



Sunrise Birding LLC

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THAILAND TRIP REPORT

January 8 - 18, 201



Leaders: Nick Upton & Kevin T. Karlson

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Spoon-billed Sandpiper
- 44 species of shorebirds
- White-faced Plover
- Nordmann's Greenshank
- Asian Dowitcher
- Malaysian Plover
- Eastern Curlew
- Terek Sandpiper
- White-fronted Scops-owl
- Cotton Pygmy Goose
- 7 species of Barbet
- Great Slaty Woodpecker
- 5 species of Broadbill
- Mugimaki Flycatcher
- Orange-headed Thrush
- Oriental Skylark

Orange-bellied Thrush

All photos © Kevin T. Karlson

This 12 day tour focused on seeing the seriously endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and we were fortunate to have three sightings of at least two different individual birds during our two days at Pak Thale Preserve. A highlight of the tour, among many, was tallying 44 species of shorebirds, including the rare White-faced Plover (presently a subspecies of Kentish Plover, but Kevin feels is morphologically more similar to Malaysian Plover), numbers of Nordmann's Greenshanks and Asian Dowitchers, more than 20 Malaysian Plovers, small numbers of Eastern Curlews, and 8 Terek Sandpipers.

Other special sightings during the tour included great close looks at two White-fronted Scops-owls, 158 Cotton Pygmy Geese in one pond, 7 species of colorful barbets, Great Slaty Woodpecker (male and female), five broadbill species (Long-tailed, Silver-breasted, Banded, Black-and-Yellow, and Dusky), male Mugimaki Flycatcher, Orange-headed Thrush and several Oriental Skylarks.

Day 1: January 8 - After a long travel experience to Bangkok of 26+ hours for some people, a handful of eager participants went birding across the street from the hotel in Bangkok. The suburban location included residential gardens, a wetland marsh, mangrove estuaries and adjacent grassy/brush habitats. Kevin joined Greg, Frank, John and Martha, and saw a few birds that were not recorded during the rest of the tour, including Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Yellow-vented Bulbul and Yellow-bellied Prinia. Other highlights of this very hot two hour walk (about 90 degrees F) included fine looks at a perched Greater Coucal, Pink-necked Green-Pigeon, Pied Fantail and many Openbill Storks.

After returning to the hotel and freshening up, we joined Nick Upton and the other tour participants for a welcome meeting and great Thai dinner in the restaurant next door.

We all retired early to get ready for a long day of birding.

Day 2: January 9 - After departing the hotel at 5:30 AM, we drove about two hours to bird on the grounds of a Buddhist Monastery at Wat Pra Puttabaht Noi, with the Limestone Wren-babbler our target bird. After 30 minutes of careful scanning in the vicinity of its vocalizations, we all got good looks at two birds creeping around in the crevices and on the rocks of the limestone cliffs.

As we birded the temple grounds, we enjoyed beautiful artwork and small temples while some monks in bright orange robes swept the grounds. Good looks were had of Blue-whistling Thrush, Stripe-cheeked Bulbul, White-rumped Shama, Spangled Drongo, Asian Brown Flycatcher and Taiga Flycatcher. Several Shikras were spotted soaring above the grounds, and number of Ashy Woodswallows flew alongside the vans as we drove to our next destination near Khao Yai National Park.

During our several hour drive to Khao Yai, we stopped at a known nesting spot for Red-breasted Parakeets and enjoyed a number of these beautiful birds, including a female in a nest hole. We arrived at the hotel around midday and had lunch. This hotel was quiet, comfortable and very well maintained, and the breakfasts were some of the best of the tour (including papaya and other fresh fruits).

After lunch we took a short drive into Khao Yai National Park, where we birded along the roads. A surreal atmosphere was provided by the numerous Pig-tailed Macaques that sat in the middle of the road waiting for a handout from passing motorists. They basically ignored the passing cars, and created an uneasy mood for those of us not used to seeing wild animals sitting in a fairly steady traffic flow.

Nick took us to a known location for a wintering male **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, and we all enjoyed this gorgeous bird for viewing and close photos near the residence housing for park workers. We also saw very tame Sambar and Muntjac Deer in this area. We then birded along the roads and saw some stunning birds, including male Scarlet Minivets, a flock of White-throated Laughingthrushes, Long-tailed Broadbill, Green Magpie and long looks at a preening Blue-throated Bee-eater.

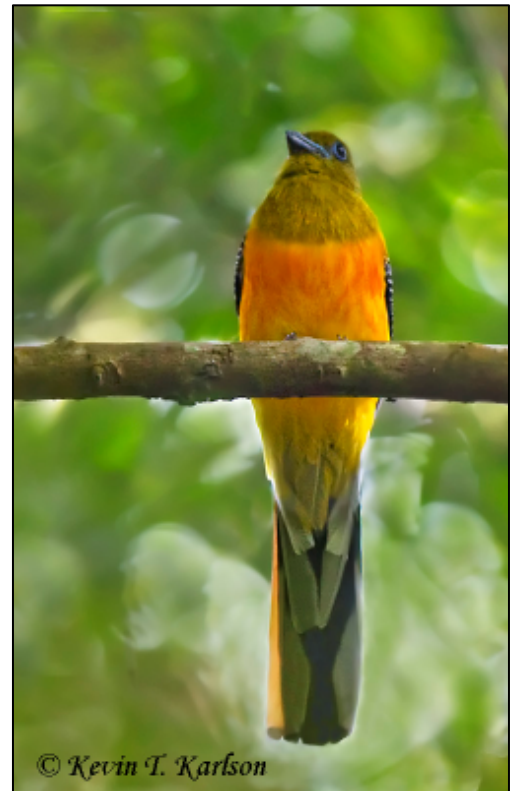


A fly-by Great Hornbill was seen by some of the participants.

Near day's end, we stood by a small pond and viewed a beautiful perched Black-capped Kingfisher and some Brown-backed Needletails drinking from the pond. Nick knew this was a good location to see Great Eared Nightjars, and at dusk we saw four of these large birds flying at close range. We capped a long day with a great meal at a

local restaurant, but did not return to our hotel until after 8 pm.

Day 3: January 10 - We started the day with a wonderful buffet breakfast, and then headed into Kao Yai National Park for another exciting day of birding. Our first stop yielded an unexpected out-of-range Gray-backed Shrike and a small flock of White-throated Laughingthrushes, whose name reflects their excited calls. We then walked a park road bordered by mature forest for three hours, and saw a good assortment of interesting birds. Two of the first birds encountered were sought-after species, Heart-spotted and Laced Woodpeckers, and a Greater Flameback was seen a short time after. A pair of **Orange-bellied Trogons** gave us a good show, followed by a Green-eared Barbet and a stunning Silver-breasted Broadbill.



Fruiting trees attracted a number of special birds, including Great lora, Puff-throated Bulbul, Pin-striped Tit Babbler and White-bellied Erpornis. Nick heard a White-browed Scimitar Babbler, and after playing their song, two of these large birds circled us for ten minutes before they settled down and gave us decent looks.

Prior to lunch, we walked behind the Visitor's Center and saw a beautiful Orange-headed Thrush, male Siberian Blue Robin and a male White-rumped Shama, which were attracted to the worms produced by the campground bathrooms effluent runoff. A family of White-headed Gibbons was especially tame as we exited the woods, and Frank and Kevin photographed some striking metallic green butterflies drinking from a water pool. While walking back to the parking lot, we saw a



Black-winged Cuckooshrike at close range in a roadside tree.

The group ate lunch in a small restaurant across from the Visitor Center, and while walking on the adjacent deck, a few lucky participants saw a Great Hornbill fly past. After lunch, a few folks headed back to the hotel for some down time while the rest of the group bushwhacked into the forest to look for Siamese Fireback Pheasant. Two males were encountered about a half mile down a narrow trail, but only brief glimpses were gotten of this shy bird by some of the participants.

After we got back to the road, Frank and Kevin heard a great whooshing noise overhead and saw a large shadow moving past them on the road. Upon looking skyward, they saw a huge Great Hornbill flying into the nearby forest. John Kricher was beginning to think that he was jinxed and never going to see this wanted bird, but someone noticed the male Great Hornbill perched on the side of a tree feeding his mate through a small hole in the mudded-up nest cavity. The male Hornbill builds a mud wall across the nest opening after the female has laid the eggs to keep out predators, and he feeds her through the small opening. We watched this special event for a few minutes until the male flew off.



Near day's end we returned to our hotel to pick up the other participants and drove to a nearby site adjacent to a steep cliff wall. Nick knew that tens of thousands of **Wrinkle-lipped Bats** flew out of their cave at dusk, and we enjoyed this spectacle for about ten minutes. Just after the first stream of bats exited the cave, a Shikra picked off one of the bats for his late dinner. The group then went back to the restaurant owned by a friend of Mr. Krit (our Thai driver) and enjoyed another great meal, including Tom Young soup and various green and red curry dishes.

Day 4: January 11 - We enjoyed another great buffet breakfast at the hotel before heading back into Kao Yai National Park for the morning. Wonderful weather continued, with temperatures in the low 80s and low humidity. Two Red-headed Trogons were a highlight, including good scope views. We stopped near a colorful shrine filled with various Buddhist statues and elephant sculptures, and were surprised when a truckload of young men stopped to give alms and show their respect. Some of the special birds seen included Swinhoe's Minivets, Gray-headed Canary Flycatcher, Hainan Blue-flycatcher, Sulphur-breasted Warbler and Dark-necked Tailorbird.

We left the park in late morning and drove towards Bangkok, stopping along the way for a Pad Thai lunch in a small town. The busy traffic and frantic driving pace made for a

tense mood in the trailing van, since we did not know where to go and kept losing sight of Nick's van. Tensions were running high, but a good lunch and good company helped to restore a positive mood.

After lunch, we headed to an industrial area that bordered a wetlands and freshwater marsh habitat. A wealth of waterbirds were seen here, including many Little Grebes, White-browed and Ruddy Crakes, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas, Yellow Bittern and Cinnamon Bittern. Whiskered Terns were numerous, and many species of herons and egrets were seen. A few lucky participants saw a male Siberian Rubythroat, and some of us saw a few Oriental Reed Warblers in the scrubby roadside brush. Kevin saw one of the only visual Asian Koels of the tour sitting on a telephone wire during the drive out, although many were heard at numerous locations. We left the marsh before 5 pm and started a journey through hell to Bangkok at rush hour on a Friday afternoon!

The traffic in and around Bangkok is literally unbelievable, with intermittent bumper to bumper traffic for thirty or so miles around the city. When we did move at a good rate of speed, scooters and small motorcycles (which seemed to number in the millions) cut off the vehicles with inches to spare, often with several family members or babies hanging off the driver's back or in a small side car. It is a miracle that we did not see many accidents. We arrived frazzled at our hotel in downtown Bangkok just after 7 PM, and checked into a European-style high rise in a frenetic, bustling city atmosphere. A fabulous meal in the hotel was followed by an early bedtime. 5AM would come quickly.

Day 5: January 12 - We left our Bangkok hotel at 5 AM and missed the choking traffic that was experienced the night before. After driving several hours to the south, we arrived at Lam Pak Thale and the Pak Thale shorebird site. Anticipation was high, as this is the location to see the endangered Spoonbill Sandpiper. The vans drove past a few Indian Rollers on the wires without stopping, since the sandpiper was our target bird of the trip. We pulled up to the diked impoundments where salt is extracted from the drying seawater, and viewed several large flocks of shorebirds.

We almost disregarded a number of very special shorebirds during our search for the Spoonbill Sandpiper. Sitting close to us was a large flock of Great Knots, with a small number of Red Knots mixed in. Flocks of Marsh Sandpipers fed nearby and small numbers of Spotted Redshanks and Common Greenshanks casually foraged in shallow water. Broad-billed Sandpipers were very common, and smaller numbers of Wood Sandpipers foraged in the shallow water pools near the entrance. John Kricher spotted the first Spoonbill Sandpiper, but the flock flushed and relocated out of view before anyone else saw it.

Nick was confident that we would see this bird and never stopped scanning the large flocks of Red-necked Stints. Large numbers of Lesser Sand Plovers and Kentish Plovers were distracting, but Nick finally spotted a Spoonbill Sandpiper feeding in a flock of Great Knots close-by. Only a few of us got to see this bird in close views before it disappeared again. About an hour went by, and the group split up to look for the bird. Nick and a small group of participants found it again, but only for a short time before it disappeared from view. It now seemed that we were going to have to earn our views of this special bird.

Finally a fairly distant Spoonbill Sandpiper was found feeding in a flock of Red-necked Stints. Everyone got decent looks at the bird, with Ted the last to put this rare bird on his life list. After the pressure was off, we enjoyed good looks at Greater Sand-Plovers next to Lesser Sand-Plovers, numerous **Curlew Sandpipers (and Sand Plover in flight)**, thousands of Eurasian Curlews, many Black-tailed Godwits and a small number of Bar-tailed Godwits.



Whiskered Terns, Little Terns, Common Terns and Gull-billed Terns flew all around us, and large numbers of Black-winged Stilts foraged close-by. A handful of Pied Avocets made a showing, and Pacific-Golden Plovers were spotted among a number of Gray (Black-bellied) Plovers. A special treat was 8 Terek Sandpipers and a single Dunlin in a nearby pool.

As we walked along a narrow dike, thousands of Eurasian Curlews took flight, and we picked out about 6 Eastern Curlews in the small flocks that flew right by us. The lack of a white slash up the back and a darker, patterned underwing were clinching field marks for this species. After viewing the photos, Kevin noted that all the Eastern Curlews were in active primary molt, while none of the Eurasian Curlews showed this molt pattern. We drove down a dike road and saw a few Brahminy Kites before stopping at the end of the road. A Greater Coucal ran across the road, and we got good looks at a singing Golden-bellied Gerygone in the mangroves.

Nick stopped a few miles down the road to take us to more salt pan impoundments, where we walked out on a 10 inch wide dirt dike for about 100 yards. At the end of the dike, we saw a flock of shorebirds resting in a pool. Mixed among the large numbers of Great Knots and Lesser Sand-Plovers were 10 Nordmann's Greenshanks and 2 Asian Dowitchers, both of which were serious target birds. After what seemed like a day's journey, we drove to the Sun Hotel to check in and eat lunch. A few hours rest was welcomed by all.



In midafternoon, we took a rustic boat ride along a mangrove estuary to the open Gulf of Thailand waters, and beached on a sandy spit. Our local boatman spotted a few **Malaysian Plovers**, along with a Lesser Sand-Plover and Common Sandpiper. We enjoyed sightings of Chinese Egret and Striated Heron along the rocky jetty, and Nick spotted a 1st cycle

Heuglin's Gull flying by. We boated over to the next sand spit, and enjoyed great looks at a White-faced Plover, which is currently considered a subspecies of Kentish Plover, but really resembles Malaysian Plover in size, shape, leg length and bill structure. Brown-headed Gulls rested all around the spit, and Great Crested, Caspian, Whiskered and Common Terns were present.

In late afternoon, we drove to Laem Pak Bia, which is a wastewater treatment facility that is experimenting with environmentally sound recycling of solid and liquid human waste. The diked impoundment pools were alive with bird activity, including many Whiskered Terns and about 4 White-winged Terns. Asian Pied Starlings were a special sighting, followed by good looks at Common Snipe and Pintail Snipe. Red-wattled Lapwings lounged on the grassy dikes, and about 10 White-breasted Waterhens were seen near a few Common Moorhens. A Little Ringed Plover was our only sighting of this species, and a handful of Long-toed Stints and Ruffs were an added treat.

Dusk brought flocks of **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** and hundreds of Black Drongos past us as they flew to their evening roosts. Soon after, hundreds of very large bats called Lyle's Flying Foxes flew by as they left their daytime roost. Our day ended with 3 Indian Nightjars in the headlights along the dikes, which followed a deep orange sunset behind a Buddhist temple. Tired but happy birders enjoyed a great meal at the hotel restaurant before retiring for the evening after a long day.



Day 6: January 13 - After a delicious buffet breakfast, we returned to Pak Thale for better views of Spoonbill Sandpiper. We found the bird fairly quickly, but never got real close looks, although one bird foraged for ten minutes at about 70 yards away. It was easy to pick this bird out among Red-necked Stints by its feeding behavior. While small sandpipers typically pick at the surface of the mud and probe slightly into the shallow water, the Spoonbill Sandpiper vibrated his bill up and down like a jackhammer while moving it slightly from side to side. This distinctive feeding style allowed us to quickly relocate the bird when it temporarily moved out of sight. Nick spotted a very rare 1st cycle Black-legged Kittiwake sitting among the terns, and a Red-necked Phalarope was spotted for the second day in a row.

A short drive down the road to another series of impoundments allowed us to drive out on the dikes, where we saw Temminck's Stint and other shorebirds at close range. Further along, we spotted a group of 17 Asian Dowitchers and more Nordmann's Greenshanks. Several Richard's Pipits were well seen along the dikes, as well as a close Brown Shrike and perched Osprey.

On our drive back to the hotel for lunch, we stopped at a Buddhist Temple grounds for another target bird, Oriental Skylark. As Nick scanned the sky for skylarking birds, Kevin spotted one sitting in the field close to the truck and got decent photos. Several birds soared overhead as they sang their sweet songs, and then parachuted down to the ground in a unique flight display. Joe particularly enjoyed these birds, as he had written a scientific paper on the species, but had never seen a bird in the field.

After a fine lunch and rest, we drove out to see a variety of birds along local roads where rice fields occurred. Germain's Swiftlets were nesting in a large cement structure, and 4 Indochinese Bushlarks were found in the nearby scrub habitat. A real treat was a fairly close perched Long-tailed Shrike in good scope views. Several species of colorful bee-eaters were seen along the wires (Green and Blue-tailed), and a small pond alongside the road yielded an amazing 158 Cotton Pygmy Geese, along with 6 Lesser Whistling Ducks and 16 Garganey. Several Brahminy Kites, 2 Pied-Harriers and an Osprey flew over the group while we enjoyed the Geese.

As the day wore on, we watched about ten Eastern Marsh Harriers hunting over a recently burnt field, and saw a number of Oriental Honey-Buzzards flying in the distance. Black-eared Kites were common, as were **Brahminy Kites**. A Racket-tailed Treepie was seen well with scope views, and a flock of 5 Spot-billed Pelicans in the distance was a nice surprise. One van returned to the hotel before dark, while the remaining troopers were rewarded with good looks at Purple Heron. After a shower and short rest, a great dinner was enjoyed by all, and many Sanga beers were downed by Randy, Greg, Frank, Kevin and Ted. John, Martha and Linda went out with Nick and bought some wine for a nice evening treat.



Day 7: January 14 - After another fine buffet breakfast, we left the hotel for Kaeng Krachan National Park, stopping along the way at a wildlife rescue facility bordered by a dry forest. One of our target birds here was the Black-headed Woodpecker, but it proved elusive and was not seen. We did enjoy great scope views of Asian Barred Owlet and Purple Sunbird, and saw a number of other good birds, including Rufous Treepie.

We arrived at our lodge in absolutely beautiful surroundings in time for lunch in a covered outdoor setting, which would be our dining location for the next four days. Temperatures had cooled to a wonderful, dry mid-70s range, and our semi-outdoor dining location provided a fabulous atmosphere (except for the hard wooden chairs). Our main waiter was an attentive Buddhist who loved his job and gave us constant

service with a smile and a humble bow after serving our food.

After lunch, we journeyed into Kaeng Krachan National Park for an afternoon of birding. This dry forest provided good looks at many special birds, including Red-headed Trogons, Golden and Collared Babblers, Gray-chinned and Rosy Minivets, Lesser Racket-tailed, Ashy and Hair-crested Drongos, Ratchet-tailed Treepie and Blue-throated Barbet. The rough condition of the dirt roads was giving our Thai driver nightmares, and he expressed a strong wish to not take his van up the long dirt road to the higher elevations on the next day. On our way out of the park, Nick spotted a Large-tailed Nighthawk on the road and good looks were had by all.

Day 8: January 15 - After a fine breakfast at our outdoor dining hall, we journeyed into the park. A close vocalizing Green-eared Barbet in the scope gave us all great views, and many birds were seen in the trees around a water hole. Numerous Black-headed and Black-crested Bulbuls were seen, as well as two Asian Fairy Bluebirds and some Blue-winged Leafbirds. Near the campground, tame Gibbons ran around and lounged in the road, and close looks at Verditer Flycatcher and Blue-eared Barbet were had. A short drive up the road near a stream crossing resulted in great close looks at two rare **White-fronted Scops Owls** that Nick had staked out. This species only occurs in this general area. Two Crested Serpent-eagles circled overhead as Nick whistled their calls.



After leaving the park to return to the lodge for lunch, the trailing van lost sight of Nick's van, and we drove around for 40 minutes looking for the lodge. Members of the van lost patience with Mr. Krit because he kept referencing a cartoon-like GPS system on his cell phone that did not show the local roads. Finally, Nick reached him on his cell phone, and we eventually found our way back to the lodge after almost an hour driving around the local roads. A fine lunch helped us to forget the frustrating logistical errors.

After lunch we all packed into one van and drove to the top of the park with Nick at the wheel. His expertise in maneuvering the van up this rough dirt road with many deep holes was noticeable compared to Mr. Krit's inability to maintain a fast enough pace to prevent lurching and jerking around. We had 11 people in the van, but we had a surprisingly easy drive with Nick at the wheel.

Near the top of the park in the higher elevations, the view from the lookout was gorgeous, and the Blue-throated Barbet sitting in a bare tree in front of us for scope views further enhanced the view. A Streaked Spiderhunter pecked at a banana tree

along the road right in front of our group, and great looks were had of a White-browed Piculet hammering on a dry stalk.

Numbers of spectacular birds were seen in this high-elevation habitat, including Great Barbet, Flavescent and Gray-eyed Bulbuls, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Blyth's Shrike Babbler, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, and a stunning Rosy Minivet. A group of Brown Hornbills were seen foraging on a fruiting tree. The long ride back down the dirt road did not seem so bad after a great day of birding.

Day 9: January 16 - We spent the morning birding in the lower regions of Kaeng Krachan National Park and had good looks at several Great Hornbills flying overhead. A Brown Hornbill nest colony was a treat, with a few birds in their nest holes. Special sightings included a perched Dollarbird, Common Flameback and Greater Flameback in the same tree, and a Banded Broadbill that



Nick heard and taped in for great scope views. This spectacular bird has a mix of bright colors in its plumage that is hard to believe, including a bright blue bill and black and yellow wings. Several **Racket-tailed Treepies** were seen, as well as Great Iora and 2 Blue-winged Leafbirds. Four Dusky Broadbills were the only sightings of the tour.

After lunch at the lodge, we split into two groups and visited two photography blinds. Joe, Frank, Kevin, Greg and Linda shared three blinds in one location with four Japanese photographers, while Nick, Robbie, John, Martha, and Randy went to another blind setup. The blind that Kevin was in saw a number of great birds at close range, including about 10 Scaly-breasted Partridge, Red-legged Crake, Puff-throated Babbler, Large-Scimitar Babbler, about 8 Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes, Stripe-throated Bulbul, Pale-legged Leaf Warbler, Siberian Blue Robin, Black-naped Monarch (quite a few), Tickell's Flycatcher, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Chinese Blue Flycatcher, Ashy Drongo and a close Racket-tailed Treepie. All of these birds were photographed at the blinds with good results. Another exciting sighting was around 8 Lesser Mouse Deer and Indochinese Ground Squirrel.

The other blind did not have as much activity, but reported several Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes. When scouting another location for possible blind use, Nick and Kevin saw several Eurasian Hoopoes along the road. After yet another wonderful dinner, we walked to the end of the road to listen for Brown Hawk Owl, but only had a calling Asian Barred Owlet.

Day 10: January 17 - An early morning visit to the lower section of the park was affected by cool, cloudy weather, and the birds were especially quiet and not active. It was a big contrast to the previous two days, when birds were flitting about in the trees

near the water holes. We tried again for a major target bird that eluded us the day before, Great Slaty Woodpecker, with Nick playing their tape for a long time while they called back from a distance, but showed no interest in coming anywhere near the group. I (Kevin) would have given up on these disinterested birds after an hour of searching, but Nick's persisted in walking up and down the road tracking these bird's calls. I decided to walk up the road from where the group was scanning the dense forest in the vicinity of a calling bird when I heard a more distant bird calling. Nick had told us that these birds always land on and frequent large, bare tree trunks, and I spotted one of these in the distance through a hole in the forest. Suddenly, a female Great Slaty Woodpecker landed on the trunk and started to preen. I called softly to the group, and everyone had great looks at a paired male and female. As the largest woodpecker in the world, and with a shape like our Pileated Woodpecker, this was a very exciting and rewarding sighting, with Nick's persistence the difference.



While we were looking for the woodpeckers, a flock of about 25 **Oriental Pied Hornbills** flew overhead in small groups of two or three birds. A Great Hornbill also gave us its typical fleeting glimpse as it flew across the road with a loud rushing of its wings. Although the bird activity was slow today, Nick ended the morning walk with a spotting of a stunning Black and Yellow Broadbill, which we all enjoyed in the scope. This

bird has a striking mix of pink underparts, black wings with bold yellow lightning bolt markings, yellow rump and zig-zag line up the back, black head with bold yellow eyering, aqua blue bill, and a complete thin white collar and neckband bordered by a lower black border. What a bird!

After lunch, we switched participants for each set of blinds, and the group from the second blind on the prior day had four Bar-backed Partridges that were missed the previous day. Several Red Junglefowl were also seen on both days, and two Chinese Francolins made an appearance. Kevin gave up his spot in the blind due to a lack of space, but a short walk around the grounds gave him good looks and photos of a Coppersmith Barbet, Green-billed Malkoha, Little Spiderhunter, Black-hooded Oriole and Arctic Warbler. A short walk to the road provided good looks at a soaring Crested Goshawk. The group enjoyed a cordial last supper at our special semi-outdoor dining location, with plenty of good spirits and stories to share.

Day 11: January 18 - Today's activity involved a leisurely walk around the chalet grounds, which has a variety of habitats and flowering plants and trees. Several Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrikes gave us all good looks, and everyone saw the Black-hooded

Orioles and a few Oriental Magpie Robins. Male and female Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds preened in the sun. Two Eurasian Hoopoes were spotted foraging on the ground near the lake, and a few very large Gray-rumped Treeswifts flew overhead. As we prepared to leave this wonderful place, **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** was hunting from his usual wire perch, and a Bronzed Drongo foraged from a nearby tree.



After we returned to Bangkok with a mostly uneventful drive negotiated long before Friday's rush hour traffic nightmare, a handful of participants visited a local tented market with plenty of Bangkok atmosphere. Row upon row of large tents with narrow alleyways was set up in a large opening, and the mood was right out of a movie set. Ted, Linda, Randy, Frank, Kevin and Greg enjoyed the bargains and price negotiating with the local merchants, and everyone bought something to remind them of Bangkok and Thailand.

Report and all photos by Kevin T Karlson.



Slaty-legged Crake



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