



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Myanmar (Burma) Pvt Tour

### Endemics of Remote Asia

#### Trip Report

*27<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (12 days)*



Pied Harrier by Glen Valentine

**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader: Glen Valentine**

Some of the top birds seen on the trip and voted for by the tour participants as their favourites:

- Hooded Treepie
- Racket-tailed Treepie
- Jerdon's Minivet
- White-browed Nuthatch
- Mount Victoria Babax
- Pale-headed Woodpecker
- White-rumped Falcon
- Chin Hills Wren-Babbler
- Black-tailed Crake
- Jerdon's Bush Chat
- Himalayan Cutia
- Burmese Yuhina
- Blossom-headed Parakeet
- Himalayan Flameback
- Siberian Rubythroat
- Scarlet-faced Liocichla
- Orange-headed Thrush

Honourable mentions:

- Collared Myna
- Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler
- Burmese Bushtit
- Burmese Bush Lark
- White-throated Babbler
- Black-headed Greenfinch
- Brown-capped Laughingthrush
- Assam Laughingthrush
- Striped Laughingthrush
- Vivid Niltava
- Grey-sided Thrush
- Silver-breasted Broadbill
- Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler



## **Tour summary**

Nestled to the east of India and Bangladesh, south of China and west of Thailand, lies the enchanting country of Myanmar (Burma). Still largely unexplored by birders this fascinating and bird-rich destination is South-east Asia's largest country and also boasts the region's largest bird list. Now stable and tourist-friendly, Myanmar makes for a superb birding destination with its large variety of easily-accessible habitats and good number of endemic and near-endemic species, all of which are realistically gettable during a short trip around the accessible central and eastern sectors of the country.



**Bagan temple scenery by Glen Valentine**

Our trip was no doubt a resounding success once again, as we managed to obtain excellent views of all the country's endemics (Hooded Treepie, Jerdon's Minivet, Burmese Bush Lark, White-throated Babbler, White-browed Nuthatch and Burmese Bushtit) as well as every near-endemic species (Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Chin Hills Wren-Babbler, Mount Victoria Babax, Striped and Brown-capped Laughingthrushes and Collared Myna) along with a host of other fantastic species that can be difficult to find elsewhere in Asia. We were treated to plenty of non-endemic highlights during the tour and these included the unobtrusive Hill Partridge, the range-restricted White-eyed Buzzard, Black-tailed Crake, Brown Wood Owl, the colourful Red-headed Trogon, the miniscule and scarce White-browed Piculet, Himalayan Flameback, the rare and elusive Pale-headed Woodpecker, White-rumped and Laggar Falcons, Grey-headed and Blossom-headed Parakeets, the sensational Silver-breasted Broadbill, Racket-tailed Treepie, Black-bibbed Tit, Chestnut-headed Tesia, the skulking Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and Rusty-capped Fulvetta that both showed particularly well, Assam Laughingthrush, the unique and superbly-





patterned Himalayan Cutia, the brilliant Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Streak-throated Barwing, Grey-sided Thrush, the scarce and stunning Vivid Niltava, nomadic Spot-winged Grosbeak and range-restricted Black-headed Greenfinch, as well as a huge selection of dazzling sunbirds, vibrant flowerpeckers, gaudy barbets, impressive woodpeckers, warblers, cuckooshrikes, sensational minivets, drongos, starlings, babblers and bulbuls.



**Burmese Shrike by Markus Lilje**

Our adventure began in the ancient and picturesque city of Bagan. Strolling across the endless fields and stubble surrounded by hundreds of historic pagodas of varying size and grandeur is a great way to spend a day birding. The scenery here is spectacular and we soon began racking up the specialties of the area. Soon after beginning our quest for Bagan's four key endemic species we were admiring busy flocks of White-throated Babblers and Burmese Bush Larks along with large flocks of Plain-backed Sparrow, Vinous-breasted Starling and Scaly-breasted Munia. We also encountered good numbers of the endemic subspecies of Eurasian Collared Dove, the darker, eastern subspecies of Indian Roller, brilliant Green Bee-eater, the quirky and crowd-pleasing Eurasian Hoopoe, the boldly-patterned Common Iora, the handsome Burmese Shrike, Streak-eared Bulbul, Dusky, Tickell's Leaf, Yellow-streaked and Yellow-browed Warblers, Plain and Grey-breasted Prinia, Common Tailorbird, Paddyfield and Olive-backed Pipits, Pied Bush Chat, Baya Weaver and the dazzling Purple Sunbird. Other noteworthy species that popped up during our forays were Eurasian Wryneck, Plaintive Cuckoo, a Spotted Owlet perched near the top of a large temple, a few uncooperative Brown Prinia, several unusually showy Thick-billed Warblers, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Taiga Flycatcher and spectacular male and female Siberian Rubythroat, as well as one of Bagan's prized endemics: the scarce and easily-missed Jerdon's Minivet. We were particularly lucky with this species on this trip as we were spoilt by three separate encounters of small groups of these dapper and rather aberrant minivets during our time in the Bagan area.

In the Phwasaw area we found a few patches of unharvested crops and a short exploration of this habitat turned up a staggering number of Rain Quail. Each step we took brought several of these rarely seen quail buzzing up into the air like locusts and we must have seen at least thirty birds in two minutes! Incredible! There were also reasonable numbers of Barred Buttonquail around this year, with twelve birds seen,

including a pair that crossed a track in front of us on our final morning in the area. A nearby, small wetland harboured a reasonable number of waders that included Spotted Redshank, Green, Wood and Common



**Jerdon's Minivet by Glen Valentine**



Sandpipers, Temminck's Stint and Common Snipe, as well as White and Citrine Wagtails. Crested Honey Buzzards and Red-rumped Swallows filled the skies on occasion and the odd Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Black-winged Kite, Common Kestrel, Booted Eagle and Himalayan Buzzard were also seen.



**White-tailed Stonechat by Glen Valentine**

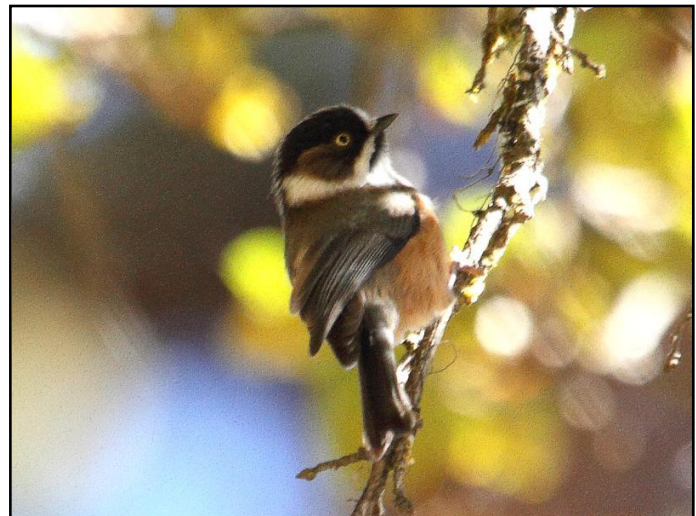
Hooded Treepie is a cracker and has to rank up there with the likes of Collared and Ratchet-tailed Treepies as far as rarity and beauty are concerned!

On our final afternoon we embarked on a boat trip down the Irrawaddy River in search of some localized and sought-after riverine species. Top of the wish-list were White-tailed Stonechat, Striated Babbler, Sand Lark and Pied Harrier and we were delighted to obtain fabulous views of all four species. We also encountered pairs and small rafts of Ruddy Shelduck, Indian Spot-billed Duck and Little and Great Cormorants, while River Lapwing, Pacific Golden, Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers, Common Greenshank and Common and Pied Kingfishers were watched at the river's edge. We were fortunate to see a single Small Pratincole in flight in the late afternoon and were very surprised that this was to be our only encounter with this species during our afternoon on the river.

After some delicious meals and excellent birding around Bagan we struck out for Mt Victoria, one of the main focal points of this Burmese birding adventure and our base would be a delightful and newly built hotel at the base of the mountain. Our drive took us through villages and agricultural land, scattered trees and some very arid plains and hills before crossing the Irrawaddy River at Chauk. We continued through some good

Hooded Treepie and Jerdon's Minivet habitat before reaching the dry, broad-leaved, dipterocarp covered hills just east of Kazunma. We arrived at our breakfast site just after dawn and after a field breakfast began

After a full day of searching we were still hunting for the rare and unobtrusive Hooded Treepie, always a challenging bird to find and probably Myanmar's most striking but difficult endemic to find. However, our continued efforts in the best areas paid off when Bob spotted one flapping across a gap in the trees. With unabated excitement we ran over to where the bird landed and after several minutes and intense scouring and searching we managed to locate this mega-endemic. A second bird then appeared and we watched in awe and relief (at least for Thiri and me) as they flew from tree to tree in buoyant and floppy treepie flight. They eventually perched up for long enough to admire in the scopes. What a fantastic bird and what superb views! Everyone loves treepies and



**Burmese Bushtit by Glen Valentine**





our search for the tricky White-rumped Falcon and the other specialties of the area. Unfortunately a rather strong wind had picked up, which slowed the bird activity down considerably and made for a very quiet morning in the field. We did still manage to find a few good birds such as Yellow-footed Green Pigeon,



**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher by Markus Lilje**

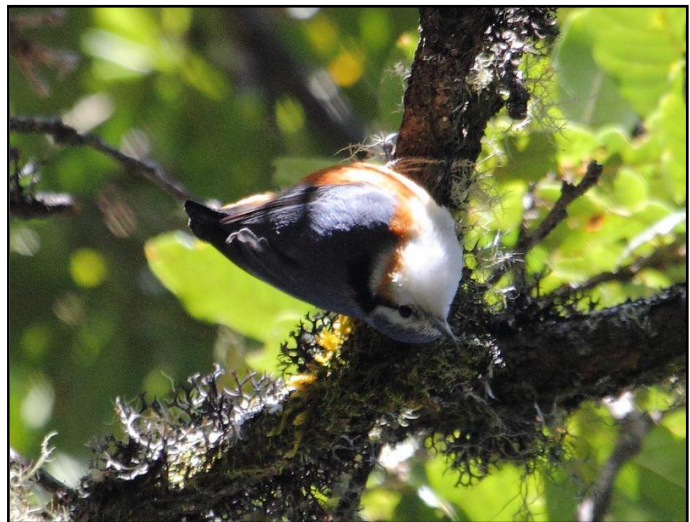
Crested Treeswift, Grey-headed, Red-breasted and Alexandrine Parakeets, Large Cuckooshrike, Black-hooded Oriole, Plain and Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers, Rufous Treepie and Golden-fronted Leafbird.

Regular birding stops during the drive yielded some notable and eye-catching species with several mixed flocks being found that gave us Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Large Woodshrike, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Rosy Minivet, Bronzed, Lesser Racket-tailed and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Black-naped Monarch, Cinereous Tit, Black-crested Bulbul, Greenish Warbler and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, while Blue-throated Barbet, Rufescent Prinia,

Common Hill Myna and Blue Rock Thrush also popped up at the edge of the road and were admired.

We arrived at our accommodation in the late afternoon and were greeted by Flavescent Bulbuls, a few fleeting Large Hawk-Cuckoos and vocalizing Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler and Chin Hills Wren-Babbler, which gave us much excitement for the days to come.

Our four full days on Mt Victoria gave us, as usual, some of the best birds of the trip. We birded most of the southern and northern slopes of the mountain through high altitude, moss-draped broad-leaved forest and pine and mixed Oak/Rhododendron forest to lower altitude, dense broad-leaved forest and secondary forest, scrub and thickets between the elevations of 10000ft to 5000ft. Our list of mouth-watering species that we'd encountered by the end of our stay was truly impressive and included the mountain's two endemic species: the once near-mythical White-browed Nuthatch and recently-split Burmese Bushtit and five near-endemics: Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Striped and Brown-capped Laughingthrushes, Chin Hills Wren-Babbler and Mount Victoria Babax.



**White-browed Nuthatch by Glen Valentine**

Our first morning saw us heading straight up the mountain to the upper reaches. However, a pair of Grey-winged Blackbirds, several Blue Whistling Thrush, Himalayan Bluetail, Large Niltava and Grey-sided Thrush that were seen feeding in the road at dawn and a pair of Brown-capped Laughingthrushes cavorting



in a flowering Rhododendron next to the road a little higher up delayed us somewhat. We hopped out of the vehicles where the laughingthrushes were seen and noticed that a pair of Yellow-throated Marten were clambering around the canopy of a nearby tree, a great surprise indeed and our only encounter with these



**Grey-sided Thrush by Glen Valentine**

handsome mammals during the trip. The activity in this area was soon to increase rapidly and before we knew it we did not know where to look! The Brown-capped Laughingthrushes finally showed well for everyone and a flock of noisy Assam Laughingthrushes also appeared along with a group of Mount Victoria Babax in the dwarf bamboo understory, a flock of Long-tailed and Short-billed Minivet also appeared with Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, while Fire-tailed Sunbirds flitted about in the flowering shrubbery. What a superb start to our birding on Mt Victoria!

top of the mountain from where we began ambling downhill along the road for the remainder of the morning. The activity quietened down somewhat by mid-morning but we still picked up several gems like White-browed Nuthatch, Burmese Bushtit, the very scarce and severely localized Black-bibbed Tit, the gorgeous Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, a surprise male White-collared Blackbird, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, the attractive Bar-throated and Red-tailed Minla, Green Shrike-Babbler, Yellow-browed Tit, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-winged and White-browed Fulvetta, the often-elusive Streak-throated Barwing, Stripe-throated Yuhina, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, the exquisite Green-tailed Sunbird, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush and the abundant Grey Sibia all in the forest and Blue-fronted Redstart, Common Rosefinch, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch and Little Bunting in the bracken-filled, grassy clearings.

The late afternoon was spent around the base of the southern side of the mountain in the productive but mostly secondary forest just above our accommodation. Here we found target species such as Great and Golden-throated Barbets, Stripe-breasted and Crimson-breasted Woodpeckers, Blyth's Shrike-Babbler, Green-backed Tit, Crested Finchbill, Striated, Mountain and Black Bulbuls, Buff-throated and Grey-hooded Warblers, the scarce Black-throated



**Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon by Markus Lilje**

Prinia, Striped Laughingthrush, Blue-winged Minla, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Whiskered Yuhina, Chestnut-flanked White-eye, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, and after some hard work and coaxing, a pair of vociferous Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler that eventually showed reasonably well for this devilishly retiring species.





Over the course of the next three days we spent considerable time in the beautiful, moss-draped forest that hugs much of the northern slope of the mountain. Our efforts here yielded a host of superb new species such as the rarely seen Hill Partridge, the magnificent Mountain Hawk-Eagle, impressive Black Eagle,



**Chin Hills Wren-Babbler by Glen Valentine**

Crested Goshawk, Ashy Wood Pigeon, the partially diurnal Collared Owlet, the tiny and secretive Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler and Chestnut-headed Tesia, Ashy-throated, Whistler's and Blyth's Leaf Warblers, Golden Babbler, a fleeting Spot-breasted Parrotbill (well not for Alan who seemed to have a special kind of talent to lure them in) and Spotted Forktail, as well as a good number of the specialties already mentioned for the first day on the mountain.

Another morning and afternoon was enjoyed exploring the base of the mountain which produced more delightful species such as Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Large Hawk-Cuckoo, Himalayan Swiftlet, Asian House Martin, several Grey Wagtails, the

immaculate Vivid Niltava, Grey-chinned Minivet, Eurasian Jay, Grey Treepie, the intricately-patterned Chin Hills Wren-Babbler, Grey-crowned Warbler, Hume's Treecreeper, Asian Brown and Little Pied Flycatchers, the incredibly shy Red-faced Liocichla, the gaudy Silver-eared Mesia and several groups of the usually shy and skulking Rusty-capped Fulvetta that showed particularly well on a few occasions.

We searched particularly hard for two of the mountain's rare and localized species, namely Black-headed Shrike-Babbler and Broad-billed Warbler but despite our best efforts we did not even hear them, never mind lay eyes on these two rarities but we did encounter many wonderful species during our search that included many of the already-mentioned species as well as Bay Woodpecker, Black-faced Warbler, the brilliant Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and Brown Bullfinch.

At night we were entertained by the resident Brown Wood Owl and a lucky few were treated to views of an Indochinese Flying Squirrel. Unfortunately, the elusive Hodgson's Frogmouth was heard tantalizingly close on two nights but would not show itself despite our best efforts.

Alas it was time to bid farewell to Mt Victoria and begin our drive back to Bagan to continue our Burmese adventure out east. Our drive back to Bagan was punctuated by regular birding stops with our initial unplanned stop producing a flock of flashy Red-billed Blue Magpie as well as an



**Brown-cheeked Fulvetta by Markus Lilje**





Asian Barred Owlet. Our first scheduled stop a little further on gave us some more exciting species like a perched Blossom-headed Parakeet in the scope, several vocal Lineated Barbets, soaring Crested Serpent Eagle and Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Green Imperial Pigeon and Hair-crested Drongo. Another superb flock later on gave us knock-out views of White-browed Piculet, a rather furtive Himalayan Flameback, several



**Yellow-vented Flowerpecker by Markus Lilje**

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, a pair of Pin-striped Tit-Babbler and a female Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. Further on we managed to call in a pair of Puff-throated Babbler that put on an amazing show, as well as a handsome male Blue-winged Leafbird, several Yellow-vented Flowerpeckers, a Black-naped Oriole and a superb male Verditer Flycatcher.

After another enjoyable picnic lunch in the field we continued to the forested hills around Kazunma for a final attempt at locating the elusive White-rumped Falcon. The initial part of the afternoon was hot and quiet with the odd Common Woodshrike and flock of Small Minivet making an appearance. Finally in the eleventh

hour Peary spotted an interesting-looking bird that flew off from a bare branch near the road edge and, upon further inspection, it turned out to be our quarry, a male White-rumped Falcon! Happy days! We admired this beauty in the scope for several minutes when suddenly a large, dark brown pigeon came out of nowhere and flew across the road in front of us. It had a brilliant white cap! It was the very rarely seen Pale-capped Pigeon! What excitement but frustration at the same time as no one likes to get fleeting views of really rare and sought-after birds! We hoped we would bump into another one later in the trip but to no avail and this would be our only sighting of the trip. We continued searching for Burmese Nuthatch but to no avail and continued the drive to Bagan, rolling into our hotel well after dark, after a long drive but satisfying and productive day's birding.

After another substantial breakfast at the Umbra we departed for a nearby temple where we were previously rewarded with outstanding views of a Laggar Falcon. We were not to be let down for as soon as we arrived, the resident Laggar was putting on a great show. We admired it at length and even in flight directly over us before embarking on a short but fruitless search for White-eyed Buzzard before our flight to Heho. Our flight was a short one and direct to Heho, which was great and meant that we arrived in the small, highland village with enough time for a few stops along the drive to Kalaw. Our first stop was most productive as it produced several of the extremely



**Collared Myna by Glen Valentine**

localized and scarce Collared Mynas amongst the more widespread and numerous Great, Jungle and Pied Mynas and Chestnut-tailed and Vinous-breasted Starlings. A little further on we were joined at a "photo



op” of the massive Buda statue by a flock of Cook’s Swift. We arrived at our hotel in Kalaw, quickly checked in and ducked around the corner for yet another scrumptious lunch before setting off on our afternoon’s birding through an area of fields, scrub, thickets and moist, broad-leaved forest. What a

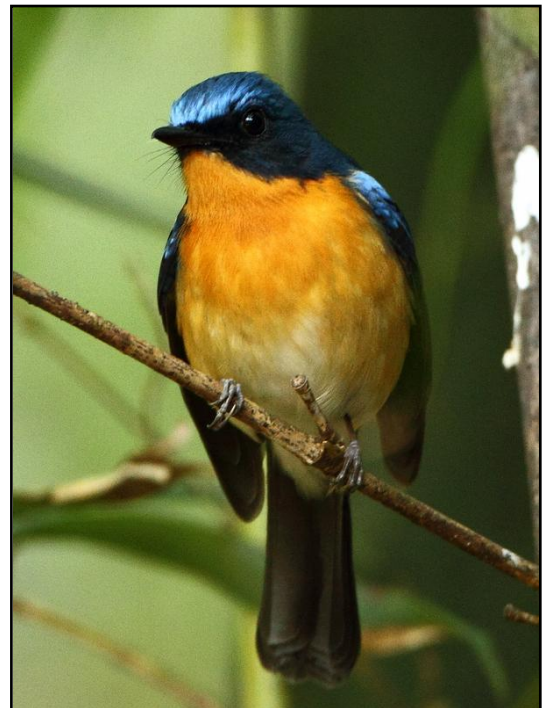


**White-browed Laughingthrush by Markus Lilje**

Tit, Two-barred Warbler, and Striated Grassbird, at least one “pure” Sooty-headed Bulbul amongst the many Red-vented/Sooty-headed hybrids and a lovely male Indochinese Cuckooshrike that posed well and showed off its differentiating features from the similar Black-winged Cuckooshrike that we’d already seen well on a few occasions. We soon arrived at the edge of the beautiful patch of lush, mid-altitude forest that blankets the mountains surrounding the Yay Aye Kan Reservoir. A Green-billed Malkoha came in for a few seconds before diving under cover, while Dark-backed Sibia and Ashy Bulbul fed at the forest edge along with Oriental White-eye, Orange-bellied Leafbird and Streaked Spiderhunter. The real cherry on the top though was a little group of Burmese Yuhina that came darting into the low canopy above us in response to Collared Owlet imitation. We were thrilled with our early success at this tricky species and were able to enjoy prolonged and unbeatable views of these rare and extremely localized yuhinas. Upon exiting the forest in the late afternoon, we were greeted by a family group of rather furtive Hill Prinia, another White-eyed Buzzard but this time a juvenile bird, and a very showy flock of White-browed Laughingthrush. Our afternoon ended off perfectly with a pair of Black-tailed Crake that pottered around at the edge of a rice field and under the dense, over-hanging paddy-side vegetation and eventually showed well for the whole group. A Pin-tailed Snipe then flushed off from out of nowhere to end a terrific introductory afternoon’s birding around Kalaw.

sensational afternoon it would prove to be!

One of the first birds we saw upon exiting the vehicle was a Black-headed Greenfinch. We struggled to obtain good views of our first individuals but were eventually spoilt with unbeatable views later in the afternoon. Two raptors suddenly appeared that turned into two adult White-eyed Buzzards. Awesome! We were thrilled to finally get to grips with this range-restricted raptor that had thus far eluded us. Further on we encountered Japanese



**Hill Blue Flycatcher by Markus Lilje**

The next morning saw us up early to begin our day outing to the nearby Yay Aye Kan Forest. After a quick breakfast at our hotel we bundled into our van and made our way up the road to the head of a track where





our outing would begin. It was a crisp, fresh morning and the perfect weather for a short hike through the picturesque and bird-filled fields and pine forest. It wasn't long before we were admiring Chinese Pond Herons in the flooded rice paddies, along with Scarlet, Grey-chinned and Long-tailed Minivets, Slender-billed Oriole, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, a male Russet Sparrow, a gorgeous male Slaty-backed



**Scarlet-faced Liocichla by Markus Lilje**

Flycatcher and the local, endemic, white-headed subspecies of Eurasian Jay in the surrounding pine forest. Brown Prinia, Daurian Redstart and Siberian Rubythroat lurked in the understory thickets and all put on an amazing show!

The suite of birds changed markedly once we entered the forest and here we were entertained for the rest of the morning and early afternoon by some of the best-looking birds of the trip. Highlights were plenty and the bird parties were varied and came thick and fast. Our first major flock held target species like White-bellied Erpornis, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Speckled Piculet, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Black-throated Bushtit and the zippy Fire-breasted Flowerpecker.

A male Hill Blue Flycatcher flitted about the understory along with Martens's Warbler and White-throated Fantail, while flocks of the brilliant Silver-eared Mesia were commonly encountered. Another small flock a little further on produced a pair of Maroon Oriole and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch. Just as the activity appeared to be dying down somewhat, we heard scuffling in the leaf-litter and, upon closer inspection, we found that the movement belonged to a mixed understory flock of laughingthrushes and were even more surprised to learn that they were Black-throated Laughingthrushes, a very rarely recorded species along the route. Soon after glimpsing the laughingthrushes a Scarlet-faced Liocichla popped into view for a few seconds. We then spent a while trying to lay eyes on this beautiful but extremely shy and skulking species. Our patience paid off as we were eventually treated to the most incredible views of this difficult-to-see laughingthrush. Soon thereafter, a stunning male Red-headed Trogon was discovered and posed for ages in the open, which is rather atypical for Asian trogons! Wow, what a sensational morning! At around midday we reached the small clearing in the forest where the reservoir has been built and enjoyed a very tasty field lunch that



**Silver-eared Mesia by Markus Lilje**

was brought to us by a lad on the back of a motor cycle. Aah, service with a smile! After lunch we began making our way back through the forest, keeping an eye and ear open for any new birds that may be around. The initial stretch was rather quiet, as would be expected during the middle of the day, but suddenly we



rounded a corner and heard the chattering of birds. We'd relocated the understory laughingthrush flock but this time a few Spectacled Barwings had joined them and gave us excellent views. We found another mixed flock a little further on and this one comprised mostly of babblers with Rufous-capped Babbler, Silver-



**Blyth's Shrike-Babbler by Markus Lilje**

Black-headed Greenfinch sat out on an exposed limb for us to admire for one last time before we embarked on the drive to Inle, our final destination in central Myanmar. The drive was punctuated by a short, scheduled stop at a small wetland along the way and a quick scan here produced two Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, plenty of Egrets, a few Wire-tailed Swallows, skimming low over the water, and a Bluethroat fiddling around at the edge. We continued the drive to Inle, which was rather uneventful, and arrived at our comfortable hotel at the edge of town in the late afternoon and settled in to freshen up and rest up for the next morning's birding on the lake.

We headed out early again the next morning to make the most of our limited time on Inle Lake. We arrived at a narrow, reed-lined channel just after dawn and found our first of many Jerdon's Bush Chats. We also gave the secretive, winter-visiting Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler a try and were immediately met with success as a very responsive bird popped out into the open between the reed clumps on several occasions affording us excellent views. Thereafter we continued a little further and gave the very rare, secretive and recently-split Chinese Grassbird a try. Once again we were met with immediate response but despite our best efforts we were unable to obtain any kind of decent view of this arch-skulker. A total of three separate birds were heard in the area but all of them remained completely hidden in the dense reedbeds. While trying for the grassbird we did also see Sand Martin, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Black-browed and Oriental Reed Warblers, Eastern Marsh Harrier, Yellow Bittern and Lesser Coucal.



**Jerdon's Bush Chat by Glen Valentine**





The open water, floating vegetation and back-waters of the lake, harboured a good assortment of waterfowl and other water-associated birds that included Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Northern Pintail, Garganey, Eurasian Teal, Ferruginous Duck, a single Tufted Duck, large rafts of Lesser Whistling Duck, several Pheasant-tailed Jacana, large concentrations of Brown-headed Gull and a few Black-headed Gulls.



**Inle Lake Boatmen by Glen Valentine**

We arrived back at our hotel in Inle around midday, quickly finished packing for our flight back to Yangon and sat down for yet another delicious traditional lunch. Our flight was slightly delayed but wasn't too bad and we arrived in Yangon in the early evening, to be reunited with Thiri. A hearty farewell dinner ensued with the cold beer and local wine flowing, while reminiscing over our many trip highlights.

Our final session of birding the following morning was at the nearby Hlawga Park, a small protected area of lowland, semi-deciduous forest and wetlands that supports a good number of species including a few highly-desired specialties. The morning kicked off with a packed breakfast at dawn at the park entrance, which was supplemented superbly by an array of pastries from a local bakery. Thereafter we entered the park with a ranger and began to



**Rosy Minivet by Markus Lilje**



pick up some great birds such as Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Rosy Minivet, Black-naped and Black-hooded Orioles, the often-elusive Racket-tailed Treepie, Dark-necked Tailorbird, White-crested and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes, Black-headed Bulbul, a fly-over Great Hornbill, the brilliant Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and beautiful Olive-backed Sunbird. Pairs and family groups of wild Red Junglefowl fed in the leaf-litter while the odd Shikra was spotted darting through the woodland or perched motionless in the under-canopy of the tall forest. The reserve's small wetlands yielded around thirty Cotton Pygmy Geese, hundreds of Asian Openbill and a single Black-winged Stilt, our only one of the trip. A little further on Thiri spotted an Orange-headed Thrush that fed in the open, on the forest-floor, without any concern and gave us excellent views. Our last new bird of the trip came in form of a large flock of White-rumped Munia that was found in a dense clump of bamboo near the entrance. A fitting way to end another very enjoyable and avian-filled birding trip of Myanmar!



Racket-tailed Treepie by Markus Lilje



Chestnut-headed Bee-eater by Markus Lilje

## ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS (355 species recorded (346 seen and 9 heard only))

*Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological Congress), Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2016; Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press (version 6.1). Names in round brackets represent alternative names. A note section can be found where there are taxonomic differences between IOC and Clements.*

**H** = Heard Only, **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced, **RI** = Reintroduced, **CR** =





Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened.

### Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl Anatidae

#### **Lesser Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna javanica*

Large numbers encountered at Inle Lake and Hlawga Park.

#### **Ruddy Shelduck**

*Tadorna ferruginea*

Small numbers were encountered during our boat trip on the Irrawaddy River.

#### **Cotton Pygmy Goose**

*Nettapus coromandelianus*

Around 30 of these tiny geese were found at a lake in Hlawga Park.

#### **Gadwall**

*Anas strepera*

Small numbers seen on Inle Lake.

#### **Eurasian Wigeon**

*Anas penelope*

Fair numbers on Inle Lake.

#### **Indian Spot-billed Duck**

*Anas poecilorhyncha*

Several seen along the Irrawaddy River and on Inle Lake.

#### **Northern Pintail**

*Anas acuta*

A few were seen on Inle Lake and at Hlawga Park.

#### **Garganey**

*Anas querquedula*

Small numbers found on Inle Lake.

#### **Eurasian (Common/Green-winged) Teal**

*Anas crecca*

Large numbers were found on Inle Lake.

NOTE: IOC splits the above species into Eurasian Teal *A. crecca* and Green-winged Teal *A. carolinensis* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Green-winged Teal *A. crecca*.

#### **Ferruginous Duck (Pochard) (NT)**

*Aythya nyroca*

Around 30 birds were seen on Inle Lake.

#### **Tufted Duck**

*Aythya fuligula*

A singleton was encountered on Inle Lake.

### Pheasants, Grouse & Allies Phasianidae

#### **Rain Quail**

*Coturnix coromandelica*

Incredible numbers (around 30 birds in one small area) were found in the Bagan area. A very difficult bird to find in the rest of its range!

#### **Hill Partridge**

*Arborophila torqueola*

This shy species was seen reasonably well in the forest undergrowth near the top of Mt Victoria.

#### **Mountain Bamboo Partridge**

*Bambusicola fytchii*

Two birds were seen briefly near the base of Mt Victoria. Also heard calling in this area.

#### **Red Junglefowl**

*Gallus gallus*

Brief views were had of this species near Saw, while excellent views were later had in Hlawga Park.

### Grebes Podicipedidae

#### **Little Grebe**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Small numbers seen at scattered localities.

NOTE: IOC splits Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* into two species: Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* and Tricolored Grebe *Tachybaptus tricolor*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

### Storks Ciconidae



**Asian Openbill**

*Anastomus oscitans*

Hundreds of these striking storks were seen at Hlawga Park.

**Ibises, Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae***

**Glossy Ibis**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

A singleton was seen in flight over Bagan with a few more seen on Inle Lake.

**Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae***

**Yellow Bittern**

*Ixobrychus sinensis*

Two separate sightings were had on Inle Lake.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Two birds seen at Hlawga Park.

**Indian Pond Heron**

*Ardeola grayii*

Fairly numerous throughout the trip.

**Chinese Pond Heron**

*Ardeola bacchus*

Less common than the previous species with a few around the Kalaw and Inle Lake areas.

**Eastern Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus coromanda*

An abundant species encountered on 8 days of the tour.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Western Cattle Egret B. ibis as Cattle Egret B. ibis.

**Grey Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

A widespread species seen on two days of the tour.

**Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea*

A few seen at Inle Lake.

**Great Egret**

*Ardea alba*

A few seen on Inle Lake.

**Intermediate Egret**

*Egretta intermedia*

Seen en route from Kalaw to Inle and again on Inle Lake.

**Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

Small numbers seen on four separate days of the tour.

**Cormorants *Phalacrocoracidae***

**Little Cormorant**

*Microcarbo niger*

Seen on rivers, wetlands and lakes on 3 days of the trip.

**Great Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Four birds seen along the Irrawaddy River.

**Darters *Anhingidae***

**Oriental Darter (NT)**

*Anhinga melanogaster*

One seen high overhead in Hlawga Park.

NOTE: The Darter/Anhinga complex has recently been split up into four different species, namely Anhinga, African Darter, Oriental Darter and Australasian Darter. Both Clements and IOC recognise this split.

**Hawks, Eagles & Kites *Accipitridae***

**Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite**

*Elanus caeruleus*

Three birds seen during the trip.





NOTE: The Black-shouldered Kite complex has recently been split up into three different species, namely White-tailed Kite, Black-winged (shouldered) Kite and Black-shouldered (Australian) Kite. Both IOC and Clements accept these splits. However there is some overlap regarding the common names used for the species as can be seen above.

**Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Singletons were seen on 8 separate days of the trip.

**Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*

Good views were had of several birds perched and in flight.

**Changeable Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus cirrhatus*

One bird was seen in flight en route from Mt Victoria to Bagan.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus nipalensis*

This impressive eagle was seen in flight on one occasion while birding near the top of Mt Victoria.

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malaiensis*

A few sightings were had of this magnificent eagle on Mt Victoria.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

A singleton was seen in flight in the Bagan area.

**Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*

A singleton was seen in flight on Mt Victoria.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

Seen in flight in the Bagan area and then perched and in flight at Hlawga Park.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Some good views were had in the Bagan area.

**Eastern Marsh Harrier** *Circus spilonotus*

Two juveniles were seen during our time on Inle Lake.

**Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*

A superb pair was found hunting over the edge of the Irrawaddy River.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

Large numbers were seen around the Irrawaddy River near Bagan.

NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two separate species; Black Kite *M. migrans* and Yellow-billed Kite *M. aegyptius* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Black Kite *M. migrans*. Some authorities also split Black Kite into two further species, namely Black Kite *M. migrans* and Black-eared Kite *M. lineatus*. We saw mostly the *migrans* subspecies with a few *lineatus*.

**White-eyed Buzzard** *Butastur teesa*

Two adults were seen well in flight and a juvenile was later found perched in the Kalaw area. Another bird was also seen near the Yay Aye Kan Reservoir.

**Himalayan (Common) Buzzard** *Buteo barmanicus*

Singletons were encountered on 8 separate days of the tour.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Common Buzzard *B. Buteo*, Eastern Buzzard *B. japonicus*, B. *bannermani* Cape Verde Buzzard and *B. socotraensis* Socotra Buzzard as one species, Common Buzzard *B. buteo*. IOC accepts all of these splits of Common Buzzard.

### **Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae**

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

One seen in the Kalaw area and another found at Hlawga Park.

**Black-tailed Crake** *Porzana bicolor*

Two of these rare and localized crakes showed well at the edge of rice paddies in the Kalaw area.

**Grey-headed (Purple) Swamphen** *Porphyrio poliocephalus*

A few seen on Inle Lake.

NOTE: IOC splits Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* into 6 separate species, whereas Clements does not yet recognize



these splits.

**Common Moorhen**

*Gallinula chloropus*

Small numbers were seen on 5 separate days of the tour.

**Eurasian (Common) Coot**

*Fulica atra*

Large numbers were seen on Inle Lake.

**Buttonquails *Turnicidae***

**Barred Buttonquail**

*Turnix tanki*

Singletons were flushed daily from thickets in the Bagan area and a pair was also seen one morning walking across the road. A total of 12 birds were seen.

**Stilts, Avocets *Recurvirostridae***

**Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

A singleton was sighted at Hlawga Park.

**Plovers & Lapwings *Charadriidae***

**River Lapwing (NT)**

*Vanellus duvaucelii*

One of these boldly-patterned plovers was seen well during our Irrawaddy boat trip.

**Red-wattled Lapwing**

*Vanellus indicus*

Small numbers were seen at scattered localities.

**Pacific Golden Plover**

*Pluvialis fulva*

Around 10 birds were encountered along the Irrawaddy River.

**Little Ringed Plover**

*Charadrius dubius*

Several were seen during our time in the Bagan area.

**Kentish Plover**

*Charadrius alexandrinus*

A total of four birds were found along the Irrawaddy River.

**Jacanas *Jacanidae***

**Pheasant-tailed Jacana**

*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Two were scoped at a small wetland en route from Kalaw to Inle with a few more of these handsome birds being seen at close range during our boat trip on Inle Lake. Unfortunately all individuals were in non-breeding plumage.

**Sandpipers & Allies *Scolopacidae***

**Pin-tailed Snipe**

*Gallinago stenura*

A singleton flushed up from the edge of a rice paddy in the Kalaw area.

**Common Snipe**

*Gallinago gallinago*

A couple of birds were seen in the Bagan area.

**Spotted Redshank**

*Tringa erythropus*

Five birds were encountered in the Bagan area.

**Common Greenshank**

*Tringa nebularia*

A singleton was seen in the Bagan area.

**Green Sandpiper**

*Tringa ochropus*

Small numbers were seen in the Bagan area.

**Wood Sandpiper**

*Tringa glareola*





Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers were seen at various scattered localities.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

A single bird was seen at a wetland in the Bagan area.

### **Pratincoles Glareolidae**

**Small Pratincole** *Glareola lactea*

We waited until after dusk for the usual throngs of these attractive waders to arrive at their usual roost site along the Irrawaddy River but sadly to no avail. We did find a single bird in flight in the late afternoon but no large numbers like usual.

### **Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**

**Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*

Hundreds were seen during our time on Inle Lake.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Two birds were picked out from the much more abundant Brown-headed Gull on Inle Lake.

### **Doves & Pigeons Columbidae**

**Rock Dove (Pigeon)** *Columba livia*

We found this species to be fairly common in towns and cities throughout.

**Ashy Wood Pigeon** *Columba pulchricollis*

Two birds were seen in flight on the north side of Mt Victoria. A rather scarce and shy species throughout its range!

**Pale-capped Pigeon (VU)** *Columba punicea*

We were blown away to one of these large, rare and unmistakable pigeons in flight in the late afternoon over dry dipterocarp forest near Kazunma. Unfortunately the view was brief and rather unsatisfactory.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

Small numbers seen between Mt Victoria and Bagan with several more seen in the Kalaw area.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Commonly seen in the Bagan area. The subspecies *xanthocycla* that we saw is very distinct and only occurs in Burma and E. China but this is not split by either IOC or Clements.

**Red Turtle (Collared) Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Several individuals were encountered in the Bagan area with another sighting in the Inle area.

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

Good numbers were seen at most localities.

**Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** *Treron phoenicopterus*

Good views were had between Bagan and Mt Victoria.

**Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon** *Treron sphenurus*

A great surprise in the form of four birds near the base of Mt Victoria! A rare bird along this route!

**Green Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula aenea*

Two birds were seen in flight overhead along the drive from Mt Victoria to Bagan.

### **Cuckoos Cuculidae**

**Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*



This widespread species was seen on a few occasions during the trip.

**Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*

One bird was seen briefly perched and in flight during our Inle boat trip.

**Green-billed Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus tristis*

Two separate but brief sightings were had of this species: one near Kazunma and another in the Kalaw area.

**Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*

Good views were had of this species in the Bagan area.

**Large Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx sparveroides*

Two brief flight views and another much better perched sighting were had in the Mt Victoria area.

NOTE: IOC splits the species into two: *H. sparveroides* Large Hawk-Cuckoo and *H. bocki* Dark Hawk-Cuckoo, while Clements only recognizes one species, *H. sparveroides* Large Hawk-Cuckoo.

### Owls *strigidae*

**Brown Wood Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*

Excellent views were had on consecutive days around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*

Good scope views were had of this species on the northern slope of Mt Victoria.

**Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Excellent views were had of two birds while birding between Mt Victoria and Bagan.

**Spotted Owlet** *Athene brama*

A few fabulous sightings were had of this endearing species in the Bagan area with our first sighting being of a singleton perched on a pagoda.

### Frogmouths *Podargidae*

**Hodgsons's Frogmouth (H)** *Batrachostomus javanensis*

Several attempts at this species could unfortunately only produce a few vocalizations. No doubt becoming a lot tougher on Mt Victoria!

### Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae*

**Grey Nightjar** *Caprimulgus jotaka*

This species was seen in the road on one morning during pre-dawn drives up Mt Victoria.

NOTE: IOC splits this species into two: *C. indicus* Jungle Nightjar and *C. jotaka* Grey Nightjar, while Clements only recognizes one species, *C. indicus* Gray Nightjar.

### Treeswifts *Hemiprocnidae*

**Crested Treeswift** *Hemiprocne coronata*

A few were sighted between Bagan to Mt Victoria.

### Swifts *Apodidae*

**Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*

A few birds were picked out amongst Asian House Martins around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Commonly seen in the lowlands with especially good numbers in the Bagan area.

**Cook's Swift** *Apus cooki*

Several flocks of these large swifts were seen in the Kalaw area.

NOTE: This species was recently split from Pacific Swift (*A. pacificus*) along with two other species: Blyth's Swift and Salim





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*Ali's Swift. Both IOC and Clements accept these splits.*

**House Swift**

*Apus nipalensis*

Small numbers were seen in the Bagan area.

**Trogon Trogonidae**

**Red-headed Trogon**

*Harpactes erythrocephalus*

A very handsome male showed extremely well in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Rollers Coraciidae**

**Indian Roller**

*Coracias benghalensis*

Several of these attractive birds were seen during the trip with initial sightings around Bagan.

*NOTE: Some authorities split Indian Roller into two species, namely Black-billed Roller C. affinis, which we saw on this trip, and Indian Roller C. benghalensis, which is much paler in colour, streaking on the chest and occurs further west on the Indian peninsula. Neither IOC nor Clements accept this split as yet.*

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**White-throated Kingfisher**

*Halcyon smyrnensis*

Fairly widespread and common, this attractive kingfisher was seen on 5 separate days of the tour. Always a crowd pleaser though!

**Common Kingfisher**

*Alcedo atthis*

Small numbers were encountered on 3 days of the tour.

**Pied Kingfisher**

*Ceryle rudis*

This extremely widespread species was seen along the Irrawaddy River.

**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

**Green Bee-eater**

*Merops orientalis*

Fair numbers were seen on most days in the lowlands.

*NOTE: Some authorities split the Green Bee-eaters in Asia from the ones in Africa. The Asian subspecies have Rufous-coloured crowns whereas the African subspecies are all green on the cap.*

**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**

*Merops leschenaulti*

Small numbers of this extremely attractive species were seen at Hlawga Park.

**Hoopoes Upupidae**

**Eurasian Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

Several birds were seen on consecutive days in the dry, scrubby habitat around Bagan.

*NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two separate species: Eurasian Hoopoe U. epops and African Hoopoe U. africana whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Eurasian Hoopoe U. epops. Both authorities accept the split of Madagascar Hoopoe, endemic to Madagascar.*

**Hornbills Bucerotidae**

**Great Hornbill (RI)**

*Buceros bicornis*

An awesome fly-by sighting was had of this magnificent species in Hlawga Park. Originally occurring here, the species has been reintroduced to the area.

**Barbets Capitonidae**

**Great Barbet**

*Megalaima virens*



We had many good views of this species on Mt Victoria.

**Lineated Barbet**

*Megalaima lineata*

A few sightings were had of this barbet during our return journey from Mt Victoria.

**Golden-throated Barbet**

*Megalaima franklinii*

This handsome barbet was seen on a few occasions on Mt Victoria.

**Blue-throated Barbet**

*Megalaima asiatica*

A few encounters were had with this species on Mt Victoria and during the drive between Bagan and the Mountain.

**Coppersmith Barbet**

*Megalaima haemacephala*

Excellent scope views were had of this species during the drive between Mt Victoria and Bagan.

### **Woodpeckers *Picidae***

**Eurasian Wryneck**

*Jynx torquilla*

Two sightings were had of this unique woodpecker in the Bagan area.

**Speckled Piculet**

*Picumnus innominatus*

Excellent views were had of this species in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**White-browed Piculet**

*Sasia ochracea*

Prolonged, point-blank views were had of this stunning and scarce little woodpecker in bamboo between Mt Victoria and Bagan.

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

Daily sightings of these especially attractive woodpeckers were seen during our time on Mt Victoria.

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos canicapillus*

We encountered this tiny woodpecker in mixed flocks between Mt Victoria and Bagan.

**Stripe-breasted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos atratus*

This fairly scarce and localized woodpecker was seen well on four occasions around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Crimson-breasted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos cathpharius*

One bird was seen near the base of Mt Victoria.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos major*

A good sighting was had of a calling bird in the Kalaw area.

**Grey-headed (-faced) Woodpecker (H)**

*Picus canus*

This widespread woodpecker was heard in pine forest near the Yay Aye Kan Reservoir.

**Himalayan Flameback (Goldenback)**

*Dinopium shorii*

Another sought after woodpecker; we had two sightings during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

**Greater Flameback (Goldenback)**

*Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*

This large and boldly-patterned woodpecker was unfortunately just heard on one occasion between Bagan and Mt Victoria.

**Pale-headed Woodpecker**

*Gecinulus grantia*

This very rarely seen and highly sought-after woodpecker was encountered in dense bamboo en route between Bagan and Mt Victoria. We eventually managed to obtain good views.

**Bay Woodpecker**

*Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

This shy woodpecker was seen well on the southern slope of Mt Victoria.

**Rufous Woodpecker**

*Micropternus brachyurus*

A pair was encountered in secondary growth near the Yay Aye Kan Reservoir.

### **Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae***





**White-rumped (Pygmy-) Falcon (NT)**

*Polihierax insignis*

We were finally treated to excellent scope views of a male in hilly dipterocarp forest near Kazunma.

**Common (Eurasian) Kestrel**

*Falco tinnunculus*

Several birds were seen on five separate days of the trip.

NOTE: IOC splits this species into Common Kestrel *F. tinnunculus* and Rock Kestrel *F. rupicolus* in Southern Africa, while Clements only recognizes one species: Eurasian Kestrel *F. tinnunculus*. Most other authorities accept this split.

**Laggar Falcon (NT)**

*Falco jugger*

Excellent flight and perched views were enjoyed of this striking falcon at one of the large pagodas at Bagan.

**Parrots *Psittacidae***

**Grey-headed (Finch's) Parakeet**

*Psittacula finschii*

A good number of fabulous sightings were had during our time to and from Mt Victoria. This is definitely one of the strongholds of this generally rare and local species!

**Blossom-headed Parakeet**

*Psittacula roseate*

We enjoyed good scope views of this small, handsome and endearing parrot perched up in the open in lovely morning light during our return drive from Mt Victoria to Bagan.

**Red-breasted Parakeet**

*Psittacula alexandri*

Fair numbers of these parrots were seen very well during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

**Alexandrine Parakeet**

*Psittacula eupatria*

A few birds were observed during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet**

*Psittacula krameri*

Small numbers were seen on both journeys to and from Mt Victoria.

**Broadbills *Eurylaimidae***

**Silver-breasted Broadbill**

*Serilophus lunatus*

One of the star birds of our Yay Aye Kan trip! We enjoyed superb views of a flock of these beauties just before leaving the forest.

**Woodshrikes and allies *Tephrodornithidae***

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike**

*Hemipus picatus*

A few birds were seen along the road from Mt Victoria to Bagan with a further sighting at Yay Aye Kan.

**Large Woodshrike**

*Tephrodornis virgatus*

Four birds were found in the forest between Bagan and Mt Victoria.

NOTE: This species was split into two a few years ago, namely Large Woodshrike *T. virgatus* and Malabar Woodshrike *T. sylvicola* of Southern India. Both IOC and Clements accept this split.

**Common Woodshrike**

*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

Several birds were seen in the dry dipterocarp forest en route from Mt Victoria to Bagan.

NOTE: This species was recently split into two, namely Common Woodshrike *T. pondicerianus* and Sri Lanka Woodshrike *T. affinis* of Sri Lanka. Both IOC and Clements accept this split.

**Ioras *Aegithinidae***

**Common Iora**

*Aegithina tiphia*

Regularly encountered in pairs at most localities.

**Cuckooshrikes *Campephagidae***



**Large Cuckooshrike***Coracina macei*

Small numbers seen en route to Mt Victoria and around the base of the Mountain.

**Indochinese Cuckooshrike***Coracina polioptera*

A female showed briefly in dry forest en route from Mt Victoria to Bagan with a male showing well in the Kalaw area.

**Black-winged Cuckooshrike***Coracina melaschistos*

Singletons were encountered between Bagan and Mt Victoria and around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Rosy Minivet***Pericrocotus roseus*

This good-looking and rather scarce and local species showed well during the drive to and from Mt Victoria and again at Hlawga Park where a few separate groups were seen.

**Small Minivet***Pericrocotus cannamomeus*

Several flocks were encountered during the drive from Mt Victoria to Bagan.

**Jerdon's (White-bellied) Minivet (E)***Pericrocotus albifrons*

Another one of Burma's sought-after and often tricky endemic species! Our searching in the Bagan area delivered three separate flocks (11 birds). Undoubtedly one of the best birds of the trip!

*NOTE: IOC splits White-bellied Minivet Pericrocotus erythropygus into two species, White-bellied Minivet Pericrocotus erythropygus and Jerdon's Minivet Pericrocotus albifrons, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, White-bellied Minivet Pericrocotus erythropygus.*

**Grey-chinned Minivet***Pericrocotus solaris*

Pairs were encountered around the base of Mt Victoria and again in the Kalaw area.

**Long-tailed Minivet***Pericrocotus ethologus*

Several gorgeous pairs and small family groups were seen daily during our time on Mt Victoria, with further sightings in the Kalaw area.

**Short-billed Minivet***Pericrocotus brevirostris*

A few sightings were had of this scarce and range-restricted minivet during our time on Mt Victoria.

**Scarlet Minivet***Pericrocotus speciosus*

Excellent views were had of these stunners around the Yay Aye Kan Reservoir.

*NOTE: Scarlet Minivet has recently been split into two species: Scarlet Minivet P. speciosus and Orange Minivet P. flammeus. Both Clements and IOC accept these splits. However, Scarlet Minivet is set to be split into a further three species, namely Philippine Red, Philippine Yellow and Javan Minivets respectively.*

**Shrikes Laniidae****Brown Shrike***Lanius cristatus*

Small numbers were seen at several open-country sites.

**Burmese Shrike***Lanius colluriooides*

Small numbers of this attractive shrike were encountered daily in the Bagan area with one found later near Kalaw.

**Long-tailed Shrike***Lanius schach*

This strikingly-plumaged shrike was seen daily in the Kalaw and Inle areas.

*NOTE: Some authorities split Long-tailed Shrike into two species: "Black-headed" Long-tailed Shrike, which we saw on this trip and "Rufous-backed" Long-tailed Shrike, which occurs on the Indian peninsula. Neither Clements nor IOC accept this split as yet.*

**Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae****White-bellied Erpornis (Yuhina)***Erpornis zantholeuca*

A pair showed well in the Yay Aye Kan forest on our final morning at Kalaw.

*NOTE: This species was recently taken out of the Yuhina family and placed with the Vireos. The common name also changed in*





doing so. This move was done by both Clements and IOC.

**Blyth's (White-browed) Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius aeralatus*

Several pairs and singletons were encountered and seen well during our time on Mt Victoria and at Kalaw.

NOTE: White-browed Shrike-Babbler was recently split into four separate species, namely Blyth's, Pied, Himalayan and Dalat Shrike-Babblers respectively. Both Clements and IOC accept these splits.

**Green Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

This generally uncommon vireo was seen incredibly well on several occasions in mixed species flocks on Mt Victoria. Seen on four separate days. The subspecies we saw is the very distinctive *hybrida* which has an obvious, large, pale eye-ring.

NOTE: We saw the near-endemic hybrid subspecies of Green Shrike-Babbler on this tour. The subspecies has a very distinctive pale eye ring and may be split in future.

### Old World Orioles *Oriolidae*

**Slender-billed Oriole** *Oriolus tenuirostris*

A pair was seen rather briefly around the base of Mt Victoria and we later enjoyed excellent scope views of a singleton during the hike to the Yay Aye Kan Forest.

**Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*

One seen en route to Mt Victoria and another two found at Hlawga Park.

**Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*

This striking species was seen en route to and from Mt Victoria and at Hlawga Park.

**Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii*

First seen briefly on the northern slope of Mt Victoria and later, several of these attractive orioles were found on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria and again in the Kalaw area.

### Drongos *Dicruridae*

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Commonly seen in open lowland habitats.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

This is the area's most abundant drongo and was seen on most days of the tour.

**Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*

Small numbers of this species were seen in the forests between Bagan and Mt Victoria, around Kalaw and in Hlawga Park.

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

Singletons were encountered in mixed flocks during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

**Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Small numbers were encountered in the forest around the base of Mt Victoria.

NOTE: The Spangled Drongo complex was split up into several species a while back with Hair-crested Drongo being one of the many splits. Both Clements and IOC accept these splits.

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

Another spectacular drongo – this species was seen in the lowlands between Mt Victoria and Bagan and again at Hlawga Park.

### Fantails *Rhipiduridae*

**White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*

Seen on one occasion on Mt Victoria and again in the Kalaw area.



**Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*****Black-naped Monarch***Hypothymis azurea*

Several good views were had between Bagan and Mt Victoria, at Yay Aye Kan and at Hlawga Park.

**Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae*****Eurasian Jay***Garrulus glandarius*

Two birds were seen around the base of Mt Victoria and another 3 were seen very well along the walk to the Yay Aye Kan Forest.

*NOTE: We encountered two distinctive races of Eurasian Jay during the trip: the sinensis subspecies on Mt Victoria and the very distinctive, white-headed leucotis subspecies around Kalaw. The Eurasian Jay complex has not been split up as yet, despite the existence and many distinctive and isolated subspecies.*

**Red-billed Blue Magpie***Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

A flock of four was found near Saw.

**Rufous Treepie***Dendrocitta vagabunda*

A few of these attractive corvids were seen during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

**Grey Treepie***Dendrocitta formosae*

Small numbers were seen around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Racket-tailed Treepie***Crypsirina ternia*

We were very fortunate to have had excellent views of three of these rather scarce and shy forest treepies during our morning at Hlawga Park.

**Hooded Treepie (E) (NT)***Crypsirina cucullata*

This very special and striking endemic is undoubtedly one of Burma's must-see birds. After spending considerable time searching for this enigmatic species around Bagan we eventually located a pair that showed incredibly well on several occasions. This is probably Burma's toughest endemic as it generally appears to be extremely local, uncommon and particularly shy and unobtrusive for a treepie!

**House Crow***Corvus splendens*

Abundant throughout the lowlands!

**Eastern Jungle (Large-billed) Crow***Corvus levaillantii*

Fair numbers were found around Mt Victoria and were seen daily.

*NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Indian Jungle Crow C. culminatus and Large-billed Crow C. macrorhynchos as Large-billed Crow C. macrorhynchos, whereas IOC accepts these splits.*

**Fairy Flycatchers *Stenostiridae*****Yellow-bellied Fantail***Rhipidura hypoxantha*

Two of these striking and lively little birds were found during our time on Mt Victoria.

**Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher***Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Seen regularly on 7 separate days of the tour.

**Chickadees & Tits *Paridae*****Yellow-browed Tit***Sylviparus modestus*

A total of six birds were seen during our time on Mt Victoria.

**Black-bibbed Tit***Parus hypermelaena*

This range-restricted and scarce species was seen well on two occasions on the upper reaches of Mt Victoria.

**Japanese Tit***Parus minor*

Several birds were seen in the Kalaw area.



NOTE: This and the next species were recently split from Great Tit. Both IOC and Clements recognize this split.

**Cinereous Tit** *Parus cinereus*

A few were encountered during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

**Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*

A few birds were encountered around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Parus spilonotus*

A pair of this smart species was found in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

### **Larks *Alaudidae***

**Burmese Bush Lark (E)** *Mirafraga Microptera*

Large numbers of these endemic larks were seen daily in the Bagan area.

**Sand Lark** *Calandrella raytal*

At least 6 of these specialized larks were found along the edge of the Irrawaddy River.

### **Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***

**Crested Finchbill** *Spizixos canifrons*

Fair numbers of this attractive bulbul were found around the lower and upper slopes of Mt Victoria.

**Striated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus striatus*

Good numbers were seen on the lower and middle slopes of Mt Victoria.

**Black-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus atriceps*

A surprise find at Hlawga Park where 4 birds were seen well.

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris*

Fair numbers were seen in the lower elevation forests throughout the tour.

NOTE: The Black-crested Bulbul complex has recently been split up into several different species with the birds that we saw retaining the common name Black-crested Bulbul. These splits have been recognized by both IOC and Clements.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Small numbers seen daily around Kalaw.

**Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*

By far the commonest bulbul in Burma; it was seen almost daily.

**Sooty-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

Several "pure" birds were seen in the Kalaw area.

NOTE: Many of the birds seen in the Kalaw area show traits of both Red-vented and Sooty-headed Bulbuls and are probably hybrids between the two species. This is one of very few locations where the two species overlap in range.

**Flavescent Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flavescens*

Commonly seen around the lower slopes of Mt Victoria and in the Kalaw area.

**Streak-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus blanfordi*

Abundant in open habitat throughout the tour with especially good numbers found around Bagan.

**Puff-throated Bulbul** *Alophoixus pallidus*

A single bird popped up briefly amongst a mixed flock in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mccllellandii*

Small numbers were seen in the forests on Mt Victoria with further sightings around Kalaw.

**Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flava*

Two birds were seen briefly on Mt Victoria with better sightings later on at the Yay Aye Kan forest.

NOTE: Ashy Bulbul was recently split into two separate species: Ashy Bulbul H. flava and Cinereous Bulbul H. cinereus of peninsula Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo. Both Clements and IOC accept this split.

**Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

This widespread Asian species was seen on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria and again in the Kalaw area.





We saw the more typical concolor 'black' race in the Mt Victoria and Kalaw areas as well as the much scarcer and extremely attractive leucothorax 'white-headed' race around the base of Mt Victoria.

NOTE: Black Bulbul was recently split into two species: Black Bulbul *H. leucocephalus* and Square-tailed Bulbul *H. ganeesa*. Both Clements and IOC accept this split.

### Swallows *Hirundinidae*

**Grey-throated (Plain) Martin** *Riparia chinensis*

Good numbers were seen along the Irrawaddy River and around Bagan.

NOTE: This species was recently split from Plain (Brown-throated) Martin. Both IOC and Clements accept this split.

**Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)** *Riparia riparia*

A single bird was identified on Inle Lake.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Large numbers were seen throughout the lowlands.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

Several birds were found hunting over a small wetland near Kalaw.

**Asian House Martin** *Delichon dasypus*

Flocks were seen on two days in the Mt Victoria area.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

Small numbers were seen in the Bagan and Kalaw areas and at Hlawga Park.

NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two distinct species; Red-rumped Swallow *C. daurica* and West African Swallow *C. domicella* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Red-rumped Swallow *C. daurica*.

### Wren-babblers *Pnoepygidae*

**Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler (Cupwing)** *Pnoepyga albiventer*

Brief views were had of this ground-dweller in dense forest high up on Mt Victoria.

NOTE: Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler has recently been split into three species: Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *P. albiventer*, Taiwan Wren-Babbler *P. formosana* of Taiwan, and Chinese Wren-Babbler *P. mutica* of mainland China. IOC accepts all three splits, whereas Clements only accepts the split of Taiwan Wren-Babbler.

### Cettia bush Warblers & allies *Cettidae*

**Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Abroscopus superciliaris*

A single bird popped up briefly in the bamboo forest en route between Bagan and Mt Victoria.

**Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps*

Two birds were seen briefly in mixed understory flocks on Mt Victoria.

**Slaty-bellied Tesia** *Tesia olivea*

This secretive forest mite was heard and seen briefly in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Cettia castaneocoronata*

Good views were had of this ground-dwelling forest mite near the top of Mt Victoria.

NOTE: Chestnut-headed Tesia has recently been placed in the *Cettia* genus.

### Bushtits *Aegithalidae*

**Black-throated Bushtit (Tit)** *Aegithalos concinnus*

Pairs and small groups were seen well around the base of Mt Victoria and along the drive back to Bagan.

**Burmese Bushtit (Black-browed Tit) (E)** *Aegithalos sharpei*

This recently split endemic was seen extremely well on a handful of occasions on the south side of Mt Victoria. A great little bird indeed and extremely different-looking from Black-browed Bushtit!



NOTE: IOC splits Rufous-fronted Bushtit *Aegithalos iouschistos* into three species: Rufous-fronted Bushtit *Aegithalos iouschistos*, Burmese Bushtit *Aegithalos sharpei* and Black-browed Bushtit *Aegithalos bonvaloti*., whereas Clements only recognizes one species: Black-browed Tit *A. iouschistos*.

### **Leaf Warblers & Allies *Phylloscopidae***

#### **Dusky Warbler**

*Phylloscopus fuscatus*

First seen in the Bagan area with further sightings around Kalaw and Inle.

#### **Tickell's Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus affinis*

Small numbers showed well in the Bagan area and again on a few occasions thereafter.

#### **Buff-throated Warbler**

*Phylloscopus subaffinis*

A total of 2 birds were seen on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria.

#### **Yellow-streaked Warbler**

*Phylloscopus armandii*

Good views were had of several birds in the Bagan area.

#### **Buff-barred Warbler**

*Phylloscopus pulcher*

Abundant on Mt Victoria where staggering numbers were seen daily.

#### **Ashy-throated Warbler**

*Phylloscopus maculipennis*

This attractive and distinctive *phylloscopus* was seen on three occasions on Mt Victoria.

#### **Yellow-browed Warbler**

*Phylloscopus inornatus*

A very common species found on most days of the trip and the dominant *phylloscopus* at lower altitudes.

#### **Greenish Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Singletons were seen on five days of the trip.

NOTE: IOC splits Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* into two species: Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* and Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*.

#### **Two-barred (Greenish) Warbler**

*Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*

Singletons were seen around Kalaw and at Hlawga Park.

NOTE: IOC splits Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* into two species: Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* and Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*.

#### **Blyth's Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus reguloides*

A few of these winter visitors were found on Mt Victoria.

NOTE: Blyth's Leaf Warbler has recently been split into three different species: Blyth's, Claudia's and Hartert's Leaf Warblers. Both IOC and Clements accept these splits.

#### **Davison's Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus davisoni*

A total of around 10 birds were seen in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

NOTE: White-tailed Leaf Warbler's common name got recently changed to Davison's Leaf Warbler and also got split into two species: Davison's Leaf Warbler *P. davisoni* and Kloss's Leaf Warbler *P. ogilviegranti*. Both IOC and Clements accept these splits.

#### **Grey-hooded Warbler**

*Phylloscopus xanthoschistus*

Small numbers were seen on Mt Victoria and in the Kalaw area.

#### **Grey-crowned Warbler**

*Seicercus tephrocephalus*

A single singing bird was seen around the base of Mt Victoria with a few more heard in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

NOTE: The "Golden-spectacled" Warbler complex was recently split up into six different species: Green-crowned (Golden-spectacled), Grey-crowned, Martens's, Whistler's, Olstrom's (Plain-tailed) and Bianchi's Warblers respectively. Both IOC and Clements accept these splits. See the following two species.

#### **Whistler's Warbler**

*Seicercus whistleri*

Good views were had of this species on three occasions in mixed flocks on the upper slopes of Mt Victoria.

#### **Martens's Warbler**

*Seicercus omeiensis*



At least one bird was seen well and identified on call in the Yay Aye Kan forest. Many more “golden-spectacled warblers” were seen in the Yay Aye Kan forest but were not seen calling and therefore impossible to reliably tell between Martens’s and Grey-crowned Warblers.

### **Reed Warblers & Allies *Acrocephalidae***

**Oriental Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus orientalis*

One bird showed well during our Inle Lake boat trip.

**Black-browed Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

A singleton popped up briefly during our Inle Lake boat trip.

**Thick-billed Warbler** *Iduna aedon*

Unusually good views were had of this often secretive species on several occasions in the Bagan area.

### **Grassbirds & Allies *Megaluridae***

**Pallas’s Grasshopper (Rusty-rumped) Warbler** *Locustella certhiola*

Absolutely sensational views were achieved of this arch-skulker at Inle Lake. Superb!

**Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris*

Excellent views were had of several calling birds in the Kalaw area. Also seen in reedbeds on Inle Lake.

### **Cisticolas & Allies *Cisticolidae***

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

This species was seen in large numbers while walking through a reedy area during our Irrawaddy River boat trip.

**Brown Prinia** *Prinia polychroa*

After struggling to get good views at Bagan we were treated to wonderful views of a pair during the walk to the Yay Aye Kan Reservoir.

**Black-throated Prinia** *Prinia atrogularis*

Excellent views were had of this often-tricky species near the base of Mt Victoria.

**Hill Prinia** *Prinia superciliaris*

Good but brief views were had of three birds in the Kalaw area. A difficult species to see well!

**Rufescent Prinia** *Prinia rufescens*

Two pairs were encountered during the drive to and from Mt Victoria with a further sighting around Kalaw.

**Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*

Several sightings were had in the Bagan area, between Mt Victoria and Bagan and again around Kalaw.

**Yellow-bellied Prinia** *Prinia flaviventris*

Seen well during our Inle Lake boat trip.

**Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*

This is the common prinia in lowland grassy areas throughout. We saw several birds in the Bagan and Inle areas.

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*

Heard and seen fairly regularly in the lower lying areas.

**Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis*

Three separate sightings were had at Hlawga Park.

### **Babblers, Scimitar Babblers & Allies *Timaliidae***





**Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (H)** *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*

Heard in the late afternoon near the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler (NE)** *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*

After an intensive search around the base of Mt Victoria we finally managed to coax a pair out to the edge of the bushes for fairly good views. By far the country's toughest near-endemic and getting tougher to find and see every year!

NOTE: Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler has recently been split up into three separate species: Spot-breasted, Black-streaked and Black-necklaced Scimitar Babblers respectively. Both IOC and Clements accept these splits.

**White-browed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

Excellent views were had of several birds, during our Yay Aye Kan trip.

**Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Wonderful sightings were had daily on Mt Victoria.

**Chin Hills Wren-Babbler (NE)** *Spelaeornis oatesi*

We worked hard this year to find and obtain views of this near-endemic but eventually managed to coax a highly responsive individual into the open for unbeatable views on the south side of Mt Victoria. Fantastic!

**Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps*

Heard in the distance during the drive from Bagan to Mt Victoria.

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyris ruficeps*

Seen well in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Golden Babbler** *Stachyris chrysaea*

A few sightings were had near the top of Mt Victoria and again in the Yay Aye Kan forest. A stunning little bird!

**Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** *Macronous gularis*

Two birds showed well between Mt Victoria and Bagan.

**Chestnut-capped Babbler (H)** *Timalia pileata*

This skulking species was unfortunately only heard on a few occasions in dense reed beds during our Inle Lake trip.

**Fulvettas, Ground Babblers & Allies *Pellorneidae*****Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Alcippe castaneiceps*

Small groups were encountered fairly regularly on Mt Victoria.

**Rusty-capped Fulvetta** *Alcippe dubia*

Amazingly satisfying views were had of these usually ultra-unobtrusive fulvettas on several occasions around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe poioicephala*

Excellent views were had of this species during our time between Mt Victoria and Bagan.

**Yunnan Fulvetta** *Alcippe fratercula*

We finally managed to locate a flock of these fast-moving fulvettas in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

NOTE: Grey-cheeked Fulvetta was recently split into four separate species, namely: Grey-cheeked, Yunnan, David's and Huet's Fulvetta respectively. Both IOC and Clements accept these splits.

**Chinese (Rufous-rumped) Grassbird (H) (CR)** *Graminicola striatus*

Unfortunately this rare, localized and extremely secretive species was only heard despite our best efforts at Inle Lake. Some folks may have had brief views of one or two birds but this could not be confirmed. A total of three separate birds were heard calling from one small area, which suggests that densities of this species at Inle may be higher than originally thought.

NOTE: This species was recently split from Rufous-rumped Grassbird. Both IOC and Clements recognize this split.

**Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*

A pair came into playback and showed superbly well en route from Mt Victoria to Bagan.

### Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae*

#### **Striated Babbler**

*Turdoides earlei*

A pair of these noisy babblers put on a great performance for us along the Irrawaddy River.

#### **White-throated Babbler (E)**

*Turdoides gularis*

Excellent views were had of this localized but common endemic on many occasions in the Bagan area.

#### **Mount Victoria (Chinese) Babax (NE)**

*Babax woodi*

A group of four birds were admired at length on our first morning on Mt Victoria but were not heard or seen again!

*NOTE: IOC splits Chinese Babax Babax lanceolatus into two species, Chinese Babax Babax lanceolatus and Mount Victoria Babax Babax woodi, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Chinese Babax Babax lanceolatus.*

#### **White-crested Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax leucolophus*

A furtive flock was seen on our final morning in Hlawga Park.

#### **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax monileger*

Brief views were had of this species amongst White-crested Laughingthrushes at Hlawga Park.

#### **Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush (H)**

*Garrulax pectoralis*

Only heard in dense undergrowth on two occasions during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

#### **Black-throated Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax chinensis*

A real surprise! We were delighted to find this species in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

#### **White-browed Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax sannio*

Excellent views were enjoyed of several flocks in the Kalaw area.

#### **Striped Laughingthrush (NE)**

*Garrulax virgatus*

Sensational views were had of this localized, often secretive forest edge species on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria on several occasions.

#### **Brown-capped Laughingthrush (NE)**

*Garrulax austeni*

Many excellent and prolonged sightings were had of this near-endemic during our time on Mt Victoria. Along with the latter species, these laughingthrushes were unusually confiding, showy and numerous this year, which was fantastic!

#### **Assam Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax chrysopterus*

Seen on many occasions at all altitudes and stratas in the forest on Mt Victoria.

#### **Himalayan Cutia**

*Cutia nipalensis*

One of Asia's top birds! Two separate sightings were had of these stunning Himalayan specialties on Mt Victoria.

*NOTE: Cutia was recently split into two species: Himalayan Cutia C. nipalensis and Vietnamese Cutia C. legalleni endemic to the Dalat plateau in southern Vietnam. Both Clements and IOC accept these splits.*

#### **Blue-winged Minla**

*Minla cyanouroptera*

Mt Victoria produced several sightings of this species.

#### **Bar-throated (Chestnut-tailed) Minla**

*Minla strigula*

This bold and brightly coloured bird was seen fairly regularly on Mt Victoria.

#### **Red-tailed Minla**

*Minla ignotincta*

These often scarce minlas were seen unusually often during our time on Mt Victoria.

#### **Red (Crimson)-faced Liocichla**

*Liocichla phoenicea*

A brief sighting was had on the lower south slope of Mt Victoria. A shy and tricky species to see well!

#### **Scarlet-faced Liocichla**

*Liocichla ripponi*

Similarly tough to see like the previous species, we were however amazingly fortunate to have had



unbeatable views of this stunning laughingthrush during our Yay Aye Kan Reservoir visit. An absolute stunner when seen well, which is very rarely the case!

**Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodura egertoni*

Small groups were seen daily on Mt Victoria.

**Spectacled Barwing** *Actinodura ramsayi*

This attractive species was seen very well in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Streak-throated Barwing** *Actinodura waldeni*

Excellent views were had of four of these scarce barwings on Mt Victoria.

**Silver-eared Mesia (Leiothrix)** *Leiothrix argenteauris*

Flocks of these gaudy babblers were seen very well around the base of Mt Victoria and around Kalaw.

**Grey Sibia** *Heterophasia gracilis*

Abundant on Mt Victoria!

**Dark (Black)-backed Sibia** *Heterophasia melanoleuca*

We enjoyed good views of this species in the Kalaw area.

*NOTE: We saw the distinctive and endemic castanoptera race with the rufous tertials. This subspecies is not yet split but will be in future.*

### **Sylviid Babblers, Parrotbills, Myzornis Sylviidae**

**White-browed Fulvetta** *Fulvetta vinipectus*

Small flocks of these birds were regularly encountered on Mt Victoria.

**Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense*

Several pairs and small groups were seen in the Bagan area.

**Spot-breasted Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis guttaticollis*

This striking but challenging-to-see species was seen briefly on two occasions on Mt Victoria and again in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

### **White-eyes Zosteropidae**

**Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*

Small numbers were seen on Mt Victoria.

*NOTE: Yuhinas were recently placed in the white-eye family.*

**Burmese Yuhina** *Yuhina humilis*

This is one of Burma's toughest major target birds! We were extremely fortunate to locate and achieve smashing views of three of these rare, elusive and range-restricted birds along the Yay Aye Kan trail.

Very close to being a Burmese near-endemic and only really seeable in Myanmar!

**Stripe-throated Yuhina** *Yuhina guralis*

Seen in small numbers on 4 days on Mt Victoria.

**Chestnut-flanked White-eye** *Zosterops erythropleurus*

Several flocks were found around the base of Mt Victoria.

**Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*

A few encounters were had in the Kalaw area.

### **Elachuras Elachuridae**

**Spotted Elachura (Wren-babbler) (H)** *Elachura Formosa*

This extremely secretive species was heard in the distance on one occasion near the base of Mt Victoria.

*NOTE: Spotted Wren-Babbler was recently removed from the wren-babbler family and placed in its own unique and*





monotypic family *Elachura* and in so doing its common name changed too. Both Clements and IOC recognize this change in taxonomy.

### Nuthatches *Sittidae*

#### **Chestnut-vented Nuthatch**

*Sitta nagaensis*

Good numbers were seen daily during our time on Mt Victoria.

#### **White-browed Nuthatch (E) (EN)**

*Sitta victoriae*

This legendary and highly sought-after Burmese endemic was seen incredibly well on several occasions during our time on Mt Victoria. At least 8 birds were seen in total.

#### **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**

*Sitta frontalis*

This handsome nuthatch was first seen en route to and from Mt Victoria and again in the forest near the Yay Aye Kan Reservoir.

### Treecreepers *Certhidae*

#### **Bar-tailed Treecreeper**

*Certhia himalayana*

This species was seen on a few occasions on the higher slopes of Mt Victoria.

#### **Hume's (Brown-throated/Manipur) Treecreeper**

*Certhia manipurensis*

Singletons were seen on 3 consecutive days at all levels on Mt Victoria.

NOTE: Brown-throated Treecreeper has recently been split into two species: Hume's Treecreeper *C. manipurensis* and Sikkim Treecreeper *C. discolor*. Both IOC and Clements accept this split.

### Starlings *Sturnidae*

#### **Common Hill Myna**

*Gracula religiosa*

Several sightings were had during the drive from Bagan to Mt Victoria.

#### **Great (White-vented) Myna**

*Acridotheres grandis*

Singletons and small groups were encountered on three days in the Kalaw and Inle areas.

#### **Jungle Myna**

*Acridotheres fuscus*

Small flocks were seen around Bagan and Kalaw.

#### **Collared Myna (NE)**

*Acridotheres albocinctus*

Four of these extremely localized and rather striking mynas were seen very well en route between Heho and Kalaw.

#### **Common Myna**

*Acridotheres tristis*

Commonly seen at several localities.

#### **Vinous-breasted Starling**

*Sturnus burmannicus*

Good numbers were seen in the Bagan area with a few more seen near Kalaw.

#### **Black-collared Starling**

*Sturnus nigricollis*

Small numbers of these handsome starlings were seen in the Kalaw area.

#### **Chestnut-tailed Starling**

*Sturnia malabarica*

Two of these starlings were found in a flowering tree near Heho.

### Thrushes & Allies *Turdidae*

#### **Orange-headed Thrush**

*Geokichla citrina*

This was a major surprise! We enjoyed superb views of this striking thrush after Thiri spotted one in the forest undergrowth on our final morning at Hlawga Park.

#### **White-collared Blackbird**

*Turdus albocinctus*

Excellent scope views were had of a handsome male on the upper slopes of Mt Victoria. A very unusual



sighting for the mountain!

**Grey-winged Blackbird**

*Turdus bouboul*

A pair of these fairly nomadic migrants showed well in the road at dawn during our drives up to the top of Mt Victoria.

**Grey-sided Thrush (VU)**

*Turdus feae*

Small numbers were seen on most days on Mt Victoria. However, numbers of this species were much lower than usual this year and we were also surprised to not encounter any Eyebrowed Thrushes during our time on Mt Victoria.

**Chats & Old World Flycatchers *Sylviidae***

**Oriental Magpie-Robin**

*Copsychus saularis*

Small numbers were seen on three days of the trip.

**White-rumped Shama**

*Copsychus malabaricus*

This beautiful songster was seen during the drive from Mt Victoria back to Bagan.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa dauurica*

A singleton showed well near the base of Mt Victoria.

*NOTE: Asian Brown Flycatcher has recently been split into several species, although the exact certainty of these and other potential species within the Asian Brown Flycatcher complex remains contentious and uncertain.*

**Hill Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis banyumas*

A gorgeous male showed well in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis tickelliae*

Two females were seen during the drive to and from Mt Victoria.

**Vivid Niltava**

*Niltava vivida*

A rare species throughout its range! We were thrilled to find two males and two females of these stunners that showed incredibly well on consecutive days on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria.

**Large Niltava**

*Niltava grandis*

Males and females were seen well during our time on Mt Victoria. Especially good views were had in and at the edge of the road at dawn during drives up the mountain.

**Small Niltava**

*Niltava macgrigoriae*

A male of this tiny flycatcher popped up briefly for some of the group on the middle slopes of Mt Victoria.

**Verditer Flycatcher**

*Eumyias thalassinus*

Singletons were seen during the drive to and from Mt Victoria and again in the Kalaw area.

**Bluethroat**

*Luscinia svecica*

A single bird showed well at the edge of a small wetland near Kalaw.

**Siberian Rubythroat**

*Luscinia calliope*

Excellent views were had of a stunning male and females in dry thickets in the Bagan area.

**White-tailed Robin**

*Myiomela leucura*

Unfortunately this was just a leader only sighting in the Yay Aye Kan Forest. Another surprise find!

**Himalayan Bluetail**

*Tarsiger rufilatus*

Abundant on Mt Victoria and particularly showy!

*NOTE: Orange-flanked Bush Robin was recently split into two species: Himalayan Bluetail T. rufilatus and Red-flanked Bluetail T. cyanurus. Both Clements and IOC accept this split.*

**White-crowed Forktail (H)**

*Enicurus leschenaulti*

Heard at the entrance to the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Spotted Forktail**

*Enicurus maculatus*

Singletons were seen on two occasions near the top of Mt Victoria.



**Blue Whistling Thrush***Myophonus caeruleus*

Singletons were seen well on four consecutive days on Mt Victoria.

**Slaty-backed Flycatcher***Ficedula hodgsonii*

A pair and a female were encountered on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria. Another male showed particularly well during the walk to the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher***Ficedula strophciata*

Small numbers were seen daily on Mt Victoria.

**Taiga (Red-throated) Flycatcher***Ficedula albicilla*

The most common flycatcher of the trip, we saw several birds on most days!

NOTE: Red-breasted Flycatcher was fairly recently split into two species: Taiga Flycatcher *F. albicilla* and Red-breasted Flycatcher *F. parva*. Both Clements and IOC accept this split.

**Little Pied Flycatcher***Ficedula westermanni*

Single males were seen around the base of Mt Victoria and again in the Kalaw area.

**Daurian Redstart***Phoenicurus aureus*

A female and superb male were sighted during our walk to the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Blue-fronted Redstart***Phoenicurus frontalis*

Males and females were seen daily in small numbers all over Mt Victoria.

**Blue Rock Thrush***Monticola solitarius*

A total of four birds were seen in the Bagan area.

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush***Monticola rufiventris*

A few of these attractive birds were seen daily on Mt Victoria.

**Siberian Stonechat***Saxicola maurus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Kalaw and Inle areas.

NOTE: IOC splits Siberian Stonechat into two species: Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* & Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*.

**White-tailed Stonechat***Saxicola leucura*

Good views were enjoyed of this rather localized and habitat-specific species along the Irrawaddy River. This is a major stronghold for this otherwise scarce species!

**Pied Bush Chat***Saxicola caprata*

Commonly seen throughout the lowlands.

**Jerdon's Bush Chat***Saxicola jerdoni*

This is generally a very rare and elusive bird throughout its limited range. However, at Inle Lake it appears to be common! We were thrilled to see at least 15 birds that all showed exceptionally well. This has to be the world stronghold for this species!

**Grey Bush Chat***Saxicola ferreus*

Commonly seen on most days of the tour.

**Leafbirds Chloropseidae****Blue-winged Leafbird***Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

A superb male was encountered and showed well during the trip from Mt Victoria back to Bagan.

**Golden-fronted Leafbird***Chloropsis aurifrons*

Pairs and singletons of this attractive species were seen on both the trips to and from Mt Victoria.

**Orange-bellied Leafbird***Chloropsis hardwickii*

A gorgeous male and female were seen during our time in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae**



**Yellow-vented Flowerpecker***Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

A scarce bird throughout its range! We were particularly fortunate to encounter a total of three birds in forests between Saw and Bagan.

**Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker***Dicaeum melanoxanthum*

This extremely scarce and elusive flowerpecker was only seen by two guests in forest on the southern slope of Mt Victoria before it disappeared, not to be seen again.

**Plain Flowerpecker***Dicaeum minullum*

Good, close views were had of this rather nondescript species on two occasions in dry, broad-leaved forest between Saw and Bagan.

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker***Dicaeum ignipectus*

Small numbers were encountered daily on the lower and middle slopes of Mt Victoria and in the Kalaw area.

**Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker***Dicaeum cruentatum*

This stunning little flowerpecker was seen extremely well in Hlawga Park where it was common. Further views were had en route to and from Mt Victoria.

**Sunbirds & Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*****Purple Sunbird***Cinnyris asiaticus*

Males and females were encountered in low numbers on a few occasions in fairly dry country around Bagan and near Kazunma.

**Olive-backed Sunbird***Cinnyris jugularis*

A pair showed well at Hlawga Park.

**Mrs. Gould's Sunbird***Aethopyga gouldiae*

A stunning male showed well on one occasion near the base of Mt Victoria. Undoubtedly one of the world's most beautiful sunbirds!

**Green-tailed Sunbird***Aethopyga nipalensis*

This superb sunbird was seen fairly commonly on Mt Victoria.

**Black-throated Sunbird***Aethopyga saturate*

A few of these beauties were seen in the Yay Aye Kan forest near Kalaw.

**Fire-tailed Sunbird***Aethopyga ignicauda*

Fair numbers were seen at all altitudes on Mt Victoria. All males were unfortunately in eclipse plumage at this time of year but some still had brilliant long, red tails.

**Streaked Spiderhunter***Arachnothera magna*

Singletons were seen between Mt Victoria and Bagan and again in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*****House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

Commonly seen around towns throughout the tour.

**Russet Sparrow***Passer rutilans*

A male was scoped along the Yay Aye Kan trail.

**Plain-backed Sparrow***Passer flaveolus*

Good numbers were seen throughout the Bagan area.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow***Passer montanus*

This species was recorded in small numbers throughout the lower lying areas.



**Weavers and Allies Ploceidae****Baya Weaver***Ploceus philippinus*

A few of these birds, all in winter plumage, were sighted in the Bagan area.

**Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae****White-rumped Munia***Lonchura striata*

A flock of around 100 birds were found feeding in bamboo at the edge of Hlawga Park.

**Scaly-breasted Munia (Netmeg Mannikin)***Lonchura punctulata*

Large flocks were seen in the Bagan area with a few more at Hlawga Park.

**Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae****Eastern Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla tschutschensis*

At least three birds were seen during our boat trip down the Irrawaddy River. The subspecies seen refers to *tschutschensis*.

NOTE: Eastern and Western Yellow Wagtails were recently split from Yellow Wagtail. Both Clements and IOC recognize this split. Several distinctive races of both species exist and may very well be split off in the near future.

**Citrine Wagtail***Motacilla citreola*

A few individuals were seen in the Bagan area.

**Grey Wagtail***Motacilla cinerea*

Singletons were encountered daily at Mt Victoria and were also seen in the Kalaw area.

**White Wagtail***Motacilla alba*

Commonly seen throughout the lower-lying areas of the tour with especially large numbers along the Irrawaddy River.

NOTE: Two distinct races were encountered: *leucopsis*, also known as Chinese Wagtail if split and by far the most common and *Baicalensis*, also called Transbaikalian Wagtail if split. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize these splits. There are many more distinctive races of White Wagtail that could very well be split off as distinct species in the near future.

**Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit***Anthus rufulus*

Abundant around Bagan.

**Olive-backed Pipit***Anthus hodgsoni*

This species was seen on most days in good numbers.

**Finches Fringillidae****Spot-winged Grosbeak***Mycerobas melanozanthos*

Good spotting produced a single female perched up on a snag near the base of Mt Victoria. A scarce bird throughout its limited range!

**Brown Bullfinch***Pyrrhula nipalensis*

Two sightings were had that included some 16 birds during our time on Mt Victoria. Another fairly scarce species!

**Common Rosefinch***Carpodacus erythrinus*

Seen daily in small numbers on Mt Victoria.

**Yellow-breasted Greenfinch***Carduelis spinoides*

Good views were had of a single male on Mt Victoria.

**Black-headed Greenfinch***Carduelis ambigua*

Superb views were had of quite a few individuals in the Kalaw area. This is a localized and highly desired Burmese specialty!



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**Buntings & Allies *Emberizidae***

**Little Bunting**

*Emberiza pusilla*

Good scope views were had of this species in a grassy clearing on Mt Victoria.

**ANNOTATED LIST OF MAMMALS (13 species seen)**

**Yellow-throated Marten**

*Martes flavigula*

Two of these “mustelids” were seen briefly in a low rhododendron tree during our first morning on Mt Victoria.

**Burmese Hare**

*Lepus peguensis*

One individual was encountered in the early morning soon after leaving Bagan for Mt Victoria.

**Rhesus Monkey (Macaque)**

*Macaca mulatta*

Large numbers were seen at Hlawga Park.

**Finlayson’s (Variable) Squirrel**

*Callosciurus finlaysonii*

A few of these brightly-coloured squirrels were seen in Hlawga Park.

**Hoary-bellied (Irrawaddy) Squirrel**

*Callosciurus pygerythrus*

This is the common squirrel throughout the trip and was seen on most days.

**Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel**

*Dremomys lokriah*

Small numbers were seen daily on Mt Victoria.

**Indochinese Flying Squirrel**

*Hylopetes phayrei*

We were very fortunate to have had close views of this rarely seen nocturnal squirrel during our second night excursion on Mt Victoria.

**Black Giant Squirrel**

*Ratufa bicolor*

One of these massive squirrels was encountered in the Yay Aye Kan forest.

**Himalayan Striped Squirrel**

*Tamias maclellandii*

This tiny, striped squirrel was seen almost daily in the Mt Victoria area.

**Hog Deer (I)**

*Hyelaphus porcinus*

Small numbers of these deer were seen at Hlawga Park where they have been introduced.

**Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac) (H)**

*Muntiacus muntjak*

We heard this species on Mt Victoria.

**Sambar (Deer) (RI)**

*Rusa unicolor*

Several of these large deer were seen in Hlawga Park where they have probably been reintroduced.

**Wild Boar (RI)**

*Sus scrofa*

Family groups were seen during our time in Hlawga Park where they have probably been reintroduced.

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