

# From the sketch book of an intrepid birder

By Andrew Chow

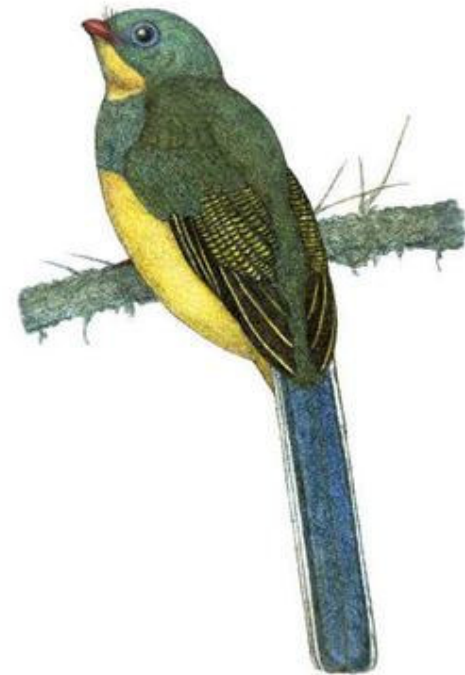
After visiting a number of places around the world, South-East Asia remains my favourite. It is in every sense my home, filled with memories of my younger days. I would like to share my love for this place with you through these drawings I made over the years for my various trips.

## Indonesia – Java – Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park



**View of Gede** from the flower market outside the Cibodas Botanic Gardens

This is one of my favourite places to bird watch or simply while away my time.



Javan Trogon

**Air Panas** marks the highest point of my climb. The condensing water vapour on my glasses, the burning heat of the water seeping into my shoes and the tiring legs forbid me from going any further.

**View of Gede & Air Panas** are done from on-location sketches. **Dilapidated Shelter** is an on-location sketch. All birds in this section are drawn with the help of guide books after the trip.



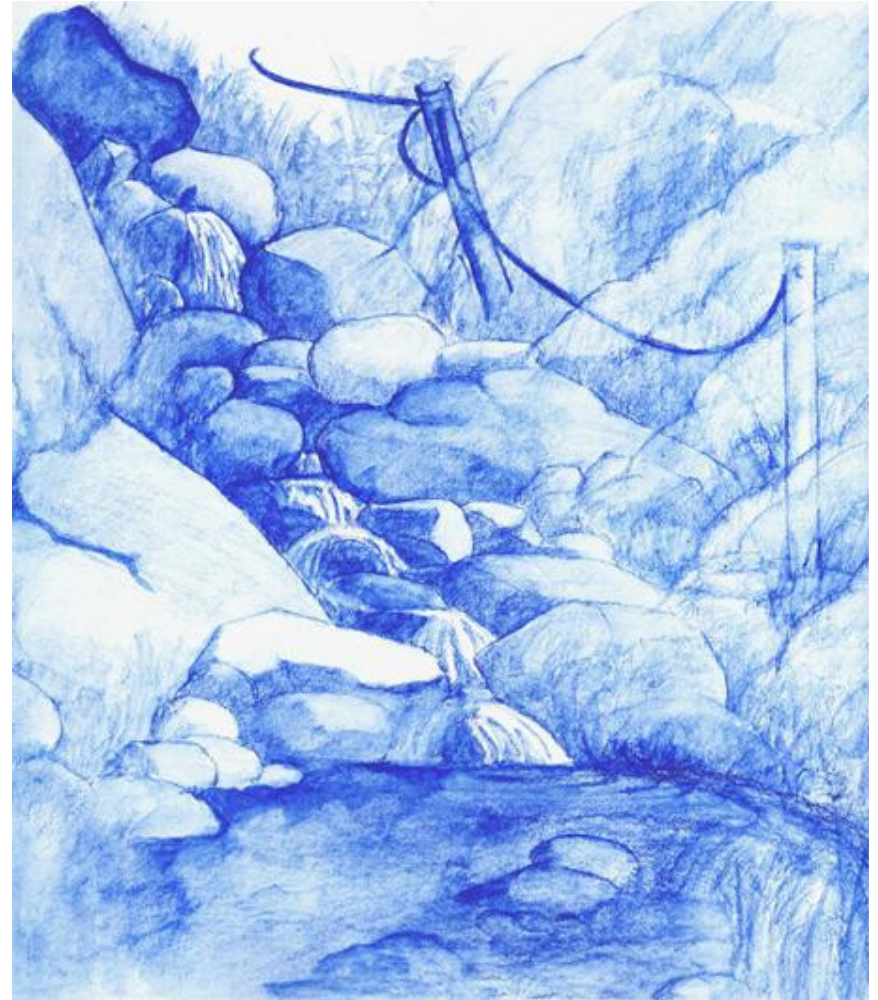
Javan Tesia



White-bibbed Babbler



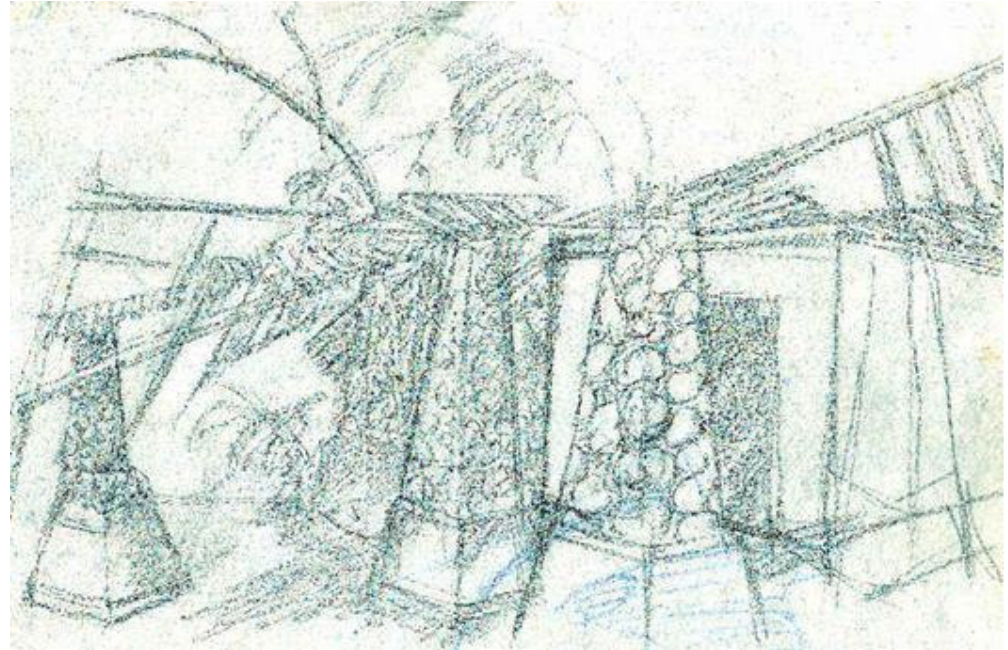
Orange-spotted Bulbul



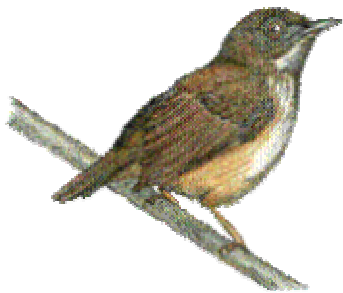
The path to the summit at the **Air Panas** area



Sunda Blue Robin



**Dilapidated Shelter** before the Air Panas area



Horsfield's Babbler



Crescent-chested Babbler



Sunda Warbler



Sunda Thrush

## Thailand – The ‘Doi’s in the North



**Grey Wagtail at Mae Klang** at km 14 area near the Vachiratharn waterfall

The **Grey Wagtail at Mae Klang** was done from on-location with watercolour pencil, washed with water in the Same-Same guest house in Changi Mai. The two cartoons are done after the trip.

First visited Doi Chiang Dao & Doi Inthanon with Ding Li & Albert Low. Returned to Doi Inthanon and also Doi Suthep for a month to bird and relax in this beautiful area.

Met an architect birder on the first trip who shows me some of his bird cartoons. Decided to produce some of my own, shown below.



Rufous-winged Fulvetta



White-browed Piculet



**Students at Nanthok Soi Yai – Doi Suthep**

Camp out at Doi Suthep Park HQ (just after the temple) on my second trip. Bird in paths leading from the HQ. Met a troop of friendly students who were trekking there. Made this on-location sketch (left) while they played at the water fall after their lunch. They are so different from the kids here.

All birds in this section are drawn with the help of guide books after the trip.



Silver-breasted Broadbill



Rufous-winged Fulvetta



Mrs Gould's Sunbird

## Thailand – Khao Yai National Park



**Eared Pitta Pair** at Khao Yai

This is made from on-location sketches back at the camp site. The picture is a poor attempt of showing the feeding habit of flicking the leaves and the alert position of the birds. They were observed to flick the leaves rather vigorously when they feed.

The male was seen displaying. It made a short call before erecting the ears and opening the wings a little, trembling them for a short while. It was also seen on a separate occasion to pick up something in its mouth and hit it against a rock, making a pecking noise. Not sure if it is feeding or doing it for other purpose.

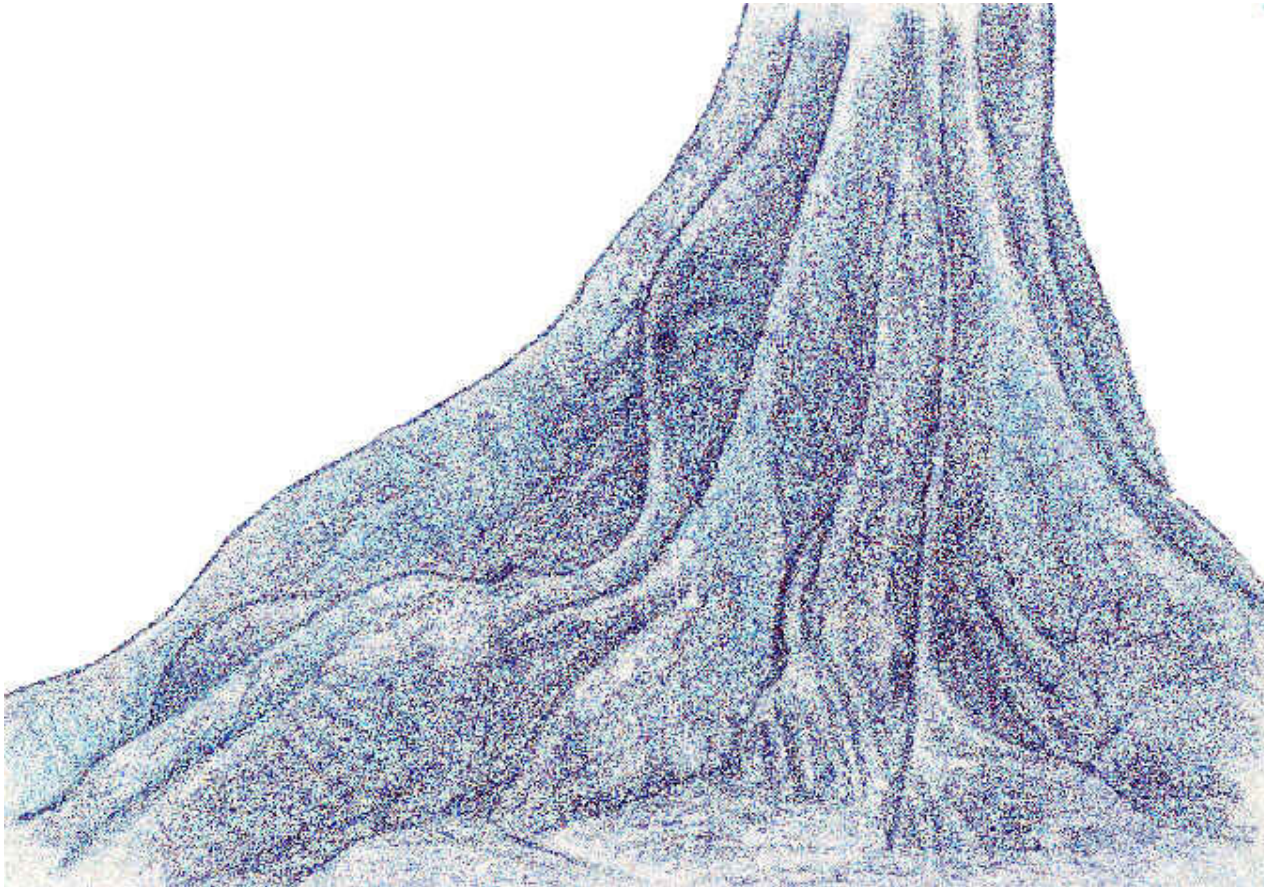
One of the highlights of my last trip to Khao Yai was this pair of Eared Pitta.

### Notes taken

This bird was first shown to me by a Swedish. VJ and I could only see glimpses of them. Work on the following few days at the same location and finally managed good, long views from several sightings over the next few days.

The general observation made were:

1. Body fluffy and head appears small especially when viewed from up front.
2. The ears are seldom up and have not seen it up for the female.
3. They feed a little apart and were not seen as shown.
4. The darker area on the undertail coverts was also seen in the female (differing from that shown in Graig Robson).
5. The male's chest appears to have a marbled look (as I had tried to show in the sketch).
6. Seen a male on 2/02/2002 a short distance from the first site. This could have been the same bird.



**Giant Buttress** along trail 6.

The **Giant Buttress** was done on the spot. It was left unwashed.

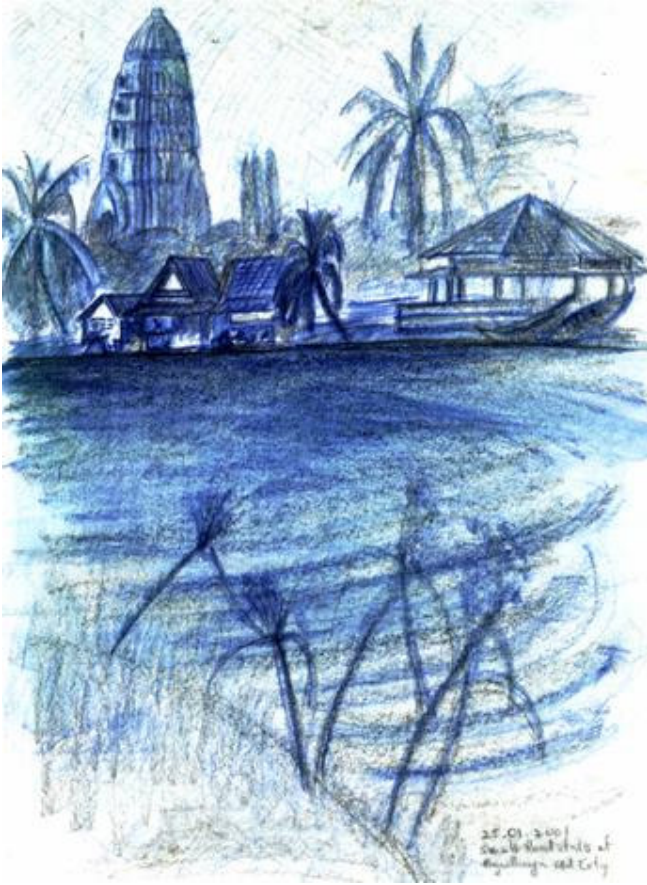
The **Banded Kingfisher** is an on-location sketch. The individual allows me to get near it for making this sketch. It remained there when I left. Used the usual blue and brown for the sketch. It is however a brown female. It got wet when I was caught in a drizzle.

Was impressed with this giant and finally decided to put it on paper. Was not able to place a person into the picture to show its size as my skill with human figure at that time was bad.



**Banded Kingfisher**

## Thailand – Other sketches



Khwaie Yai River – Kanchanaburi



Ruins of Ayuthaya



The 3 sketches on the right are done in pen. They were done before I learn to use water colour pencil.



## Myanmar – Pen sketches



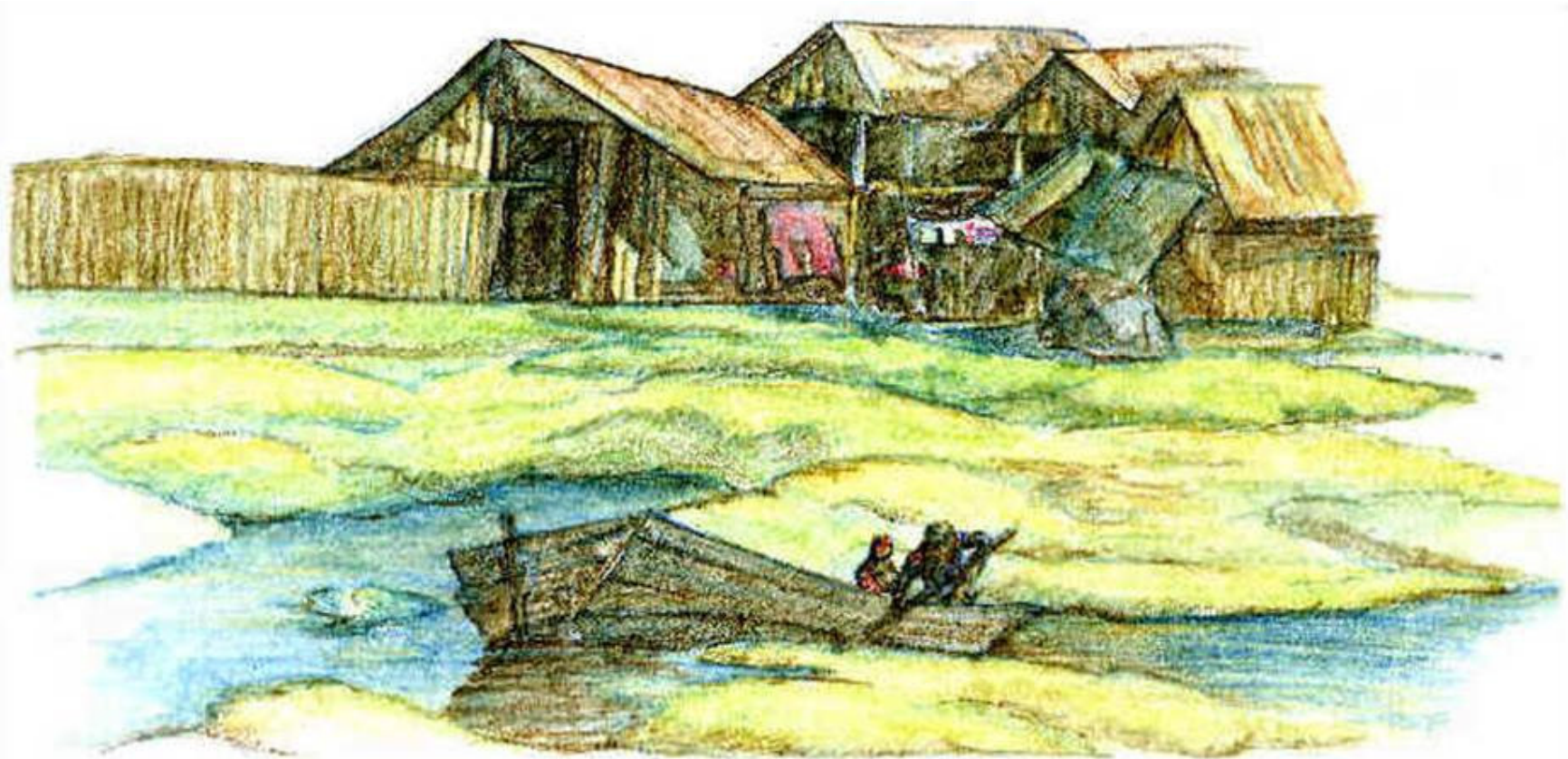
**Floating Market**

This is a time before I learn to bird or use water colour pencil. Both were on-location sketches.



**Native**

## Cambodia – Phoem Phenn



### Treasure Hunters of Bo Eng Kak – Phoem Phenn – Cambodia

Stayed in this area while in Phoem Phenn. Done some birding here while relaxing over my drinks in a few of the restaurants that line the side of the lake. The two boys were seen daily combing the lake for stuff.

Completed the above drawing while having my breakfast in one of the restaurants.

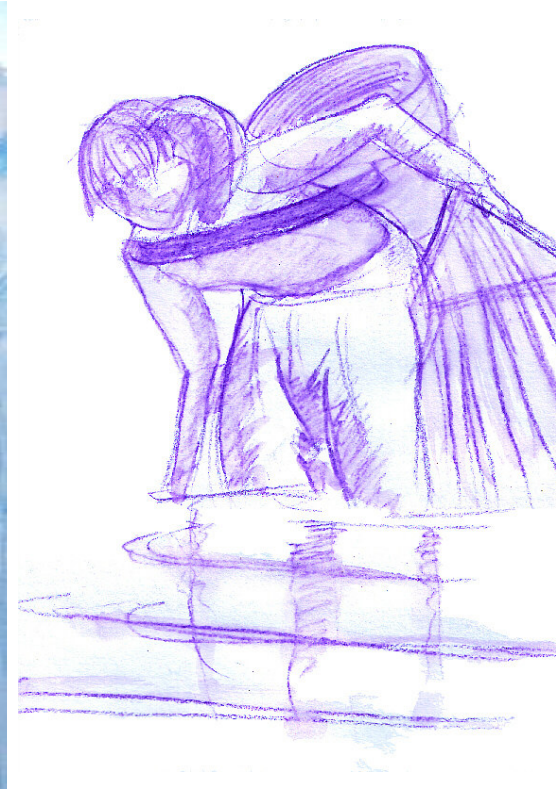
## Laos



**Harvesting** –Vang Vieng

**Harvesting** was done from on-location sketches and snapshots at the guest house.

**Collecting Moss** is an on-location sketch. Women and children were seen doing this daily.



**Collecting Moss** – Vang Vieng

Vang Vieng is very scenic and I was able to bird a bit while exploring some of the caves in the area. The people in Laos are very friendly. Unfortunately, there is little forest left (at least in the area that I was in). Even tiny birds such as flycatchers and bulbuls are hunted and sold as food.



**Pied Fantail** on Thai side of the Mekong

**Pied Fantail** was done on-location at a Guest House in Nong Hai (Thailand), just across the Mekong, at the end of the Trip to Laos.

**Rushing Home** was done from on-location sketches



**Rushing Home** after School – Luang Prabang