

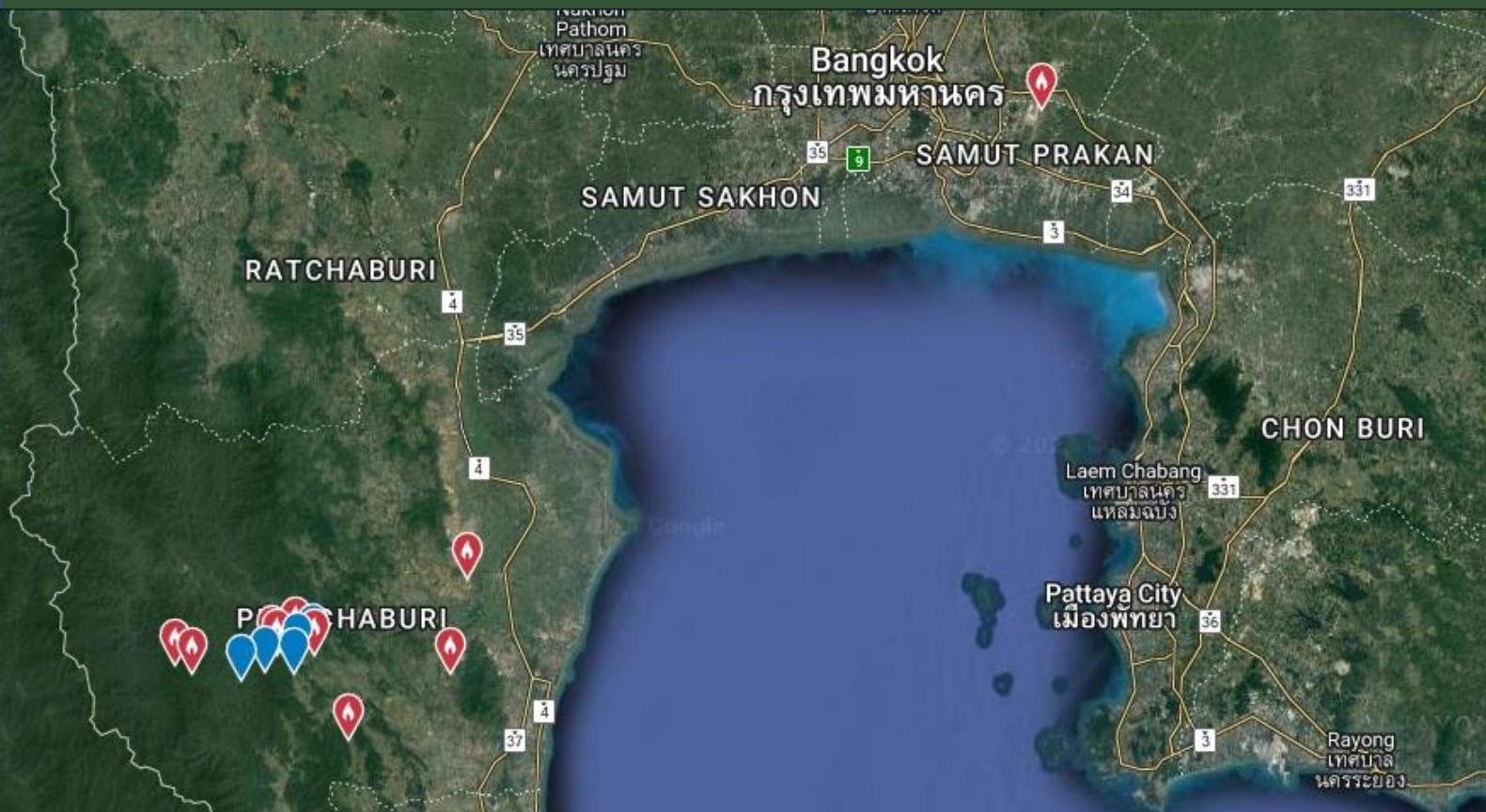
A Birding and Herping Trip to

Thailand



5th to 12th May, 2023

Friday, 5 th May	Baan Maka Nature Lodge	
Saturday, 6 th May	Baan Maka Nature Lodge	
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Lower Elevation
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Mid-elevation
Sunday, 7 th May	Kaeng Krachan NP	Lower Elevation
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Mid-elevation
	Pha Nom Yod Waterfall	
Monday, 8 th May	Kaeng Krachan NP	Lower Elevation
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Dab Toon's hide
	Baan Maka Nature Lodge	
Tuesday, 9 th May	Kaeng Krachan	Approach road
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Lower & Upper Elevation
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Bird's hide
Wednesday 10 th May	Kaeng Krachan NP	Lower Elevation
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Lung Sin's hide
Thursday, 11 th May	Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang	
	Tha Laeng sand quarry	
	Kaeng Krachan NP	Lung Sin's hide

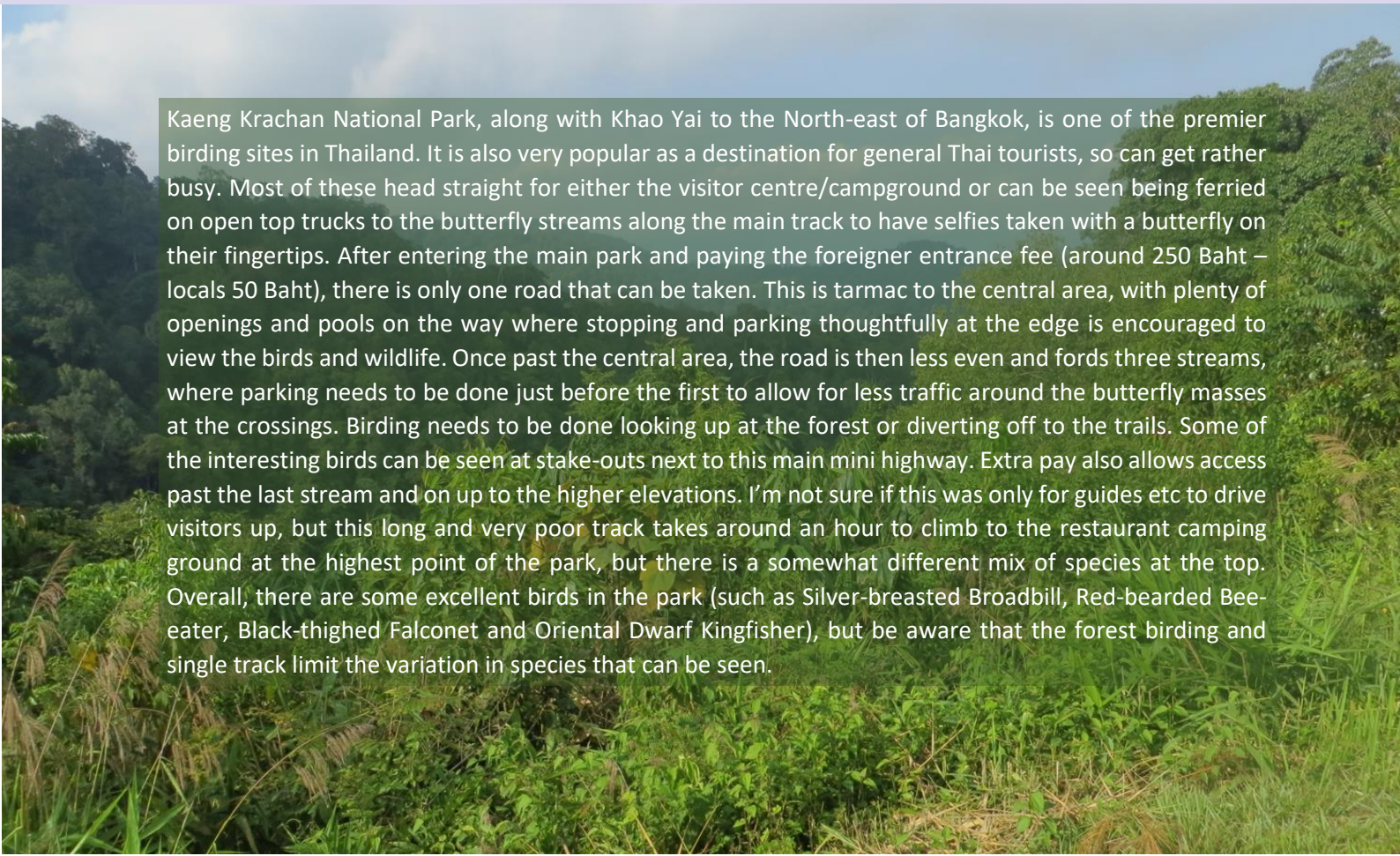


Phetchaburi, Thailand

5th to 12th May, 2023



The aim of this trip was a bit different to most of the birding trips we had done before – included at the start of the week were two days dedicated to looking for snakes, and then the following four full days would be to concentrate on the Kaeng Krachan National Park area in Phetchaburi Province, thus staying at one accommodation (Baan Maka Lodge) for the whole duration. For the former we used a wildlife company called Tontan Tours, who also specialise in snakes, and for our birding the owners of the Baan Maka lodge could either host birding outings, outsource to a local guide, or arrange for time in one of the three hides that they use within the Kaeng Krachan area. We were advised that it would probably be best to do birding outings in the mornings when activity is at its highest, and then a hide in the afternoon when the birds may be looking for shelter and water (the hides are within the cover of the forest). The time of year we chose was intended to be a blend of best time for birds/photography/snakes – for pure birding and higher lists, January to March is a better bet (we did this in 2013 and had a much larger list). But snakes were one of the priorities, and we were also going for quality of sightings of birds so the May visit suited us fine.



Kaeng Krachan National Park, along with Khao Yai to the North-east of Bangkok, is one of the premier birding sites in Thailand. It is also very popular as a destination for general Thai tourists, so can get rather busy. Most of these head straight for either the visitor centre/campground or can be seen being ferried on open top trucks to the butterfly streams along the main track to have selfies taken with a butterfly on their fingertips. After entering the main park and paying the foreigner entrance fee (around 250 Baht – locals 50 Baht), there is only one road that can be taken. This is tarmac to the central area, with plenty of openings and pools on the way where stopping and parking thoughtfully at the edge is encouraged to view the birds and wildlife. Once past the central area, the road is then less even and fords three streams, where parking needs to be done just before the first to allow for less traffic around the butterfly masses at the crossings. Birding needs to be done looking up at the forest or diverting off to the trails. Some of the interesting birds can be seen at stake-outs next to this main mini highway. Extra pay also allows access past the last stream and on up to the higher elevations. I'm not sure if this was only for guides etc to drive visitors up, but this long and very poor track takes around an hour to climb to the restaurant camping ground at the highest point of the park, but there is a somewhat different mix of species at the top. Overall, there are some excellent birds in the park (such as Silver-breasted Broadbill, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Black-thighed Falconet and Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher), but be aware that the forest birding and single track limit the variation in species that can be seen.



Baan Maka Nature Lodge

baanmaka.com

This accommodation is well suited to anyone wanting to stay in a forested location which includes birds on the doorstep, and only about 10 minutes drive to the entrance to the national park. It is a three hour drive from the airport at Bangkok, giving a stark contrast to the concrete monstrosity of the city to the more splendid farm and forested surrounds of the countryside. Baan Maka has been owned and run by Ian (originally from the UK) and Games (she is Thai) for the last six years. They aim for the lodge to be a comfortable base for wildlife (Ian in particular has a thirst for ALL wildlife). The rooms at the lodge are very comfortable and not too basic, with plenty of plug points and air conditioning. Accommodation was B&B, with lunch and dinner at very affordable prices (eg not much more than £3 for a main course) and it has to be said that the food here is excellent – some of the best I have tasted on any birding trip. There are a limited number of trails around the grounds – one nature trail which is circular; a branching Viewpoint Trail with only a few birds, excellent views, but is very steep and hard in the hot weather; a garden with outside bar and overflying birds; and a small jetty at the head of the lake with reeds giving limited views of the water and reeds (although we did have Black & Yellow Bittern and Black-browed Reed Warbler here).

The forest around the buildings in itself is good for birds, including Blue Whistling Thrush, Lesser Yellownappe and Blue-winged Pitta, not forgetting the Golden Tree Snake around the restaurant. Guiding and hides are arranged and paid for through Games, but beware she is not always reliable – we found that reminders had to be made and checked on, with one evening trek forgotten so Games herself conducted it even though she is not really a snake finder. There can also be a tendency sometimes for Ian and Games to leave guests to plan some aspects of the stay themselves when their local knowledge as proprietors would be better suited to the task. However, the pros of the experience staying here make it somewhere we would definitely recommend.



Our chalet in the forested grounds



As mentioned, this company specialise in wildlife tours in Thailand, but our interest was for their snake finding (herping) tours. Ton and Tan (Ton is originally from Netherlands, and married to Tan who is Thai) own the company, and we were lucky enough that it was Ton himself who took us out for the two initial days. Ton has a real interest in all aspects of snakes, as well as general wildlife, and will point out birds as well as reptiles. The herping is his real passion, to the extent that he intends to co-publish a book on the snakes of Thailand including his own images. He was also accompanied by Bank, who is one of his employees, who is also a very good tracker and identifier of the snakes.

The outline of the herping day is to meet at around 9am and use torchlight even in the daytime to find snakes, usually by taking tracks in the forest. They tend to be found more in the dark than the daylight, so after a morning and afternoon session including meal breaks, some hours are then spent at night. Be aware that this can be very hard work. We covered quite a few miles in high and humid temperatures for many hours, and the snakes are not just dripping of all trees. We generally finished at around 11pm, then got back just before midnight, but Ton seems to lack a limit to his staying power, and apparently can be known to be out until 3-4am. All of this makes him an excellent person to help you find snakes if you really want to see them (as we did) and the rewards of the snakes seen are immeasurable, as attested by the 11 species that we saw.

Ton (crouching left) & Bank (right) herping at night



TIPS

Electricity sockets at Baan Maka are European type

Malaria protection does not seem to be a requirement here

Biting insects were present but mosquitoes were in low numbers. Apparently, there are no leeches around the lodge, but we did see some in the Kaeng Krachan forest tracks. After rain is the worst time for them. Also watch out for tiny ticks in the forest, which can be very itchy

It is likely that the heat we had during our trip was a little higher than usual for the time of year. Daytime reached high 30's°C, and even night-time could be over 30°C. Showers were infrequent, often expected and heavy, but usually short in duration (around 15 minutes)

The international airport is around a 3 hour drive from Baan Maka, but the traffic in Bangkok can be heavy at times. We left 4 hours on return but the route was clear enough for it to still take only the 3 hours. Taxis are around 2300 Baht and can be arranged through the lodge in advance

Day 1 – Friday 5th May

Baan Maka

After an unexpectedly good and early Air France landing in Bangkok, it then took us over an hour to finally leave the concrete monstrosity that is Bangkok behind in the prearranged taxi and see a bit of the countryside (emphasis on “bit”). The total journey took slightly over 3 hours, but it was only on the western turn-off from the main highway half an hour away from Baan Maka that we saw true countryside. This meant that we arrived earlier than expected at the lodge, where our room wasn't ready. Not that this was an issue, since we took the opportunity to knock back a few spring rolls and an iced mango juice with a background of White-rumped Shama singing just next to our table. The rooms took no time after that to be free, so we left our luggage and aimed for the nature trails around the grounds, quickly notching up Hair-crested Drongo, Asian Brown Flycatcher, and more Shamas.



Hair-crested Drongo



There are some fairly well marked nature trails, starting off not surprisingly with “nature trail” at the restaurant. This was a flat concrete route to the gardens, and held Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Malaysian Pied Fantail, and plenty of Streak-eared & Black-crested Bulbuls. After only 100m or so, there was a fork in the trail, so we took the short one to the right which held the lodge gardens. These were recommended for a look see early evening, but we had an early peek. Outside of the bulbuls, we had good views of a pair of Indo-chinese Rollers, glimpses of a female Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, and an overflying Little Cormorant. Tracking back to the fork and continuing on the trail found a couple of makeshift hides, with what looked like a feeding log in front of them. Probably more for early morning – but this location did sport a couple of Puff-throated Babblers.

Making our way yet again, we ill-advisedly decided to follow the Viewpoint Trail. Not a particular issue as such, apart from the steep climb in 30+°C temperatures making it a hugely sweaty and sapping task. Back at the lodge, Games mentioned that it wasn’t the best place for birds – cheers for the late heads up! – but we did see a pair of Common loras and a superb growing Water Monitor. Coming down was equally as taxing for different reasons, so when we did hit the restaurant again it was straight to the iced mango juice again. And just as we sat down, the heavens opened, with one of the loudest thunderclaps directly overhead that I had experienced.



Black-crested Bulbul



Black-browed Reed Warbler



Malaysian Pied Fantail

After the rain had subsided, we headed to the jetty which overlooks a small corner of the lake. Unfortunately, not much more of this can be seen from the property, although a walk along the road is supposed to be an alternative. However, it wasn't a bad little corner, having a grass and slightly muddy shore, with a backing of reeds. A Black-browed Reed Warbler used this to its advantage on migration, with a couple of Common Tailorbirds nearby. Within the reeds, a Yellow Bittern emerged to feed in the semi-open along the bank, and to the other side, a non-breeding Pheasant-tailed Jacana showed briefly. A pair of Oriental Pied Hornbills were behind us in the treetops.

From here we cut through the forest to the garden again, where we had a couple of Oriental Darters overhead, with busy Oriental Magpie-Robins back and forth. After a superb Cobalt Blue Tarantula near to the restaurant after dinner, we returned again to the garden to track down the multiple calls of Large-tailed Nightjars. Between this and a walk along the adjacent road, we notched up at least 11 sightings of these birds in our torchlight.



White-rumped Shama

Day 2 - Saturday, 6th May

Kaeng Krachan



This was the first of our two days with dedicated herping (or finding snakes to the Herpophobes out there) with a company called Tontan, who do many different types of guided tours for wildlife in general, but also specialise particularly in finding snakes, which is Ton's passion. We were picked up after a quick look around the Baan Maka grounds and breakfast at 8am, then headed off towards the Kaeng Krachan NP itself. The time of day (ie not dark) is not the most conducive to finding snakes and Ton mentioned this early on. However, there was also time through the morning to look for birds and also one or two reptiles en route. The plan for the morning was to watch for signs of snakes as we drove along the one main highway to and then into the National Park, whilst also looking for birds (quite a few fruiting trees were a good clue). We did quite a few stops in this manner, and did notch up some nice birds, if not in high numbers due to the vegetation. Forest Wagtail, a migrant here, kicked off proceedings on the edge of the road, with other roadside offerings including Tickell's Brown Hornbills, a Great Hornbill high in a tree, a Green-eared Barbet perched on a trunk alongside the road for some time, and the first of 6 Dollarbirds perching as usual at the top of open trees. Venturing into the forest for snakes also unearthed Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Black-and-red Broadbill, Little Cormorant, and Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike. Amongst a single and pair of Crested Serpent Eagles overhead, many swifts passed through with most evading specific identification, apart from single House Swift, a couple of Asian Palm Swifts, and at least 3 Germain's Swiftlets.



Green-eared Barbet



Once we had polished off lunch in the rather overcrowded National Park restaurant, we headed on via depleting tracks into the higher elevations, and this is where the herping potential eventually really paid off. Birds were few and far between as we ground the 4x4 up ruts and potholes, with Ton looking for snakes along the way. This paid off just before the tourists were to be left behind, when he superbly found a silver/white morph Oriental Whipsnake (or Asian Vine Snake) hanging from roadside plant as we drove by. This was the start of a good hour or two before we had to escape the park at 6pm (overstayed our welcome by 5 minutes). A Pope's Pit Viper had been found at a roadside, yet hidden, dank pool the previous day, and by luck it was still there when we arrived (snake twitch?). After gorging on this little beauty, a much larger female was found. As we were leaving this little bit of track, a Common Many-tooth (or Common Collared) Snake tried to scarper out of our way but was skilfully hunted down by Ton. We then had to make haste in our descent out of the park, but not before we picked up Red Junglefowl and a superb Silver-breasted Broadbill at its nest over a pool. The reptilian entertainment hadn't finished before we arrived back at the lodge for dinner, with a growling and disgruntled King Cobra admired from its position in the centre of the road, and a Golden Tree Snake overlooking the restaurant on arrival back.

*Pope's Pit Viper**King Cobra*

Golden Tree Snake



The day was still not done. We drove the short way down the road from the lodge to a tree nursery, where the Large-tailed Nightjars had already begun their evensong. We padded around this area until 11pm, adding yet more snakes to our daily tally. Not only this, but Slow Loris proved to be an easy acquisition here, found by tracking down the light-shine from our torches. Most of the snakes found this evening were quite small, with Yellow-spotted Keelback, 2 Mengla (or Berdmore's) & single Mountain (or White-spotted) Snail-Eaters, with a couple of Indo-chinese Rat Snakes bringing up a bit more size. Not only this, but we also chanced upon a Giant Scorpion, showing off its magic trick of glowing under UV light.

Giant Black Scorpion



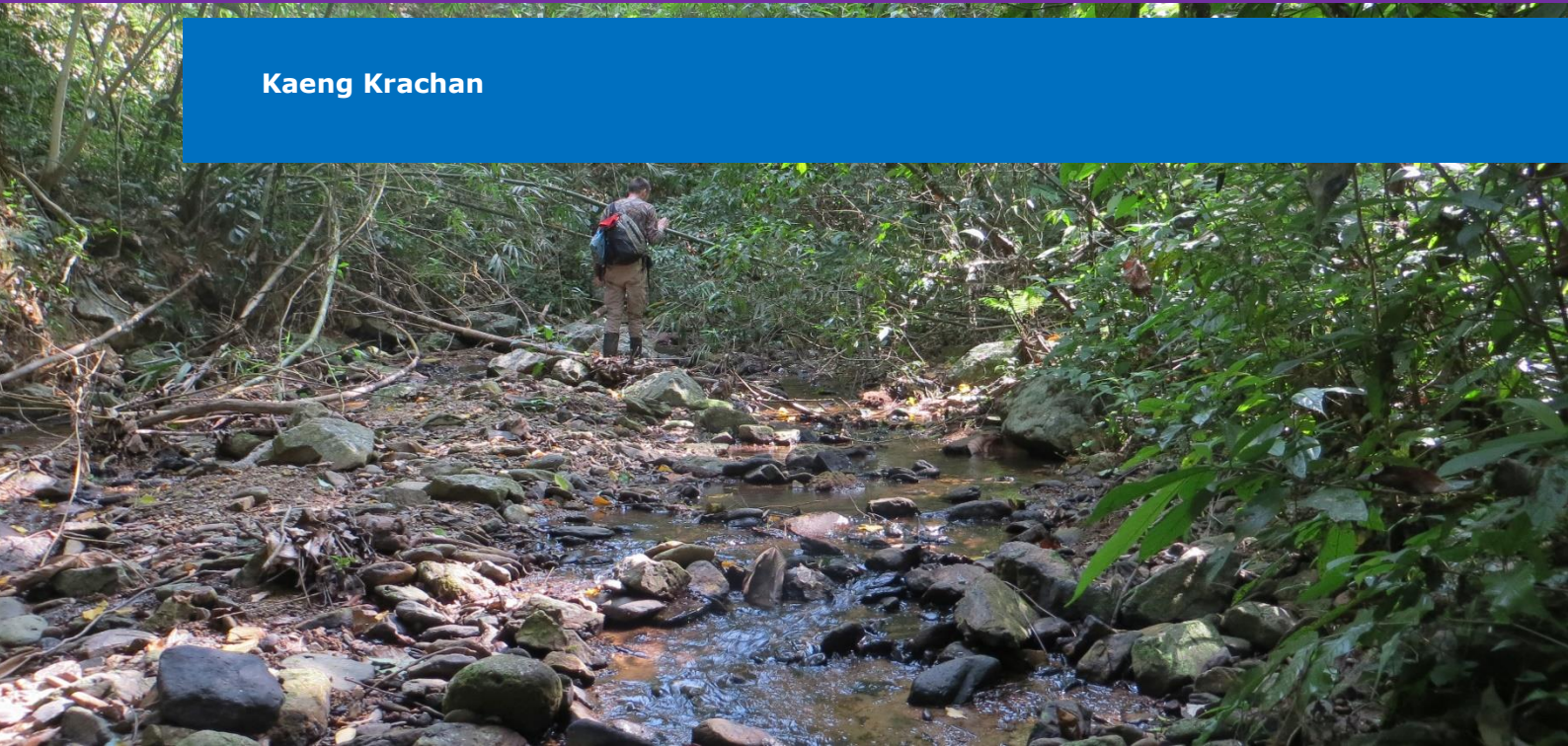
Yellow-spotted Keelback



Bengal Slow Loris

Day 3 - Sunday 7th May

Kaeng Krachan



After a full day and early hours turn in, we decided to forego first light walk around the camp and have a lazy breakfast, leaving the lodge at 9am on our second day pickup for more herping. Even so, a Blue Whistling Thrush decided to throw itself into the mix and show itself right outside of our rooms, taking it one step more and taking a route to the other side under our building itself. And so to herping again, which we now expected to be very slow through the day, and hopefully increase late afternoon. The only snake we saw on the morning was a very brief one at the side of the road spotted by Ton which went straight into the bushes. Ton followed, regretting it shortly after when missing the snake but collecting a host of angry ants from a nest above on his back!



Asian Barred Owlet

Driving along the tracks towards the park entrance, an Asian Barred Owlet was picked up by Bank (driving at the time) in an open tree next to our route. It flew further back but was still impressive with its staring yellow eyes. Next stop was the bridge having ponds either side and a raft of cars from birders wanting images of the nesting Black-and-red Broadbills. These were indeed there, but we spent more time on the other side sieving out Intermediate Egret alongside Chinese Pond Heron and Little Egret. A group of 4



Dusky Leaf Monkey

Crested Serpent Eagles over were impressive. A smaller roadside pond a bit further along attracted our attention with a perched Little Cormorant, but an even “better” prize was the Malayan Night Heron to the rear, which unfortunately disappeared into the vegetation. This spot wasn’t very far from the yet again busy with tourists central visiting area (Sunday didn’t help!), where we parked our car and decided to walk one of the trails in the short time we had until lunch. This was as usual hot work, with a few lizards and the odd bird to show for our efforts wading streams and traipsing off the tourist trail (Blue-bearded Bee-eater was the highlight of the birds), but a small troupe of Dusky Leaf-monkeys was ample compensation, preening sleeping and playing above us.

Afternoon was the forest herping session. It has to be stressed that herping can tax the patience and stamina even more than a sea watch on a calm day with only the odd Kittiwake passing. We drove further into the Kaeng Krachang park to leave the car next to the 18km location, with the plan to follow the stream up over and search in the heat. Good luck was on us straight away, or was it luck, when Ton poked his head down the open cover of a concrete structure and found an Indo-chinese Rat Snake (he obviously climbed down and wrestled it from the water!). The entrance to the trail was just up from here, so we began our journey. A couple of hours later, the total extra snake count was a stunning green Oriental Whipsnake, enough in itself to make the walk worthwhile. Birds were harder to come by (although a few species were heard in the foliage), the only one seen being a couple of separate Black-naped Monarchs. Still, a treat to see some more good snakes. Next plan was to leave the park at a reasonable time and head to dinner, so that we made the evening herping in good time (ie just after dusk). The pair of Orange-breasted Trogons and Lar (or White-handed) Gibbons overhead made light of this, until we’d had our fill and were on our way.



Orange-breasted Trogon

Pha Nom Yod Waterfall

This (early) evening's meal was yet another tasty morsel, this time from a rough and ready outside cafe on the way to this location, which is directed again at looking for snakes. It also turned out to be another long haul, with higher than expected night-time temperatures and not getting back to the car until 11pm testing to say the very least. Drill was the same as the previous evening, walk slowly along using torches to highlight any sign of snakes. There is no doubting you can't expect them to be dripping in their multitudes everywhere – the work is long and hard to get them, but the rewards to those interested very high. As it turned out, we added 7 individuals of 3 species this evening. First was a very delicate Blanford's Bridled Snake (a second one later). Second snake was only found when admiring one of a few Tarantulas – a green White-lipped Viper. We went on to find 3 more, the 3rd of the 4 being the most significant since I found it myself. No mean feat when the technical snake finding skills of Ton and Bank are considered. 7th of the group was a tiny Mengla Snail-eating Snake, as seen the previous evening. The surprise of the outing were the birds we saw. A noisy Crested Serpent Eagle high above in a branch fork was the first "in the dark" bird to be seen. This was followed much further into the forest with a somnolescent Black-naped Monarch, almost hypnotised by the torchlight, and a Blue-winged Pitta directly over our heads on open branches. After leaving the site, an Indian Stone-curlew was in the road in our headlights



Blue-winged Pitta



Black-naped Monarch

Day 4 - Monday, 8th May

Kaeng Krachan

After a couple of days herping and 3 days birding with Games to follow today, we opted for one of the local guides (Son) for the morning. After another late finish (lights out at 1am) the 6.30am pickup seemed to come round rather quickly. However, the morning was at a very relaxed pace, and we saw some quality birds. Son's English wasn't good, but he seemed to be keen to show us some of the star birds along the Kaeng Krachan entrance road and into the park up to the end of the butterfly streams (a magnet for the local tourists and predictable selfies). Not a bad thing – there were some excellent birds to see. He showed his mettle not long after entering the park by pulling up and pointing out a perched Black-thighed Falconet up the hillside – I'm sure they're regular here, probably the two we subsequently saw were a pair, but no complaints about this one. After a short while a couple of Bronzed Drongos took exception to them and gave them a bit of hassle. We stuck around this spot for a little while and were rewarded with a couple of Great Hornbills over, and Bamboo Woodpecker to and fro across the road. A pair of Dark-necked Tailorbirds were rather active in front of us, and a Green-eared Barbet was on the tree covered hillside. Before we moved on, Son picked out a male Banded Kingfisher in the high tree over the road.



Dark-necked Tailorbird



Black-and-red Broadbill

A brief look for Asian Barred Owlet (which we saw previously) turned up a couple of Green-billed Malkohas but no owlets, so next stop was predictably the bridge indicating the nesting Black-and-red Broadbills, although this time no-one (ie photographers) was around and the temperatures a mite more tolerable than the previous day. We duly lapped up the broadbills, with a single Black-crowned Night Heron stalking behind, and moved a few hundred metres along to a couple of small roadside pools which we had passed along with the attendant Red-wattled Lapwing families. Yet another good decision, since in a bare tree opposite to our parked car a Coppersmith Barbet was visiting the nest hole. This same tree also held a Thick-billed Green Pigeon.

We then passed straight through the central visitor area to park up and walk over the butterfly streams, which were beginning to get their fair share of tourists. Two kingfisher stakeouts either side of the road were aimed for – the first for Banded Kingfisher already had a few people watching, so we opted for the alternative for Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher. Within a short while, one flew briskly from the nest hole, and was relocated in a gap through the trees. We bypassed the growing group waiting out Banded Kingfisher, and instead saw 2 separate Silver-breasted Broadbills attending nests, the first briefly, the second the obvious one from the road which returned after a short wait. An added bonus was a Dusky Broadbill sitting with a leaf in its bill for some time perched on a lowish branch again over the road. A brief and last stop of the morning session was in the lawned grounds of the visitor area, where we watched a Blue-eared Barbet going into its nest, with Chestnut-breasted Malkoha in adjacent tree.



*Silver-breasted
Broadbill*

Dusky Broadbill

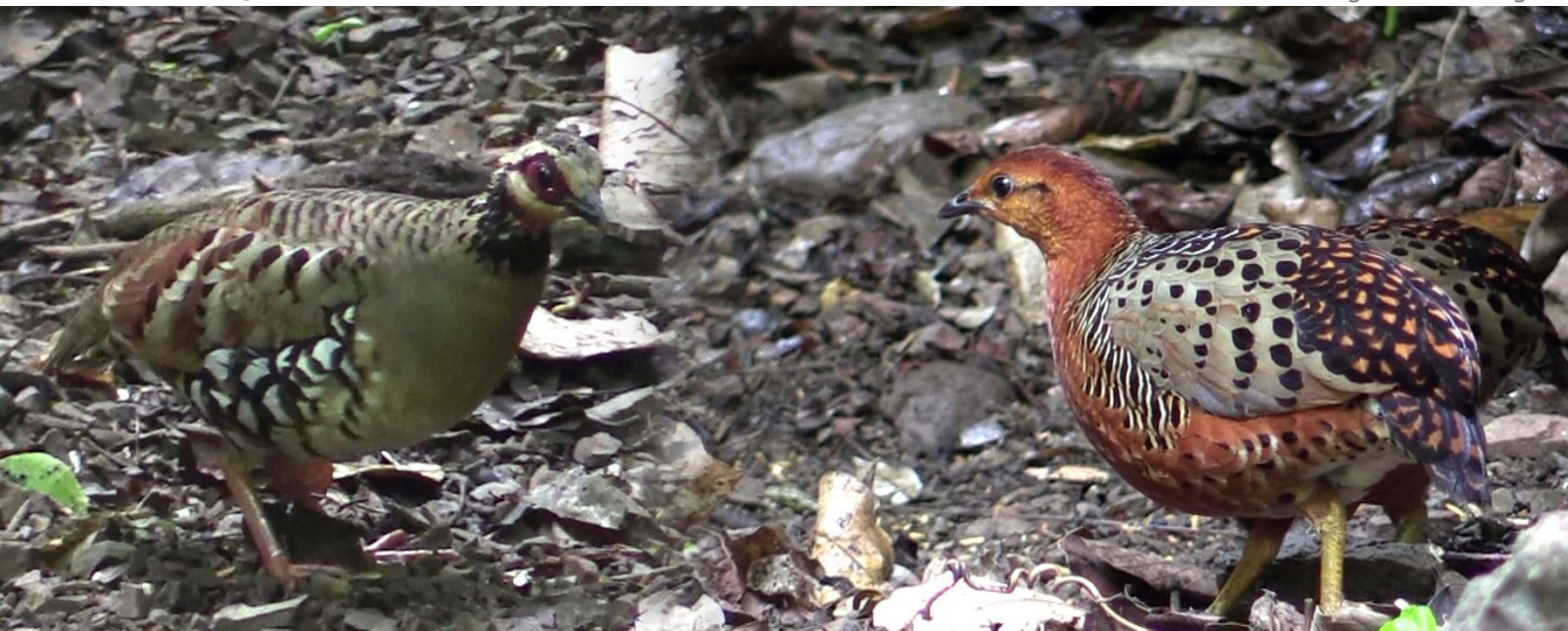
Dab Toon hide, Kaeng Krachan



After a restful hour's lunch, we headed off to our first hide session within the park. The layout of the hide is as many in the region – plastic chairs within a rough black mesh construction with rough holes hewn out for birders and gear to peek out from. We had thought we might be the only ones in the hide, but the disappointment that there were another five crammed in gradually dissipated since they were a (quiet and) decent crowd. The area in front of the hide was reasonably sized and open, with the obligatory small pool of water the focus. We were in there for around three hours, and the birding was slow but again also impressive. Early on Red Junglefowl and Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes ruled the roost, before the showstopping entrance of a pair of Ferruginous Partridges. Despite us assuming this would be a brief appearance, they stayed on and off then for the duration, including during a heavy rain shower when they sheltered to the side. A much more tentative tiptoe down the bank at the rear to the auditorium was made by a pair of Bar-backed Partridges, who were a lot more skittish staying at that rear placed spot. Mammalian sideshow was by a few Grey-bellied Squirrels and a single Northern Treeshrew.

Bar-backed Partridge

Ferruginous Partridge



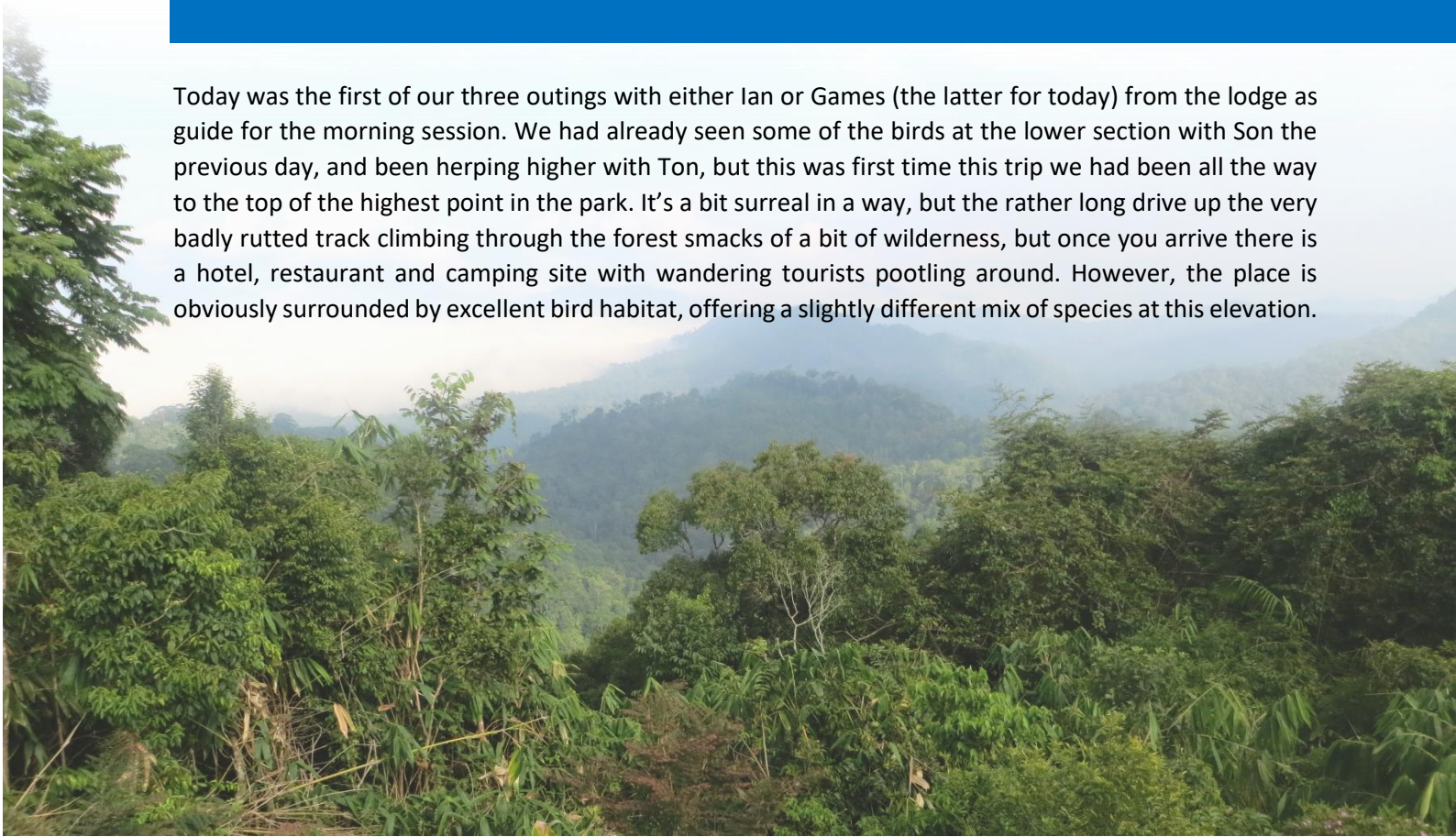


We did manage a short session at the lake when we arrived at Baan Maka early evening and were rewarded with a Black Bittern (left) as well as Yellow Bittern a little later.

Day 5 - Tuesday 9th May

Kaeng Krachan (Upper Elevation)

Today was the first of our three outings with either Ian or Games (the latter for today) from the lodge as guide for the morning session. We had already seen some of the birds at the lower section with Son the previous day, and been herping higher with Ton, but this was first time this trip we had been all the way to the top of the highest point in the park. It's a bit surreal in a way, but the rather long drive up the very badly rutted track climbing through the forest smacks of a bit of wilderness, but once you arrive there is a hotel, restaurant and camping site with wandering tourists pootling around. However, the place is obviously surrounded by excellent bird habitat, offering a slightly different mix of species at this elevation.





Red-headed Trogon

Ratchet-tailed Treepie

We descended the track on the opposite side to the way we came and walked to the viewpoint. In itself, the view of the mountains and forests all around is worth seeing, but it also threw up a couple of Grey-rumped Treeswifts, with a male Red-headed Trogon at the base of the steps. As we descended the road to a side track, we had Asian Fairy Bluebird over and calling Blue-throated Barbet. The side track was taken to look for Spot-necked Babblers, which didn't make an appearance, but we did find a recently fledged Hill Blue Flycatcher with a parent nearby, as well as single Black-throated Sunbird. In the damp track after rain, we also detected a couple of leeches – not welcome! Walking back up to the visitor area, which was now quiet, we added Blue-winged Leafbird and Blue-eared Barbet, with many Himalayan Swiftlets overhead. The drive back down was again bumpy and long but did add the huge bonus of a trio of Ratchet-tailed Treepies trying to hide (noisily) in the dense bushes next to the track, with a group of Bronzed Drongos in the neighbourhood. One other diversion was to show Games the Pope's Pit Viper which she had missed the day before.



Birds's Hide, Kaeng Krachan

After lunch, we headed for a different hide to the one previously, hoping for a bit of variation.



Approach and format were as before, since it was in the same general area as the Dab Toon hide, and same loosely constructed mesh with holes cut in roughly with a knife. The big step forward was no-one else inside when we arrived, and it also seemed a little larger. Outside area also was familiar, being open and containing water hole with perches liberally spread around. Shortly after we came, a man and his bike arrived to spread additional food.



Initial birds were common ones and what we had previously seen – White-rumped Shama, Oriental Magpie-Robin, and Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush. Mammals also – Grey-bellied Squirrel, Indo-chinese Ground Squirrel and the odd Northern Treeshrew. Normality was broken when a Common Flameback approached to eventually hammer at a hole in a tree directly in front of us for quite some time, and a female Hill Blue Flycatcher was flitting around for only a short period. A small group of Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes joined the throng, at one time overlapping with Greater congeners for comparison. The show was ramped up by the entrance of a male Kalij Pheasant (still looking more like Silver Pheasant in the guide books).

*Common Flameback*

Shortly after a pair of Ferruginous Partridge and a more skulky trio of Bar-backed Partridges. From the same stage left entrance, a Lesser Mouse Deer tentatively tiptoed into the scene, and stayed for some time. At one time all four of the mammals could be seen at the same time. Last species to be added was a pair of Puff-throated Babblers, enjoying the bath rather than the buffet provided.



Lesser Mouse-Deer

Day 6 – Wednesday 10th May

Kaeng Krachan (Lower Elevation)



Indo-chinese Roller

After yesterday's foray into the higher elevations of the park, this morning Games took us around the familiar environs of the lower park, which is basically from the park entrance to the stream crossings for the butterfly selfies. The track seemed to be closed at this point today, so no driving up to the top for anyone so interested – it seemed like the poor weather forecast may have been responsible. The morning started overcast and a very pleasant relatively coolish temperature, but the clouds increased, and we had a good downpour mid-morning. Luckily brollies, macs and camera covers did their job so no time lost there then! The first part of the plan was to park up next to the road just over halfway to the visitor area and walk. This resulted in a slow and ultimately rewarding amble turning up birds in regular numbers, starting with Lesser Yellownape and then the Asian Barred Owlet was refound. Further along here an Indo-chinese Roller was perched very close to, and we also added a couple of Blue-eared Barbets. It was noticeable that there were fewer cars in the park, so we often just birded from the centre of the road. Greater Coucals were in better numbers than usual, although despite them having mainly been scattered up from the road as we had driven past them, they were fewer when it was us that were on the road. In the distance was what was presumably a different Black-thighed Falconet to those seen earlier in the week, and a Bronzed Drongo that flew from a perch to a bush was found to be on



Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher

We eventually ended up back at the bridge with the breeding Black-and-red Broadbills, which showed well, though not much newer on the pond over the road. Different this time were a pair of Asian Barred Owlets perched in the same tree looking over said nesting area. A short drive further on and we were back at the Coppersmith Barbet nest, with the bird present outside. In addition, a Grey-headed Woodpecker was at the top of the tree for a short time before leaving.

Second part of the plan was to park the car at the stopping point before the streams and walk from there. General bird activity was fairly slow here, as often it is in forest birding, yet the walk was hugely successful after producing a handful of star birds. We ducked into a cut in the forest where we quickly encountered a roped off area and brace of Thai photographers in portable hides on the dry stream bed. We stood behind the barrier for about 15 minutes before our quarry arrived – breeding Red-bearded Bee-eater with food. Continuing on, a Brown Boobook was pointed out, and the rain started to fall, yet with the wonderful melody of singing gibbons in the background. So we decided to set up camp (ie brollies and camera covers) looking over the site of an Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher nest hole, where again patience was paid off. The stroll back to the car was held up by the Silver-breasted Broadbills which were both on display at the nest site, yet with no other people around this time. Bliss. The end of the session was spent in the dying embers of the shower around the tourist area with not much more to add.



Red-bearded Bee-eater

Lung Sin's Hide (Kaeng Krachan)



This afternoon's hide-based offering was at Lung Sin's, in the general area of the first two, but a lot closer to the lodge. On the flip side, the walk to the hide from the parked car on the main road was far longer this time – probably still only 100m or so but seeming further on the winding stony track. The hide was also laid out in 3 separate sections joined together, and the lack of other birders gave us plenty of space and good vision of the whole of the feeding arena. Over the course of the three hours, which seemed to fly by, the variation in species was constant, offering quite a few that we not only hadn't seen in the previous hides, but were also new to the trip. Early offerings were common Bulbuls – Streak-eared & Stripe-throated – which we hadn't seen in the hides, then Spotted Dove, which we hadn't positively identified yet on the trip as a whole. The entry of Greater first followed by a group of Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes was predictable, but there then followed a trickle of newer species, all wanting to bathe at the same time – female Indochinese Flycatcher, Malaysian Pied Fantail, and Black-naped Monarch. Then the game birds came in – male Kalij Pheasant making an entrance on a large span of a tree branch along with very bright male Red Junglefowl. The appearance of a pair of blue flycatchers made for some fun in separation – their chest pattern pointed to Indochinese Blue Flycatchers, which probably meant the female was the same as the earlier one. Back to the game birds, and a pair of Green-legged Partridges added to the other two species already seen previously. Then the passerines again – an adult Brown-cheeked Fulvetta was followed by a busy pair of juvenile birds, and a pair of Puff-throated Babbler got thoroughly soaked. Just before we left, an Asian Emerald Dove returned for the second time.

*Green-legged Partridge*

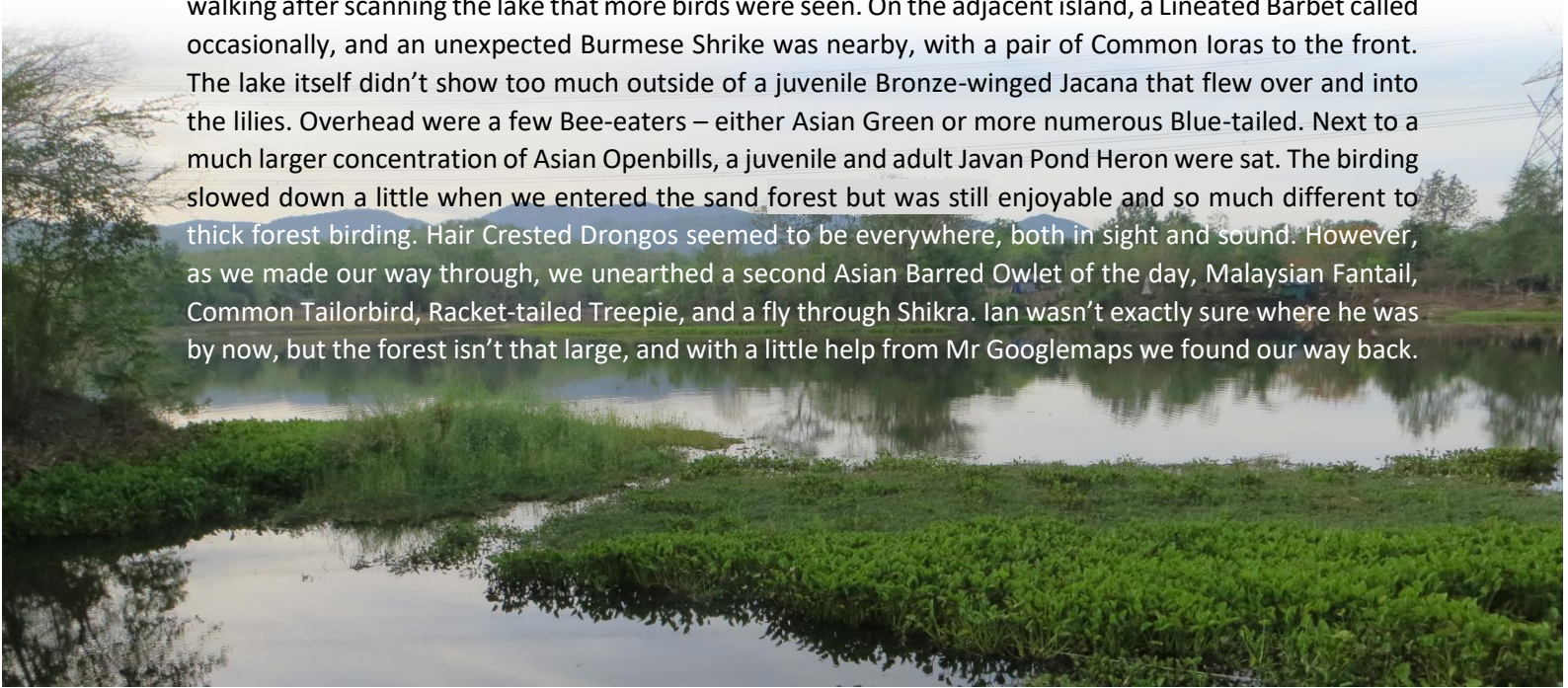
We had asked Games to arrange a night-time walk but she forgot to book it, so she decided to take us herself. She isn't a herping expert and hadn't done this type of thing for some time anyway, so we didn't have high expectations. We covered a couple of tracks in the locale around Baan Maka, and lo and behold no snakes were found. We did hear plenty of Large-tailed Nightjars, some Blue-winged Pittas, single of Malayan Night Heron and a few Collared Scops Owls. We tried to pin down some of the latter at the second site without luck, but adequate compensation came when eyeshine in the torch led to the finding of a Large-tailed Nightjar at the nest with a couple of chicks (*below*)



Day 7 – Thursday 11th May

Wat Phra Luk

For our last day's birding, we had requested a change in habitat and by definition mix of species. We had spent all five of our other days either in or around the thick wet forest and by association done (often neck breaking) forest birding and wanted a contrast from that. And we got what we asked for – this first site, where we spent most of our time, was based around a wildlife sanctuary where the sound of gibbons was from captive rather than wild ones. We parked up next to a lake which had islands where the gibbons were being looked after, and the edges of said lake were heavily covered with water lilies. This area was covered with a walk along one of the shores, followed by a stroll through the dry sand forest, which was much easier work due to being more open and the trees much smaller than in the wet rain forest. First and most obvious birds in the lake were a small group of Asian Openbills, and it wasn't until we started walking after scanning the lake that more birds were seen. On the adjacent island, a Lineated Barbet called occasionally, and an unexpected Burmese Shrike was nearby, with a pair of Common Ioras to the front. The lake itself didn't show too much outside of a juvenile Bronze-winged Jacana that flew over and into the lilies. Overhead were a few Bee-eaters – either Asian Green or more numerous Blue-tailed. Next to a much larger concentration of Asian Openbills, a juvenile and adult Javan Pond Heron were sat. The birding slowed down a little when we entered the sand forest but was still enjoyable and so much different to thick forest birding. Hair Crested Drongos seemed to be everywhere, both in sight and sound. However, as we made our way through, we unearthed a second Asian Barred Owlet of the day, Malaysian Fantail, Common Tailorbird, Racket-tailed Treepie, and a fly through Shikra. Ian wasn't exactly sure where he was by now, but the forest isn't that large, and with a little help from Mr Googlemaps we found our way back.



The Laeng sand quarry



Our other stop of the morning was next to the curve in a slow-moving watercourse, backed by the constant road noise from huge trucks which were presumably picking up from the local quarries. Against this din we had the setting of a small stretch of reeds which held nesting Asian Golden & Streaked Weavers. The latter seemed to be a bit of a surprise to Ian, although he hadn't stopped at this particular spot previously. On the opposite side of the water and under the tree were a couple of Indian Thick-knees. Siamese Pied Starlings were overhead. After a while watching the weavers, it was a blessing to drive a little way along a side road and away from the noise to reach an unlikely birding spot – a group of quarries which had filled in the base to some extent with water, creating lakes in a myriad of colours and presumably cleanliness. The most numerous birds around the water were Lesser Whistling Duck with 4 in the first lake and at least 200 in the second quarry. They all flew up when some trucks passed with the calls showing the reason for their name. Also in a couple of the adjacent quarries was a large colony of Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, flying and perching compliantly for us as we watched on. The only Black-winged Stilt thus far was in one of these quarries. Last notable bird was a singing Indochinese Bush Lark, doing parachute song flights from wires and trees.



Asian Golden Weaver

Lung Sin's hide (Kaeng Krachan)



The last session of the trip had to be a return to one of the hides, and since we had visited all three that Baan Maka tend to use, we opted for a repeat of yesterday's choice of Lung Sin's, since it seemed to have the greatest potential, and more importantly hadn't been booked in part by other birders/photographers. When we arrived the temperatures were around 36°C, so the trek along the entrance resulted in us more or less bathing in sweat. Luckily these tropical roastings only lasted a short while and it became much more temperate as the afternoon wore on. This was a good choice as far we were concerned. The core goodies still put in an appearance, but the likes of Racket-tailed Treepie and Black-crested Bulbul were new for the hide. Things became a bit quiet for around half an hour later on, but it was broken by repeated return and noisy visits by 3 Black-naped Monarchs and the pair of Indochinese Blue Flycatchers, the former of which were easily pushed into a ruck.



Indochinese Blue Flycatcher

LIST OF SPECIES

BIRDS

Lesser Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna javanica

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (4)

11 May 2023 Tha Laeng sand quarry

This is the only duck or goose that is likely to be seen in the area, and the 4 we saw within the park were unusual

Ferruginous Partridge

Caloperdix oculeus

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Dab Toon's hide (2)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (2)

Bar-backed Partridge

Arborophila brunneopectus

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Dab Toon's hide (2)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (4)

Kalij Pheasant

Lophura leucomelanos

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (1)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

Apparently the ID books lie! Genetic analysis has shown that while the pheasants in the park look like crawfurdi Silver Pheasant, they are more closely related to Kalij. Confusing! Watch this space for either a new Kaeng Krachan split or a lump of the two current species

Green-legged Partridge

Tropicoperdix chloropus

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)

Red Junglefowl

Gallus gallus

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - mid-elevation (1)

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Dab Toon's hide (10, including immatures)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (1); Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (4); Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (2)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation(3); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)

11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (7, including immatures)

Large-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus

5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (11 in garden area and along Baan Maka road)

6 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (6)

7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Pha Nom Yod (3)

10 May 2023 Baan Maka Road (3)

Usually called from the start of dusk until almost first light

Grey-rumped Treeswift

Hemiprocne longipennis

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (2 at viewpoint)

Himalayan Swiftlet*Aerodramus brevirostris*

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (~30)

Germain's Swiftlet*Aerodramus germani*

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (3 identified amongst many swiftlets passing through)

Good views of this and Himalayan are usually difficult, and we only managed to properly see the grey rumps on a few of these birds

Asian Palm Swift*Cypsiurus balasiensis*

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

House Swift*Apus nipalensis*

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Greater Coucal*Centropus sinensis*

5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (1); Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (9)

11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1)

Regularly heard, these often reclusive birds were often best seen on the road from the moving car

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Green-billed Malkoha*Phaenicophaeus tristis*

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (2)

Asian Koel*Eudynamys scolopaceus*

11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (3); Tha Laeng sand quarry (1)

Another characteristic call from this species was heard regularly, but they waited until the last day to show in the open

Red Collared Dove*Streptopelia tranquebarica*

11 May 2023 Tha Laeng sand quarry (1)

Spotted Dove*Spilopelia chinensis*

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)

11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

Common Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps indica*

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - mid-elevation (1)

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (3)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)

11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (4)	
Thick-billed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>
6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)	
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)	
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)	
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (3)	
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
11 May 2023 Tha Laeng sand quarry (1)	
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Pha Nom Yod (1 at night on road after herping)	
11 May 2023 Tha Laeng sand quarry (1)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
11 May 2023 Tha Laeng sand quarry (1)	
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)	
6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (3)	
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)	
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (7)	
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)	
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1); Tha Laeng sand quarry (1)	
One of the few birds that was heard during the dark as well as (almost constantly) during the day	
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)	
The one at Baan Maka lake was non breeding plumage, but clearly showed the black line from the eye. It is apparently uncommonly seen here	
Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1)	
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
12 May 2023 Suvarnabhumi International Airport (group of 5 in wet ditch)	
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)	
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (31)	
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2 flying over)	

Little Cormorant*Microcarbo niger*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1 overhead)
6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation(1); Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1); Tha Laeng sand quarry (3)

Yellow Bittern*Ixobrychus sinensis*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

Black Bittern*Ixobrychus flavicollis*

- 8 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

Malayan Night Heron*Gorsachius melanolophus*

- 7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1 to rear of roadside pool)

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

- 8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1 to rear of Red-and-black Broadbill pool)

Chinese Pond Heron*Ardeola bacchus*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (4)
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (4)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (3)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

Juveniles were more or less in the same numbers as colourful and obvious adults. All of the above observations were on the same roadside pool (opposite Black-and-red Broadbill pool)

Javan Pond Heron*Ardeola speciosa*

- 11 May 2023** Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (3)

Eastern Cattle Egret*Bubulcus coromandus*

- 8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (15)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (3)
Many of the birds seen (numerous missed the count on car journeys) had very rich rufous breeding colours

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

- 8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (15)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (3)
Many of the birds seen (numerous missed the count on car journeys) had very rich rufous breeding colours

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

- 6 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

Intermediate Egret*Ardea intermedia*

- 7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

All 3 observations were of presumably the same bird on the roadside pool opposite to the Black-and-red Broadbill nesting pool

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1)

Crested Serpent Eagle*Spilornis cheela*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (3)
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (4); Kaeng Krachan NP - Pha Nom Yod (1 perched high at night on herping outing)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP-- - noen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

All but the night-time roosting bird were in flight

Shikra*Accipiter badius*

- 11 May 2023** Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1 flying through the woodland)

Brown Boobook*Ninox scutulata*

- 10 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1 adjacent to butterfly streams in forest)

Asian Barred Owlet*Glaucidium cuculoides*

- 7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (3)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (2)

Orange-breasted Trogon*Harpactes oreskios*

- 7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - mid-elevation (1 pair)

Red-headed Trogon*Harpactes erythrocephalus*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1 male)

In addition to the bird seen above, a nest with 3 eggs was found roadside on the second herping trip from the road up on the upper elevation

Great Hornbill*Buceros bicornis*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - mid-elevation (1)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

The "whoosh" of the wingbeats overhead is always an indicator of this species in flight

Tickell's Brown Hornbill*Anorrhinus tickelli*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (group of 6)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

Oriental Pied Hornbill*Anthracoceros albirostris*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

Indochinese Roller*Coracias affinis*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1 pair)
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP Exit (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Oriental Dollarbird*Eurystomus orientalis*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (6, including group of 5 within forest)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (3)

Usually seen at the top of high and leafless trees

Banded Kingfisher*Lacedo pulchella*

- 8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

We saw one on a branch over the road approaching the central part of Kaeng Krachan, which was fortunate because the staked out site around the fording streams was usually brimming with photographers and may well have been too late for the birds to appear

White-throated Kingfisher*Halcyon smyrnensis*

- 8 May 2023** Baan Maka Road (1); Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (1)

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher*Ceyx erithaca*

- 8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Seen at a known nest hole, the location is 50m from the track and has a black mesh barrier to keep disturbance to a minimum. The 2 observations were of the same bird/pair

Red-bearded Bee-eater*Nyctyornis amictus*

- 10 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

As with above, the nest site was located about 20m from the track, and had a red taped barrier for minimal disturbance

Blue-bearded Bee-eater*Nyctyornis athertoni*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1 within forest trail)
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Asian Green Bee-eater*Merops orientalis*

- 11 May 2023** Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (2)

The race here has a rich rufous crown

Blue-tailed Bee-eater*Merops philippinus*

- 11 May 2023** Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (2); Tha Laeng sand quarry (~30)

The colony seen at The Laeng sand quarry was based just below the top of the rock faces in holes within the quarry walls

Lineated Barbet*Psilopogon lineatus*

11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (2)

Green-eared Barbet*Psilopogon faiostrictus*

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1); Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Apparently Lineated Barbets don't appear in the Kaeng Krachan NP, otherwise face patterns should be noted. They were commonly heard calling in the Kaeng Krachan NP area

Blue-throated Barbet*Psilopogon asiaticus*

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP--Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)

Blue-eared Barbet*Psilopogon duvaucelii*

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1 visiting nest hole)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2); Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

Coppersmith Barbet*Psilopogon haemacephalus*

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1 visiting nest hole)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1 visiting same nest hole as above)

Lesser Yellownape*Picus chlorolophus*

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Grey-headed Woodpecker*Picus canus*

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Common Flameback*Dinopium javanense*

9 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (1)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

A further Flameback we saw was called by the guide as Greater, but it was flying before we were able to make out ID features

Bamboo Woodpecker*Gecinulus viridis*

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

The hammering of this bird on bamboo makes it seem closer than it is, but the one we saw flew regularly over the road to then hide in the vegetation each time

Black-thighed Falconet*Microhierax fringillarius*

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Classically perched on the top of high thin branches of leafless trees

Dusky Broadbill*Corydon sumatranus*

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

This male had a leaf stuck in its bill for the nest which was presumably hidden in the forest nearby

Silver-breasted Broadbill*Serilophus lunatus*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

Two nests seen which were active and not too far from each other. One was a well known one clearly visible from the track between the streams

Black-and-red Broadbill*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

The pair nesting at a pool just short of the central area were a bit of a visitor attraction, with quite a few cars usually parked alongside. They are rather uncommon in Thailand, so the finding of our first in the forest on the 6th while herping was a bonus

Blue-winged Pitta*Pitta moluccensis*

- 7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Pha Nom Yod (1 roosting at night on herping walk)
9 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1 roosting at night near the garden)

In addition to the 2 seen, ridiculously both at night while roosting, they we regularly heard calling around Baan Maka and various other spots in the local and park area, including during darkness

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike*Hemipus picatus*

- 6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Large Woodshrike*Tephrodornis virgatus*

- 8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Ashy Woodswallow*Artamus fuscus*

- 7 May 2023** Restaurant Outside Of Kaeng Krachan (3)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (4)

Commonly seen on wires in open areas from the car

Common Iora*Aegithina tiphia*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (2)

Scarlet Minivet*Pericrocotus speciosus*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1 male)

Brown Shrike*Lanius cristatus*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)

Burmese Shrike*Lanius collurioides*

- 11 May 2023** Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1)

Black-hooded Oriole*Oriolus xanthornus*

- 6 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

Regularly heard calling but only seen the once

Bronzed Drongo*Dicrurus aeneus*

- 8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2, including 1 on nest)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (5)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus paradiseus*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
6 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP--Bird's hide (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (4)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

Hair-crested Drongo*Dicrurus hottentottus*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
6 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP Exit (7)
8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (12)

Malaysian Pied Fantail*Rhipidura javanica*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
6 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

Black-naped Monarch*Hypothymis azurea*

- 7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - mid-elevation (2); Kaeng Krachan NP - Pha Nom Yod (1)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)
11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (3)

In addition to a few seen through the day, a male was seen in the forest during our second herping trip during the night, and didn't move from its perch when we were on the return walk

Racket-tailed Treepie*Crypsirina temia*

- 7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

Ratchet-tailed Treepie*Temnurus temnurus*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP--Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (3)

Apparently a rare bird with the best place in the country to see at this spot high up in Kaeng Krachan, we had to peer through the vegetation for some time following the calls for decent views

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher*Culicicapa ceylonensis*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)

Sultan Tit*Melanochlora sultanea*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP--Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)

Indochinese Bush Lark*Mirafra erythrocephala***11 May 2023** Tha Laeng sand quarry

A much smaller bird than expected, the one we saw showed the fluttering parachute display flight from high perches

Ochraceous Bulbul*Alophoixus ochraceus***8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (6)**9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (3)**10 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation(2)**Black-crested Bulbul***Rubigula flaviventris***5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (10)**6 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1); Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation(4)**9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (15)**10 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (10)**11 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)**Streak-eared Bulbul***Pycnonotus conradi***5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (6)**6 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (4)**8 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (4)**10 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)**11 May 2023** Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (3); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (3)**Stripe-throated Bulbul***Pycnonotus finlaysoni***8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)**10 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)**11 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (3)**Red-rumped Swallow***Cecropis daurica***7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP Exit (~100)**9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP Exit (~100)

Large numbers on the wires next to the Kaeng Krachan entrance kiosk

Black-browed Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps***5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

On passage, which may have explained the quiet subsong

Common Tailorbird*Orthotomus sutorius***5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (3)**6 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)**7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)**11 May 2023** Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1)

One or two of the birds seen had what appeared to be dark colouring on the throat when the feathers were fluffed up, recalling Dark-necked, but this was not as low on the chest as the latter bird

Dark-necked Tailorbird*Orthotomus atrogularis***6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)**8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (2)

Rufous-fronted Babbler*Cyanoderma rufifrons*

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)

Puff-throated Babbler*Pellorneum ruficeps*

5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (4)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (2); Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (2)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)

11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta*Alcippe poioicephala*

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (3, including 2 juveniles)

11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush*Garrulax monileger*

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (4)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (3)

11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (4)

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush*Pterorhinus pectoralis*

8 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Dab Toon's hide (6)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (7)

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (5)

11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (3); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (6)

Asian Fairy-bluebird*Irena puella*

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)

Common Hill Myna*Gracula religiosa*

10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - lower elevation (3)

Great Myna*Acridotheres grandis*

5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (3)

6 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

7 May 2023 Restaurant Outside of Kaeng Krachan (2)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (2)

11 May 2023 Tha Laeng - sand quarry (10)

A very commonly seen bird, with many not counted while on car journeys. The white vent can be difficult to see

Common Myna*Acridotheres tristis*

5 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (4)

Vinous-breasted Myna*Acridotheres leucocephalus*

7 May 2023 Restaurant Outside Of Kaeng Krachan (1)

Siamese Pied Myna*Gracupica floweri*

9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan approach road (11)

11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (3); Tha Laeng sand quarry (2)

Oriental Magpie-Robin*Copsychus saularis*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
7 May 2023 Restaurant Outside Of Kaeng Krachan (1)
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Dab Toon's hide (2)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (1)

White-rumped Shama*Copsychus malabaricus*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (4)
6 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2); Kaeng Krachan NP - mid-elevation (1)
8 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
9 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (2); Kaeng Krachan NP - Bird's hide (2)
10 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (1); Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (2)

Asian Brown Flycatcher*Muscicapa dauurica*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

Hill Blue Flycatcher*Cyornis whitei*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1 adult, 1 immature); Kaeng Krachan – Bird's Hide (1)

Indochinese Blue Flycatcher*Cyornis sumatrensis*

- 10 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1 pair)
11 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan NP - Lung Sin's hide (1 pair)

Blue Whistling Thrush*Myophonus caeruleus*

- 7 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)
9 May 2023 Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

Blue-winged Leafbird*Chloropsis moluccensis*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (3)

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker*Dicaeum cruentatum*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1 pair in garden)

Olive-backed Sunbird*Cinnyris jugularis*

- 8 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (2)
11 May 2023 Wat Phra Phuttabat Khao Luk Chang (2)

Black-throated Sunbird*Aethopyga saturata*

- 9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan NP - Panoen Thung (upper elevation) vicinity (1)

Little Spiderhunter*Arachnothera longirostra*

- 5 May 2023** Baan Maka Nature Lodge (1)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow*Passer montanus*

- 7 May 2023** Restaurant Outside Of Kaeng Krachan (2)

Asian Golden Weaver*Ploceus hypoxanthus*

- 11 May 2023** Tha Laeng sand quarry (~8)

Streaked Weaver*Ploceus manyar***11 May 2023** Tha Laeng sand quarry (2)**Forest Wagtail***Dendronanthus indicus***6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lower Elevation (1)**MAMMALS****Northern Treeshrew***Tupaia belangeri***8 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan - Dab Toon Hide (1)**9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan – Bird's Hide (2)**11 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan – Lung Sin's Hide (1)**Bengal Slow Loris***Nycticebus bengalensis***6 May 2023** Baan Maka tree nursery (6)**7 May 2023** Pha Nom Yod (1)**Stump-tailed Macaque***Macaca arctoides***9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan lower elevation (~40 at side of road in heavy rain)**Dusky Leaf-monkey (or Langur)***Trachypithecus obscurus***6 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan lower elevation (2)**7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan campground area (~10 including immature along forest trail)**9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan upper (3. An additional individual may have been Banded Leaf-monkey)**Lar (White-handed) Gibbon***Hylobates lar***7 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan middle elevation (3)

Many more were heard "singing" within the forest

Grey-bellied Squirrel*Callosciurus caniceps***8 May 2023** Baan Maka (4)**9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan – Bird's Hide (6)**11 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan – Lung Sin's Hide (2)**Three-striped (Indochinese) Ground Squirrel** *Lariscus insignis***8 May 2023** Baan Maka (3)**9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Bird's Hide (4)**11 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Lung Sin's Hide (3)**Lesser Indo-Malayan Chevrotain***Tragulids kanchil***9 May 2023** Kaeng Krachan Bird's Hide (1)

SNAKES

Yellow-Spotted Keelback

Fowlea flavipunctatus

6 May 2023 Baan Maka tree nursery (1)

Oriental Whipsnake (*Asian vine snake*)

Ahaetulla prasina

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan middle elevation (1 white/silvery morph next to track)

7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan KM18 (1 green morph)

Golden Tree Snake

Chrysopelea ornata

6 May 2023 Baan Maka (1 in tree next to restaurant evening. Still there next morning)

Blanford's (*Common*) Bridle Snake

Lycodon davisonii

7 May 2023 Pha Nom Yod waterfall (2)

Indo-Chinese Rat Snake

Ptyas korros

6 May 2023 Baan Maka tree nursery (2)

7 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan KM18 (1 found in concrete container)

Common Many-tooth (*Collared*) Snake

Sibynophis collaris

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan upper elevation (1 on open side track at Pope's Pit Viper site)

King Cobra

Ophiophagus hannah

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan lower elevation (1 on tarmac road while exiting park)

Mengla (*Berdmore's*) Snail-eating Snake

Pareas berdmorei

6 May 2023 Baan Maka tree nursery (2)

7 May 2023 Pha Nom Yod waterfall (1)

Mountain (*White-spotted*) Slug Snake

Pareas margaritophorus

6 May 2023 Baan Maka tree nursery (1)

White-lipped Pit Viper

Trimeresurus albolabris

7 May 2023 Pha Nom Yod waterfall (4)

Tenasserim Pit Viper

Trimeresurus tenasserimensis

6 May 2023 Kaeng Krachan upper elevation (1 male, 1 female)

A male had been found by Bank the previous day at a densely covered roadside pool. It was present again when we visited on the 6th, where Ton found a larger female nearby. The male was still present on the 8th when we showed its location to Games who had missed on her own visit on the 7th