



សំ វាសនា ខន់សីវេសិន ធ្វរ
SAM VEASNA CONSERVATION
TOURS



Cambodian Tailorbird

© Mardy Sean / Sam Veasna Conservation tours

Tour Name: Custom Tour Bengal Florican, Giant Ibis, Mekong Wagtail and Cambodia Tailorbird

Date(s) of Tour: 1st-4th December 2025

Tour Guide / Leader: Mardy Sean

Number of Clients: 1 PAX

[Custom Tour Bengal Florican, Giant Ibis and Mekong Wagtail tours] Trip Report 2025 © Sam Veasna Conservation Tours

Introduction:

Cambodia has rapidly emerged as one of the most compelling and popular birdwatching destinations in Asia. This rise is largely owing to the presence of a unique suite of rare and threatened species, which are virtually or wholly impossible to see anywhere else. These include the iconic Giant and White-shouldered Ibises, the spectacular Bengal Florican, the elusive Mekong Wagtail, and the charismatic Cambodian Tailorbird.

Strategically situated in the heart of Indochina, Cambodia's diverse habitats showcase a rich avifauna. Representative species from the Annamite mountains of Vietnam penetrate into the northeast, such as the Grey-faced Tit-babbler and Red-vented Barbet. Meanwhile, the rugged southwest is a vital stronghold for species confined primarily to the Cardamom Mountains, including the Chestnut-headed Partridge, Cambodian Blue Robin, Cambodian Flowerpecker, and Cambodian Laughingthrush, most of which also occur in easternmost Thailand.

This is our custom four-day tour, meticulously designed to cover key birding areas across Cambodia.

Our expedition begins at the Bengal Florican Conservation Areas located in the northern part of Tonle Sap Lake. From there, we head straight to Tmat Boey, the community-protected forest renowned as the land of the Giant and White-shouldered Ibises and home to a diverse population of Asian Woodpeckers.

The following day takes us to Kratie Province, where we visit Kampi Pool, famous for its resident Irrawaddy Dolphins and as one of the best locations to observe the highly localized Mekong Wagtail. The surrounding rice paddy fields near the Mekong River are also excellent for viewing numerous migrant species and waterfowl.

Our final day is dedicated to Kampong Cham Province. We explore the riparian habitat near the Tonle Mekong River, which is the primary location for finding the endemic Cambodian Tailorbird. Our unforgettable journey then concludes with a return trip to Siem Reap.

Highlights

- Giant Ibis
- White-shouldered Ibis
- White-rumped Falcon
- Siberian Rubythroat
- Rufous-bellied Woodpecker
- Mekong Wagtail
- Bengal Florican
- Black-browed Reed Warbler
- Black-headed Woodpecker

A total of 162 species of birds have been recorded and seen for these beautiful sites across this small country.

Activities:

Day 1: The Bengal Florican's Domain

December 1st, 2025

The expedition began with a pre-dawn departure from Siem Reap, heading southeast toward the vast, protected Grasslands of Tonle Sap in Kampong Thom Province. After a 90-minute drive, fortified by a takeaway breakfast, we arrived at a vital conservation area—a mosaic of wetland and cultivated plants, the exclusive breeding habitat of the Critically Endangered Bengal Florican.



A flock of White-shouldered Ibis back in the roosting tree

Upon arrival, the air was alive with activity: graceful Eastern Marsh-harriers patrolled the fields with low, effortless flight, while the cheerful, high-pitched songs of several Oriental Skylarks drifted down from above. Our wait was brief yet rewarding. Three magnificent male Bengal Floricans suddenly took flight from their nocturnal roosting grounds, providing breathtaking, close-range views as they transitioned to their feeding territories—a truly memorable start to the trip.

Later, while returning to the main road, a quiet detour led us to an ancient local shrine shaded by massive trees. Here, nestled in the protective canopy, we were delighted to find two charming Spotted Owlets—a tranquil interlude before moving on. The afternoon concluded with an onward journey to Tmat Boey via a restorative stop at Wat Khnog Kol, arriving at the rustic Kriel Lodge. The final mission of the day was a late afternoon visit to the monumental roosting tree of the scarce White-shouldered Ibis.

Day 2: Encounters with the Giant Ibis

December 2nd, 2025

The day dawned over Kriel Lodge, filled with the bustling chorus of the dry forest. Even before heading out, the lodge grounds offered a wealth of activity, with Yellow-browed Warblers flitting, and the vibrant hues of Thick-billed Flowerpeckers and foraging Brown-rumped and Small Minivets around the restaurant.



Giant Ibis takes turn for incubation

Our main target demanded an early start. At 6:00 AM, we embarked on a ride into the dry forest towards the Giant Ibis territory. The effort was gloriously rewarded as two majestic Giant Ibis—the world's largest and rarest Ibis—were observed replacing their nightly roosts with the morning feeding grounds. Not far from this landmark sighting, a pair of White-rumped Falcons, male and female, called sharply, allowing for superb and prolonged views. On the walk back, we cataloged further species, including the striking Black-headed Woodpecker and the melodic Golden-fronted Leafbird. Overhead, a Crested Serpent Eagle circled, silhouetted against the morning sky. The late afternoon was dedicated to

the Phnom Reang area. This rich dry forest landscape yielded a treasure trove of sightings: the scarce Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, the elusive Savannah Nightjar, and the beautiful Burmese Nuthatch and Blossom-headed Parakeet.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, hundreds of Olive-backed Pipits descended in a swirling mass to their roost. The final highlight came as the light faded, when a distinct call led us to an excellent observation of an Oriental Scops-Owl, capping a tremendously successful day.



White-rumped Falcon male and female

Day 3: Mekong Endemics and Dolphins

December 3rd, 2025

A final, successful search around the lodge, prompted by the continuous calls of a Puff-throated Babbler, delivered our missing target: a female Rufous-bellied Woodpecker. The spot also offered yet another encounter with the superb White-rumped Falcon pair.

From the dry forest, our focus shifted to the aquatic landscape. After crossing the Mekong River and stopping for lunch in Stung Treng, we pressed on to Kratie to seek two highly specific riverine targets. Despite the deep water making the riverbanks less accessible for birds, fortune favored us. The endemic Mekong Wagtail—a male and female pair—were quickly located, actively foraging on a low bank right next to the boat mooring, allowing for incredibly fast and gratifying observation.

Next, a boat trip took us to the dolphin pool. We were privileged to witness approximately eight Irrawaddy Dolphins, including the heartwarming sight of a new born calf. The afternoon concluded in the extensive rice paddy fields and scrubland surrounding Kratie, a magnet for migrating species. Here, we logged numerous warblers—including Black-browed Reed Warbler, Dusky Warbler, and Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler—alongside the vibrant Siberian



Black-browed Reed Warbler

Rubythroat. The crowning surprise of the day was the unexpected sighting of a Eurasian Spoonbill, recorded as a significant first for this locality.

Day 4: The Endemic Tailorbird

December 4th, 2025

The final morning started with a brief return to the Kratie rice fields, where a good variety of Kingfishers were observed, including the magnificent White-throated Kingfisher, the busy Pied Kingfisher, and a few Common Kingfishers.

After packing and departing Kratie, the long drive back to Siem Reap included one crucial, targeted stop in Kampong Cham. Here, amidst dense, verdant shrubbery—the ideal habitat for the endemic Cambodian Tailorbird—we quickly located at least five individuals. The sighting of this recently described species provided a fitting finale to the trip's endemic targets. The six-hour drive concluded the expedition in Siem Reap, leaving us with vivid memories of Cambodia's spectacular and vulnerable birdlife.

To see the full checklist in Ebird
<https://ebird.org/tripreport/438877>

Bird List

Species Name	Scientific Name
1. Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
2. Chinese Francolin	<i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>
3. Blue-breasted Quail	<i>Synoicus chinensis</i>
4. Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
5. Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
6. Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
7. Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
8. Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
9. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron Phoenicopterus</i>
10. Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>
11. Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
12. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>
13. Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
14. Violet Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>
15. Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
16. Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>
17. Large Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparveriioides</i>
18. Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>
19. White-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>
20. Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
21. Crested treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronate</i>
22. Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
23. Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>
24. White-browed Crake	<i>Poliolimnas cinereus</i>
25. Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>
26. Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
27. Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
28. Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
29. Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
30. Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
31. Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
32. Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo inger</i>
33. White-shouldered Ibis	<i>Pseudibis davisoni</i>
34. Giant Ibis	<i>Pseudibis gigantea</i>
35. Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
36. Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Botaurus cinnamomeus</i>

37. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
38. Chinese Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola baccussh</i>
39. Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea acromanda</i>
40. Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
41. Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
42. Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
43. Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
44. Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
45. Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
46. Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
47. Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
48. Eastern Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
49. Rufous-winged Buzzard	<i>Butastur liventer</i>
50. Collared Scops-Owl	<i>Otus lettia</i>
51. Oriental Scops-Owl	<i>Otus sunia</i>
52. Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>
53. Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>
54. Spotted Wood-Owl	<i>Strix seloputo</i>
55. Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
56. Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
57. Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
58. Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
59. White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
60. Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
61. Indochinese Roller	<i>Coracias affinis</i>
62. Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
63. Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>
64. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>
65. Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>
66. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>
67. Freckle-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Denrocopos analis</i>
68. Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
69. Black-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus erythropygius</i>
70. Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>
71. White-rumped Falcon	<i>Neohierax insignis</i>
72. Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
73. Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
74. Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseate</i>
75. Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
76. Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>
77. Small Minivet	<i>Percrocotus divaricatus</i>
78. Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>

79. Brown-rumped Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cantonensis</i>
80. Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>
81. Oriental Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina javensis</i>
82. Indochinese Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage polioptera</i>
83. Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
84. Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
85. Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>
86. Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
87. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
88. Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
89. Malaysian Pied-fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>
90. White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
91. Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
92. Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
93. Bronze Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
94. Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
95. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
96. Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
97. Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
98. Burmese Shrike	<i>Lanius collurioides</i>
99. Red-billed Blue-Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>
100. Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
101. Racket-tailed Treepie	<i>Crypsirian temia</i>
102. Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrohyndcuos</i>
103. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
104. Indochinese Bushlark	<i>Plocealauda erythrocephala</i>
105. Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
106. Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
107. Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
108. Cambodian Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus chaktomuk</i>
109. Brown Prinia	<i>Prinia polychroa</i>
110. Rufescent Prinia	<i>Prinia fufescens</i>
111. Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
112. Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornate</i>
113. Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
114. Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
115. Black-browed Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>
116. Oriental Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>
117. Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Helopsaltes certhiola</i>
118. Lanceolated Warbler	<i>Locustella lanceolatata</i>
119. Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>
120. Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>

121.	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
122.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo inoranta</i>
123.	Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
124.	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>
125.	Streak-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus conradi</i>
126.	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
127.	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
128.	Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
129.	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
130.	Two-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus</i>
131.	Pale-legged Leafwarbler	<i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i>
132.	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileate</i>
133.	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>
134.	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>
135.	Burmese Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neglecta</i>
136.	Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>
137.	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
138.	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
139.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
140.	Great Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>
141.	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
142.	Hainan Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis hainanus</i>
143.	Indochinese Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis sumatrensis</i>
144.	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecia</i>
145.	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>
146.	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
147.	Amur Stonechat	<i>Saxicola stejnegeri</i>
148.	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
149.	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Pachyglossa agilis</i>
150.	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
151.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
152.	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
153.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulate</i>
154.	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>
155.	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
156.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
157.	Plain-backed Sparrow	<i>Passer Flaveolus</i>
158.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
159.	Mekong Wagtail	<i>Motacilla samveasnae</i>
160.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
161.	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>

162. Red-throated Pipit

Anthus cervinus

Mammal List

Species Name	Scientific Name
Northern Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia benlageri</i>
Variable Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus finlaysonii</i>
Cambodian Stripe Squirrel	<i>Tamiops rodolphii</i>
Irrawaddy Dolphin	<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>



Oriental Scops-Owl and Brown Boobook



Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and Eurasian Spoonbill



Sam Veasna Conservation Tours
0552 St.26, Group 12, Wat Bo
Siem Reap, Cambodia

Book a Tour: booktour@samveasna.com
General Inquiries: info@samveasna.com
Phone Number: +855 (0) 92 554 473

www.samveasna.com