2 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: female White-throated Rock Thrush; right: Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, both on 2 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Abbott's Babbler; right: male Bar-bellied Pitta, both on 2 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Streak-eared Bulbul; right: Buff-breasted Babbler, both on 2 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Great Racquet-tailed Drongo, on 2 April 2022; right: Laced Woodpecker on 3 April 2022, both at the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Greater Coucal; right: female Narcissus Flycatcher, both on 3 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Scaly-crowned Babbler; right: Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher, both on 3 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Blue-winged Pitta, 3 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Orange-necked Partridge digging for food, 3 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Orange-necked Partridge, 3 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher; right: another Orange-necked Partridge, both on 4 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Male Bar-bellied Pitta, calling to another male, 4 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Male Bar-bellied Pitta, 4 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Bar-bellied Pitta in a more natural setting; right: female Bar-bellied Pitta, both on 4 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Second-calendar year female-type Green-backed Flycatcher, a rare bird in Đồng Nai province; note the greenish uppertail coverts (more brownish green in Narcissus Flycatcher) and the yellowish wash on the underparts, stout bill and yellowish eye-ring; 4 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Crested Goshawk; right: Banded Broadbill, both on 4 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.

001. Rufous-throated Partridge - *Arborophila rufogularis annamensis*

- 27-03 1 (heard only) [along road 722](#), c 30 km north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 2 (one seen well, other heard) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 1 (heard only) along road 722, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

002. Bar-backed Partridge - *Arborophila brunneopectus*

- 31-03 1 (heard only) [along road QL28](#), c 20 km south of Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

003. ORANGE-NECKED PARTRIDGE - *Arborophila davidi*

- 02-04 1 (seen) 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 03-04 1 (heard only) 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 1-2 (1 heard and 1 - same? - seen well) 4th hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 04-04 1 (seen well) 1st hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

004. Siamese Fireback - *Lophura diardi*

- 04-04 1 (male) 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

005. Red Junglefowl - *Gallus gallus*

- 04-04 1 (male heard calling) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

006. Chinese Francolin - *Francolinus pintadeanus*

- 28-03 1 ([heard calling](#)) along road 722, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

007. Edible-nest Swiftlet - *Aerodramus fuciphagus*

- 30-03 3 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
 04-04 4 Tân Sơn Nhất Airport, Ho Chi Minh City.

008. House Swift - *Apus nipalensis*

- 28-03 2 Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 9 [c 15 Km southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 5 [c 15 Km southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 3 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

009. Greater Coucal - *Centropus sinensis*

- 03-04 2 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 2 4th hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 04-04 1 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

010. Green-billed Malkoha - *Phaenicophaeus tristis*

- 01-04 2 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.

011. Asian Koel - *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

- 30-03 1 (heard-only) [rubbish dump](#) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
 31-03 1 (heard-only) [rubbish dump](#) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

012. **Asian Emerald Cuckoo** - *Chrysococcyx maculatus*
04-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
013. **Banded Bay Cuckoo** - *Cacomantis sonneratii*
31-03 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
014. **Plaintive Cuckoo** - *Cacomantis merulinus*
31-03 1 [between](#) Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
015. **Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo** - *Surniculus lugubris*
29-03 1 ([heard-only](#)) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
30-03 1 ([heard-only](#), most probably same bird) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
016. **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** - *Hierococcyx sparveroides*
30-03 1 (seen) [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
017. **Indian Cuckoo** - *Cuculus micropterus*
Between 27-03 and 30-03 several birds heard daily, Đà Lạt Plateau, Lâm Đồng.
018. **Red Turtle Dove** - *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
04-04 1 (perched on a wire, seen by Tim only) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
019. **Spotted Dove** - *Spilopelia chinensis*
27-03 1 [along road 722](#), northwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
28-03 1 (same bird?) [along road 722](#), northwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
30-03 1 [west of Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
1 [Xa Gung Ré](#), south of Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
020. **Barred Cuckoo-Dove** - *Macropygia unchall*
30-03 3 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
31-03 4 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
01-04 5 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
021. **Common Emerald Dove** - *Chalcophaps indica*
01-04 2 1st hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
02-04 1 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
03-04 1 3rd hide (same bird as on 2-04), Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
022. **Zebra Dove** - *Geopelia striata*
31-03 1 [Xa Gung Ré](#), south of Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
023. **Pin-tailed Green Pigeon** - *Treron apicauda*
31-03 6 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.

024. Yellow-vented Green Pigeon - *Treron seimundi modestus*

01-04 2-3 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.

025. Mountain Imperial Pigeon - *Ducula badia*

27-03 3 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

29-03 2 [landslide along road 722](#), Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

Between 30-03 and 1-04 5 to 8 birds seen or heard daily at the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

026. Little Grebe - *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

30-03 1 (Tim only) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

027. Little Egret - *Egretta garzetta*

30-03 2 [south of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.

1 [centre of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.

31-03 1 [south of Di Linh](#), Lâm Đồng.

028. Chinese Pond Heron - *Ardeola bacchus*

28-03 2 [southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.

29-03 1 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

30-03 2 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

1 [along road 20](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

1 [rubbish dump](#) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

31-03 1 [rubbish dump](#) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

029. Medium Egret - *Ardea intermedia*

04-04 1 [seen from the car, near lake Duc Long Gon](#), along road 20, Đồng Nai.

030. Eastern Cattle Egret - *Ardea coromandus*

27-03 6 [along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

31-03 8 [rubbish dump](#) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

031. Jerdon's Baza - *Aviceda jerdoni*

01-04 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.

032. Crested Serpent Eagle - *Spilornis cheela*

Heard daily at Bidoup Núi Bà National Park on 27-03 and 28-03 and seen on 28-03. At the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise heard daily between 1-04 and 4-04.

033. Black Eagle - *Ictinaetus malayensis*

31-03 1 [between Deo Nui San pass and Di Linh](#), Lâm Đồng.

034. Crested Goshawk – *Lophospiza trivirgata*

30-03 1 (with prey) rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

04-04 1 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.

035. Oriental Bay Owl - *Phodilus badius*

30-03 1 ([heard calling](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

036. Asian Barred Owlet - *Glaucidium cuculoides*

03-04 1 ([heard calling](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

037. Mountain Scops Owl - *Otus spilocephalus*

30-03 1 ([heard calling](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

038. Collared Scops Owl - *Otus lettia*

From 28-03 to 1-04 heard daily on the Đà Lạt Plateau and the Deo Nui San pass, totalling 12 birds and with a maximum of 5 birds on 1-04. One bird was seen on 28-03 in Bidoup Núi Bà National Park. The call attracts a lot of songbirds, especially the Vietnamese Cutia is very intolerant to the presence of this little owl.

039. Brown Wood Owl - *Strix leptogrammica*

01-04 1 ([heard calling](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

040. Red-headed Trogon - *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

28-03 1 ([seen](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 1 (heard only) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 (heard only) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 1 (heard only) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
 01-04 2 (heard only) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
 04-04 2 (heard only) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

041. Eurasian Hoopoe - *Upupa epops*

30-03 1 [Huên Dúc Trong](#), Lâm Đồng.

042. Indochinese Roller - *Coracias affinis*

02-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

043. Banded Kingfisher - *Lacedo pulchella*

03-04- 1 (heard calling) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

044. White-throated Kingfisher - *Halcyon smyrnensis*

02-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

045. Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher - *Ceyx erithaca*

On 2-04, 3-04 and [4-04](#) 1 bird seen at close range in the 3rd hide at the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

046. Blue-bearded Bee-eater - *Nyctyornis athertoni*

28-03 1 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 01-04 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
 02-04 1 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.
 04-04 2 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

047. **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** - *Merops leschenaulti*
 30-03 2 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
 31-03 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
048. **RED-VENTED BARBET** - *Psilopogon lagrandieri*
 30-03 2 [Hồ Tuyên Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
049. **Lineated Barbet** - *Psilopogon lineatus*
 30-03 1 (heard only) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
050. **Green-eared Barbet** - *Psilopogon faiostrictus*
 01-04 1 (heard only) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
051. **NECKLACED BARBET** - *Psilopogon auricularis*
 Common on the Đà Lạt Plateau and Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng, with daily totals of up to five birds.
052. **INDOCHINESE BARBET** - *Psilopogon annamensis*
 Fairly common on the Đà Lạt Plateau and Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng, with daily totals of up to four birds.
053. **Blue-eared Barbet** - *Psilopogon duvaucelii*
 04-04 1 (heard only) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
054. **Coppersmith Barbet** - *Psilopogon haemacephalus*
 30-03 1 (heard only) [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
055. **White-browed Piculet** - *Sasia ochracea*
 28-03 1 ([seen quite well](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
056. **Heart-spotted Woodpecker** - *Hemicircus canente*
 02-04 1 ([heard first, followed by a glimpse](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 03-04 1 ([heard only](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
057. **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** - *Yungipicus canicapillus*
 29-03 1 [Hồ Tuyên Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 [south of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.
058. **Greater Yellownape** - *Chrysophlegma flavinucha flavinucha*
 29-03 1 ([seen well](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
059. **Laced Woodpecker** - *Picus vittatus*
 03-04 1 ([seen at close range](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
060. **Common Flameback** - *Dinopium javanense*
 02-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

061. **Bay Woodpecker** - *Blythipicus pyrrhotis annamensis*

- 31-03 2 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
 02-04 1 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.

062. **Vernal Hanging Parrot** - *Loriculus vernalis*

- 31-03 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.

063. **Long-tailed Broadbill** - *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

- 31-03 2 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
 01-04 3 (two seen) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

064. **Silver-breasted Broadbill** - *Serilophus lunatus*

- 27-03 1 (heard only) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

065. **Banded Broadbill** - *Eurylaimus javanicus*

- 04-04 1 [along the road](#), Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

066. **RUSTY-NAPED PITTA** - *Hydrornis oatesi bolovenensis*

- 27-03 2 (a pair seen very well) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

My most wanted bird this holiday. When negotiating with Tim before the trip a month earlier about the Pitta's, he initially said it was not the best time for this species, but after a week he proposed to do the trip with a start in Đà Lạt instead of ending there, as end of March could be still OK for Rusty-naped Pitta. Indeed this was a very good choice. The pair is present here for several years and raised three young in 2019.

067. **BLUE-RUMPED PITTA** - *Hydrornis soror soror*

- 31-03 2 (a pair seen very well) Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

My third most wanted bird this holiday. I did not expect to see them at this height and I did not expect this bird to be so beautiful. In the books the colours are not well appreciated, but in real the male especially has all kind of soft colour tones. Something you very well see from a hide and almost never when seeing one in the gloom of the forest hopping away from the trail.

068. **Blue Pitta** - *Hydrornis cyanea willoughbyi*

- 27-03 1 (heard only) [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 1 (heard only at close range) [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.
 31-03 1 (heard only behind the hide) Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

The last two birds I could have seen with a little more effort. With five Pitta species this holiday it would have been a nice addition when seen (or photographed).

069. **BAR-BELLIED PITTA** - *Hydrornis elliotii*

- 01-04 2 (heard only) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 02-04 3 (one heard only and a pair well seen) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 04-04 4 (a pair well seen, two others heard close-by) [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.

My second most wanted bird this holiday. This pitta is not rare in Vietnam and it resulted in multiple sightings. The male is one of the most beautiful pitta's in the world.

070. **Blue-winged Pitta** - *Pitta moluccensis*

- 03-04 1 (heard only) 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 1 ([seen well](#)) 4th hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 04-04 1 (heard only) 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 1 (heard only) 1st hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

071. **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** - *Hemipus picatus*

- 29-03 2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 2 [Thác Datanla](#) (Datanla Waterfall), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 2 Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

072. **Large Woodshrike** - *Tephrodornis virgatus*

- 31-03 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.

073. **Ashy Woodswallow** - *Artamus fuscus*

- 29-03 3 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 2 Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

074. **Great Iora** - *Aegithina lafresnayei*

- 30-03 1 Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
 02-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

075. **ANNAM (Long-tailed) MINIVET** - *Pericrocotus ethologus annamensis*

- 27-03 7 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 1 ([male](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

076. **Scarlet Minivet** - *Pericrocotus speciosus*

- 29-03 1 ([male](#)) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 01-04 1 ([female](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
 04-04 2 ([pair](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

077. **Oriental Cuckooshrike** - *Coracina javensis siamensis*

- 29-03 4 (2 pairs) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

078. **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** - *Lalage melaschistos*

- 29-03 1-2 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

079. **Indochinese Cuckooshrike** - *Lalage polioptera*

- 31-03 3 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

080. **Brown Shrike** - *Lanius cristatus*

- 28-03 1 [southwestern part](#) of Đà Lạt.
 30-03 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

The bird at Đà Lạt looked very much like the nominate *cristatus*, the second bird more like *lucionensis*.

081. Burmese Shrike - *Lanius collurio*ides

- 29-03 1 (male) [at the Grey-crowned Crocias spot](#), southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 1 (male) [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 2 ([pair](#)) [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

082. White-browed Shrike-babbler - *Pteruthius aeralatus annamensis*

- 27-03 1 [along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 1 [further along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 1 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.

Annam Shrike-babbler is lumped back to White-browed Shrike-babbler *P. aeralatus* (IOC vs 13.2, 2023).

083. Clicking Shrike-babbler - *Pteruthius intermedius*

- 28-03 1 (female) [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.

084. White-bellied Erpornis - *Erpornis zantholeuca*

- 28-03 1 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.

085. Maroon Oriole - *Oriolus traillii*

Common in Bidoup Núi Bà National Park and at the Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng, with a maximum of c 6 birds each day.

086. Slender-billed Oriole - *Oriolus tenuirostris*

- 29-03 2 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

087. Bronzed Drongo - *Dicrurus aeneus*

- 31-03 1 Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
 01-04 3 Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

088. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo - *Dicrurus remifer*

- 27-03 2 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 2 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 31-03 2 Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

089. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo - *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Between 2-04 and 4-04 several birds observed and one bird [photographed](#) at close range in the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

090. Ashy Drongo - *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

- 28-03 2 [along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 2 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
 1 Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
 31-03 1 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
 1 ssp *leucogenis*, [Deo Nui San pass](#), Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
 01-04 1 ssp *leucogenis*, Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

091. **White-throated Fantail** - *Rhipidura albicollis celsa*
 30-03 1 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 27-03 2 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.
092. **Black-naped Monarch** - *Hypothymis azurea*
 04-04 1 (female on nest) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
093. **Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher** - *Terpsiphone affinis*
 01-04 1 (female) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
094. **White-faced Jay** - *Garrulus glandarius leucotis*
 28-03 2 along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 1 along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 1 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
095. **YELLOW-CROWNED GREEN MAGPIE** - *Cissa chinensis margaritae*
 28-03 1 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 4 (pair with recently fledged young) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 One of the highlights of the holiday!
096. **Indochinese Green Magpie** - *Cissa hypoleuca*
 30-03 1 (heard and a cursory view) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 31-03 2 (pair, very well seen) Deo Nui San pass, Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.
097. **Racket-tailed Treepie** - *Crypsirina temia*
 31-03 3 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
098. **Eastern Jungle Crow** - *Corvus levaillantii*
 28-03 1 along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 2 (when looking for Dalat Bush Warbler) southern part of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
099. **Green-backed Tit** - *Parus monticolus legendrei*
 27-03 1 (when driving north) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 2 (when driving back to Đà Lạt) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 3 (when driving north) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 4 (when driving north) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 This subspecies is called Langbian Tit in the Birds of Vietnam. The black on the underside is very broad.
100. **Yellow-cheeked Tit** - *Machlolophus spilonotus*
 28-03 2 (high in the canopy in a mixed flock) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

101. Ochraceous Bulbul - *Alophoixus ochraceus*

Seen daily in the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai, usually a dominant pair at several hides.

102. Grey-eyed Bulbul - *Iole propinqua*

01-04 1 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.

103. Ashy Bulbul - *Hemixos flavela remotus*

28-03 2 [southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.

01-04 2 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

This interesting subspecies is called Brown-backed Bulbul in the Birds of Vietnam, a possible future split.

104. Mountain Bulbul - *Ixos mcclellandii griseiventer*

27-03 1 ([seen well](#)) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

28-03 2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

The *tickelli* group of Mountain Bulbul is called Southern Mountain Bulbul in the Birds of Vietnam and the subspecies *griseiventer* is endemic to the Đà Lạt Plateau.

105. Black Bulbul - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Widespread and seen daily on the Đà Lạt Plateau from 27-03 to 31-03, for example, [this observation](#).

106. Black-headed Bulbul - *Brachypodius melanocephalus*

30-03 1 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

107. Black-crested Bulbul - *Rubigula flaviventris johnsoni*

31-03 5 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

108. Streak-eared Bulbul - *Pycnonotus conradi*

02-04 1 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.

109. Stripe-throated Bulbul - *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*

01-04 1 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.

02-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

110. Flavescent Bulbul - *Pycnonotus flavesens sordidus*

28-03 1 [along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

31-03 3 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

01-04 2 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

111. Yellow-vented Bulbul - *Pycnonotus goiavier*

29-04 4 [southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.

112. Sooty-headed Bulbul - *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

29-03 2 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

31-03 3 [rubbish dump](#) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

113. **Asian House Martin** - *Delichon dasypus*
28-03 2 (when driving north, seen by Tim only) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
114. **Pygmy Cupwing** - *Pnoepyga pusilla*
28-03 1 (heard only) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
115. **Yellow-bellied Warbler** - *Abroscopus superciliaris*
01-04 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.
116. **Mountain Tailorbird** - *Phyllergates cucullatus*
28-03 1 ([seen well](#)) Doup National Park, Lâm Đồng.
117. **Grey-bellied Tesia** - *Tesia cyaniventer*
27-03 1-2 (heard only) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
118. **GREY-CROWNED BUSHTIT** - *Aegithalos concinnus annamensis*
27-03 12 [along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
29-03 5 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
30-03 2 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
119. **Yellow-browed Warbler** - *Phylloscopus inornatus*
27-03 2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
28-03 1-2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
29-03 2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
120. **Dusky Warbler** - *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
30-03 1 (heard calling) rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
121. **White-spectacled Warbler** - *Phylloscopus intermedius*
27-03 1 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
28-03 3 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
29-03 3 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
122. **Grey-cheeked Warbler** - *Phylloscopus poliogenys*
28-03 2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
123. **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** - *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
01-04 1 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.
124. **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** - *Phylloscopus castaniceps*
28-03 2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
125. **Kloss's Leaf Warbler** - *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*
The most common phylloscopus on the Đà Lạt Plateau with daily totals of up to 6 birds. Nice bird!

126. DALAT BUSH WARBLER - *Locustella idonea*

29-03 1 [southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.

Formerly a subspecies of the Russet-Warbler-complex that was at that time also a *Bradypterus*. A very skulking bird which responds well to its song, but is a master in hiding. It took us at least an hour to see all of its body parts which we never saw at the same time. Also seen running on the ground like a mouse.

127. ANNAM PRINIA - *Prinia rocki*

31-03 1 [rubbish dump](#) between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

Formerly a subspecies of Brown Prinia. Endemic to the Đà Lạt Plateau as well. It took us an afternoon and an early morning to finally find this bird in a habitat not everybody's favourite.

128. Hill Prinia - *Prinia supercilialis*

28-03 2 southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

29-03 1 Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

129. Dark-necked Tailorbird - *Orthotomus atrogularis*

31-03 2 ([pair nesting](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng. Same birds again on 1-04 next day.

130. BLACK-HEADED PARROTBILL - *Paradoxornis margaritae*

27-03 1 (heard only along road 722) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

28-03 3 (seen high in the canopy) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

30-03 2 ([seen at close range](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

131. Black-chinned Yuhina - *Yuhina nigrimenta*

30-03 1 (Tim only) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

132. Swinhoe's White-eye - *Zosterops simplex*

28-03 1 southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

133. GREY-FACED TIT-BABBLER - *Mixornis kelleyi*

Between 2-04 and 4-04 c 10 birds recorded in the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise. The song is very barbet-like but softer and ventriloquist and very difficult to locate. On 2-04 and 3-04 I saw some birds at close range.

134. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler - *Mixornis gularis*

31-03 1 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

02-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

03-04 1 ([seen at close range](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

135. Rufous-capped Babbler - *Cyanoderma ruficeps*

27-03 1 [along road 722](#), Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng. Also there on 28-03.

30-03 1 [Datanla Waterfall](#), Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

136. Red-billed Scimitar Babbler - *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps* *alius*

27-03 1 ([heard only](#)) along road 722, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

30-03 1 Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

137. White-browed Scimitar Babbler - *Pomatorhinus schisticeps annamensis*

- 28-03 1 ([heard only](#)) along road 722, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 3 ([heard only](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

138. Large Scimitar Babbler - *Erythrogenys hypoleucos*

- 02-04 2 ([heard only](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

139. Grey-throated Babbler - *Stachyris nigriceps rileyi*

- 28-03 4 ([pair with young](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 2 (same birds) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

140. Scaly-crowned Babbler - *Malacopteron cinereum*

Between 1-04 and 4-04 seen daily in the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai. Most observations were birds coming to bath and feed before one of the hides. Tim and Dat maintain at least four bird hides in the forest.

141. BLACK-CROWNED FULVETTA - *Schoeniparus klossi*

- 28-03 2 ([with one seen very well](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

142. Puff-throated Babbler - *Pellorneum ruficeps*

Between 1-04 and 4-04 seen daily in the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai. The most common and regular bird species coming to bath and feed before one of the hides. On 2-04 one bird entered the hide, feeding 50 cm next to me.

143. Buff-breasted Babbler - *Pellorneum tickelli*

- 02-04 3 [3rd hide](#), Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 03-04 1 4th hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 1 [2nd hide](#), Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

144. Abbott's Babbler - *Malacocincla abbotti*

- 01-04 1 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 02-04 2 Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
 03-04 2 [Tân Phú Forest Enterprise](#), Đồng Nai.

145. Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler - *Napothera epilepidota davisoni*

- 30-03 1 ([heard and finally some fleeting glimpses](#)) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

146. INDOCHINESE WREN-BABBLER or SHORT-TAILED SCIMITAR BABBLER - *Napothera danjoui*

- 27-03 1 ([heard only](#)) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 4 ([family seen from hide](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 1 ([heard only](#)) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

147. Mountain Fulvetta - *Alcippe peracensis*

- 27-03 6-8 (seen from 1st hide) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 6 (seen from 2nd hide) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

148. VIETNAMESE CUTIA - *Cutia legalleni legalleni*

- 27-03 1 ([heard only](#)) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 2 ([seen well](#)) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 1 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 5 ([seen well](#)) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 [Datanla Waterfall](#), Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

149. GREY-CROWNED CROCIAS - *Laniellus langbianis*

- 28-03 2 [southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 ([heard calling](#)) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

150. COLLARED LAUGHINGTHRUSH - *Trochalopteron yersini*

- 27-03 1 (heard only) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 2 ([pair seen well](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 2 ([same pair as on 28-03](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

151. WHITE-SPECTACLED SIBIA - *Heterophasia desgodinsi robinsoni*

- 27-03 1 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 2 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.

This subspecies of Black-headed Sibia is quite conspicuous and a candidate for a future split.

152. PLAIN MINLA - *Actinodura cyanouroptera orientalis*

- 27-03 2 along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 3 [along road 722](#) (when driving south), Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 3 [southwest of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 4 (3 different observations) [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

153. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush - *Garrulax monileger*

- 28-03 2 (heard only) southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

154. White-crested Laughingthrush - *Garrulax leucolophus*

- 30-03 1 (heard only) rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

155. BLACK-HOODED LAUGHINGTHRUSH - *Garrulax milleti milleti*

- 30-03 4 (seen quite well) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

These were the only birds we saw. On the Deo Nui San pass no birds were seen or heard.

156. WHITE-CHEEKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH - *Pterorhinus vassali*

- 27-03 2 ([seen very well](#)) from the hide, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 2 southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

157. Asian Fairy-bluebird - *Irena puella*

- 31-03 3 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

158. YELLOW-BILLED NUTHATCH - *Sitta solangiae fortior*

- 28-03 2 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 2 ([seen well](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

159. Chestnut-vented Nuthatch - *Sitta nagaensis*

- 28-03 1 [along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 1 Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

160. Hume's Treecreeper - *Certhia manipurensis meridionalis*

- 27-03 1 (heard only) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 28-03 1 ([seen well](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

161. Common Myna - *Acridotheres tristis*

- 04-04 3 Tân Sơn Nhất Airport, Ho Chi Minh City.

162. Vinous-breasted Myna - *Acridotheres burmannicus*

- 29-03 2 [south of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.
 31-03 3 rubbish dump between Di Linh and the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

163. Black-collared Starling - *Gracupica nigricollis*

- 28-03 2 [in morning along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 2 [south of Đà Lạt](#), Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 2 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
 30-03 1 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

164. GREEN COCHOA - *Cochoa viridis*

- 28-03 1 (male well seen) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

Another highlight. The bird came in flying and sat silently for a while. Then it started to feed on fruits in the canopy of the tree. According to Tim there are about four birds in this general area.

165. Dark-sided Thrush - *Zoothera marginata*

- 27-03 1 (seen very well) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

166. Scaly Thrush - *Zoothera dauma*

- 28-03 1 ([flushed from the trail](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
 29-03 2 [in morning along road 722](#), north of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

167. Siberian Thrush - *Geokichla sibirica*

- 27-03 1 ([female well seen](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

168. Orange-headed Thrush - *Geokichla citrina aurimacula*

- 27-03 1 (well seen) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

This bird had a vertical stripe on its cheek and therefore belongs to the *aurimacula* group or Buff-throated group. Birds with a plain orange head belong to the *citrina* or Orange-headed group.

169. **White-rumped Shama** - *Copsychus malabaricus*
02-04 1 (heard only) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
170. **Rufous-browed Flycatcher** - *Anthipes solitaris*
27-03 1 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.
171. **Hainan Blue Flycatcher** - *Cyornis hainanus klossi*
31-03 2 ([pair well seen](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.
172. **Pale Blue Flycatcher** - *Cyornis unicolor*
28-03 1 ([male bathing](#), though not 100% sure) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
173. **Indochinese Blue Flycatcher** - *Cyornis sumatrensis*
02-04 2 ([pair](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.
174. **Large Niltava** - *Niltava grandis decorata*
27-03 2 ([pair](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
29-03 1 (male) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
30-03 1 (female) Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
175. **Verditer Flycatcher** - *Eumyias thalassinus*
27-03 1 ([male](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
176. **Lesser Shortwing** - *Brachypteryx leucophrys langbianensis*
From 27-03 to 29-03 c 10 birds heard daily and at least [two birds seen](#) on 27-03 at the Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng and on 30-03 one bird heard at Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng. The birds belonged to the subspecies *langbianensis*, a distinctive race and a good candidate for a future split.
177. **Siberian Blue Robin** - *Larvivora cyane*
First birds seen at the hide near the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng on 31-03. Seen daily at all hides between [1-04](#) and 4-04 in the Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai, with 10 birds in total.
178. **White-tailed Robin** - *Myiomela leucura*
27-03 2 ([males](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
30-03 1 Hồ Tuyền Lâm, south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
179. **White-crowned Forktail** - *Enicurus leschenaulti indicus*
29-03 1 ([short sighting](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
180. **Spotted Forktail** - *Enicurus maculatus robinsoni*
28-03 1 ([well seen](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.
181. **Blue Whistling Thrush** - *Myophonus caeruleus eugenei*
30-03 1 ([heard only](#)) Datanla Waterfall, Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.
01-04 1 ([seen](#)) boulders behind the restaurant, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

182. Green-backed Flycatcher - *Ficedula elisae*

04-04 1 ([female-type](#)), 1st hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

Most probably this species. A rare visitor to this part of Vietnam. It winters in the northern half of Vietnam.

183. Narcissus Flycatcher - *Ficedula narcissina*

01-04 1 ([immature male](#)), 1st hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

02-04 1 ([adult male](#)), 2nd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

1 ([female](#)) 3rd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

03-04 1 (adult male), 2nd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

04-04 1 (adult male), 1st hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

184. Mugimaki Flycatcher - *Ficedula mugimaki*

29-03 1 ([male](#)) along road 722, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

31-03 1 (male) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

185. Little Pied Flycatcher - *Ficedula westermanni langbianis*

29-03 2 ([pair](#)) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

186. Snowy-browed Flycatcher - *Ficedula hyperythra*

27-03 1 (male) Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

187. White-throated Rock Thrush - *Monticola gularis*

31-03 2 ([males](#)) Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

02-04 1 ([female](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

04-04 1 (male) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

188. Grey Bush Chat - *Saxicola ferreus*

29-03 2 [Dalat Bush Warbler spot](#), southwest of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.

189. Blue-winged Leafbird - *Chloropsis moluccensis*

31-03 2 [at tea house on poles](#), Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

190. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum cruentatum*

04-04 1 ([female](#)) Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

191. Olive-backed Sunbird - *Cinnyris jugularis andamanicus*

31-03 1 ([female](#)) at tea house on poles, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

192. ANNAM (Mrs. Gould's) SUNBIRD - *Aethopyga gouldiae annamensis*

Between 27-03 and 30-03 seen daily on the Đà Lạt Plateau, with about 5-6 birds seen daily. Only two [females](#) were observed, both on 30-03. The birds differ from Gould's Sunbird in lacking a [yellow rump](#).

193. LANGBIAN (Black-throated) SUNBIRD - *Aethopyga saturata johnsi*

31-03 1 (male) [Deo Nui San pass](#), Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.

The only bird we could find. This race endemic to the Đà Lạt Plateau differs considerably from the nominate.

194. **Purple-naped Sunbird** - *Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum*02-04 1 ([heard calling](#)) 2nd hide, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai.

Purple-naped is actually a spiderhunter and not a sunbird.

195. **Little Spiderhunter** - *Arachnothera longirostra*28-03 1 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.196. **Streaked Spiderhunter** - *Arachnothera magna*30-03 1 [Parking lot](#) of the Datanla Waterfall, Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Lâm Đồng.31-03 1 [at tea house on poles](#), Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.01-04 2 [restaurant with the boulders](#), Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.197. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** - *Passer montanus*

Common in cities and villages, like House Sparrows used to be in Europa.

198. **White-rumped Munia** - *Lonchura striata*

30-03 2 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

31-03 5 Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

1 at tea house on poles, Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng.

199. **Grey Wagtail** - *Motacilla cinerea*

28-03 1 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

29-03 1 Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.

200. **VIETNAMESE GREENFINCH** - *Chloris monguilloti*29-03 1 ([heard only](#)) along road 722, north of Đà Lạt, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Lâm Đồng.1 [Bidoup Núi Bà National Park](#), Lâm Đồng.2-3 [Hồ Tuyền Lâm](#), south of Đà Lạt, Lâm Đồng.01-04 1 [Deo Nui San pass](#), Di Linh, Lâm Đồng.



Unknown squirrels; left: 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; right: 3 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Blue Agama (*Calotes bachae*); right: female?, both on 3 April 2022, Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, Đồng Nai; © Jan van der Laan.



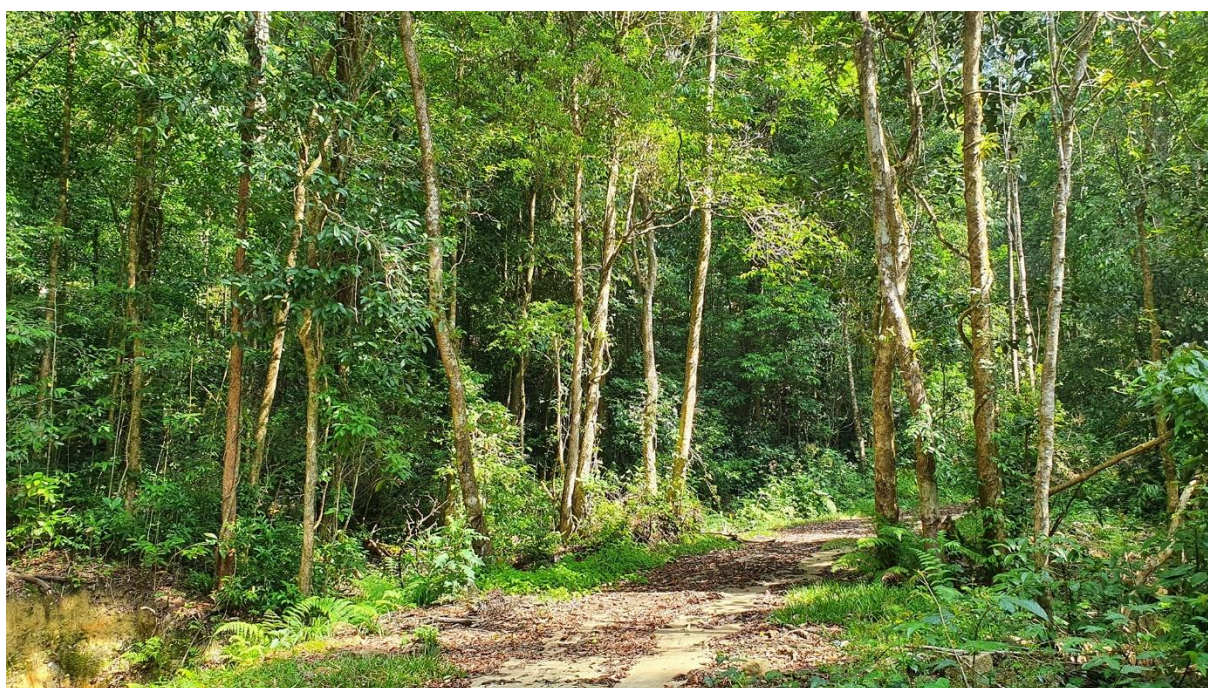
Left: unknown dragonfly; right: unknown damselfly, both on 28 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Unknown butterflies; left: 27 March 2022, Bidoup Núi Bà NP, Lâm Đồng; right: 30 March 2022, Hồ Tuyên Lâm, Lâm Đồng; © Jan van der Laan.



Habitat of Yellow-billed Nuthatch and Green Cochoa in the Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Dam Long, 28 March 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



Habitat of Collared Laughingthrush, Black-crowned Fulvetta and Yellow-crowned Green Magpie, Bidoup Núi Bà National Park, Dam Long, 28 March 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



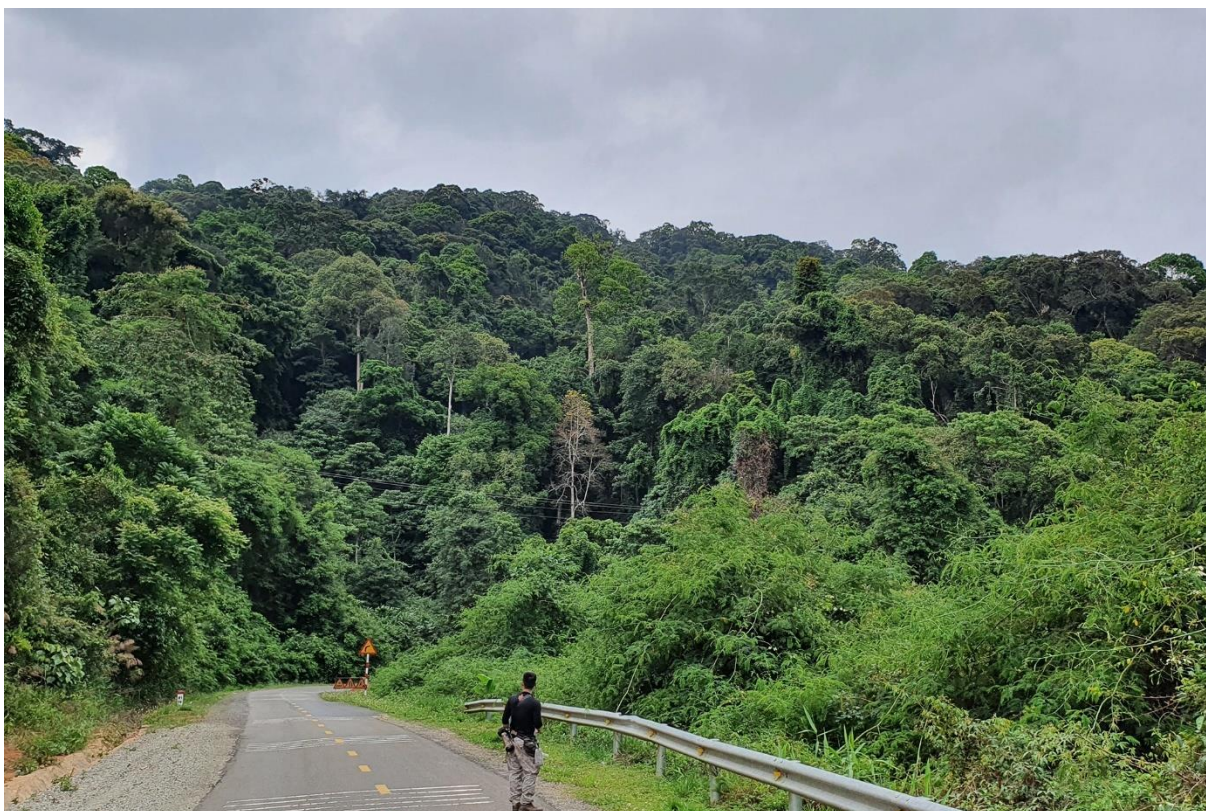
Habitat of Dalat Bush Warbler (bushes in front) and Grey-crowned Crocias (trees on the right), 28 March 2022, southwest of Đà Lạt; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Tim and Len having a break; right: good forest still present, both on 28 March 2022, southwest of Đà Lạt; © Jan van der Laan.



Pine tree habitat at Hồ Tuyền Lâm, good for Red-vented Barbet, Dalat Sibia and Vietnamese Crossbill (if present!). The deciduous part of the forest is good for Black-hooded Laughingthrush and Eye-browed Wren-Babbler, 30 March 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



Habitat of the Orange-breasted Laughingthrush, Annam Streaked Wren-Babbler, Black-headed Parrotbill and Langbian Sunbird at the Deo Nui San pass, Lâm Đồng, with Tim in the foreground, 30 March 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



Hide at the Deo Nui San pass with the view, good for Indochinese Magpie and Blue-rumped Pitta, 31 March 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



2nd hide at Tân Phú Forest Enterprise, good for Bar-bellied Pitta, 2 April 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



Traffic in Ho Chi Minh City, without a single bicycle! 4 April 2022; © Jan van der Laan.



Landmark 81, with a height of 461 meter the tallest building in Vietnam, the second tallest building in Southeast Asia, and the 17th tallest building in the world, 4 April 2022, Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh (Ho Chi Minh City); © Jan van der Laan.