ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Thailand

Northern & Central: Asian Birding at its Best I

7th February to 24th February 2022 (18 days)



Siamese Fireback by Markus Lilje

Thailand is quite simply the quintessential birding destination of Southeast Asia, boasting a fantastic diversity of habitats ranging from high mountain peaks draped with rhododendron forest to extensive mudflats and dense tropical lowlands resounding with birdsong. This tour is designed to take advantage of the influx of migrants from the north in addition to an amazing array of Asian species, including a host of localised and range-restricted specialities. Siamese Fireback, Silver Pheasant, Great Hornbill, Long-tailed Broadbill, Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo, Blue Pitta, Great Slaty and Black-headed Woodpeckers, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Giant Nuthatch

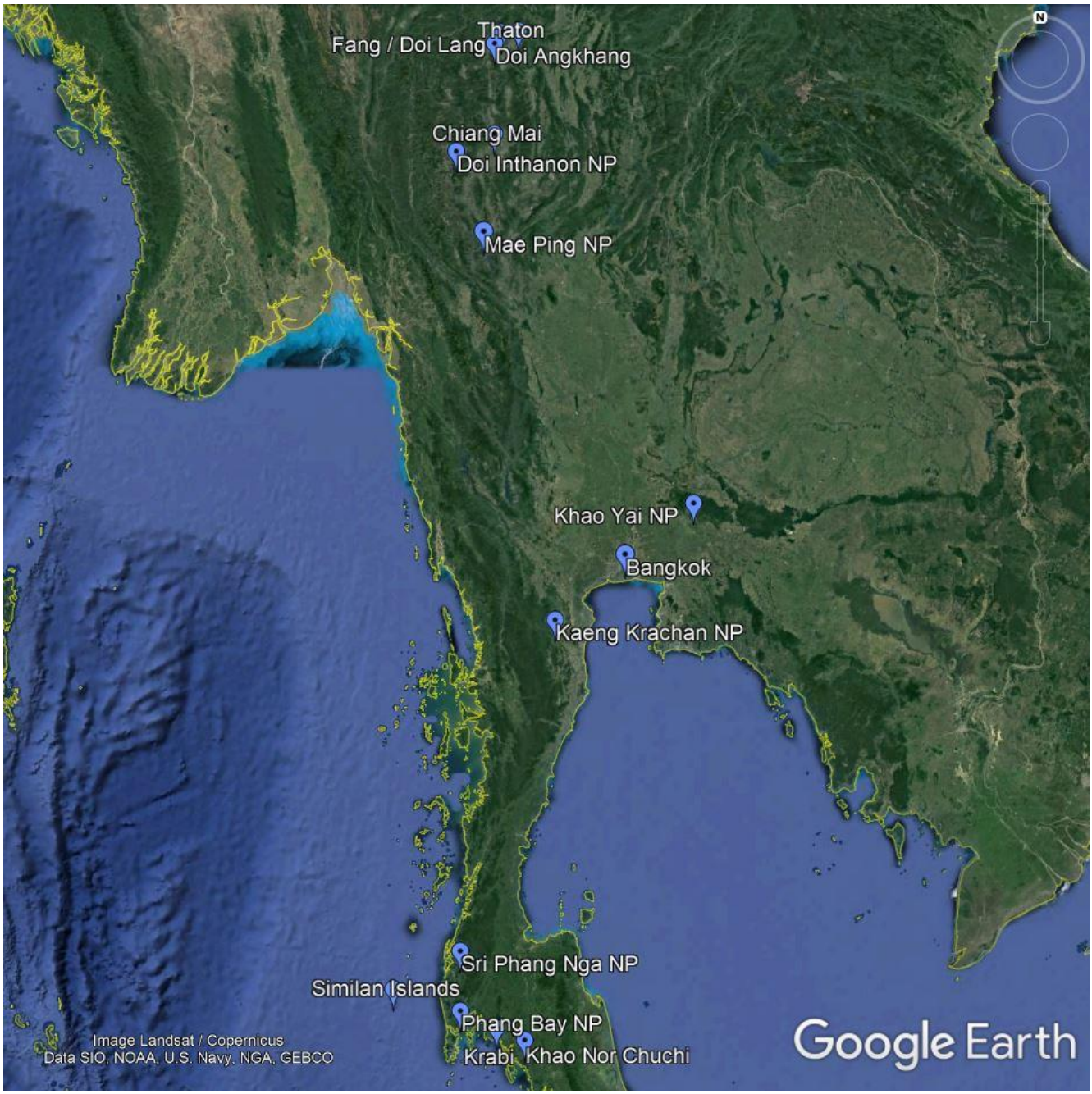
and Green Peafowl are just some of the potential highlights of this incredible tour! Furthermore, culturally, Thailand has few equals, and you will have opportunities to visit some of the many spectacular pagodas and shrines that adorn this friendly, varied and spectacular land.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

THE ITINERARY:

Day 1	**Arrival in Bangkok**
Day 2	**Bangkok to Kaeng Krachan via Petchburi**
Days 3 & 4	**Kaeng Krachan National Park**
Day 5	**Kaeng Krachan National Park to Khao Yai National Park**
Days 6 & 7	**Khao Yai National Park**
Day 8	**Khao Yai to Bangkok, flight to Chiang Mai and transfer to Doi Inthanon**
Days 9 & 10	**Doi Inthanon National Park**
Day 11	**Doi Inthanon National Park to Mae Ping National Park**
Day 12	**Mae Ping to Fang**
Day 13	**Doi Lang**
Day 14	**Doi Lang & Thaton**
Day 15	**Fang to Doi Angkhang via Doi Lang**
Day 16	**Doi Angkhang**
Day 17	**Doi Angkhang to Chiang Mai (COVID test)**
Day 18	**Huai Hong Khrai, flight to Bangkok and depart**

TOUR ROUTE MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Spoon-billed Sandpiper by Alasdair Hunter

Day 1: Arrival in Bangkok. After arriving at Bangkok International and transferring to a comfortable city hotel, you will be met by your Rockjumper leader. The tour officially begins at dinner this evening.

Day 2: Bangkok to Kaeng Krachan via Petchburi. This morning, we will drive south to the Gulf of Thailand in Samutsakhon province. Time will be spent exploring the mudflats, mangroves, saltpans and shrimp pools in search of the many special shorebirds that winter in this area. Top of the list is the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper and we stand an excellent chance of finding this incredible rarity mixed in with the other waders! A number of other highly sought-after species can also be found here, such as Asian Dowitcher and Nordmann's Greenshank, which are both becoming increasingly rare and difficult to find throughout their ranges. Greater Sand, Lesser Sand, Pacific Golden, Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers, Long-toed, Red-necked and Temminck's Stints, Great Knot, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Brown-headed Gull, Whiskered, Caspian, Gull-billed, Common and Little Terns, Little and Indian Cormorants plus an abundance of other shorebirds can all be expected during the day. We may also find a few of the area's scarcer but generally annual visitors such as Slender-billed Gull, Red-necked Phalarope and Far Eastern Curlew. Brahminy and Black Kites are often seen hunting over the surrounding area and we can expect our first introduction to many of Asia's widespread species such as Red Turtle, Spotted and Zebra Doves, Black Drongo, Pied Myna and Scaly-breasted Munia. Other noteworthy and eye-catching species that we may see during our time in this bird-rich area include the beautiful Black-capped and Collared Kingfishers, Racket-tailed Treepie and Malaysian Pied Fantail.



Silver-breasted Broadbill (male) by Dave Semler

Later in the day, we will do a short boat trip to Laem Pak Bia, a sand bar that is a particularly good site for the increasingly scarce Malaysian Plover. This spot is also a decent place to look for the rare Chinese Egret and the interesting *dealbatus* race of Kentish Plover, often called White-faced Plover. Greater Crested and sometimes even Lesser Crested Terns are present alongside the myriad of Brown-headed Gulls. We will search carefully through the roost that is usually present, as Pallas's and Slender-billed Gulls have been seen here in the past.

Following our boat trip we will give a short search for Golden-bellied Gerygone and any of the wader specialties that we may still require before continuing the drive through to Kaeng Krachan where we have a three-night stay.



Ratchet-tailed Treepie by Rich Lindie

Days 3 & 4: Kaeng Krachan National Park. The fantastic national park of Kaeng Krachan, established by the King of Thailand after a visit to the area in 1981, has the richest bird list in Thailand, exceeding 420 species! It is the largest national park in the country - over 3,000 square kilometres in extent - and is situated on the eastern side of the Tenasserim mountain range near the Burmese border. Many of the special birds in Kaeng Krachan are species from the southern portion of Thailand that reach their geographical northern limit here.

Our two full days in Kaeng Krachan will be spent scouring the beautiful, verdant forests that cloak the surrounding hills. We will cover most elevations and every habitat type, from the more open low elevation forest along the entrance road to the bamboo-cladded hills around the very top of the road. In the higher altitude forest around the hill-tops, we will search for the very special Ratchet-tailed Treepie, an extremely localized and rare species, especially in Thailand, as well as the lovely Red-bearded Bee-eater, rare Yellow-vented Green Pigeon, Little Cuckoo-Dove, Blyth's Shrike-Babbler, Flavescent, Ochraceous and Buff-vented Bulbuls, Chestnut-flanked and Hume's White-eyes, Dark-sided, Hill Blue and Verditer Flycatchers, Greater Green Leafbird, Yellow-vented and Plain Flowerpeckers, Black-throated Sunbird and the zippy Streaked Spiderhunter. Mixed species flocks will also be a feature of Kaeng Krachan and working these exciting waves of activity could produce Speckled and White-browed Piculets, Great Iora, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, the bamboo-dwelling Yellow-bellied Warbler, Striated Yuhina, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Golden, Collared and Spot-necked Babblers and Brown-cheeked Fulvetta among many other species.



Black-and-red Broadbills by Keith Valentine

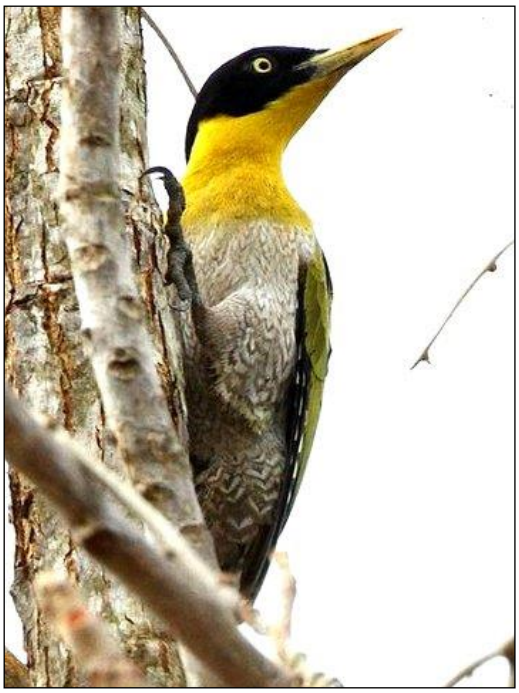
In the bamboo-dominated mid elevations we will seek out the vociferous Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Large Hawk Cuckoo, the rare, bamboo-specialist Bamboo Woodpecker, Banded Kingfisher, Black-and-yellow, Silver-breasted, Dusky (rare), and Banded Broadbills, the sneaky Rufous-browed Flycatcher, Puff-throated and Rufous-fronted Babblers, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, gorgeous Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and Pin-striped Tit-Babbler. Driving along the forest track that leads up into the hills in the early

morning and late afternoon will undoubtedly be our best opportunity of finding the shy Grey Peacock-Pheasant, Bar-backed Partridge and Kalij Pheasant. The former species is usually particularly shy and tough to see but we will try our best to obtain views of this spectacular Asian mega! If we are very fortunate, we might even connect with some of the reserve's rare residents such as Rusty-naped Pitta or Ferruginous Partridge.



Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon by Glen Valentine

The most productive birding however is likely to be along the flat, entrance road that meanders through Kaeng Krachan's lowland forest. The birding here can be superb in the early morning with highlights including Great Slaty, Streak-breasted, Crimson-winged and Rufous Woodpeckers, Greater Yellownape, Common and Greater Flamebacks, sought-after Black-thighed Falconet, Collared and Asian Barred Owlets, the tiny, fast-flying Vernal Hanging Parrot, Thick-billed and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeons, Green-billed Malkoha, Asian Emerald, Violet, Moustached Hawk and Banded Bay Cuckoos, Grey-rumped Treeswift, Germain's Swiftlets in flight overhead, Blue-bearded and Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, small, noisy flocks of Oriental Pied Hornbills, the uncommon Tickell's Brown Hornbill, immaculate Green-eared, Blue-throated and Blue-eared Barbets, Ashy Woodswallow, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, bright red and glossy-black Scarlet Minivet, Black-naped Oriole, Bronzed, Hair-crested and the spectacular Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher, Black-naped Monarch, noisy but shy and secretive groups of White-crested, Black-throated, Greater Necklaced and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes, Large Scimitar Babbler, the magnificent Sultan Tit, Black-headed, Black-crested, Stripe-throated and Streak-eared Bulbuls, Dark-necked Tailorbird, Sulphur-breasted and Pale-legged Leaf Warblers, melodious White-rumped Shama, Asian Brown, Taiga, Hainan Blue and Chinese Blue Flycatchers, Blue-winged and Orange-bellied Leafbirds, the brilliant Ruby-cheeked, Olive-backed and Crimson Sunbirds, striking Black-and-red Broadbill and Yellow-eared Spiderhunter.



Black-headed Woodpecker by Markus Lilje

We will also have a look at the small, seasonal ponds and pans along this road as these sometimes harbour White-throated and Black-capped Kingfishers, the shy and scarce Black Bittern, Chinese Pond Heron and White-breasted Waterhen, while in the more open areas we will also keep a lookout overhead for soaring raptors that could include Crested Honey Buzzard, Crested Goshawk, Besra and the impressive Mountain Hawk-Eagle. In the evenings we'll try for Collared Scops Owl and Large-tailed and Indian Nightjars around our accommodation near the edge of the national park.

Mammal-wise me may be fortunate to see some of Kaeng Krachan's fantastic species such as Yellow-throated Marten, Banded Surili, Dusky Leaf Monkey, Stump-tailed Macaque or White-handed (Lar) Gibbon. These are all generally scarce but we'll certainly keep our eyes peeled for these lovely mammals.



Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo by Markus Lilje

Day 5: Kaeng Krachan National Park to Khao Yai National Park. This morning we will do a little birding around our resort where a few good birds can be found, including Indian Stone-curlew, Lineated Barbet, Rufous and Racket-tailed Treepies, Grey-breasted Prinia, Thick-billed and the skulking Lanceolated Warblers, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Vinous-breasted Starling and Eurasian Hoopoe.

In the afternoon, we will drive through to Khao Yai National Park, another of Thailand's impressive reserves, where we will have a three-night stay.

Days 6 & 7: Khao Yai National Park. A full two days will be dedicated to exploring the densely forested hills and riversides of this exceptional reserve. Khao Yai protects one of the largest pristine tracts of tropical rainforest in Southeast Asia and holds a wide variety of bird and mammal species, including rarely seen Tiger, Dhole and Asian Elephant.

While exploring this verdant tropical habitat, an abundance of forest birds may be seen. Top of the most wanted list are the elegant Siamese Fireback and Silver Pheasant while others in the same family include Red Junglefowl and difficult Green-legged Partridge. We will also keep a careful watch for raptors which could include species such as Shikra, Grey-faced Buzzard, Black Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle and Black Baza. Oriental Pied Hornbill, Common Hill Myna, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Thick-billed Green Pigeon and the dazzling Asian Fairy-bluebird regularly visit fruiting trees and this is also where we'll have a chance of the seeing the rare, nomadic and superb Golden-crested Myna. Mixed flocks attract species such as Greater Flameback, Black-headed, Grey-eyed, Stripe-throated and Puff-throated Bulbuls, White-bellied Erpornis, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Great Iora,



Blue Pitta by Rich Lindie

Swinhoe's Minivet, Large Woodshrike, Sulphur-breasted and Claudia's Leaf Warblers, and the vibrant Sultan Tit.



Long-tailed Broadbill by Rich Lindie

The undergrowth in this fantastic park also provides shelter for several skulking species, including Blue and Eared Pittas and the elusive Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo. We will try our best to find these beautiful and much-wanted rarities but we will require a fair dose of luck, perseverance and patience to see them! Other forest interior skulkers and undergrowth inhabitants that we will be on the lookout for include the secretive Orange-headed and Siberian Thrushes, Common Green Magpie, Black-throated and charismatic White-crested Laughingthrushes, Hainan Blue and Mugimaki Flycatchers, Abbott's, Puff-throated and Rufous-capped Babblers and Siberian Blue Robin. Additional star birds include Barred Cuckoo-Dove, incredible Great, Wreathed and Austen's Brown Hornbills, Laced, Heart-spotted and Black-and-buff Woodpeckers, Orange-breasted and Red-headed Trogons, beautiful Long-tailed Broadbill, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, White-throated Rock Thrush, Alström's Warbler and Olive-backed, Black-throated and Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds – to name but a few! Great Eared Nightjar, Collared Scops and Brown Hawk-Owl are possible nocturnal highlights, while mammals that occur include Pig-tailed Macaque, vociferous White-handed and the scarce Pileated Gibbons, Black Giant, Grey-bellied and Variable Squirrels, Sambar and Muntjac (Barking Deer).

Day 8: Khao Yai to Bangkok, flight to Chiang Mai and transfer to Doi Inthanon. Following some final early morning birding, we will transfer to the airport after breakfast for a mid-afternoon flight to Chiang Mai. On our drive to Bangkok, we will make a stop at a Wat (place of worship) to search for the localised Limestone Wren-Babbler. If time allows, we will also make a short visit to Rangsit Marsh in Bangkok where numerous waterbirds occur and even though it will be midday, we should still have reasonable chances for finding Black-browed Reed and Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Oriental Pratincole, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Asian Openbill, and White-shouldered Starling when some of the large trees are fruiting. White-browed Crake and Slaty-breasted Rail also occur but we would be lucky to find these species during the heat of the day.



Silver-eared Mesia by Markus Lilje

We will then board our flight to Chiang Mai. Thereafter, we transfer to Doi Inthanon for a



Large Niltava by Keith Valentine

three-night stay with opportunistic birding en route. Doi Inthanon is undoubtedly Thailand's most famous birding site and at least 380 species have been recorded in this park, which also incorporates Thailand's highest mountain. Many Palearctic and Himalayan species from further north reach their southern limit here due to the reserve's vast contrast of habitat and elevation change. The elevation ranges from 340m up to 2,565m, and fortunately for us, a traversable road runs all the way to the summit!

Days 9 & 10: Doi Inthanon National Park. Time will be spent birding the productive road to the summit where we will explore expanses of *Dipterocarp* woodlands, farmlands and moist evergreen forest. Near the top, there is also a sphagnum bog surrounded by *Rhododendron* trees where a number of interesting species can be found.

The dry woodlands at lower elevation hold avian specialities such as the tiny Collared Falconet, scarce White-rumped Falcon, Rufous Treepie, Black-hooded Oriole, Burmese Nuthatch, incredible White-bellied and Black-headed Woodpeckers (the latter four species are becomingly increasingly rare), Black-backed Forktail and Purple Sunbird. The evergreen forests at higher elevation are where we will spend the majority of our time, and over the two full days we can expect to find a good number of the below-mentioned species. Black-tailed Crake, Lesser Yellownape, Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Golden-throated and Great Barbets, Golden and Buff-breasted Babblers, Spectacled Barwing, splendid Silver-eared Mesia, Rufous-backed and Dark-backed Sibias, Large, Small, Rufous-bellied and Vivid Niltavas, Blyth's and Clicking Shrike-Babblers, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Japanese and Yellow-cheeked Tits, Eye-browed, Chestnut and Grey-sided Thrushes, the secretive Slaty-bellied Tesia, Eye-browed Wren-Babbler, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Short-billed Minivet, White-throated and Yellow-bellied Fantails, Black, Striated, White-headed and Flavescent Bulbuls, Davison's Leaf and Chestnut-crowned Warblers, Yunnan Fulvetta, Blue-winged Minla, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Hume's Treecreeper and Yellow-vented and Fire-breasted Flowerpeckers are all on the target list.



Black-and-yellow Broadbill by Paul Neldner

We will also take some time to enjoy some of the park's impressive waterfalls and cascades. Besides offering some wonderful photo opportunities they also provide habitat for White-crowned and Slaty-backed Forktails and White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts. The *Rhododendron*



Mountain Bamboo Partridge by Markus Lilje

covered summit of Doi Inthanon holds a number of unique species that are almost impossible to find elsewhere in the country and we will make a special effort to bird this area during one of our mornings. Possibilities here include both Speckled and Ashy Wood Pigeons, Rufous-throated Partridge, Bar-throated Minla, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Yellow-browed Tit, Blyth's, Ashy-throated and Buff-barred Warblers, the often confiding White-browed Shortwing, Pygmy Wren-Babbler, Dark-sided Thrush, Eurasian Woodcock, Silver-eared Laughingthrush, Snowy-browed Flycatcher and the gorgeous Mrs. Gould's and Green-tailed Sunbirds.

The forests of Doi Inthanon also harbour a number of rare and seldom-recorded species such as the incredible Green and Purple Cochoas, Fire-capped Tit, Asian Stubtail and minute Black-throated Parrotbill, which we will naturally keep a sharp eye open for. We will also venture out in the evenings to an area near our accommodations in search of the tiny Oriental Scops Owl. Collared Scops Owl is also a possibility in this area; while nightjars here include Savanna and Indian.

Day 11: Doi Inthanon National Park to Mae Ping National Park. We have some more time to bird around our accommodations at Doi Inthanon, before we start making our way to Mae Ping National Park.

Day 12: Mae Ping National Park to Fang. We plan to spend around half a day birding the impressive dry *Dipterocarp* forests, a habitat most similar in flora and fauna to that of northern Cambodia. Species of note today include Black-headed, Great Slaty, Grey-capped Pygmy, Rufous-bellied and uncommon White-bellied Woodpeckers, Grey-headed Parakeet, Chinese Francolin, Rufous-winged Buzzard, Rufescent Prinia, Red-billed Blue Magpie, the diminutive Collared Falconet, increasingly scarce Burmese and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, White-browed Fantail, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Eurasian Jay, Radde's Warbler and Indochinese and Large Cuckooshrikes. This open forest habitat tends to heat up quickly during the day so, in order to maximize our birding here, we will require an early start.



Scarlet-faced Liocichla by Markus Lilje

We'll then make our way to the northern town of Fang, which gives us excellent access to Doi Lang.

The area is sure to produce something good and we will particularly target the increasingly uncommon Blossom-headed Parakeet - this area being one of its last strongholds in the country. On previous tours we have even recorded Grey-



Black-throated Sunbird by Keith Valentine

headed Parakeet, these days a serious rarity. Other good species include Chestnut-tailed Starling, Striated Swallow, Black-hooded Oriole, Purple Sunbird, Racket-tailed and Rufous Treepies, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and even Chinese Francolin. Later, on the drive north, we will make a few scheduled birding stops at sites for Wire-tailed Swallow and Green Sandpiper, and again at an area of rice paddies which can be good for Pied Harrier, Oriental Skylark, Common and Pintail Snipes, Greater Painted-snipe and Grey-headed Lapwing.

Later in the afternoon, we will make a stop at the wonderfully positioned Chiang Dao Temple, situated in beautiful forest at the base of the imposing mountain of Doi Chiang Dao. The walk up to the temple can be quite productive for birding, and some good species including Streaked Wren-Babbler, Bay Woodpecker, Striated Yuhina, Purple-naped Sunbird, White-crowned Forktail and Pin-tailed Green Pigeon may be found. In the early evening we will then transfer through to Fang, our base for the next three nights.

Day 13: Doi Lang. This morning we will have an early departure as we strike out for the fabulous birding site of Doi Lang. The mountains here form a border with Myanmar and today we will have numerous views into this beautiful country. Our prime target for the early part of the morning is the rare and much desired Mrs. Hume's Pheasant. One of the roads that lead to the summit of Doi Lang passes through an excellent stretch of this species' preferred habitat and we stand a fair chance of finding this incredible pheasant! While searching for this species, we also stand good chances for finding Mountain Bamboo Partridge (another sought-after speciality) feeding at the roadside. Later on, we will bird this zone for the very special Giant Nuthatch, while other targets include Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Grey Treepie, Rufous-fronted and Yellow-eyed Babblers, Aberrant Bush and the recently described Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Hill Prinia, White-bellied Redstart, Lesser Shortwing, Crested Finchbill, White-gorgeted, Slaty-blue, Ultramarine, Sapphire (rare) and Pale Blue Flycatchers, Cook's Swift, Slender-billed and Maroon Orioles, White-browed Laughingthrush, Siberian Rubythroat, Little, Crested and Chestnut Buntings, and Common Rosefinch.



Hodgson's Frogmouth by Glen Valentine

Day 14: Doi Lang & Thaton. This morning we will again head up to Doi Lang to explore the riches of this mountain. If



Mrs. Hume's Pheasant by Alasdair Hunter

need be we can have another shot for some of the region's tough species such as Mrs. Hume's Pheasant and Giant Nuthatch before heading up to the mid and high elevation forests. These areas hold a superb variety of birds and we stand excellent chances of finding the vivid Scarlet-faced Liocichla. Other species occurring in this zone include Oriental Turtle Dove, pocket-sized Collared Owlet, Blue Whistling Thrush, Bay and Crimson-breasted Woodpeckers, Grey-backed Shrike, Black-throated Bushtit, Black-eared Shrike-Babbler, Slaty-backed and Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers, Buff-throated Warbler, Black-throated Sunbird and Large and Small Niltavas. A number of rare species for Thailand have also been found on this particular mountain and possibilities include Rusty-naped Pitta, Red-tailed and Spot-breasted Laughingthrushes, Spot-winged Starling, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Grey-cheeked Warbler, Long-tailed Sibia, Himalayan Cutia and Scarlet Finch.

Access to the high reaches of Doi Lang has recently become an issue with the military having strict control of the area. There is also another potential road up Doi Lang that, if passable, can provide access to some slightly different habitat. Predicting access to the high elevation is almost impossible and we will have to see what the military's stance is when we arrive. High elevation species that are only likely to be found if accessing this zone include Whiskered Yuhina, Red-flanked and Himalayan Bluetails and Chestnut-headed Tesia while Red-billed and Coral-billed Scimitar Babblers are really only possible if access via the alternative road to the top is possible.

This afternoon we will visit the Thaton area. Here we will explore an area of open farmlands, rice paddies and riversides for Pied and Eastern Marsh Harriers, Ruddy-breasted Crake, Bluethroat, Lesser Coucal, Baya and Streaked Weavers, Black-collared Starling, the now scarce Striated Grassbird, sneaky Baikal Bush Warbler, Barred Buttonquail, Indochinese and uncommon Horsfield's Bush Larks, Red-throated Pipit, Citrine Wagtail, Red Avadavat and if lucky Yellow-breasted Bunting. The endangered Jerdon's Bush Chat used to be found at this site, however, the habitat here has been severely altered by various farming activities and the once extensive Thaton Marsh is sadly now almost non-existent. This has put serious pressure on the habitat-specific Jerdon's Bush Chat with the result being that



Rufous-bellied Niltava by Markus Lilje



Crested Finchbill by Keith Valentine

the species is almost gone from this site now. We will, however, still keep our eyes open for this species as we bird the area.

Day 15: Fang to Doi Angkhang via Doi Lang. This morning we will leave Fang for one last morning on Doi Lang. Thereafter we will make our way a little further south towards the spectacular area of Doi Angkhang where we will have a two-night stay. Doi Angkhang is a rugged and scenic mountain that forms the border between Thailand and the country of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. The Thai government has established watershed protection and upland agricultural projects here to conserve the remaining forest patches and these areas are particularly productive for birding.

Day 16: Doi Angkhang. Today we have a full day to explore this superb area. Doi Angkhang is famous for holding many great species, including the seldom seen Spot-breasted and Pale-billed Parrotbills, Mountain Bamboo Partridge, Daurian Redstart, Crested, Chestnut and Little Buntings, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Crested Finchbill, Rusty-cheeked and White-browed Scimitar Babblers, Mountain Tailorbird, Yellow-streaked Warbler, Russet Bush Warbler, Pied and Grey Bush Chats, White-browed and Speckled Piculets, Long-tailed Minivet, Bianchi's and Marten's Warblers, shy White-necked Laughingthrush, Spot-throated Babbler, White-gorgeted Flycatcher, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Japanese White-eye, Olive-backed Pipit and Striated Yuhina, amongst many others!

We will also take the time to visit one of the area's King's Projects, which can be a particularly productive site for finding thrushes such as Black-breasted, Eye-browed and Grey-sided. The King's Project is also a good area for Hill Blue Flycatcher, stunning Rufous-bellied Niltava, White-tailed Robin, Plain Flowerpecker, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Maroon Oriole and Spot-winged Grosbeak. At night we will go out and search for the rare Hodgson's Frogmouth, a species that resides in these mountains. We will no doubt hear Mountain Scops Owl calling and will also put some time into trying to locate one of these notoriously difficult-to-view owls. Giant Nuthatch and the remarkable Mrs. Hume's Pheasant also inhabit this mountain, though we will require a very healthy dose of luck to see these rare species at this site!



Limestone Wren-Babbler by Polly Neldner

Day 17: Doi Angkhang to Chiang Mai & (COVID test). A final morning will be spent birding at Doi Angkhang before our drive down to Chiang Mai. This afternoon we'll head to a local clinic to have our COVID-19 tests.

Day 18: Huai Hong Khrai, flight to Bangkok and depart. We have one last birding adventure this morning. An early departure will take us to a nearby King's Project by the name of Huai Hong Khrai in search of one of the world's most spectacular birds - the beautiful Green Peafowl! We will spend the early part of the morning here searching for this incredible bird and may also find a few other species such as Black Baza, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Common Flameback, Red Junglefowl, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, the uncommon Rosy Minivet, Golden-fronted Leafbird and Eurasian Jay.

We'll enjoy a final lunch in Chiang Mai, get our Covid test results and then fly to Bangkok where the tour will conclude.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 18;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings as per itinerary;
- Ground transportation and boat trips mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- Gratuities for local guides and services; and
- Guiding services of local guides and Rockjumper tour leader.

The tour fee does not include:

- **ANY flights** (see above);
- Any beverages;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature; and
- Special gratuities.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Special Notes:

- Some of our time is spent in vehicles, as we do have to cover fair distances in order to get to the best areas for birds and animals. The more luggage you pack, the less room there is in the vehicle, so it is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg for check in luggage and 8kg for hand luggage.
- Leeches do occur in some of the reserves, encountering them really depends on how much recent rain there has been. If you do have leech socks, it might, therefore, be a good idea to bring them along; otherwise, tucking your long pants into your socks is usually sufficient to deter them from latching on. Having said this, leeches are seldom an issue on this tour, given the time of year we visit.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

The first day of the tour is an arrival day and you are free to arrive at any time. The Main Tour will conclude after lunch on the last day at Bangkok International Airport. As the tour ends after an internal flight on this final day, it is recommended that you book your international flights to depart **no earlier than the early evening**

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Bangkok International Airport, Bangkok (IATA: BKK) is the main port of entry for international flights in Thailand and is well serviced by all of the world's major airlines. We have the capacity to advise you on the best route according to your preferences, but your local travel agent will best be able to book these flights for you. We can, however, book the internal flights for you. **NB: please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**