



Angkor Wat

photo: Lars Olausson

INTRODUCTION

After having seen photos in the history book of the ancient Angkor Wat temple as a young school boy I knew this was one place I wanted to see. This was a dream I turned into reality this winter.

Cambodia is slowly recovering after the Pol Pot regime of the 1970's and millions of tourists have found their way back to Siem Reap and the Angkor Wat temple area.

One of the Swedish charter companies started with trips to Cambodia in the autumn of 2007, combining Siem Reap, Phnom Penh and the resort of Sihanoukville in the south. The trip combines history, both ancient and modern, with sunshine and good bathing. Add some good birding and day trips and you are close to the perfect vacation.

As usual we will alert the reader, ***this is not a full day hard core birding trip***, it was a family vacation and the focus in this report is what a family birder with limited time can expect to achieve.

When searching the web for trip reports it soon became obvious where birders go and what they want to see. We could not find any literature on the south, except for Bokor N.P and even then it was not much.

This made the bird watching around Sihanoukville a little bit unpredictable. What type of habitat, or habitats could we find? Was there any remaining rainforest or just hotels and sand; were there any wetlands or lakes? The questions were many.

GENERAL INFORMATION

We did not use any of the “normal” charter companies this time, since we wanted to do this in our own way. We bought flight tickets from Globetrotter, leaving from Stockholm/Arlanda direct to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysian Airlines. Flight and hotel to a cost of 13500:-SKr each (also including a hotel night at KLIA on our way back home). Our hotel in Siem Reap (also included in the above mentioned price) - Apsara Angkor was very good, although a little far from the town centre and the temple area.

From Siem Reap to Phnom Penh we took the speedboat connection, at a cost 25 of US\$ which was not particularly good value for money. The boat travels first on the Tonle Sap lake for more than an hour and then on the Tonle Sap river. The same trip with express bus on good roads last as long as the boat trip but cost only 6-10\$. It took about 5 ½ hours to get to Phnom Penh and the chaos around the jetty and on the ferry was another experience.

In the capital we met with more chaos. It was a challenge to search for your luggage, while being haranged by dozens of young men trying to sell you a ‘tailor-made’ trip to goodness knows where!

We took a taxi (minibus) to Sihanoukville. Four hours ride at a cost of 120\$. We arrived safely in the late afternoon at Orchidé Guest House, also pre-booked on the internet. Unfortunately we had to change rooms a couple of times because of the popularity of this guest house. The pool side rooms are very popular and probably booked well in advance. The rate differs between rooms but we were charged normal double room rate even though we had some bigger rooms on a few nights. Cost 23\$ per night for the standard double room. Nice staff, good food although a with a meagre breakfast. This can be supplemented with fruit juice and fruit plate as extra, which also means an extra cost of about 5\$ per breakfast, if ordering.

When leaving the town we took the bus, Mekong Express, back to Phnom Penh, four hours at a cost of 6\$ and numbered seats. The Air con was ‘on the blink’ but it was at least not burning hot inside. The bus provided a small breakfast for free.

The final words about costs are that Cambodia is not cheap around the tourist crowded places like Siem Reap/Angkor Wat, Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. One exception - evening meals in a restaurant was quite inexpensive in Sihanoukville but the quality differed a lot. Lunch at a beach shack was almost the same price as the dinner in the evening.

Other costs, as for day trips are shown in the guides & contacts part or in the itinerary.

A Visa is required in Cambodia, bring one (or maybe two, just to be safe) photos, fill in the visa on the flight and pay 25\$ at the airport/customs. Getting in and out of the country did not take a long time at all. There were a lot of officials behind the desk but they handled the papers quickly.

Surprisingly we had to pay another 25\$ when leaving Cambodia.

As usual we used various websites as www.club300.se, www.birdtours.co.uk and www.surfbirds.com for trip reports but not much was found for a family birder **not** going to see the ibises in the north, going to Kampot for the Bengal Florican or to Kratie for the Mekong Wagtail and the Irrawaddy Dolphins.

As a tourist we used Lonely Planet's guide for all kinds of information - very useful. Those guides are also sold on the markets for 5-6\$, but do not buy any of those - the printing and paper quality is poor and maps are almost illegible.

Malaria occurs in Cambodia, especially in the north. We saw some mosquitoes both around Siem Reap and in Sihanoukville in the south. We did not take any pills pre or during the stay, but we had Malarone in the luggage in case of anyone being sick, so we could start an immediate treatment. Bring insect repellent for use at dawn and dusk.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION

There are plenty of local buses, taxis and for short distances, the tuk-tuk - a weak motorbike with a wagon for up to four persons.

Around the tourist areas prices were mainly fixed. Sometimes we managed to negotiate prices during the slow parts in the middle of the day.

Taxi to Bokor N.P or Ream N.P was also at fixed prices.

Going outside the bigger towns and travelling on minor roads meant bad roads with no hard surface but with a lot of potholes of varying sizes. To go the 60 km to Ang Trapeang Thmor took more than two hours, though fear not, the road is under reconstruction and will probably be quite good in a year or two.

This is also the case with the road up to Bokor Hill Station. Drivable with a normal car about half way by now, although partly still quite slow.

Everyone in Cambodia uses their horn at every opportunity. The horn is used when driving through small towns and villages instead of slowing down, except around the local market if it is situated along the main road.

Around villages there were quite often cows, dogs, fowls and even buffalos along the roadsides or even walking slowly in the middle of the road. They were also chased away by the horn.

When travelling well outside the main towns you are heading a century or so back in time compared to our standard of living.

GUIDES & CONTACTS

For a day or two around the temples simply arrange with the reception at your hotel. Ask for an English speaking guide and chose the type/size of car/taxi you need. There is also a possibility to go by tuk-tuk, they charge 12\$ for a return trip. We paid 25\$ for the guide for one day and for the minibus (we were 4 adults and 1 teenager) they charged 37\$, driver included. Note that that is two different "companies". The guide and driver

never seemed to be the same, so we actually employed two people that day. Prices seemed to be fixed and agreed all over the town. The entrance fee for the temple area is 20\$ for one day and 40\$ for a 3-day card. They take photos at the entrance and then you will get a ticket with a photo. We had to show the ticket at every new temple, so keep it safe.

We decided to go to the Preak Toal bird sanctuary on the far side of the Tonle Sap Lake, both to see the birds but also to have a look at life in the floating village. This trip we pre-booked on the internet and as we were 5 persons (their minimum for going there) we could go on a private trip. This tour is only arranged by Osmose, a French based organization. Cost 80\$ per person for a whole day, meals included. Normally they pick up at the hotel by 5.30am and return to hotel by 15.30. We arranged a later start and was not disappointed, though a full day out there is rather tough if you're not doing full time birding. The boat ride across the Tonle Sap Lake lasts an hour one way. If one visits the bird sanctuary later, probably from early February, it is impossible to go by motor boat to the platforms due to too low water level. Then you will be paddled, and that is time consuming, but probably a great experience and better bird watching. The visit ends up with lunch and a tour around the village where you are shown what they are doing for the poor people out here. The trip might look expensive at first glance, but is worth the money when you realize how many poor ones you have been helping and employing during the day.

Visit their home page www.osmosetonlesap.net from there you can click on the contact and send them your questions. One can also read what this French based, non profit organization is doing to help others.

Their E-mail address is osmose@online.com.kh

Our guide out there was Nara, English speaking and well educated about both wildlife and human life out on the lake. He really made our day one to remember.

We also decided to go to Ang Trapaeng Thmor on our own, to get a day for bird watching around this man made reservoir. ATT is situated about 60 km northwest of Siem Reap. This trip was arranged by Sam Veasna center. Homepage www.samveasna.org where there is a contact link or simply contact their Booking manager Seng Raksa on bookings@samveasna.org They have a fixed price for the day trip and it will of course be a better price if there are more participants. We where charged 100\$ per person, breakfast and lunch included. For the second day we got Nara as our guide. He really, once again, made our day.

SITES

For the keen world twitching birder there is nothing to add except that the standard of some roads are due to get better in a year or two, especially to **Ang Trapaeng Thmor** and the road up to **Bokor Hill Station**.

When visiting the **Preak Toal Bird Sanctuary** early in the year it is possible to go by motorboat all the way to platform 5. That one is their best. From there we recorded all our target species except Milky Stork.

When going to ATT we first stopped at two small wetland pools called **Trapeang Rolom Thom**. Here we scored when 3 Sarus Cranes came flying and then landed, although a little distant. The cranes are not so easy to see during January, Nara told us. These pools are really worth a visit!



View over part of Ang Trapeang Thmor

photo: Lars Olausson

Around Sihanoukville the following sites and areas can be recommended. See also map below.

Ream National Park consists of about 210 sq km of forest and mangrove swamp. The park office is situated some 13 km east of Sihanoukville town centre along the entrance road to the old airport. Stop at the office and get a guide. 8\$ for about 2 hours of guiding. It is a little tricky to find the path to the small waterfall though one had to pass a military post. The track was unsigned and hard to find if one had not visited previously!

The jungle/rainforest here lacks these huge trees with sheltering crowns as one find in Malaysia for example. The combination of only one or two short tracks and the lack of shade make this forest less productive and with a limited range of species. If there had been at least one more track leading deeper into the forest the species list could have been much longer, even with limited time available.

One can also go by boat; easily arranged through the hotel reception or with one of several tour operators. Almost a full day with lunch included for a cost of 15-25\$ per person. The boat took us to a nice, small beach and after

an hour of bathing and relaxing we were taken on a trip through the forest to a small village where we had lunch. The walk took about one hour. Ream N.P certainly has great potential but is not an easy area to access.



Wooden of Ream N.P

photo: Lars Olausson

Bamboo Island is another of those day trips offered by the local tour operators. Also almost a full day trip, lunch included and a few hours to bath or bird watch on your own. There is a wide track through the forest to the other side of the island. Slow walking and patience can be rewarding. Bring insect repellent, there were quite a lot of mosquitoes here. The same cost as for the Ream boat trip.

In **Sihanoukville** district we spent quite a lot of time in the area from the water treatment plant following the first road to the right after the plant. The plant is just east of the town, on the way to Otres beach. The small bushy area on the right side of the road just before the crossing was good. Also a small area with adjacent ponds on the left side, shortly after the start of the road that bended to the right (east) was also productive, although we could not find any track well into, what seemed to be the most interesting area.

ITINERARY

We left Stockholm 12.40 local time Friday on the Januray 4th and arrived at KLIA Saturday (5/1) morning. After a few hours of waiting for a connection flight to Siem Reap, also with Malaysian Airlines, we finally arrived at Siem Reap International airport 12.15 local time. We took a taxi to our pre booked hotel Angkor Apsara. Even though we were rather tired after a long journey

we went by tuk-tuk to the town centre and the local market in the afternoon. We looked around a bit, had dinner and then arranged with guide and car for the following day's temple excursion. All arranged at the hotel reception.

6/1. Full day around the famous temples and especially around Ta Phrom (the Tomb Raider temple) we had some nice birds like **Alexandrine Parakeet** and **Black Baza**. For the evening our guide had arranged dinner and Apsara dancers. Before dinner he took us to a park where thousands of fruit bats had their day time roost.

7/1. Early breakfast and by 08.00 Mr. Nara from Osmose came and picked us up for a full day out on Tonle Sap. We had pre booked this tour on the internet. First a 20 min minibus to the small jetty near Chang Khnies; an hour by boat to the other side of the lake and after signing in and picking up a park ranger we headed towards platform 5. After magnificent views of storks, adjutants, openbills, pelicans and **Grey-headed Fish-eagles** we went back to the floating village for lunch and a tour around to have a look at daily life. We looked at fish and crocodile farms, handicraft shop and floating gardens. A day to remember forever. Back at the hotel at 17.30.

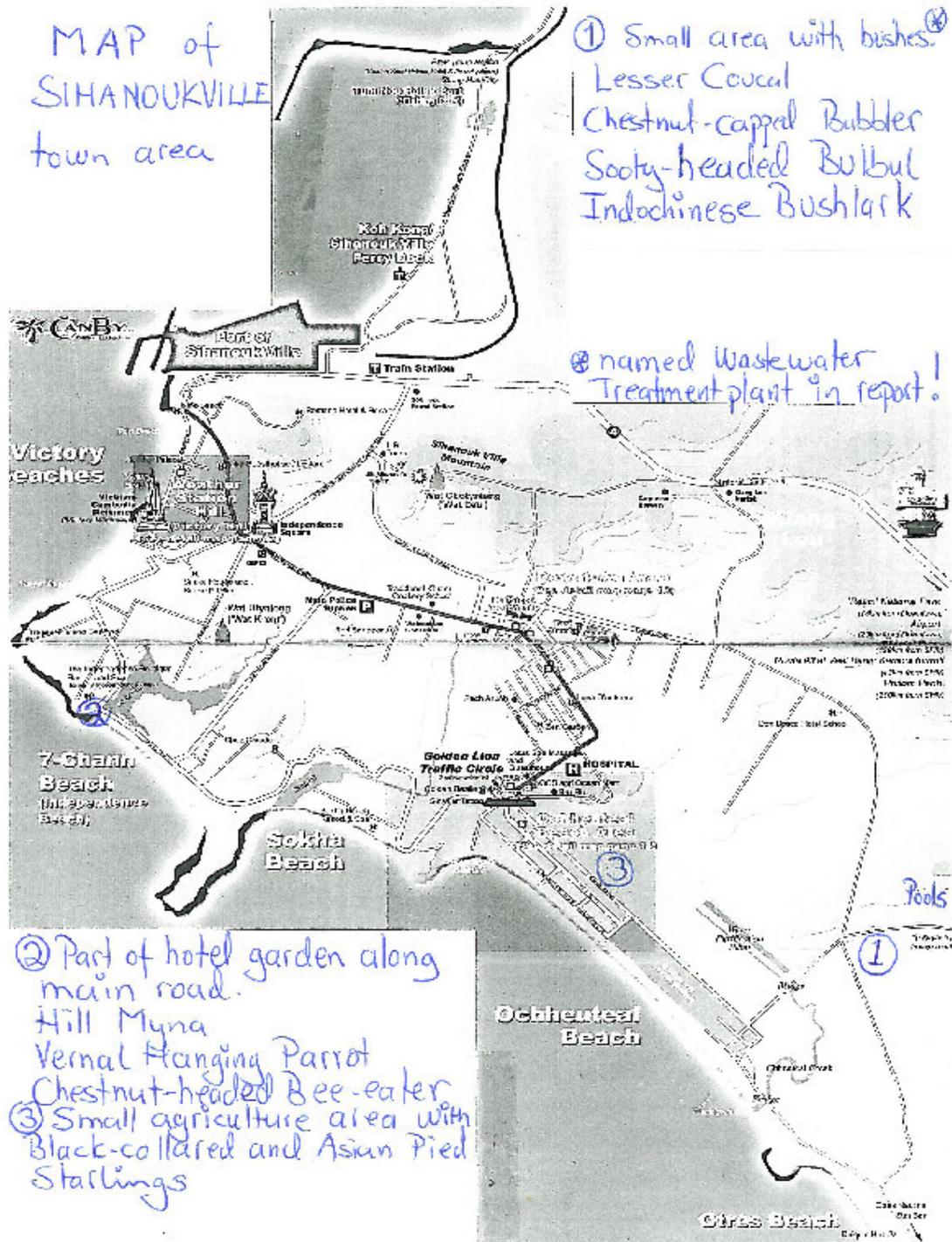
8/1. A very early rise and at 05.15 once again Mr. Nara came and picked us up for a day of bird watching, (today Nara worked for Sam Veasna Center) without families, but with the company of 3 birders from the US. We went to Ang Trapeang Thmor, some 60 km or 2 hours northwest of Siem Reap. We had pre booked this trip on the internet well in advance. Sam Veasna charged us 100\$ each for the trip, a smaller breakfast and lunch included. Back at the hotel late afternoon. Highlights were **Comb Duck** and **Sarus Crane**.

9/1. Early start again though we had a taxi at 06.00 to the jetty near Chong Khnies for the speed boat ride to Phnom Penh. 5 ½ hours later we arrived at Cambodia's capital city, arranged for a minivan for the 220 km to Sihanoukville, where we arrived 17.30. Checked in at the Orchidé Guest House and had an early dinner in their restaurant. Highlight were the impressive number of **Whiskered Tern**, probably underestimated in the species list.

10/1. Got up early, eager to investigate the bird life in the surroundings. Walked east from the guest house towards the water treatment plant only to find out that the number of birds and species were rather low. Best birds this morning was **Asian Pied** and **Collared Starlings** and **Plain-backed Sparrow**. Back for breakfast at 9.00 and the rest of the day was spent relaxing on Otres Beach.

11.1 Took a tuk-tuk taxi to the water treatment plant where we found a nice area with low bushes surrounded with higher trees and an area of ponds. Birded in a rather small area this morning and had a long walk back for breakfast. Good, and new, birds here were **Lesser Coucal**, **Sooty-headed Bulbul** and **Chestnut-capped Babbler**. We also had an unidentified woodpecker that just flew by (probably a Fulvous-breasted but range made

certain identification impossible). Along the road back we found a pair of **Indochinese Bushlarks**. After breakfast we once again had a relaxing day on Otres Beach.



Map over Sihanoukville town.

12/1. After an early breakfast we had had arranged a day trip to Bamboo Island for snorkeling and bathing. First stop was at Lesser Bamboo for some snorkeling and after some 30-40 minutes the boat took us to the main island for bathing and lunch. Quite a lot of common birds in the surroundings. We rather quickly went towards the lowland jungle. Found a nice track right into the forest and all together we managed to sneak away from the beach for about two hours. Among the more common species we noticed **Gray-eyed Bulbul, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Black-naped Monarch, Laced Woodpecker** and **Hill Mynas**. Over the island 2 **Gray-faced Buzzards** were soaring.

In the late afternoon we went to the water treatment plant for some birding. Arranged for a taxi for the trip the following day.

13/1. Got up early, had a quick breakfast and went to Ream National Park with the pre-booked taxi. Stopped at the rangers HQ and hired a ranger at a cost of 8\$/person for two hours. The track to the advertised waterfall started behind a military post and was therefore impossible to find on our own. Got out of the taxi and immediately a **Green-eared Barbet** was heard. The park ranger walked away at a furious speed and we had to call him back. After a short dialogue, it was agreed that he would walk behind us. Other good birds here were **Ruby-cheeked** and **Purple-throated Sunbird** a female plumaged **Siberian Rubythroat**.

Went back to our waiting families by 10.30; went to Independence Beach with tuk-tuk and had another relaxing afternoon on a beach. We also managed to do an hours birding along the road towards the Independence Hotel.

14/1. A day trip with boat to Ream N.P together with our families was on the programme today. The trip company picked us up at the guest house by 8.30 and were dropped back there in the mid afternoon. We had a minibus to a small jetty some 20 minutes away from Sihanoukville close to the village of Töek Sap. The boat trip along the river out to the sea took about one hour. We were taken to a small beach where we had an hour for bathing and relaxing and then a 50 minute walk through the forest to a small village for lunch and then back to the jetty. Rather too much time was spent travelling on the river, when we could have been birding but at least we managed to see a pair of **Woolly-necked Storks** perched in a dead tree and an **Oriental Pied Hornbill** passing by.

In the evening we got in an hour of birding around the water treatment plant.

15/1. Got up by 04.30 for the taxi ride to Bokor. We had pre booked the car the day before but he managed to be 45 min late and who knows what had happened if the night guard had not woken the receptionist to call for the taxi. We arrived at the road up the mountain towards Bokor Hill Station just a few minutes after 7.00. The driver took us a few km up the road and then we agreed a pick up time and started to walk uphill. The bird activity was

much lower than expected. Not many birds were singing, no bird waves turned up. We just kept walking along the main road up hill. The fact that this was mid January could have explained why we missed some of the species supposed to favour the area. Good findings were a splendid calling male **Orange-breasted Trogon** and a small party of **Wreathed Hornbills** passing by. Two species we had seen very poorly in Malaysia. Also worthy of mention is **Hair-crested Drongo** and **Moustached Barbet** among the more common species.

We got back in Sihanoukville by 14.15, then relaxed on the Serendipity Beach for the rest of the day.

16/1. Morning walk around the wastewater plant and after breakfast another hour's birding in an agriculture area just behind our guest house. When finished we went to Otres Beach for another relaxing day of sun-worshipping. Unfortunately, there was not a single wader on any of the beaches we visited or a single gull or tern over the sea. We ended the day with an hour birding in the agriculture area.

17/1. Early breakfast and at 07.45 the Mekong Express bus left the terminal towards Pnom Penh. The trip cost 6\$, small breakfast included and took about four hours. In Cambodia's capital city more chaos ensued. Try to avoid tuk-tuk and taxi drivers at the same time as one tries to find the luggage. A challenge to say the least! We took a tuk-tuk towards our pre booked hotel Bougainville, situated along the road where the Mekong River and the Tonle Sap River meet. Nice hotel close to the royal palace and the Silver Pagoda. Not far from a big market and lots of restaurants along the road. We had decided not to go to the killing fields or the prison, but visited the area around the royal palace.

18/1. Another early morning with breakfast at 06.30, taxi to the international airport some 45 minutes drive from our hotel. With the plane on time, we were on our way to Kuala Lumpur. After having checked in on Pan Pacific hotel at the airport we had a private sightseeing tour in Malaysia's capital city, arranged by Mano, our excellent bird guide from last April's birding tour. He really made our evening with visits to the twin towers and China Town and many more historical and nowadays important places.

19/1. Flight back to Stockholm/Arlanda and after some waiting there we had a three hour travel by train back to the winter in Sundsvall.

Species list

Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*)

10 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1, at least 300 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 15 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 14/1.

Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)

About 120 counted Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Cotton Teal (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)

3 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 30 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

1 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1 and 25 in the water reservoir at Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville 13/1.

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)

20 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 1 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 150 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*)

Several hundreds Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 1 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 25 during the boat trip between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh 9/1.



Asian Openbill

photo: Hans-Erik Persson

Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*)

1 pair roosting in a riverside tree Ream N.P and 1 soaring over the rice fields close to jetty at Prek Tōek Sap 14/1.

Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*)

8 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*)

3 soaring from platform 5 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

One of the birding highlights - we did not expect to see this rare and endangered species.

Our guide told us that the population in Tonle Sap is slowly growing, now it is about 50-60 pairs

Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)

3 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

2 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Cinnamon Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)

1 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1, 1 along Tonle Sap river between Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1 and 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 16/1.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

1 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)

3 during the boat trip to Ream N.P 14/1

Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*)

Common.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Common.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

2 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 2 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 8 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

4 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 2 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1, 20 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 1 Ream N.P 14/1.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

20 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 5 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 20 on the boat trip between Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1 and 1 Ream N.P 14/1.

Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*)

1 Siem Reap/Angkor Wat 6/1, 1 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 30 both at Trapeang Rolom Thom and Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Fairly common. 1-10 seen most days.

Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*)

20 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1 and 120 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*)

200 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 2 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and a flock of 100 on the boat trip Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1.

Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*)

At least 200 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

5 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)

100 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1 and 1 on the boat trip Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

1 adult and 1 juvenile Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

The young bird called loudly, begging for food!

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

1 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 2 Bamboo Island 12/1, 1 Ream N.P 14/1 and 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 16/1.

Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

6 showing very well Seim Reap/Ta Phrom temple 6/1.

One of the birding highlights of the trip, what a stunning little bird of prey.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

1 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1, 1 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 2 during the boat trip Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1.

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)

Fairly common. 1-10 seen most days.

White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

1-2 adults Sihanoukville 10-16/1, 2 adults Bamboo Island 11/1 and 4 adults Ream N.P 1/14 .

Grey-headed Fish Eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*)

2 soaring around platform 5 at Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

1 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Eastern Marsh Harrier (*Circus spilonotus*)

1 female plumaged Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 2 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1, at least 5 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 1 female plumaged over the rice fields close to the jetty at Prek Tōek Sap 14/1.

Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)

1 male along the road between Rolom Thom-Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

Fairly common, 1-3 seen most of the days.

Grey-faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*)

2 Bamboo Island 12/1 and 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville on the same date and 1 Bokor N.P 15/1.

White-browed Crake (*Porzana cinerea*)

3 seen very well Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

20 Trapeang Rolom Thom and at least 300 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

3 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 10 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*)

3 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 4 adult and 1 2-nd year Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

The endangered race sharpii is not easy to see in January while they are mostly in a remote area without roads around the northwestern end of the trapeang. Later in February and March they are easier to see.

The group of 5 birds came soaring over our heads and decided to land just a few hundred metres away and gave us an excellent observation. Another birding highlight of the trip.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)

1 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 15 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*)

5 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 30 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

1 flushed around the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 12/1, 14/1 and 16/1. *At least two different birds.*

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

2 seen during the boat trip between Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1, 1 Sihanoukville 10/1 and 1 along the road between Sihanoukville and Bokor N.P 15/1.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

3 Sihanoukville 10/1.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

2 Sihanoukville 10-11/1, 1 during the boat trip to Ream N.P 14/1 and 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 14/1.

Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*)

20 on the boat trip Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1.

Many more gulls were seen but could not be positively identified due to distance.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

20 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1 and at least 1000 seen during the boat trip Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1.

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia 'feral'*)

Less common than in other countries we have visited in South-east Asia.

Red Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

Fairly common.

Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Fairly common. 1-5 seen almost every day.

Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)

1 Trapeang Rolom Thom and 4 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon (*Treron vernans*)

2 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 12 and 14/1.

(A flock of 10 green pigeons were seen flying away in the same area 16/1 and was thought to be this species also, but remain unidentified).

Thick-billed Green Pigeon (*Treron curvirostra*)

10 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Vernal Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*)

4 Bamboo Island 12/1 and 2 Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville 13/1.

Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*)

2 (1 pair) seen very well perched in a dead tree Seim Reap/Ta Phrom temple 6/1.

Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*)

At least 20 Seim Reap/Ta Phrom temple 6/1 and 3 Ream N.P 14/1.

Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

5 seen both at Trapeang Rolom Thom and Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Green-billed Malkoha (*Rhopodytes tristis*)

1 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

Fairly common.

Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*)

1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 11/1, 12/1 and 14/1.
On the first two dates probably the same bird was seen.

German's Swiftlet (*Aerodramus germani*)

Common.

Reading Birds of South-east Asia this is the only swiftlet occurring in Cambodia. Many of them also had a little paler upper tail coverts and belly than the rest of body.

Silver-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus cochinchinensis*)

4 Siem Reap/Angkor Wat temple 6/1.

Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)

Common.

House Swift (*Apus nipalensis*)

1 Sihanoukville 16/1.

Crested Treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronata*)

1 Siem Reap 5/1.

Orange-breasted Trogon (*Harpactes oreskios*)

3 (1 calling pair + 1 male) Bokor N.P 15/1.

The lonely, calling male gave us a 5 min observation, less than 10 m from us. What a stunning bird.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)

1 along the road between Rolom Thom-Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 3 during the boat trip between Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1.

White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Fairly common.

Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)

1 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 1-2 Sihanoukville 10-11/1, 3 around the airfield, close to ranger's HQ Ream N.P 13/1 and 1 along the road between Sihanoukville and Bokor N.P 15/1.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

1 seen Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 1 at both Trapeang Rolom Thom and Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1. In Sihanoukville 1, sometimes 2 were seen in a small pond 10-16/1.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

30 during the boat trip Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*)

Common. Recorded daily with highest count (50) Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*)

2 roosting in a dead tree close to Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville 13/1.

Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 12/1 and 1 Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville 13/1.

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)

1 crossed the river on our way back home from Ream N.P 14/1.

Wreathed Hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*)

5+3 seen flying at close range on three different occasions Bokor N.P 15/1.

Lineated Barbet (*Megalaima lineata*)

2 heard calling Siem Reap/Ta Phrom temple 6/1.

Green-eared Barbet (*Megalaima faiostriata*)

6 (2 seen very well) Ream N.P 13/1, 2 heard Ream N.P 14/1 and 2 heard close to the park entrance Bokor N.P 15/1.

Moustached Barbet (*Megalaima incognita*)

5 heard Bokor N.P 15/1.

Blue-eared Barbet (*Megalaima australis*)

10 Bokor N. P 15/1.

Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*)

1 heard Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Laced Woodpecker (*Picus vittatus*)

2 Bamboo Island 12/1.

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*)

2 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

3 female plumaged Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 14/1.

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Common in dry areas.

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Common.

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

1 Bamboo Island 12/1, 1 Ream N.P 13/1 and Ream N.P 14/1.

2 was of one of the beautiful races *leucogenis* or *salangensis*

Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*)

1 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

3 seen not far from the park entrance Bokor N.P 15/1.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)

1 Bamboo Island 12/1, 1 Ream N.P 13/1 and 2 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Pied Fantail (*Rhipidura javanica*)

4 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*)

1 male Bamboo Island 12/1.

Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

6 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)

20 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 5 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 5 seen on the boat trip between Siem Reap - Phnom Penh 9/1 and 3 Sihanoukville 10/1.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common.

Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*)

2 Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville 13/1 and 20 Ream N.P 14/1.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)

2 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 2 Bokor N.P 15/1 and 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 16/1.

Indochinese Bushlark (*Mirafra erythrocephala*)

2 (1 pair) Sihanoukville 11/1 and 5 around the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 16/1.

Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*)

1 along the road between Rolom Thom-Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 2 Sihanoukville 11/1.

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

2 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 1 pair in the hotel garden Sihanoukville, common Bokor N.P 15/1 and 5 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 16/1

Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*)

5 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 2 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 2 Sihanoukville 11/1.

Black-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

5 Seim Reap/Ta Phrom temple 6/1.

Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*)

1 Ream N.P 13/1 and common Bokor N.P 15/1.

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

2 Phnom Penh 17/1.

Sooty-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)

8-10 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 11-12/1.

Stripe-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus finlaysoni*)

2 Sihanoukville 11/1, 4 Bamboo Island 12/1, 10 Ream N.P 13/1, 2 Ream N.P 14/1 and 2 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

Common.

Streak-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus blanfordi*)

4 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 2 Bokor N.P 15/1, 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 16/1 and 1 Phnom Penh 17/1.

Ochraceous Bulbul (*Criniger ochraceus*)

2 Ream N.P 13/1.

Grey-eyed Bulbul (*Iole propinqua*)

1 Bamboo Island 12/1 and 5 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Thick-billed Warbler (*Phragamaticola aedon*)

5 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Oriental Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus orientalis*)

2 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1 and 2 Sihanoukville 16/1.

Black-browed Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)

1 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1 and 1 Sihanoukville 11/1.

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

3 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 1 Sihanoukville 11/1.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Common.

Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

2 Siem Reap/Angkor Wat temple 6/1, 2 Bamboo Island 12/1, 2 Ream N.P 13/1 and 1 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*)

2 Ream N.P 13 and 14/1, also 2 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Buff-breasted Babbler (*Pellorneum tickelli*)

2 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Striped Tit-babbler (*Macronous gularis*)

2 Sihanoukville 11/1, 4 Ream N.P 13/1 and 5 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Chestnut-capped Babbler (*Timalia pileata*)

2 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 11/1 and 5 in the same area 16/1.

White-bellied Yuhina (*Yuhina zantholeuca*)

Heard both at Ream N.P 13-14/1 and Bokor N.P 15/1.

Asian Fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*)

5 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*)

2+2 Bamboo Island 12/1 and 6 Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville 13/1.

White-vented Myna (*Acridotheres grandis*)

10 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 20 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1, 50 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 20 Sihanoukville 16/1.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Common.

Black-collared Starling (*Sturnus nigricollis*)

2 along the road between Trapeang Rolom Thom and Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 3 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and up to 25 Sihanoukville 10-16/1, with the highest count 16/1, around the wetland just east of the town center.

Asian Pied Starling (*Sturnus contra*)

8 Sihanoukville 10/1, 5 seen there 16/1 and also 17 seen around the wetland just east of the town center.

Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*)

1 female colored Ream N.P 13/1 and 1 female colored in another part of Ream N.P 14/1.

Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

1 Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary 7/1, 2 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 2 Sihanoukville 11/1.

White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*)

5 Bamboo Island 12/1 and 2 Ream N.P 14/1.

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*)

10 around Ang Trapeang Thmor and Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1.

Pied Stonechat (*Saxicola caprata*)

5 around Ang Trapeang Thmor and Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)

1 adult male of the rufous-bellied race *philippensis* Siem Reap 6-8/1, 2 Sihanoukville 11/1, 1 Bamboo Island 12/1, 1 Sihanoukville 15/1 and also 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sihanoukville 16/1.

All records except the first were of female-plumaged birds.

White-throated Rock-thrush (*Monticola gularis*)

1 male seen Bokor N.P 15/1.

Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*)

1 Bamboo Island 12/1, 1 Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville 13/1 and 2 Bokor N.P 15/1.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis hainanus*)

1 Bamboo Island 12/1.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*)

1 Ream N.P 13/1.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

1 male Siem Reap/Angkor Wat 6/1, 2 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 2 Sihanoukville 10/1.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird (*Chalcoparia singalensis*)

2 Ream N.P 13/1.

Purple-throated Sunbird (*Leptocoma sperata*)

1 stunning male seen Ream N.P 13/1

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*)

1 male seen Ream N.P 13 and 14/1.

Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*)

2 Siem Reap/Angkor Wat 6/1, 1 Sihanoukville 10/1 and 2 Bokor N.P 15/1.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

5 Siem Reap airport 5/1.

Plain-backed Sparrow (*Passer flaveolus*)

2 (1 pair) Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1, 5 Sihanoukville 10/1, 3 Sihanoukville 11/1 and 5 Sihanoukville 16/1.

The records in Sihanoukville were at two different locations.



Plain-backed Sparrow photo: Hans-Erik Persson

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
Common.

Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)
100 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1.

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)
3 Ang Trapeang Thmor 8/1 and 20 Wastewater Treatment Plant,
Sihanoukville 16/1.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*)
2 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)
3 Siem Reap 5/1.

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)
15 Trapeang Rolom Thom 8/1.

Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*)

Common.



Paddyfield Pipit

photo: Hans-Erik Persson

Birds recorded around Kuala Lumpur during the stop over in the afternoon 18/1. Mainly just outside the Pan Pacific hotel.

Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)

1 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*)

2 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)

2 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)

Common.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common.

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

1 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

1 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Asian Glossy Starling (*Aplonis panayensis*)
25 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Javan Myna (*Acridotheres javanicus*)
10 Kuala Lumpur 18/1. Introduced.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)
10 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*)
2 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Brown-throated Sunbird (*Anthreptes malacensis*)
2 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*)
4 Kuala Lumpur 18/1.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
Common.