

A birding trip to Cambodia

18/2 – 2/3 2005



...with some additional notes from
Bangkok, Thailand

This trip was made by...

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Front cover pictures illustrate some of the most important bird species found in Cambodia...

Giant Ibis & Woolly-necked Stork [Upper]
Mekong Wagtail [Left]
Milky Stork [Central, upper]
Bengal Florican [Central, below]
Chestnut-headed Partridge [Upper right]
Great Adjutant [Bottom right]

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Introduction

MR have many times looked in various bird books and under great amusement studied our planets variety in bird fauna. One of the many birds that had caught his eyes many years ago was a very rare and most probably extinct ibis *Pseudibis gigantea* that had once lived in Indochina. Because of warlike situation in the region some knowledgeable people thought that there was still a chance for this species to survive in some remote areas of Laos and Cambodia. As the situation in the region became more stabilised (especially in Cambodia) environmentalists could reach and survey these particular areas and in the beginning of this century information told that this giant among ibises had been found again and still existed in small numbers in some areas of northern Cambodia.

In spring 2004 both MR and BL noted some pictures from Cambodia on the website www.surfbirds.com that caught their attention. Among those were some newly taken pictures illustrating a Giant Ibis and there were also some pictures of a couple of other very exciting bird species. We talked to each other and decided that we should look up if there were some possibility for us to see these species. We came in contact with Frédéric Goes at Sam Veasna Center, a Belgian born birder who had lived in Cambodia for more than 10 years. We sent him a list that contained many bird species that we liked to see. Among others Giant Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis, Milky Stork, Greater Adjutant, Mekong Wagtail, Chestnut-headed Partridge (endemic), Bengal Florican, Sarus Crane (ssp. *sharpii*), Comb Duck and Black-necked Stork. He made up a packaged deal (hotels, car with driver, food etc.) itinerary (see below) that included most places where we had some chance of seeing our most wanted birds. Frédéric also tagged along as our personal bird guide! This was not the most economic way to travel but we managed to see most of our target species and our only serious misses were Manchurian Reed Warbler and Asian Golden Weaver.

Cambodia is a very interesting place to bird watch. The species list will not become as long as a Thai-list would be after the same amount of time. But on the other hand many of the species that you will see have become extinct in the neighbouring countries, but they still exist in good numbers in Cambodia. Reasons for this are probably historical with repeated wars and tyrants like Pol Pot that has polluted and slaughtered the people living here. These tragic circumstances are probably the most important reason for why many endangered species still survive here. There are also still much to discover and as an example of that we can mention a female Yellow-vented Green Pigeon (*Treron seimundi*) that we saw at Bokor. This represents the very first record of this species in Cambodia! Like earlier visitors before us we also saw some Swiftlets at Kampots old market that are still to be identified (see picture to the right)!



As a result of Pol Pots tyrannical reign the age pyramid of Cambodia's population is typical for a country located in the 3rd world where the majority of the population are under the age of twenty. This will in the future grow to be a major threat to Cambodia's flora and fauna, as more land are needed to feed a rapidly growing population. For this reason land will become cleared to give more land to cultivate thus important habitats will be lost for ever...!

If you want to be sure seeing some of Cambodia's great and sought after species you should go as soon as possible because tomorrow it might be too late!!

When to go?

If the reason for doing a trip to Cambodia is to see some of the most endangered bird species in the world and especially the Giant and the White-shouldered Ibis you have to time your visit with the dryer part of the year. A good time seems to be from mid February to the beginning of April. Before February it might still be too wet in the forest with a lot of “active” tropeangs (wet mud holes that the ibises regularly use for feeding) for the ibises to choose from and it can become harder to encounter with them. In April the temperature in the area reaches over 45 degrees Celsius and a lot of the tropeangs are now dried out and once again the ibises are harder to find. For these reasons it's essential to choose the right time to go.

Even if the reason for a Cambodian trip is to visit Praek Toal and to see all the fish-eating birds you have to time your trip well. The water level in Tonlé Sap Lake shifts a lot between the lowest and the highest level. If you go too early it might be too much water in the area and the birds are spread over a vast area. If you go too late there will be almost no water at all in the water systems and you will not be able to reach the most interesting places.

Best time to go birding in Cambodia seems to be from February to April!!

Road systems in Cambodia

We do not know if it's wise to drive a car by your self in Cambodia. At least for us Swedes the climate on the roads were something completely else of what we are used with in Sweden. Honking the horn was common when you were about to pass a car in front of you and the reason for this was that most cars lacked mirrors! The safest way to get around in Cambodia might be to rent a car with a driver like we did.

When planning a trip to Cambodia you have to calculate with some bad roads and that it takes a lot of time to get around. In many places the road system is in a terrible shape. The picture to the right illustrates that fact well. Luckily this was one of the absolute worst roads that we encountered on our trip. By this we will point out that you have to have a 4-wheel drive to get around.



Worst were the roads in Preah Vihear province in the north

but strangely enough also the main roads (route 6 and 5) between Siem Reap and Poipet at the Thai border were in a very bad stat.

A road that you have to pass if you would like to see Giant and White-shouldered Ibis. Thmat Baeuu. Cambodia

Not to scare you away from planning a trip to Cambodia we should mention that there are also some really good roads, but they are fewer. For example the main road (route 6) between Siem Reap and the capitol Phnom Penh was in a very good shape on our visit. Good were also the roads between Phnom Penh and Kampot (route 3) and between Skuon and Kratie (route 7).

Logistics

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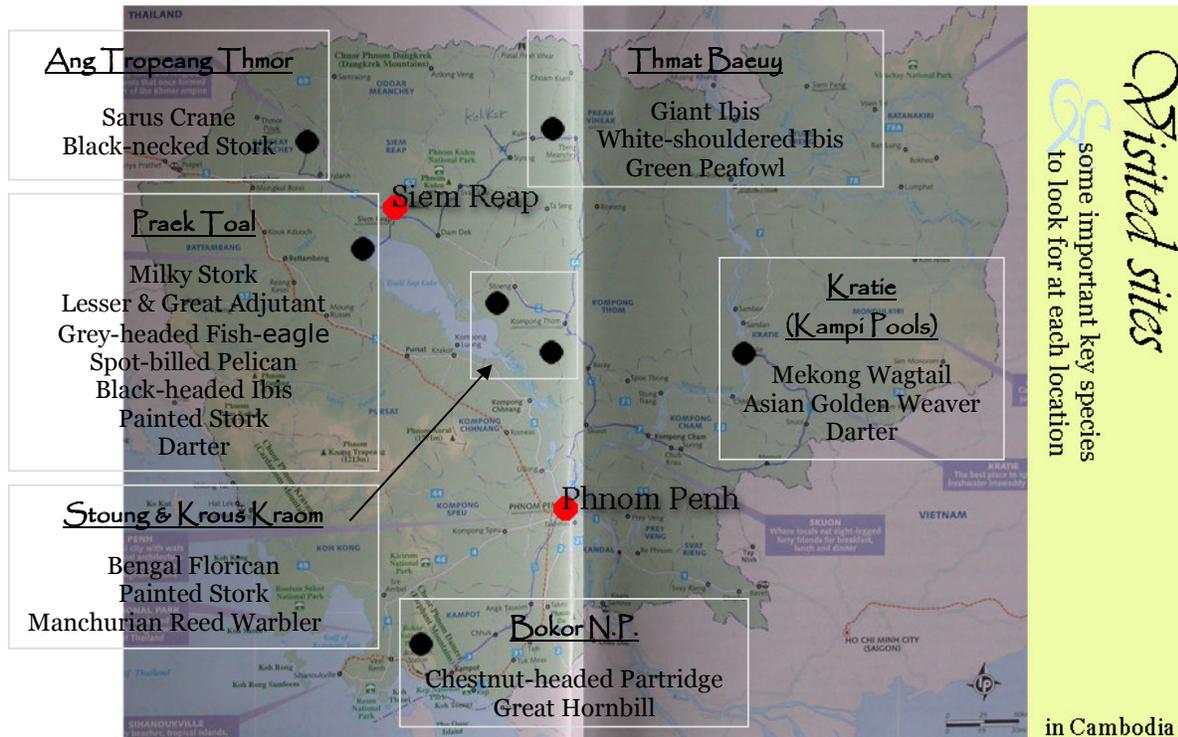
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For more addresses see also Björn Andersons excellent Cambodia report!
www.club300.se (Reserapporter/Asien/Kambodja)

Itinerary

Thailand	16-17/2	Flight with FinnAir from Stockholm to Bangkok, Thailand (via Helsinki). Night at Bangkok close to the airport.
Cambodia	18/2	Early flight from Bangkok to Siem Reap, Cambodia. Visited and birded around Angkor Wat and Preaek Khan. Night at Siem Reap.
	19/2	Boat trip to Praek Toal (hole day). Night at Siem Reap.
	20/2	Visit to the crane-reserve Ang Tropeang Thmor. Night at Siem Reap.
	21/2	Travel to Thmat Baeuy in Preah Vihear province with a short stop at Koh Ker temple. Night at Thmat Baeuy.
	22-23/2	Birding at Thmat Baeuy.
	24/2	Travel from Thmat Baeuy to Kompong Thom. Short visit to Stoung just before sundown.
	25/2	Morning at Krous Kraom. Rest of the day transfer to Kratie at Mekong.
	26/2	Morning at Kratie (Kampi Pools). Transfer to Kampot via Phnom Penh.
	27/2	Drive from Kampot to Bokor Hill Station
	28/2-1/3	Bokor N. P.
	2/3	Bokor N. P. to Phnom Penh with a short stop at Kampots Old market.
	3/3	Transfer from Phnom Penh to Bangkok, Thailand.
Thailand	4/3	Birding in the vicinity of Sahmot Sakon at Khok Kham.
	5-6/3	Sightseeing in Bangkok
	7/3	Early flight to Stockholm via Helsinki.



16-17 february

On Wednesday evening we boarded the Finn Air plane that would take us to Helsinki in Finland. From there a new plane took us down to Bangkok in Thailand. At 8 am on the 17th we were finally there. We had pre-booked a room at Comfort Suites Hotel close to the airport. While BL took a nap MR went out in the vicinity and did some birding. Among others he saw Indian Rollers, Black-winged Kite, Red-whiskered and Streak-eared Bulbuls, Plain Prinias and Scaly-breasted Munias.

18 february

An early one hour flight from Bangkok to Siem Reap in Cambodia. At arrival we had to stay in line to receive our visa (at a cost of 20 USD) to enter the country. Cambodia was steaming hot with a temperature close to at least 35 degrees Celsius this morning. Frédéric picked us up at the airport and took us to our first nights shelter in Siem Reap (Les Mysteres d Angkor / www.mysteres-angkor.com). Later we went to Angkor (20 USD to enter the area) and did some combined birding and sightseeing around the impressive Khmer temple Angkor Wat. Our first impression of this country's bird fauna was that it would be hard seeing any species at all because they seemed very shy. Among birds we saw Black Bazas, Shikras, Red-breasted Parakeets, Cotton Pygmy-goose and both Pheasant-tailed and Bronzed Jacanas.



Angkor Wat

19 february

Early start and a whole day in a bird sanctuary called Praek Toal situated in the northern part of Tonlé Sap Lake. First we went by a speed boat from a small but smelly fishing village called Xiem Reap in the north-eastern part of the lake. At first glimpse Tonlé Sap seemed to be almost bird free, but that would soon too be changed. The entire northern tip of this lake was cut off from the rest by a fence that effectively stopped any fish trying to get out to the deeper parts of the lake. As a result of this there were almost no fish-eating birds south of the fence but on the north side, it was a birders heaven! There were loads of Pelicans, Cormorants, Storks and Herons. This was also the best place to photograph birds in Cambodia. When arriving to Praek Toal we had to change transportation to a couple of small wobbly canoes that could take us further up the river Praeh Preah Daem Chhen to our prime destination, platform 2. During this boat trip we saw hundreds of *Spot-billed Pelicans*, *Darters*, *Painted Storks* and *Openbills*. Rarer were both the species of *adjutants*, *Black-headed Ibis*, *Grey-headed Fish-eagle* and *Black Bittern*. Where ever you looked there was something to see and something to photograph. This was really impressive! Finally at platform 2 we started to scan the air and the trees for the very rare *Milky Stork*, which was told to nest in a colony of *Painted Storks* close to the platform. After some time we saw our first Milky that seemed to give some shade to one or more chicks in one of the trees. Although this was a terrible observation at long distance so we were very lucky to see two more Milky's in flight and now much closer. This day was over and we could happily return to Siem Reap for a good nights rest.

20 february

Today we made a trip to the Crane-reserve Ang Tropeang Thmor. We had to start the trip early. Although not that far from Siem Reap it took almost three hours to reach the area. Reason for this was a road in a horrific shape. A road that was much worse than the badest

tractor trail in Sweden and much smokier than the smokiest rock concert that you ever can imagine! But this was only the beginning...! The important thing was that we saw some great birds and that's what it's all about! At least 530 *Comb Ducks* (the largest known flock in SE Asia in recent times!), 111 *Sarus Cranes* (endangered race *sharpii*), 1200 *Purple Swamphens*, Rufous-winged Buzzards, Baya Weavers, Australasian Bushlarks, Grey-headed Lapwings and Burmese Shrike were noted. The two *Black-necked Storks* that we also saw was a very nice surprise. We also looked for Bengal Florican but with no luck.

21 february

At 11 am we started our trip to the land of the mythical Giant Ibis. Although not very far it took almost seven hours to reach Thmat Baeuy in Preh Vihear Province. We made a short stop to stretch our legs at Koh Ker. Finally at Thmat Baeuy we installed us in a typical Cambodian stilt hut.

22 february

Early morning and a planned whole day in search for the *Giant Ibis*. These giants regularly visit wet mud holes called tropeangs in an otherwise very dry forest. On our hike to the first tropeang we stopped at a place to see White-shouldered Ibis at their nesting site but we were unlucky because the juveniles had already left the



Village hut at Thmat Baeuy

nest. Now towards the giants! We had some fresh reports from a Swedish birder (Björn Anderson) who had spent 13 hours in the heat before he managed to see his first Giant ibis, just a few days previous (puuh!). These birds are very shy so we had to approach the tropeangs in complete silence and slow in a very low posture. 1st Tropeang: Frédéric went first and two Giants flew off! 2nd Tropeang: MR went first and very well it seemed because seven Giants and two Woolly-necked Storks kept on feeding... until a crack under a shoe scared them away. 3rd Tropeang BL went first but to his surprise some women that were fishing had arrived before us to the tropeang. When resting at this site two more Giants made a flyby. These two were later seen again close by. During the day we also saw *Vinous-breasted Starlings*, *Alexandrine* and *Blossom-headed Parakeets*, *Pale-capped Pigeons*, *Changeable Hawk-eagle* and one *Brown Fish-owl*. This days hiking went over 20 km between 6 am and 18 pm and in a temperature of at least 40-45 degrees! This will be a day to remember!

23 february

A whole day birding at Thmat Baeuy. The aim for today was a second nest for the endangered *White-shouldered Ibis* and today we were luckier. This nest was still active and we saw two adult birds close to the nest. Both BL and MR believed that we there after would go back to the village for some well needed siesta but instead our local guides started to walk and walk and walk. An unnecessary walk that didn't lead to any more major discoveries! This walk was almost as long as the one we made the day before and the temperature had once again exceeded 40+ degrees. Except WSI we saw *Yellow-crowned Woodpecker*, *Brown Prinia* and *Spotted Owlet*.

24 february

We left Thmat Baeuy for Kompong Thom. A very long trip (clockwise) on dreadful roads. On the first stretch of the road down to the town Tbeng Meanchey we did some short stops along the road and managed to include *Orange-breasted* and *Yellow-footed Green Pigeon*, *Chestnut-capped Babbler* and Indochinese Bushlark to our bird list. Between Tbeng Meanchey and Kompong Thom we didn't see that much. Just before 17 pm we arrived to Kompong Thom. Now on much better roads we quickly went to Stoung (about 60km from Kompong Thom, in the direction towards Siem Reap), reportedly a good place to see Floricans. Just before sundown we arrived to the locality and managed to see a total of at least six different *Bengal Floricans*. Here we also noted Oriental Reed Warbler, Striated Grassbird and some Bluethroats. At Kompong Thom we stayed at Mittapheap Hotel.

25 february

Early morning for birding on the grassy plain Krous Kraom just outside Kompong Thom. We tried to find Manchurian Reed Warbler but did not manage to do so. Species that we saw included *Yellow-breasted Bunting* (100+), *Bengal Florican* (1 imm. male), Red Avadavat, Cinnamon Bittern, Dusky Warbler, Pacific Golden Plover, Oriental Skylark and *Yellow-legged Buttonquail* (2). Just after lunch our next major transportation started and the destination was Kratie on the Mekong River. Luckily the roads were in much better shape and paved the whole way. We arrived just before sundown but managed to do some birding in the vicinity. Spot-billed Ducks, Lesser Whistling-ducks and Pheasant-tailed Jacana were seen. Although we missed Asian Golden Weaver! At Kratie we stayed at Heng Heng Hotel II.

26 february

Early morning to Kampi Pools just north of Kratie and a two hour boat trip on the Mekong in search for the newly described *Mekong Wagtail*. We saw at least four different wagtails and a couple of *River Dolphins*. Just before lunch we started our drive down to Kampot on the southern coast. A very long trip (about ten hours!) that luckily took place on fairly good roads! At Kompot we stayed at Borei Bokor Hotel.

27 february

Drives up to Bokor Hill Station were we should stay for the next couple of days. About half way up to the top we found a fruiting tree that hosted many birds including a few *Great Hornbills*. We also noted Forest Wagtail and Thick-billed Green Pigeon. After installation in the guest house we walked down to the old "Tea farm". In the area we saw at least four *Orange-headed Thrushes*, a very attractive species!

28 february

Early morning with the aim to see our last target species for this Cambodian trip – the Chestnut-headed Partridge. This species is endemic to the mountainous southern and south-western parts of Cambodia. We started to walk the same trail as the day before but with no luck. At the "Tea farm" we managed to see a male *Mugimaki Flycatcher* and an Arctic Warbler. Overall Bokor became a little of a disappointment because of the very low density in birds. By car we moved to the "Waterfall" from where we took a trail leading to the forest. A little stretch in to the forest we suddenly heard some faint clicking sounds and there it was a *Chestnut-headed Partridge* and very close to the trail. This was one of the most beautiful bird species that we saw on the whole trip and a perfect ending to our quest for the Cambodian specialities. After this we went back to the waterfall and did some birding in the area. MR found a fruiting tree that contained some Barbets and Leafbirds and once again the camera went warm. Rest of the day we did some relaxed birding around the guest house. Around it there were a lot of old houses built by the French. During their colonisation they built an entire village on top of this hill. After the French era the houses became striped of everything that had some value and now they looks like ghostly shells but on them you can for example see Blue Rock Thrush and some other nice birds.

1 march

A day of relaxed birding at Bokor. We started the day by going down the mountain for a while but our impression from earlier days was the same. There were not that many birds in circulation. Moustached Barbet seemed to be the most numerous bird on the mountain. At least it was the most commonly heard one. During the morning we also noted Red-breasted Trogon, Lesser Coucal, Large-tailed Nightjar, *Eyebrowed Thrush* and *Pale-legged Leaf-warbler*.



At afternoon we once again walked down to the “Tea farm” and the only noteworthy was a male *Siberian Blue Robin*. Our last night at Bokor we partied with some famous Cambodians, which had arrived during the day just to party in a cooler climate. Nice!

Casino, some French leftovers at Bokor

2 march

Down the mountain again and once again we ended up at the fruiting tree and there were still a lot of birds in the area. We managed to locate a *Yellow-vented Green Pigeon*, a new species to Cambodia! We also saw a *Mountain Hawk-eagle* circling over head. This species is also a rare sight in the country. Once in Kampot again we stopped at the Old Market where we noted a few Swiftlets that’s still unidentified. Although they are most probable *Germain’s Swiftlets*. After lunch we continued our trip to the capitol Phnom Penh and at dusk we stood outside the library where we according to Frédéric probably could see and hear “the five o’clock bird” – *Savannah Nightjar*. Just after the activation of the bats at 18:30 we heard our first Nightjar. In total we saw and heard two different birds. At Phnom Penh we stayed at Nan Jing Hotel.

3 march

Departure from Phnom Penh. Exactly at 10:20 am the plane took off and about one hour later we were once again in Bangkok, Thailand. Nice was to eat some really good food again. The Thai kitchen is much better than the Khmer one! We installed us at Thai Hotel in central Bangkok.

4 march

We had one more target for this trip and that was to see *Spoon-billed Sandpiper*. To do so we had arranged with a car and a driver through our hotel (1800 Bath). We went early this morning to Khok Kham close to Sahmot Sakon. An area with salt-pans about 1,5



hour drive from central Bangkok. After some

Salt-pans at Khok Kham, Bangkok

searching we managed to find the right locality and already there was Mr Tee (a local birder) and three other birders (in one case we might not speak in terms of a real birder. More correctly an overweight American with loads of money). They had just found our target but just before we could put an eye on it, it flew off and we just caught some short glimpses of it in flight. BL had already seen this species on an earlier visit to Thailand but MR was not satisfied at all. After a two hour search MR found it again in a nearby pool and now we could see it very well for about 50 minutes before it disappeared again. We also noted a lot of other interesting Waders at the locality (Marsh Sandpipers, Lesser Sand Plovers, *Long-toed Stints*, Red-necked Stints, Broad-billed Sandpipers and one *Red-necked Phalarope*). There were also a lot of other bird species. This day's active birding was the last on this trip and we were very satisfied of what we had seen.

5-6 march

Soft days with some sightseeing in and around Bangkok.

7 march

An early flight took us to Helsinki and from there we took a plane back to Stockholm, Sweden. We arrived on late afternoon local time.

Weather

Most days we had good weather if we talk in terms of no rain. The temperature landed most days between 30 and 40 degrees Celsius. We had our hottest days when we visited Thmat Baeuy and the Giant Ibises. Here the temperature reached well over 40 degrees maybe as high as 45 degrees so it was important to drink a lot of water while there. We had much cooler days when we visited the hill station at Bokor where we had daily temperatures between 20 and 30 degrees and a little bit cooler at night.

Site descriptions

Björn Anderson had a few days earlier visit almost the same sites as we did. He has in his report written a detailed description on most sites mentioned in this report. You can find this report on the Internet (see above under logistics).

Down below we will just give some short descriptions of the two localities that he didn't visit: The Sarus Crane reserve Ang Tropeang Thmor and Bokor National Park.

Ang Tropeang Thmor

This place is dominated by a huge reservoir constructed during the Khmer Rouge era and by forced labour. A shrinking amount of grassland still exists in the area but much has already been converted into rice fields which are an increasing threat to the birds in the region. The Bengal Florican shall still exist in the area but we didn't manage to find it and its disappearance from ATT is probably very close in time. Luckily this species still exists in good numbers elsewhere in Cambodia! ATT is foremost famous for hosting a major part of the World population of the endangered Sarus Crane subspecies *sharpii* but it's also important

for many other species that have shrinking populations elsewhere in this part of the world. For example we saw on our visit 530 *Comb Ducks* which is the largest flock in South-east Asia in recent times! We had also good numbers of *Purple Swamphens* (subspecies *viridis*) and *Lesser Whistling-ducks*. Icing on the cake were two *Black-necked Storks* that we saw in the northern part of the area.

To get there: Drive from Siem Reap on route 6 towards Sisophon. After about 60 km at a crossroad called Prey Mwan, turn north (Landmarks are a statue of a weaving woman and a signboard with a Bengal Florican). Drive 15 km to



Eastern side of the reservoir
at Ang Tropeang Thmor

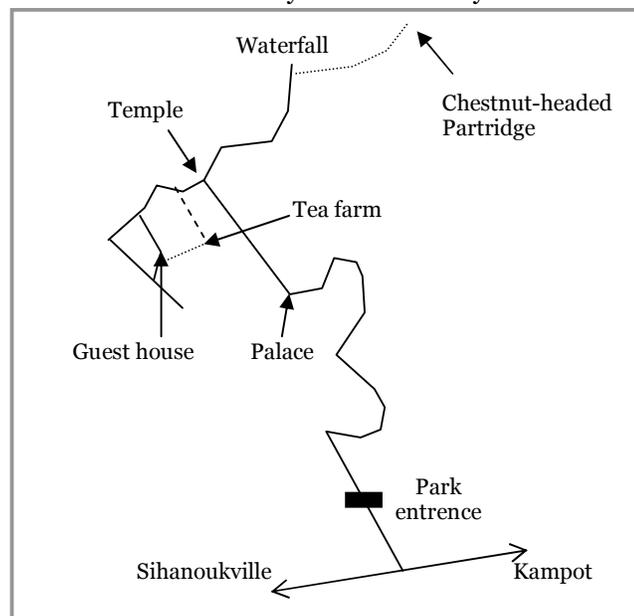
reach Phnom Srok, turn left in a roundabout and continue for another 7 or 8 km. The road passes several villages. Just after passing a pagoda on the right turn left to reach the reservoir.

You can arrange a trip to the area through OSMOSE (osmose@online.com.kh). This is also the same company that you should turn to when arranging a trip to Praek Toal.

Bokor National Park

Bokor hill station is situated on the southern tip of the Elephant Mountains (Chuor Phnom Damrei) close to the town Kampot on Cambodia's south coast. During their colonisation the French built a whole village on top of the mountain but now days there are only a bunch of empty house shells that's still standing. Bokor is probably the best place in the world to see *Chestnut-headed Partridge*. This species have a very restricted range and is endemic to Cardamom and Elephant Mountains in southern Cambodia.

On our second day on the mountain we were able to locate one or maybe two birds close to the waterfall. The locality is marked on the map to the right. From the waterfall parking lot take the trail that first crosses a small stream and then an open area, after a while the trail continues into the forest. We had only walked the forest for a short time when we heard some faint clicking sounds and there it was, very close to the trail. Previous birders have also seen this species on a trail close to the "Tea farm". Except for a few fruiting trees we found Bokor a little bit bird



poor which was a big disappointment. Although we saw the important one and some other good birds: Great Hornbill, Mugimaki flycatcher, Yellow-vented Green Pigeon, Mountain Hawk-eagle, Siberian Blue Robin and Orange-headed Thrush to mention a few.

To get there: Travel on route 3 from Kampot towards Sihanoukville. After some km turn right (easy to miss this road) and drive towards the park entrance. The road up the mountain can be a little bit rough so a 4-wheel drive is well needed. The only place to stay on Bokor is in the Guest house. Although probably not necessary it can be wise to book your stay in advance!

Waterbirds in Cambodia

We will here give you some idea of how important Cambodia and especially Praek Toal is for a bunch of endangered south-east Asian waterbirds. Figures given below are from Frédéric Goes at Sam Veasna Center and they are from a survey made in the Tonlé Sap area (incl. Praek Toal) during the year 2001.

Species	Total population
Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	≥300 pairs (of which ≥ 240 in Praek Toal)
Indian Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	10 000 ind. (about 30% of World population!)
Great Egret <i>Casmerodius albus</i>	1000 ind.
Intermediate Egret <i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	500 ind.
Black-headed Ibis <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	≥200 pairs
Spot-billed Pelican <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	700-1000 pairs
Milky Stork <i>Mycteria cinerea</i>	≥10 pairs
Painted Stork <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	≥1000 pairs
Asian Openbill <i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	6000 ind.
Black-necked Stork <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	10 ind.
Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	≥100 pairs (of which ≥40 in Praek Toal)
Greater Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	30-40 pairs



Pelicans and Storks over
Praek Toal, Cambodia

Annotated species list

We follow the systematic and English bird names given by...

- Robson, C. 2000. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers.

Phasianidae: Francolins, partridges, quails, pheasants & junglefowl

Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus*

Commonly seen and heard at Thmat Baeuy 22-24.2

Chestnut-headed Partridge *Arborophila cambodiana*

At least one bird of this very beautiful and Cambodian endemic species was seen very well along a trail east of the Waterfall at Bokor on 28.2 (see site descriptions above).

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

One female seen along the road between Tbeng Meanchey and Kompong Thom on 24.2

Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*

One heard calling at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2.

Dendrocygnidae: Whistling-ducks

Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Seen at three locations: 17 in a flock at Praek Toal on 19.2, at least 500 at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 and 20 at Kratie on 25.2.

Anatidae: Geese, ducks & pygmy-geese

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

At least 530 counted in the southern part of the dam at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2. This is the largest flock counted in South-East Asia in recent times!

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

A few seen at Angkor on 18.2 and at least 4 at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 were the only observations.

Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

2 birds seen in flight at Praek Toal on 19.2 and 4 at Kratie on 25.2.

Turnicidae: Buttonquails

Yellow-legged Buttonquail *Turnix tanki*

Two birds seen well (at least by some of us) at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

Seen at Thmat Baeuy with 1 on 22.2 and 3 on 24.2. Two birds were also noted at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Picidae: Woodpeckers

Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

Seen with a few birds at Thmat Baeuy on 22-23.2.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mabrattensis*

One female was seen at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2.

Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*
Two birds seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*
Two observations at Thmat Baeuy; 1 heard on 22.2 and one seen on 24.2.

Black-headed Woodpecker *Picus erythrogygius*
Seen daily (22-24.2) at Thmat Baeuy where this species was fairly common.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*
Seen daily (22-24.2) at Thmat Baeuy where the species was fairly common.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*
The only observations where at Thmat Baeuy on 22-23.2. Fairly common.

Megalaimidae: Barbets

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*
Commonly Heard at Angkor (18.2) and at Thmat Baeuy (22-24.2). Also noted with a few birds at Ang Tropeang Thmor (20.2) and at Koh Ker (21.2).

Moustached Barbet *Megalaima incognita*
The most commonly heard barbet at Bokor.

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*
Heard most days at Bokor but not as common as previous species.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
Heard at Angkor on 18.2 and at Koh Ker on 21.2.

Bucerotidae: Hornbills

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
One seen at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2 was the only observation.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*
Seen daily in small numbers at Bokor.

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulates*
Seen daily in small numbers at Bokor.

Upupidae: Hoopoes

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Few birds seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22 and 24.2.

Trogonidae: Trogons

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*
One observation: 1 heard at Bokor on 2.3.

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
Few birds heard at Bokor on 28.2-2.3.

Coraciidae: Rollers

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
Seen in moderate numbers at various places.



A Great Hornbill at Bokor

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Commonly seen at Praek Toal on 19.2. Otherwise only noted in smaller numbers at many locations.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrensis*

One seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2. Daily observations at Thmat Baeuy on 22-24.2 and one also seen close to Kratie on 26.2.

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*

Two observations: One at Angkor on 18.2 and one at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Only seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor where quite common.

Meropidae: Bee-eaters

Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

One seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 otherwise only noted in Preah Vihear province.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

The most commonly seen Bee-eater in Cambodia.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaultia*

A few birds seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22-23.2 and one also seen at Kratie on 25.2.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*

Seen and heard in smaller numbers at Thmat Baeuy on 22-24.2.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*

Three observations: 1 heard at Praek Toal on 19.2, one seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 and one heard at Kampi Pools, Kratie on 26.2.

Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

Two observations: 1 seen at Angkor on 18.2 and also one seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

Only heard in Preah Vihear province and especially around Thmat Baeuy.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*

Four observations: 1 at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2, 1 at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2, two at the same site on 24.2 and 1 at Bokor on 2.3.

Centropodidae: Coucals

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

Seen and heard at Angkor, Praek Toal, Ang Tropeang Thmor and Thmat Baeuy.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Two observations: 1 at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 and 1 at Bokor on 1.3.

Psittacidae: Parrots & parakeets

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Seen in smaller numbers at Thmat Baeuy. One probable also at Angkor on 18.2.

Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseate*

Only seen around Thmat Baeuy but here quite common.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
Common around the temples at Angkor and also at Thmat Baeuy.

Apodidae: Swifts

[Germain's Swiftlet *Collocalia germani*]

A few swiftlets were seen near the old market at Kampot. What species these birds belong to is still under consideration. We didn't see any nests but previous visitors say that the nests are of the Edible-nest swiftlet-type and of this group Germain's Swiftlet is the most probable candidate.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
Commonly seen at various places.

Hemiprocnidae: Treeswifts

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*
Seen commonly around Thmat Baeuy.

Strignidae: Typical Owls

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*

1 flushed from roosting quarters at Thmat Baeuy and then seen very well in a nearby tree on 22.2.

[Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica*]

At Koh Ker we were shown two juveniles that sadly had been put into captivity.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*

One heard at Bokor on 28.2.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Heard and seen in smaller numbers at Angkor, Thmat Baeuy, Kratie and Bokor.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*

One seen at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2 was the only observation.

Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*

One seen at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2 was the only observation.

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

1 heard at Thmat Baeuy on 24.4 otherwise only seen and heard at Bokor on 27.2-2.3.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*

At Phnom Penh we could see and hear two Savannah Nightjars at dusk on 2.3. They started to play at 18:30.

Columbidae: Pigeons & doves

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* [domest.]

Noted in towns and villages in various numbers.

Pale-capped Pigeon *Columba punicea*

Two observations (1 pair + 1 male) both at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2.

Classified as Vulnerable. This species has a rather big range through much of South-east Asia but nowhere is it reported to be common. Earlier visitors to Thmat Baeuy have also reported this species so it might be a good place to spot it.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Commonly seen and heard at various places especially around Siem Reap and Thmat Baeuy.

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Commonly noted at Ang Tropeang Thmor and around Thmat Baeuy.

Barred Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia unchall*

Commonly seen at Bokor on 27.2-1.3.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Seen and heard in smaller numbers around Ang Tropeang Thmor. This bird species is fairly new to Cambodia and under spread from Thailand.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Six seen at Angkor on 18.2 was the only sighting.

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicincta*

One male seen in a fruiting tree close to Thmat Baeuy on 24.2 was the only observation.

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

Only seen at Bokor (27.2-2.3) in moderate numbers.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*

Four seen in a fruiting tree close to Thmat Baeuy on 24.4 was the only observation.

Yellow-vented Green Pigeon *Treron seimundi*

One female seen in a fruiting tree at Bokor on 27.2 and on 2.3 represent the first observation of this species in Cambodia! Since before this species is only known from three areas in Malaysia, Laos and Vietnam. Possible vagrant have also reached southern Thailand.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Seen in smaller numbers at Thmat Baeuy on 22-23.2 and also one heard at Bokor on 2.3.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*

Commonly seen and heard at Bokor on 27.2-2.3.

Otididae: Bustards

Bengal Florican *Eupodotis bengalensis* ssp. *blandini*

At least six birds seen near Stoung at dusk on 24.2. 1 imm. male at Krous Kraom on 25.2. Classified as endangered. This species still exists in fairly good numbers on the floodplains around Tonlé Sap but these plains are rapidly converted into agricultural land which is a major threat for the species!

Gruidae: Cranes

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* ssp. *sharpii*

At least 111 seen at the Crane Reserve Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2. Have disappeared from neighbouring countries but still exist in good numbers in Cambodia



Sarus Cranes (ssp *Sharpii*)

Rallidae: Rails, gallinules & coots

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*
A few heard and seen at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* ssp. *viridis*
Seen at Praek Toal (>10) on 19.2 and at Ang Tropeang Thmor (>1200) on 20.2.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Seen at Angkor (1 on 18.2), Praek Toal (1 on 19.2) and at Ang Tropeang Thmor (2 on 20.2).

Scolopacidae: Woodcock & snipes

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Two seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 was the only observation.

Tringinae: Sandpipers et al.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
1 seen and heard at Krous Kraom on 25.2

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Ten at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
At least 50 at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Seen in smaller numbers at Praek Toal, Ang Tropeang Thmor and at Thmat Baeuy.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
One seen at Kampi Pools, Kratie on 26.2 was the only sighting.

Jacanidae: Jacanas

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Seen in smaller numbers at Angkor, Ang Tropeang Thmor and at Kratie.

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*
Seen in smaller numbers at Angkor and at Ang Tropeang Thmor.

Charadriidae: Stilts & sandpipers

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
At least 50 seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Pacific Golden Plovers *Pluvialis fulva*
Six seen at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor, Krous Kraom and at Kampi Pools, Kratie.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*
Two seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20/2.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
Four seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2, Two see at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2 and one at the same site on 23.2 were the only observations made on this trip.

Glareolinae: Pratincoles

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarium*
A few birds seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor (on 20.2), Stoung (on 24.2) and Krous Kraom (on 25.5).

Laridae: Gulls & terns

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*
At least 20 birds were seen at Tonlé Sap on 19.2.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
A huge flock of at least 5000 birds was noted on Tonlé Sap Lake on 19.2.

Accipitridae Hawks & eagles

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*
At least five seen at Angkor on 18.2. Also seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2 and at Kratie on 26.2 with one bird at each location.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*
Only seen at Thmat Baeuy with one on 22.2 and at least two on 23.2.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
Commonly seen around Ang Trapeang Thmor on 20.2, but also seen with two birds at Krous Kraom on 25.2 and one at Bokor on 28.2.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Only seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2, with at least ten birds.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus*
Seen in small numbers at Praek Toal, Ang Tropeang Thmor and Thmat Baeuy.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Two birds seen at Bokor on 28.2 was the only observation.

Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichtyaetus*
At least three birds seen at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
Seen daily (22-24.2) at Thmat Baeuy in small numbers. One also seen at Bokor on 2.3.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*
Seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 (>5), at Stoung on 24.2 (1 male) and at Krous Kraom on 25.2 (>10).

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*
Two males seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivigatus*
Three observations: 2 at Koh Ker on 21.2, 1 at Bokor on 28.2 and 1 at the same locality on 2.3.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*
Commonly seen at Angkor on 18.2 and in Preah Vihear province on 21-24.2.

Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis*
One probable male seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Rufous-winged Buzzard *Butastur liventer*
Seen around Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 with a few individuals. Commonly seen around Thmat Baeuy.

Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
At least three different birds seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2.

Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*
One showed well at Bokor on 2.3. This is apparently a very rare species in Cambodia.

Falconidae: Falcons

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Three different birds at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 and also one female at Bokor on 28.2.

Podicipedidae: Grebes

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Five at Angkor on 18.2 and at least 17 at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Anhingidae: Darters

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Many seen at Praek Toal on 19.2 and a few also noted along the Mekong River at Kampi Pools, Kratie on 26.2.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

At least 20 birds at Praek Toal on 19.2. At least 1500 were seen flying upstream the Mekong at Kampi Pools, Kratie on 26.2.

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

The most common Cormorant at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* ssp. *sinensis*

Seen with at least 50 at Praek Toal on 19.2 and with at least 30 at Kratie on 26.2.

Ardeidae: Egrets, herons & bitterns

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common at Praek Toal and Ang Tropeang Thmor. Also seen in smaller numbers at Thmat Baeuy and at Kratie.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seen in smaller numbers at Praek Toal, Ang Tropeang Thmor, Stoung and at Krous Kraom.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Seen in smaller numbers at Praek Toal and at Ang Tropeang Thmor. One also seen at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

Commonly seen at Praek Toal and Ang Tropeang Thmor. Also noted at Krous Kraom and Kratie on 25.2.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Only noted at Praek Toal with at least 30 birds on 19.2.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* ssp. *coromandus*

Commonly seen at various localities in many parts of Cambodia.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Pond Herons in non-breeding plumage were seen most days but the only positive Chinese Pond Heron (in full breeding plumage) was noted at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2.

Little Heron *Butorides striatus*

At least 10 seen at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

At least 50 seen at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Three birds seen at Praek Toal on 19.2 and one at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Two birds seen at Praek Toal on 19.2 and one at Krous Kraom on 20.2.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

A lucky few saw just one at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Threskiornithidae: Ibises

Black-headed Ibis

Threskiornis melanocephalus

At least 20 seen at Praek Toal on 19.2.

White-shouldered Ibis

Pseudibis davisoni

We visited one nest at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2 but the birds had already left it to our great agony. Lucky for us was that a new nest had been found just a few days before our visit to the area. This nest was still active on 23.2 and two adult birds were seen in the vicinity.

Classified as vulnerable. This species is extremely rare and the two nest that we visited might sadly enough be the only once remaining in the whole world!



Giant Ibis *Pseudibis gigantea*

One of the major reasons to do this trip was to see this mythical and very shy species and we were lucky to spot up to seven birds in one flock on 22.2. We made contact with Giant Ibises at every tropeang (wet mud holes) that we visited on this date! This was surely a day to remember!! Classified as endangered. Historically this species were spread over much of Indochina. Today it still exists in northern Cambodia and southern Laos. Sightings have also been confirmed from Vietnam in recent time. The total population might not be bigger than 100 individuals!

Pelecanidae: Pelicans

Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*

Common at Praek Toal. Every time you looked up at the sky you saw Spot-billed Pelicans...! This bird is a good example of how much our knowledge about the South-east Asian bird fauna have changed since the Khmer Rouge put down their arms. In the Handbook of the Birds of the World, volume 1 (1992), it's stated that this species is "*probably the least numerous pelican in the world*". They mention 400 breeding pairs in India and 900 in Sri Lanka. Nothing is said about any existing birds in Cambodia...!!

Ciconiidae: Storks

Milky Stork *Mycteria cinerea*

We were lucky to spot at least three Milky's at Praek Toal (platform 2) on 19.2. 1 adult standing on a nest in tree number 24 (each tree in the colony is marked with a number!). We also noted a change of incubators in an other nest. One of these birds showed well when flying past the platform at a short distance. Classified as vulnerable. This species stronghold is the Indonesian island Sumatra but 5-10 pairs also exist in Praek Toal.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

Common at Praek Toal. The only other observation was of a flock containing at least 45 birds at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

Commonly seen at Praek Toal.

Wolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Seen at Thmat Baeuy with 3-5 birds on 22.2 and at least 3 on 23.2.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Two seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 was a nice surprise!

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

At least 20 seen at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Classified as vulnerable. This species has reportedly declined through all its range.

Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*

5-10 birds were noted at Praek Toal on 19.2.

Classified as endangered. 30-40 pairs breed in Praek Toal.

Irenidae: Fairy bluebirds & leafbirds

Asian Fairy Blubird *Irena puella*

Commonly seen at Bokor on 27.2-2.3.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

Commonly seen at Bokor on 27.2-2.3.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*

One seen by Fred at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2 was the only sighting.

Laniidae: Shrikes

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Seen in small numbers at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 and at Bokor on 28.2.

Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurio*

One seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2. Otherwise only seen around Thmat Baeuy on 22-24.2 (small numbers).

Corvinae: Crows et al.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

Only seen in small numbers at Thmat Baeuy on 22-24.2.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Only seen in small numbers at Thmat Baeuy on 22-24.2.

Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*

Four seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 was the only sighting.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Seen at various places, but not in the south!

Oriolini: Orioles et al.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Only seen at Bokor on 28.2-2.3 with one bird per day.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

Common around Thmat Baeuy but also seen with a few birds at Angkor (18.2) and at Ang Tropeang Thmor (20.2).

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*

Common around Thmat Baeuy but also seen at Kratie (25.2) and Bokor (1.3) with one bird each.

Indochinese Cuckooshrike *Coracina polioptera*

Seen at Thmat Baeuy on 23-24.2 with two birds on each day.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*
One seen by Fred at Bokor on 28.2 was the only sighting.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*
Seen in small numbers and in most days at Bokor.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
Seen in small numbers at Thmat Baeuy on 22-24.2.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
One pair seen at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2 was the only sighting.

Dicrurinae: Fantails

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*
Only seen in Preah Vihear province and only in small numbers.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*
Seen and heard around Siem Reap at Angkor, Praek Toal and Ang Tropeang Thmor. Also heard at Kratie on 25.2.

Dicrurini: Drongos

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Commonly seen at various places except in the southern part of the country.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
Seen at Angkor, Thmat Baeuy and Bokor.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
Two seen at Thmat Baeuy on 23.2.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*
Only seen at Bokor with 1-2 individuals on 28.2 and 1.3.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Fairly common around Thmat Baeuy.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
Seen at various places in moderate numbers.

Monarchini: Monarchs

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
Seen and heard at various places in small numbers.

Aegithininae: Ioras

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Commonly seen and heard around Thmat Baeuy. Also heard at Praek Toal on 19.2 and Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.

Malaconotinae: Woodshrikes

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*
Two observations: One at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2 and one at Bokor on 1.3.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
Commonly seen around Thmat Baeuy. One also seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2.



Turdinae: Thrushes

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
Two seen at Angkor on 18.2, one male at Kampi Pools, Kratie on 26.2, 1 pair at Bokor on 27.2 and three males at the same locality on 28.2. This species was represented by two different subspecies: *M. s. pandoo* (blue bellied) and *M. s. philippensis* (orange bellied).

Blue Rock Thrush (ssp philippensis)

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
Two observations: 1 at Bokor (near the waterfall) on 28.2 and one on the way down from Bokor on 2.3.

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*
Only seen at Bokor: At least four close to the Tea-farm on 27.2 and one at the same place on 28.2. On the way down from Bokor we saw at least two close to a fruiting tree on 2.3.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
Only seen at Bokor and only in small numbers.

Muscicapini: Old world Flycatchers

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
Seen in small numbers at Siem Reap, Thmat Baeuy and Bokor.

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*
One seen by Fred at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2 and a male showed well close to the tea-farm at Bokor on 28.2.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*
This newly split species was seen in small numbers at Ang Tropeang Thmor, Thmat Baeuy and Bokor.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*
Commonly seen at Bokor.

Saxicolini: Chats & allies

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Two seen at Stoung on 24.2 and at least five seen at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane*
Two observations at Bokor: 1 female on 27.2 and one male on 28.2. Both were close to the Tea farm.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*
Seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor and at Phnom Penh in small numbers.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
One heard at Angkor on 18.2 and one seen at Bokor on 27.2 were the only sightings.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* ssp. *stejnegeri*
Commonly seen in open areas around Angkor, Ang Tropeang Thmor, Thmat Baeuy, Stoung Krous Kraom and Kratie.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*
As previous species!

Sturnidae: Starlings & mynas

Asian Pied Starling *Sturnus contra*

Only two observations: One at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20.2 and one at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis*

Commonly seen and heard at various places.

Vinous-breasted Starling *Sturnus burmannicus*

Two birds seen on each day at Thmat Baeuy. Although probably different individuals.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Common in and around towns and villages.

White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis*

Commonly seen around Siem Reap and Thmat Baeuy.

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*

Three observations: Four at Angkor on 18.2, one heard at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2 and two seen at Bokor on 2.3.

Sittinae: Nuthatches

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*

Only seen around Thmat Baeuy and only in small numbers.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Seen in small numbers around Thmat Baeuy.

Parinae: Typical Tits

Great Tit *Parus major*

One seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22.2.

Hirundininae: Martins & swallows

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common at Krous Kraom on 25.2.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common at various places.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Commonly seen around Thmat Baeuy and also noted at Kampot on 2.3.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Seen at Bokor with at least five birds on 27.2 and ten on 1.3. Two were also noted at Kampot on 2.3.

Pycnonotidae: Bulbuls

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*

Commonly seen at Bokor.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

Commonly seen at Thmat Baeuy.

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*

Few seen at Siem Reap and commonly seen at Bokor.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Noted in the Siem Reap-area on 17/2 and at Bokor on 2/3.

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*

Noted in the Siem Reap-area on 17-18/2, at Thmat Baeuy on 23/2, in the Khompong Thom-area on 25/2 and at Bokor on 2/3.

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*

Only seen at Bokor where it was fairly common.

Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua*

Heard at Bokor on 27/2 and also noted in the area on 2/3.

Cisticolidae: Cisticolas, prinias & allies

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

One noted at Thmat Baeuy on 24/2. Commonly seen and heard at the plains around Khompong Thom on 24-25/2 and also common at Kratie.

Brown Prinia *Prinia polychroa*

Only noted at Thmat Baeuy: One on 23/2 and two on 24/2.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*

One seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22/2.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

A few were seen at Thmat Baeuy.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

One at Praek Toal on 19/2 and one at Krous Kraom on 25/2.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

One at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20/2 and one at Krous Kraom on 25/2.

Zosteropidae: White-eyes

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Only seen at Bokor where one seen at the waterfall on 28/2.

Sylviidae: Warblers et al.

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

Noted at Stroung on 24/2 and at Krous Kraom on 25/2.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

One heard at Kratie on 26/2.

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*

Few heard and seen in the Siem Reap-area, Praek Toal and at Bokor.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

A few heard and seen at Praek Toal, Krous Kraom and at Kratie.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Few seen and heard at Thmat Baeuy.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Only seen and heard at Bokor, where quite common.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

One observation at Bokor on 28/2.

Pale-legged Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
One observation at Bokor on 1/3.

Megalurinae: Grassbirds

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*

One seen near the small fishing village Xiem Reap (situated at Tonlé Sap and close to Siem Reap).
Also a few seen at Stroung and at Krous Kraom.

Garrulacinae: Laughingthrushes

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

Heard and seen in the Siem Reap-area, Thmat Baeuy and at Bokor.

Timaliini: Babblers

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

Only heard (but in most days) at Bokor.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

Seen and heard most days at Bokor.

Striped Tit Babbler *Macronous gularis*

Noted in the Siem Reap-area, Thmat Baeuy and commonly at Bokor.

Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*

Two seen at Thmat Baeuy on 24/2.

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*

Few noted at Bokor on 28/2 and 2/3.

Alaudidae: Larks

Australasian Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

Only seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20/2.

Indochinese Bushlark *Mirafra marionae*

Only seen at Thmat Baeuy on 24/2.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

Few seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor and at Krous Kraom.

Nectariniidae: Flowerpeckers, sunbirds & spiderhunters

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

At least five seen at Bokor on 27/2.

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

One seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20/2.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis*

Two seen at Thmat Baeuy on 22/2 and on 24/2.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinis jungularis*

Commonly seen in the Siem Reap-area and at Praek Toal. Also a few seen at Koh Ker and at Thmat Baeuy.

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*

Commonly seen at Thmat Baeuy.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*

Commonly seen at Bokor.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*
One noted at Bokor on 2/3.

Passeridae: Sparrows

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen around Ang Tropeang Thmor in smaller numbers. This bird species is fairly new to Cambodia and under spread from Thailand [compare with Peaceful Dove].

Plain-backed Sparrow *Passer flaveolus*

At least five seen close to Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20/2. Also one male seen Thmat Baeuy on 23/2.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Commonly seen at many locations.

Motacillinae: Wagtails & pipits

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*

One seen at Bokor on 27/2 and on 2/3.

Mekong Wagtail *Motacilla samvaesna*

Four birds of this newly described species (endemic to the Mekong River) were studied at Kampi Pools close to Kratie on 26/2.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* ssp. *macronyx*

Few seen at Praek Toal, Stroung and Krous Kraom.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

One male seen at Bokor waterfall on 28/2.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor, Stroung and at Krous Kraom.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Commonly seen at Thmat Baeuy and Bokor.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Common at Ang Tropeang Thmor, Stroung and Krous Kraom.

Ploceinae: Weavers

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

A small colony seen at Ang Tropeang Thmor on 20/2.

Estrildinae: Estrildine finches

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

A flock seen at Ang Troepang Thmor on 20/2 and common at Krous Kraom on 25/2.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

Small numbers at Thmat Baeuy on 22-23/2.

Emberizinae: Buntings

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

At least hundred seen at Krous Kraom on 25/2.

Bird observations in the Bangkok area 17/2 and 3-7/3 2005

Coraciidae: Rollers

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
Seen only in small numbers around Bangkok.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
Heard at Khok Kham.

Apodidae: Swifts

Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris*
House Swift *Apus affinis*
Both species seen in smaller numbers in Bangkok on 17/2.

Columbidae: Pigeons & doves

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* [domest.]
Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Tringinae: Sandpipers et al.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
All three species seen at Khok Kham.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
At least two seen at Khok Kham.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper
Calidris pygmaeus

Our last target species for this trip and one of the more appreciated! One bird in winter plumage seen well for about 50 minutes at Khok Kham. You can find some good directions to the correct site on the Internet. Classified as vulnerable. If you look at

the wintering population this species must now be extremely rare. What was thought to be this species most important wintering quarters, the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh, now no longer seem to hold any wintering birds at all. These few (and easily seen) birds that regularly turns up in the Bangkok area (Khok Kham + one other site) during winter might sadly enough make up a good proportion of the total world population!

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
All three species seen in fairly good numbers at Khok Kham.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*
About ten seen at Khok Kham.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
One seen at Khok Kham of this in Thailand rather rare species.

Charadriidae: Stilts & sandpipers

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
Pacific Golden Plovers *Pluvialis fulva*
All four species noted at Khok Kham.

Glareolinae: Pratincoles

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarium*
At least four seen at Khok Kham.

Laridae: Gulls & terns

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*
Few noted at Khok Kham.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*
Four noted at Khok Kham on 4/3.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
Both noted in small numbers at Khok Kham.

Accipitridae: Hawks & eagles

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
A 2nd year bird seen close to the airport on 17/2 was the only observation in Thailand.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus*
One adult bird seen at Khok Kham on 4/3.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*
Noted at Khok Kham.

Ardeidae: Egrets, herons & bitterns

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* ssp. *coromandus*
Little Heron *Butorides striatus*
All five species seen at Khok Kham.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*
One bird in full breeding plumage was seen at Khok Kham on 4/3.

Laniidae: Shrikes

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
One seen at Comfort Suits on 17/2.

Corvinae: Crows et al.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Common and seen daily in Bangkok.

Dicrurinae: Fantails

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*
One seen at Comfort Suits on 17/2.

Saxicolini: Chats & allies

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*

Sturnidae: Starlings & mynas

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Common and seen daily in Bangkok.

Hirundininae: Martins & swallows

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
Seen in smaller numbers.

Pycnonotidae: Bulbuls

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Three seen at Comfort Suits on 17/2

Streak-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus blanfordi*
Noted at Comfort Suits on 17/2.

Cisticolidae: Cisticolas, prinias & allies

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Nectariniidae: Flowerpeckers, sunbirds & spiderhunters

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*
Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinis jungularis*

Passeridae: Sparrows

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Motacillinae: Wagtails & pipits

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Noted at Khok Kham on 4/3.

Estrildinae: Estrildine finches

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*
At least two seen at Comfort Suits on 17/2.

Mammals

On this trip we just saw a few mammal species...

Pileated Gibon – Bokor

Irrawaddy River Dolphin – Kampi Pools close to Kratie

Variable Squirrel – Siem Reap-area

Cambodian Three-banded Squirrel – Siem Reap-area

Shrew sp. – Bokor

Bat sp. – Phnom Penh

In Bangkok we also saw some Macaques close to Khok Kham on 4/3.