

Birding Snippets

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Marathon birding in NW Thailand Part 4 : Doi Ang Khang



Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* at the Royal Project.

Formerly considered a winter visitor, this species has been reclassified as a resident.

Day 5
Late Afternoon
Weather: partly cloudy

The road up Doi Ang Khang was rather steep. We arrived in the late afternoon. Apart from a small party of Mountain Bulbuls by the road side, we had a dark morph Changeable Hawk Eagle in flight. Dinner was at an eating place just outside the royal project. Collared Scops Owl was heard from our room at the Ang Khang Nature Resort.

Ang Khang Nature Resort

Day 6
Morning
Weather: cool

The Ang Khang Nature Resort was the nicest place we had stayed during this trip and we decided to enjoy the room and start just a little later. In the resort grounds, we had Blue Whistling Thrush, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Sooty-headed Bulbul, by now very familiar birds. Below one of the chalets lay a freshly dead Asian Paradise Flycatcher – we wondered how it ended up there.

KM 21.3 Trail

Day 6
Morning
0730-0830
Weather: partly cloudy

We spent an hour at Km 21.3 trail but did not go far. We found 2 **Blue-winged Minlas** which perched quietly for some preening. A babbler skulked in the undergrowth and it finally showed sufficiently to be identified as a **Spot-throated Babbler** (lifer).



Blue-winged Minla
Siva cyanouroptera

The common Grey-cheeked Fulvetta and Grey-headed Flycatcher were also around. A skulky flycatcher regularly cocked its tail and gave 'tack' calls; it was finally determined to be a female **Slaty Blue Flycatcher** (lifer), an uncommon bird.



Slaty Blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* female

Ang Khang Villa Resort 3 (Ban Luang)

Day 6
0900
Weather: sunny

The Ang Khang Villa Resort 3 is known for a handsome bird that frequents a little waterfall at the back.

We saw a pair of **Long-tailed Minivets** along the access road and as we walked gingerly to the waterfall, soon spied our target – a **White-capped Water Redstart** (lifer). The skittish bird flew away as we approached, so we went to check-out of our room at Ang Khang Nature Resort.

Royal Project

Day 4 The royal project is just down the road from Ang
Afternoon Khang Nature Resort. A dark morph **Oriental**
1000-1100 **Honey Buzzard** soared in the skies above. At the
Weather: sunny back of the restaurant lay 4 hides. The firing of
flashes signaled the presence of a bird and there it
was – a **Black-breasted Thrush** (lifer). There
weren't very many birds, though I remembered
ignoring a few common species!

Ang Khang Villa Resort 3 again

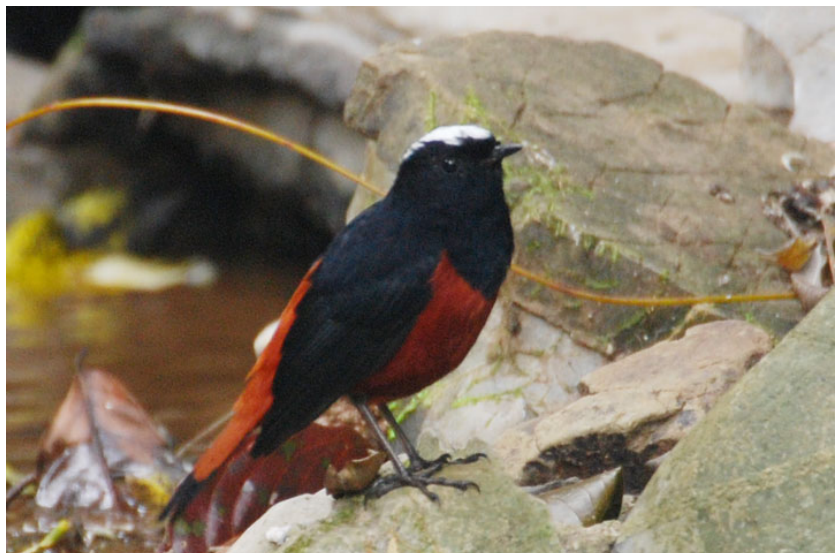


Oriental Honey Buzzard
Pernis ptilorhynchus
dark morph

We decided to try our luck with the Redstart again. Along the way, we noticed bird activity and stopped the car. First, we had the common Sooty-headed Bulbul, then a Verditer Flycatcher. A Grey-backed Shrike also appeared by the roadside. An incessant call started to fill the air and after some searching, a White-browed Scimitar-Babbler was located below us, on the slope. A Maroon Oriole showed up nearby and the nicest bird was a **Chestnut-vented Nuthatch** (lifer).

Thereafter, we spent about 45 mins with the White-capped Water Redstart, trying to get better pics of the skittish bird under the low lighting.

White-capped
Water Redstart
Chaimarrornis
leucocephalus



Then it was time to hit the road for our next destination, Doi Lang...