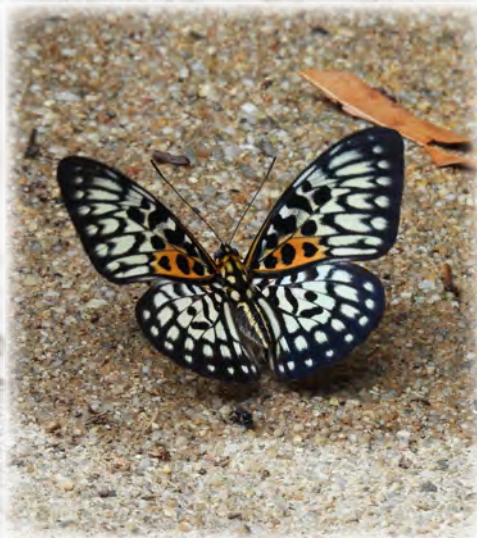




## Butterflies of Thailand: Kaiser-i-Hind Tour

25th March - 4th April 2024  
Led by Antonio Giudici and Terry Goble



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#### Introduction

This was the inaugural tour in Thailand for Greenwings and was something of a pioneering trip. The tour proved to be a great success on many levels, not least the whole group had fantastic views of the 'Kaiser' and aside from this we enjoyed many beautiful and interesting butterflies along with other wildlife. Set in the stunning forested hills and mountains North of Chiang Mai, this tour was designed to give everybody a flavour of the rich butterfly fauna found in North Thailand. There is, despite environmental challenges, a diverse and sometimes stunning array of lepidoptera in the hills, valleys and mountains of this beautiful part of the world. Based in and around Chiang Mai, itself an interesting city, culturally diverse and a curious mix of old and new architecture.

Although butterflies were our main focus there is in fact a plethora of other insects and wildlife to entertain. The amazing Orchid Mantis, Flying Lizards, a large variety of birds and reptiles, not forgetting the moths, dragonflies and other invertebrates to fascinate the avid naturalist. However our focus is on butterflies and, with such gems as the Paris Peacock, Blue Admiral, Eastern Courtier and of course the Kaiser-i-Hind, it really is an outstanding destination.

#### Day 1

After introductions and quick debrief last night this was the first morning of the tour. Happily one of the guests, whose flight was delayed, arrived overnight and we had one more airport run this morning to collect the last member of the group. The rest of us met for breakfast at 8am, which was a leisurely affair. After breakfast Antonio returned with our last group member and they went off to get ready for a quick turn around. The group were keen to get into the hills and look for butterflies.

We finally set off around 9:40 am and drove a short distance to the 7-11 shop for the chance to purchase lunches. Once this chore was completed we headed into the forest hills to search for some of the stunning lepidopteran-fauna. It was a warm day and at times quite hot until we reached the very top of the mountain road, where it was a little cooler.

The first stop by a small stream down a slight hilly incline proved very productive. Many of the species needed a little research to determine them, but others were just stunningly obvious. The Jewelled Nawab (*Polyura delphis*), Cruiser and Fluffy Tit were all admired along with a host of others. As the diversity of species here was quite high we stayed for a while adding new species as they came and went. When the number of new species slowed we decided to move on to the next stop up the winding mountain road.

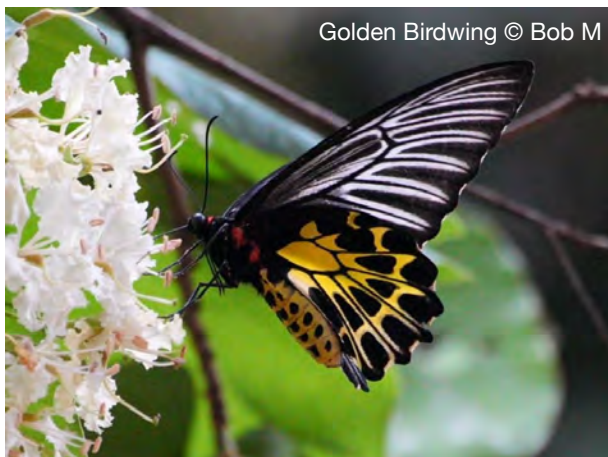
This stop was by a couple of pools, one was almost dried out and a rather sad waterfall, which according to Antonio was a 'proper' waterfall at one point, but a small dam and an extraction pump had slowed the cascade to a trickle. Despite this



there were some cracking butterflies around. Red Helen, Great Mormon, Green Dragontail and Orange Punch were just a sample of the butterflies that quicken the heart a little! There were many others and we spent some time photographing and admiring the beautiful array of insects. Whilst we were just drawing to a close at this site I noticed a flying lizard glide over head and land on a tree. Whilst trying to re-find the lizard for the group to see, I spotted a gorgeous Orchid Mantid. Whilst it was still only a young mantid, it was still ornately adorned and a lovely white colour. We then refocused on butterflies before heading further up the mountain road.

This site included some temple ruins and religious artefacts, which were subtly quite beautiful and looked like something from a Kipling novel. As the altitude increases the diversity diminishes, but the site also didn't fare as well as it has done previously and we scratched around a little for butterflies and found mostly bushbrowns, but a Banded Judy was a delightful addition. We embarked on a circular loop around the site, which did not produce much more and so decided to move on to the end of the mountain road to find more higher altitude species.

This stop was near the end of the road and Antonio was disappointed to see the area had been disturbed and a mast had been erected. We didn't stop long enough to identify the few blues and browns around and instead headed back to the second spot again.



Returning to the waterfall site proved a good move as we added a few more excellent species, but the Golden Birdwings, *Troides aeacus aeacus*, stole the show. Firstly we were able to watch the female come down to nectar on some flowering trees. Then we saw the male and female in a courtship flight, which was great to observe! There were several other species to admire in a supporting cast of Great Windmill and Nonsuch Palmer. This brought an end to a great start to the tour with many memorable species!

We then wended our way down the hill and slowly merged into the city road. It was a short drive back to the hotel. Here we dispersed and agreed to meet at six to do the species list for the day.

Well the species list was as chaotic as I thought it might be! Everyone seemed to have different lists and some had only scientific names and some common names and others were randomly identifying butterflies they had seen! We scraped together a partial list but people were keen to go out for dinner. We abandoned the list idea for now and made our way out for dinner.

We walked down the main street and settled on a Thai restaurant for our first meal. It was quite a small restaurant and suddenly opening to feed ten hungry naturalists was probably not quite what they were expecting. Service was a little disjointed as they struggled to cope with the volume of orders and one poor soul had to wait until everyone had finished before his dinner arrived! That said the food was delicious and seemed to have a general seal of approval. The staff were very friendly and helpful and we ate in a fun and relaxed atmosphere after a lovely day out in the field.

After dinner we wandered back to our respective rooms and arranged to meet at 7:30am for breakfast and look to leave around 8am.

## Day 2

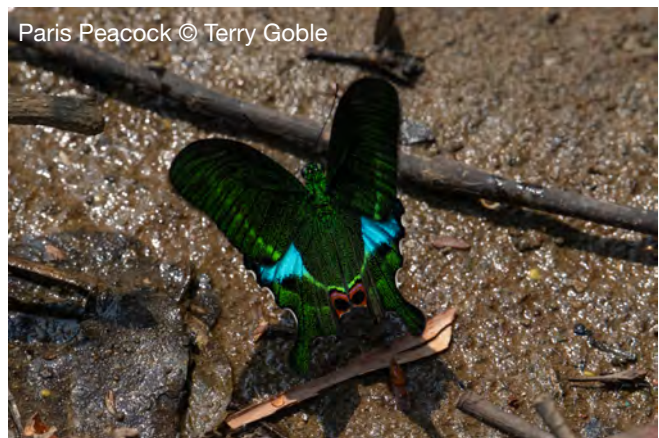
This morning we met at breakfast for 7:30 am, in the hope of leaving around 8:15am. The slow service meant that we didn't eventually leave until around 8:25am. We made good progress, stopping briefly to buy lunch and fuel. We then headed for the Mae Kampong area, arriving around 10am. It was slightly cool, but the sun was threatening to break through and eventually we were to have a very warm and sunny day.

Our first stop was at a waterfall, where we spent a little time around the waterfall and then down a little trail. This waterfall did at least have falling water! We had a few new butterflies here as it was reasonably active. The Punchinello was a lovely little butterfly to add to our sightings, others included Black Prince, Grey Count and a Clipper. Having photographed and admired the butterflies we then moved on to our next stop.

We headed further along the narrow road until we reached our first stream running across the road. We parked up here and explored the area around the stream. We immediately had two Golden Birdwing drinking up minerals, which gave great photographic opportunities. There were some other cracking butterflies around. The Red Lacewing is a very attractive butterfly, sadly the specimen here was a little worn. We also added a few new species such as Lemon Pansy, but the Birdwings stole the show.

After we had finished at the stream we drove a short distance along the undulating road to another stream across the road. This stream had another species of *Dodona (dracon)*, which we managed to get good views of. Banded Yeoman and a few other species were added to our list too.

Yet another stream stop and this one yielded one of our target species, the fabulous Paris Peacock! In flight it flashed iridescent blue patches on its hind wings, but upon landing the wings became a vibrant green sheen. It really is a beautiful butterfly and after some chasing around it did finally settle allowing people to get great views and some photographs. Another smart butterfly was the Great Nawab, which settled in a wet area, again giving excellent views. Others included a Gaudy Baron, which even Antonio got a little excited about!



Paris Peacock © Terry Goble

Yet another stream! Here we had great views of Green Dragon-tails. Every stream seems to have a different butterfly to steal the show. We had another Paris Peacock and more birdwings. We also had a few new butterflies that need closer inspection to ascertain the species.

We had now decided to make our way back and thought we would stop again under a higher sun to see if anything else emerged around the streams. They were surprisingly quiet, but we did add a new Sergeant species and an Elbow Pierrot to our sightings.

At our next site the best sighting was of a colourful and very large cicada. The butterflies were repeats and much quieter. There had been an increase in traffic which would have disturbed the streams.



Blue Tit © Allan F

The next was again a quiet stop, livened by an open winged Blue Tit, which delighted those that saw it. After a few photographs and with not much else showing we decided to move on to our next site.

We stopped at a different location to walk to the viewpoint and then follow a circular loop back to the cars. The view was quite dramatic as we looked out over pristine forest stretching into the hills and horizon. It was heartening to see a large amount of wilderness still intact after seeing a lot of habitat change and destruction. Sightings were infrequent and an elusive forester remained unidentified. We

did however see a large stick insect that brilliantly demonstrated its camouflage as it melted away

before our eyes onto a piece of wood. It was now time to head back to the hotel after another excellent day with memorable butterflies.

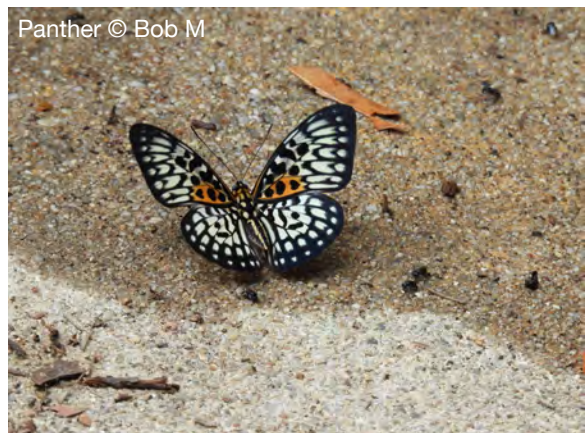
It took around an hour and a half to get back to the hotel. We quickly dispersed to our rooms to get ready for a six o' clock meeting to look at butterfly identification and try to compile a trip list. This went far better than the first night and we managed to put together a trip list and resolve many of the butterfly identification queries. Jobs done, we set off for dinner and back to the restaurant we enjoyed the previous evening. It was another relaxed and fun evening with more great Thai food. Some guests brought a few beers to ease the evening along.

After dinner we made plans to leave early (7am) for the following day and load our bags as we were off to our next hotel

### Day 3

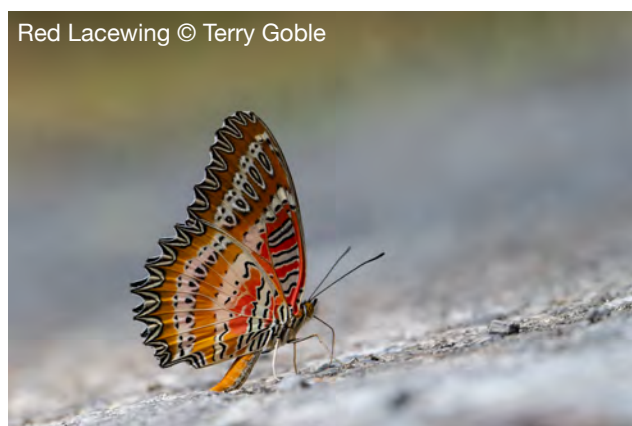
Today was a moving day and the plan was to load the cars at 7am and order breakfast with the hope of leaving by 7:30am. As valiantly as they tried the service remained very slow and the last breakfast arrived around 7:45! We finally set off just after 8am and made good progress out of Chiang Mai. After a couple of stops for lunches and petrol we arrived at our resort just over an hour later. We unloaded the bags and then quickly got underway again to our first stop.

We arrived not long after our target time of 10am when the butterflies should emerge and people and traffic volume would still be low. At this site there were three main areas for the butterflies, one was along the track just beyond the carpark, one at the waterfall itself and the last at the end of a trail leading to higher up the waterfall. It was warm, but still a little overcast and the sun was threatening to break through. Under these conditions the butterflies were slow to emerge, but once they began to arrive we had a steady flow of some fantastic species. The Duchess probably stole the show with their emerald green brilliance. However, there were plenty of others worthy of our time. The Mountain Nawab and Panther were particularly enjoyed and the Four-bar Swordtail, Spotted Sawtooth and many others completed a great morning despite the slow start. Once we had felt like we had exhausted the site we felt it was time to move to the next one, eating our lunches on the way.



Panther © Bob M

A short drive and we were soon at another waterfall. This was finally a waterfall with actual falling water! To be fair it was quite a beautiful area of verdant forest and cascading water, which set the scene for a very enjoyable afternoon. The butterflies warmed by the more consistent sunshine



Red Lacewing © Terry Goble

came steadily with Orange Lacewings, Eastern Courtier, and Tawny Rajah taking centre stage. However as the afternoon wore on and we began to flag in the heat a Blue Admiral emerged to lift everyone. Some who saw it for the first time were lucky enough to get great views and some photographs, others had to settle for a tantalising glimpse as it sped past a few times. However, we were going to return the next day to try again for this special butterfly. Other butterflies were also enjoyed as there was a host of blues, whites and other more common butterflies.

Replete after a full day in the Doi Inthanon National Park we headed back to our hotel. On route we stopped at a roadside market, buying fresh fruit and cold drinks. We then continued to our hotel, where we sorted out rooms and got settled in ready for dinner.

A few met around 6:30pm to continue the saga of the list compiling. The rest of the group arrived for dinner at 7pm, Well dinner time came and went with no sign of any staff activity. It dawned on us that there had been some misunderstanding and they were expecting us at 7am in the morning for breakfast! We then hurriedly scrambled into the cars and drove downtown. Eventually we found a place able to accommodate us and everyone had chicken and chips! (Except of course the vegetarians and non chicken eaters!). It turned into quite a nice night out, but people began to look a little weary so it was time to head back.

We arrived back at the hotel around 9:30 pm and everyone retired to their rooms after a long hot and tiring day, but one full of amazing butterflies and hugely enjoyable.

## Day 4

This morning after breakfast at 7:30am we went back into town to pick up provisions for our lunches. We then set off to return to the waterfall. We arrived just after 10am and the butterfly activity was already much higher than previous days. The sky was a clear cobalt blue and the sun was shining, warming the cool morning. There were many species to admire and some repeats of yesterday, but also many new ones sighted.

The butterfly of the day seemed to be the Blue Admiral, seen by some yesterday, but today it showed off its powder blue colours intermittently as it disappeared and reappeared at regular intervals throughout the day. This was however not a one man band and many other butterflies were enjoyed. The different Nawabs, Great Windmill, Paris Peacock and some new additions such as Peacock Pansy, Yellow Jezebel, Red-spot Jezebel all added to the profusion of butterflies that made this an excellent day. We pretty much spent the whole day here. Around 3pm the level of finding new butterflies diminished and we were all hot and a little tired. We decided to head off in the a/c cars to the local markets and get a bite to eat and some cool drinks. This seemed to perk everyone up and on the return journey we stopped briefly at the other waterfall again. It was mostly in shade and butterfly activity was minimal although a few blues and whites took some attention and a Duchess was seen flying off.

Great Windmill © Terry Goble



It was now time to head back and get ready for dinner and that fun butterfly listing! The listing took a while, but after it was complete we headed off to Chomthong to the restaurant recommended to us. It was a lovely setting, with very helpful and friendly staff. It was one of the guest's birthday, so we toasted her special day and sang in the traditional way.

The evening was fun and we ate our dinner in a mostly relaxed and chatty atmosphere. 'Soupgate' (an ordering mishap!) threatened to sour the evening, but thankfully everything worked out and everyone seemed happy with the outcome. We headed home a little tired but had enjoyed a great day in the sunshine with Thailand's amazing butterflies.

## Day 5

Today we were up and vans loaded for breakfast at 7am and managed to eat breakfast and get on the road around 7:30 am, which was pretty good going. The road back towards Chiang Mai was

reasonable and we made good time. We stopped once for provisions at the familiar 7-11 store. After this we carried straight onto the famous car park at Chiang Dao, passing our resort on route.

Puddling Blues © Terry Goble



We arrived and parked up not long after 10am, the morning had already warmed up and with patchy sunshine around the butterflies were very active. The car park contained a series of 'arenas', which were bare earth circles. They were full of blues, with clouds spiralling up when they were flushed. Amongst the myriad of blues were a host of other butterflies. We spent the day hopping from one arena to the next to see what was turning up. This was interspersed with an occasional stroll along a woody path that led up a mostly dry river bed. Where

the river retained a little water, butterflies congregated and also whizzed up and down the shady path.

Sightings came quickly at first as new species were seen and identified, the Zebra and Lesser Zebra were early newbies. The Silver-lines were also warmly received as these little gems are quite stunning in the right light. The same could be said of the Indian Purple Emperor, that blue/indigo blaze when the sun hit the wings at the right angle is worth the wait. We accumulated new species throughout the morning and afternoon. We also enjoyed some regular favourites too such as the Paris Peacock and occasional Common Birdwing.

Indian Purple Emperor & Tawny Rajah © Terry Goble



It was another hot and sultry day and both the humans and butterflies started to look for shade. We still found some cracking butterflies even as the afternoon wore on, the Yellow Tinsel and Green-streak Awlet were late additions, but much appreciated. Eventually it was time to leave and once loaded we drove a short distance to the resort and checked into our delightful bungalows set in very pretty grounds. The surroundings are spectacular; the bungalow rooms were at the foot of steep limestone forested cliffs, towering over the resort.

After checking in and freshening up from the hot afternoon a few met at 6pm to continue the tortuous attempts to produce a list of sightings. We were joined by the rest of the group around 7pm. We ordered, chatted and continued to slowly unravel some of the ID conundrums. The meals arrived swiftly and was delicious, everybody seemed very happy with the quality of the food. We ate and chatted some more and then either went back to our rooms or some elected to look at what the moth trap had brought in. When we arrived there were mostly bees on the sheet. There was however a couple of mantids and one was quite an impressive looking beast camouflaged as a twig, like a murderous stick insect. A large katydid was also quite interesting and dwarfed its little green cousin. A lovely emerald type moth flew in to add a bit of interest to the moth fauna but not much else so the few remaining of the group retired to their respective rooms.

## Day 6

We had a later breakfast this morning as the restaurant doesn't open until 8am. This gave a few a chance to look at the moth haul from last night and look at some of the bird life around the resort.

A pair of Hoopoes were a nice find among some of the commoner birds. The moth trap did not produce much in the way of new moths, but an emerald type and sphinx moth were interesting.

After a lovely relaxed breakfast we set off back to the car park and the butterfly arenas. It was a slightly warmer and sunnier day than yesterday and despite arriving a little earlier (just after 9am) the butterflies were very active. Watching a Batwing and comparing it to an Adamson's Rose was a nice start and in the middle was a day-flying moth that imitated this family of butterflies!

The group spread out visiting streams, forested walks and the bare earth 'arenas' in random rotation and slowly accumulated a few new species as well as getting great views of some favourites. Around 12pm a hot and thirsty group were happy to jump in the cool cars and drive a short distance to enjoy lunch. Whilst sitting and chatting we had a Oriental Honey Buzzard fly over and a few birds flitting around.

After lunch we returned to the car park and searched for more butterflies for a couple of hours adding one or two more species, before we decided to return to our rooms to cool off for a couple of hours and then try for some crepuscular species.

We returned to the car park just after 5pm and searched around the area for awls. A group followed the forest stream trail and after about 15 minutes saw a couple of Green Striped Awlet. Meanwhile back at the 'arenas' an Orange-tailed Awl had been located and the adjacent stream held a third species, the Red-brick Awlet. Not a bad haul of awls! Very happy with our late afternoons work we headed back to the resort in time to order before the restaurant closed at 7pm.

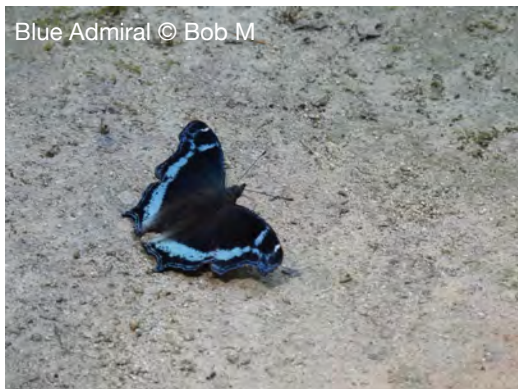
We headed straight to dinner and enjoyed the delicious food served at the resort and chatted and bantered happily. Antonio had set up a moth trap. At the end of the meal we finished our desserts and headed over to the trap. It was early in the evening but a few good moths were seen and a brown tree frog was seen lurking near-by hoping to catch a juicy moth no doubt.

## Day 7

Today we were moving on to our final hotel before returning to Chiang Mai. We had decided to leave before breakfast as we did not want to arrive on the site too late in the morning. We stopped after about 50 mins to stock up with food for breakfast and lunch, before stopping again to fill up the fuel tanks.

We set off heading for our first butterfly site at Doi Pha Hom Pok National Park. It took about another hour to get to our first stop and we arrived a little before 10am. With the higher elevation the air was a little cooler, but it was a bright sunny morning. Antonio now routinely baited areas around the sites with his foul smelling shrimp paste. Our job was to see what came in to investigate. It was noticeable that the biggest concentration of butterflies all seemed to be around the wet areas and few butterflies were seen away from the streams.

The site was a stream running adjacent to but below the road. There were a few paths to allow access to an 'island', which the butterflies appeared to favour. The butterflies were a little slow arriving, but there were a few handsome Chestnut Tigers and a variety of Delias flitting about threatening to land. A couple of foresters were also around with a smattering of blues and browns.



The second stop was by a stream to the side of the road and again butterfly activity seemed slow as the morning wore on. There were some favourites such as the Blue Admiral, Cruiser and Chestnut Tiger, but not much else.

We stopped at a different roadside stream, but our luck didn't improve, although we did see some old favourites such as sapphires and imperials and we did pick up a Dark Forester and a Yellow Jezebel.



Back to our first stop, we finally picked up some excellent butterflies both scarce and very attractive species. We saw a White Commodore supplemented by a flight view of the Blue Peacock, another beautiful butterfly. The Delias were still lying as were the Chestnut Tigers.

Our luck continued at our return to the second stop where we had among the usual species a very handsome and fresh looking Panther and a Mottled Argus.

The last stop produced nothing new, but Antonio's group had added Yellow Labyrinth to the sightings, which was on a baited site near the road. Antonio expressed surprise at this sighting as it's a butterfly normally seen at greater altitudes.

On the way out we checked the baited trail but there was not a great deal, in fact our best sightings were birds on the trip out of the park, spotting Mountain Bamboo Partridge and Chestnut-headed Bee-eater. We arrived back at the hotel a little after 5pm and had about an hour and a half downtime. We all met again around 6:15pm to update the list of sightings and then set off to our restaurant.

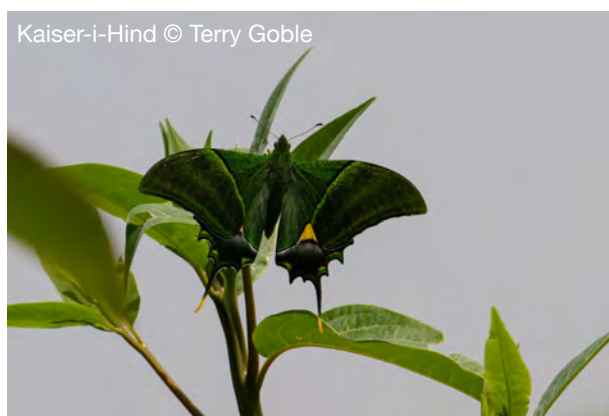
We parked up in a small side road and walked a few metres to the restaurant. It had a lovely ambiance and the staff were friendly and helpful. For some the availability of dim sum and ice cream was enough to make them happy! We enjoyed our meal in good spirits, despite a more mixed day in the field.

On our way back to the hotel we stopped to get provisions for tomorrow's breakfast and lunch. It was going to be an early start in the morning so we said our 'goodnights' and set off to bed.

## Day 8

The day of the great hike!! We were up before first light at 5am and were loaded and ready to leave just after 5:50am. We made good progress in the early hours, arriving at the campsite just after 7am. All prepared with water and provisions, we set off on the 3.5km walk. In parts it was steep and the leaves and pine needles made it slippery underfoot, despite the dry conditions. We made steady progress and reached the top around 9:15am.

The first party to reach the summit had an early glimpse of our quarry, the Kaiser-i-Hind as it topped the mountain. After this initial sighting we were all alert and spotted a few large butterflies, which were mainly Delias species or the Blue Peacock, itself a stunning butterfly. An hour slipped by and no other sightings were forthcoming and there was a little tension creeping into the group. Suddenly Antonio shouted to the group as he had seen one. However when it disappeared without anyone getting a good view we were back to square one. The group meandered around the summit looking out for the Kaiser, whilst a couple stayed in the spot it was last seen. A large silhouetted butterfly fluttered around the tops of some trees and then landed. We could only see a little of the wing, but we were convinced it was the one we wanted. We called the rest of the group to look at poor views of the butterfly when it took off and we had a merry chase around the summit until it eventually flew to a low bush right next to us!! We had incredible views of this stunning butterfly and it certainly was the Kaiser. We spent a while taking pictures and admiring this glittering green gem.



Kaiser-i-Hind © Terry Goble

There were of course other rather neglected butterflies around and a small dark blue restricted to a couple of ridges in Thailand was seen along with the Brown Gorgon, which was a top target for one of the guests. It was a hot and shadeless ridge we were on and after enjoying the butterflies it was time to take a slow walk down back to the cars. There were a few distractions on the way

back down a Dark Evening Brown, a few more blues and the odd helen type butterfly. We made it back to the cars by around 1:30pm and decided to head back to Fang, checking a few streams and waterfalls on route.

The first stop produced no new butterflies, but a sighting of the Blue Admiral is always welcome. The second site was now in shadow and had very little activity so we carried on to Fang. On the outskirts we stopped for a celebratory beer and ice cream, before heading back to our hotel.

Cooled down and refreshed, some met up for the listing prior to dinner. It was a joy to add two more papillion! That aside there were not many new additions to the list, but some blues and skippers have yet to be properly identified so the list will grow. After we concluded we went back to the same restaurant, which was very quiet. The food was equally as good and the service slow but friendly. We enjoyed our meal, toasted our success with the Kaiser and ten happy, weary people retired to the rooms grateful to get some rest.

## **Day 9**

Our destination today changed as we would have been heading near the Myanmar border, which was deemed unsafe at this time. Instead we headed off to Tathon. Our first stop was at Wat Tha Ton, unfortunately a lot of the vegetation here had been cut back and there were few butterflies around and none of our target species. We did see a Common Mormon, which was new for the trip, but little else was flying.

We drove onto our next alternative sites but were unable to reach either due to the condition of the road. It was then decided to cut our losses and return to the familiar road side streams we had visited over the last few days. We shuttled between the two as the first stream was very slow and had nothing new, although the White Commodore was still around.

The second stream was a little more productive. The first few people to arrive added Indian Red Admiral to the list. There were also a few familiar favourites, Punchinello, Autumn Leaf, Blue Admiral and a Malay Sergeant. A last stop back at the first stream finally produced a few new butterflies. The Constable was a slightly tatty but beautiful addition to the sightings and a Popinjay was a delightful butterfly that most had missed previously. It was now time to return back to the hotel and get ready for our penultimate dinner as a group.

A few met up to undertake the listing around 6:15pm and we finally broke the 200 barrier, with quite a few still to be identified if possible. We then went to a new restaurant for dinner and to toast another birthday! After the now usual chaotic ordering system we miraculously all just about got what we ordered. It was the usual relaxed and chatty meal. Afterwards we drove back to the hotel to get some sleep for an early start in the morning.

## **Day 10**

Today we made our way back to Chiang Mai via Sri Lanna National Park. We set off around 6:50am and made good progress after the customary stop for breakfast and lunch at 7-11. We then continued to the park, turning left off the main road and continuing along a bumpy track. As the morning warmed we noticed increasing amounts of butterflies along the track as we drove along.

We arrived at our destination around 9am and it was already beginning to warm up and there were a plethora of butterflies of all different shapes, sizes and colours. It was a real treat and a lovely location for our last outing. Oak Blues seemed a popular quarry but there was a host of others, nawabs, sergeants, blues, tinsels and more. It was a busy and exciting couple of hours. Around midday the heat of the day seemed to get to the butterflies and to the humans. Gradually people migrated to the cars and sat in with the air con! The butterflies also seem to head for the shade as there seemed to be much fewer around.



We decided to cut our losses and there was a growing call for ice cream! We drove to a town and headed for an ice cream parlour and enjoyed a delicious cool down. After it was a short hop to the hotel and we checked in and sorted our rooms. A few went for a local walk and saw Koel, Olive-backed Sunbird, Black-collared Starling and Streaked-eared Bulbul among the birds. Butterflies were few with Emigrant, Common Cerulean and an Indian Cabbage White. We also managed a mammal in a Variable Squirrel!

That called an end to the wildlife spotting as we headed into the cool of the hotel lobby and got ready for either departing (Two of the group were departing to Bangkok this evening) or our last dinner together. Our last dinner as a group was a light hearted, relaxed evening. The guests thanked the guides for their work in making the trip successful. We had seen a great variety of butterflies and all our target species. I'm sure the views of the Kaiser-i-Hind will live long in our memories. After dinner we bade goodnight and made arrangements for airport runs in the morning.

## Day 11

The remaining group met at 6:50am and caught a taxi to the airport. We said our farewells and now only two remained. We went for breakfast and then one more left for the airport and the last group member went off to swim with elephants and enjoy his last few days in Chiang Mai. The tour then came to an end.

## Systematic Species Lists

### Birds

Mountain Bamboo Partridge	<i>Bambusicola fytchii</i>
Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Chestnut-headed Bee Eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
Indochinese Roller	<i>Coracias affinis</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>
House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columbia livia</i>
Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcohaps indica</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>

Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
Open-billed Stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Golden-fronted leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>
Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>
White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
White Capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa daurica</i>
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
Great (Japanese) Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>
Yellow-cheeked Tit	<i>Machlolophus spilonotus</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>
Streak-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus conradi</i>
Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Brachypodius melanocephalus</i>
Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>
Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>
Flavescent Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flavescens</i>
Crested Finchbill	<i>Spizixos canifrons</i>
Striated Yuhina	<i>Staphida castaniceps</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Olive Backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>

## **Mammals**

Variable Squirrel  
Himalayan Striped Squirrel  
Grey-bellied squirrel

*Callosciurus finlayson's*  
*Tamiops mcclllandii*  
*Callosciurus caniceps*

## **Reptile/Amphibians**

Common Sun Skink  
Indian Forest Skink  
Flying Lizard  
Chinese Mountain Lizard  
Tokay Gecko  
House Gecko  
Oriental Garden Lizard  
Brown Tree Frog

*Eutropis multifasciata*  
*Sphenomorphus indicus*  
*Draco maculatus*  
*Diploderma mengchaiense*  
*Gekko gekko*  
*Hemidactylus frenatus*  
*Calotes versicolor*  
*Polypedates megacephalus*

## **Butterflies**

### **Papilionidae**

Kaiser-i-Hind  
Golden Birdwing  
Common Birdwing  
Burmese Batwing  
Great Windmill  
Common Windmill  
Adamson's Rose  
Red Helen  
Black and White Helen  
Great Mormon  
Common Mormon  
Red-breasted Mormon  
Lime Swallowtail  
Blue Peacock  
Paris Peacock  
Blue Striped Mime  
Five-bar Swordtail  
Four-bar Swallowtail  
Chain Swordtail  
Spot Swordtail  
Great Zebra  
Lesser Zebra  
Common Bluebottle  
Common Jay  
The Veined Jay  
Green Dragontail  
White Dragontail  
Brown Gorgon  
Psyche

*Teinopalpus imperialis*  
*Troides aeacus aeacus*  
*Troides helena cerberus*  
*Atrophaneura varuna zaleucus*  
*Byasa dasarada*  
*Byasa polyeuctes*  
*Byasa adamsoni*  
*Papilio helenus*  
*Papilio nephelus*  
*Papilio memnon*  
*Papilo polytes*  
*Papilla alcmenor pubilius*  
*Papilio demoleus*  
*Papilio arcturus*  
*Papilio paris*  
*Papilio chilasa slateri*  
*Graphium antiphates*  
*Graphium agetes*  
*Graphium airsturs*  
*Graphium nomius*  
*Graphium xenocles*  
*Graphium macareus*  
*Graphium sarpedon*  
*Graphium doson*  
*Graphium chironides*  
*Lamproptera meges*  
*Lamproptera curius*  
*Meandrusa sciron*  
*Leptosia nina*

## **Pieridae**

Yellow Jezebel  
Painted Jezebel  
Red-spot Jezebel  
Hill Jezebel  
Dark Jezebel  
Pale Jezebel  
Burmese Jezebel  
Spotted Sawtooth  
Indian Cabbage White  
Common Wanderer  
Striped Albatross  
Chocolate Albatross  
Common Albatross  
Puffin  
Banded Puffin  
Great Orange-tip  
Lemon (Common) Emigrant  
Mottled Emigrant  
Lesser Gull  
Orange Gull  
Yellow Orange-tip  
Common Grass Yellow  
Chocolate Grass Yellow  
Tree Yellow  
Small Grass Yellow

*Delias agostina*  
*Delias hyparete*  
*Delias descombesi*  
*Delias bella donna*  
*Delias berinda*  
*Delias sanaca perspicua*  
*Delias agoranis*  
*Prioneris thestylis*  
*Pieris canidia*  
*Pareronia anais*  
*Appias libythea*  
*Appias lycida*  
*Appias albina*  
*Appias indra*  
*Appias pandione lagela*  
*Hebomoia glaucippe*  
*Catopsilia pomona*  
*Catopsilia pyranthe*  
*Cepora nadina*  
*Cepora judith*  
*Ixias pyrene*  
*Eurema hecabe*  
*Eurema sari*  
*Gandaca harina*  
*Eurema brigitta*

## **Nymphalidae**

Chocolate Tiger  
Chestnut Tiger  
Plain Tiger  
Dark Blue Tiger  
Glassy Tiger  
Striped Blue Crow  
Spotted Black Crow  
Black-spotted Labyrinth  
Yellow Labyrinth  
Dark-banded Bushbrown  
Great Evening Brown  
Common Palmfly  
Banded Tree Brown  
Common Red Forester  
Dark Forester  
Pale Forester  
Black Forester  
Dull Forester  
Lesser Bushbrown  
Bengal Bushbrown

*Parantica melaneus*  
*Parantica sita*  
*Danaus chrysippus*  
*Tirumala septentrionis*  
*Parantica aglea*  
*Euploea mulciber*  
*Euploea crameri*  
*Neope muirheadii*  
*Neope armandii*  
*Mycalesis mineus*  
*Melanitis zitenius*  
*Elymnias hypermnestra*  
*Lethe confusa*  
*Lethe mekara*  
*Lethe brisanda de Nicéville*  
*Lethe latiaris perimele*  
*Lethe vindhya vindhya*  
*Lethe gulnihal*  
*Mycalesis janardana*  
*Mycalesis gotama charaka*

White-banded Bushbrown	<i>Bicyclus saussurei</i>
Burmese Three-ring	<i>Ypthima norma</i>
Common Four-ring	<i>Ypthima huebneri</i>
Common Five-ring	<i>Ypthima baldus baldus</i>
Mottled Argus	<i>Callerebia narasingha</i>
Common Fawn	<i>Faunis canens</i>
Tufted Jungle King	<i>Thauria aliris</i>
Common Nawab	<i>Polyura athamas</i>
Great Nawab	<i>Polyura eudamippus</i>
Blue Nawab	<i>Polyura schreiber</i>
Jewelled Nawab	<i>Polyura delphis</i>
Indian Yellow Nawab	<i>Polyura jalysus</i>
Palid Nawab	<i>Polyura arja</i>
Shan Nawab	<i>Polyura nepenthes</i>
Stately (Mountain) Nawab	<i>Polyura dolon</i>
Common Tawny Rajah	<i>Charaxes bernardus</i>
Variiegated Rajah	<i>Charaxes kahruba kahruba</i>
Red Lacewing	<i>Cethosia biblis</i>
Orange Lacewing	<i>Cethosia penthesilea</i>
Leopard Lacewing	<i>Cethosia cyane euanthes</i>
Banded Yeoman	<i>Cirrochroa orissa</i>
Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>
Small Leopard	<i>Phalanta alcippe</i>
Vagrant	<i>Vagrans sinha</i>
Rustic	<i>Cupha erymanthis</i>
Cruiser	<i>Vindula erota</i>
White Dryad	<i>Aemona lena salweena</i>
Common Lascar	<i>Pantoporia hordonia</i>
Common Jester	<i>Symbrenthia lilaea</i>
Clipper	<i>Parthenos sylvia</i>
Green Commodore	<i>Sumalia daraxa</i>
White Commodore	<i>Parasarpa dudu</i>
Common Sergeant	<i>Athyma perius</i>
Colour Sergeant	<i>Athyma nefte</i>
Black-veined Sergeant	<i>Athyma ranga</i>
Himalayan Sergeant	<i>Athyma opalina</i>
Small Staff Sergeant	<i>Athyma zeroa galaesus</i>
Orange Staff Sergeant	<i>Athyma cama</i>
Studded Sergeant	<i>Limenitis asura asura</i>
Malay Sergeant	<i>Athyma reta reta</i>
Ananta Yellow Sailor	<i>Neptis ananta</i>
Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>
Clear Sailer	<i>Neptis clinia susruta</i>
Broad-banded Sailor	<i>Neptis sankara guiltoides</i>
Yellowjack Sailor	<i>Lasippa viraja viraja</i>
Short-banded Grey Sailor	<i>Phaedima columella martabana</i>
Knight	<i>Lebadea martha</i>
Commander	<i>Moduza procris</i>
Circe	<i>Hestinalis nama</i>

Siren	<i>Hestinalis persimilis</i>
Lavender Count	<i>Tanaecia cocytus</i>
Grey Count	<i>Tanaecia lepidea</i>
Gaudy Baron	<i>Euthalia lubentina</i>
Horsfield's Baron	<i>Cynitia cocytina puseda</i>
Streaked Baron	<i>Euthalia alphaeda</i>
Red-Spot Duke	<i>Euthalia diata</i>
Red-spot Baron	<i>Euthalia evalina</i>
Green Baron	<i>Euthalia adonia beata</i>
Powdered Baron	<i>Euthalia monina</i>
Malay Baron	<i>Euthalia monina kesava</i>
Grey Baron	<i>Euthalia anosia</i>
Grand Duchess	<i>Euthalia patala taooana</i>
Banded Marquis	<i>Euthalia teuta goodrichi</i>
White-edged Blue Baron	<i>Euthalia phemius</i>
Common Archduke	<i>Lexias pardalis</i>
Black-tip Archduke	<i>Lexias dirtea agosthena</i>
Constable	<i>Dichorragia nesimachus</i>
Popinjay	<i>Stibochiona nicea nicea</i>
Panther	<i>Neurosigma siva</i>
Common Mapwing	<i>Cyrestis thyodamas</i>
Common Maplet	<i>Chersonesia risa</i>
Wavy Maplet	<i>Chersonesia intermedia</i>
Common Castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i>
Tabby	<i>Pseudergolis wedah wedah</i>
Indian Purple Emperor	<i>Mimathyma ambica</i>
Circe	<i>Hestina nama nama</i>
Courtesan	<i>Euripus nyctelius nyctelius</i>
Eastern Courtier	<i>Sephisa chandra</i>
Blue Admiral	<i>Kaniska canace</i>
Indian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>
Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta hierta</i>
Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i>
Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i>
Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>
Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>
Broad-banded Oakleaf	<i>Kallima incognita</i>
Autumn Leaf	<i>Doleschallia bisaltide</i>
Club Beak	<i>Libythea myrrha</i>

### **Riodinidae**

Black Prince	<i>Rohana parisatis</i>
Common Punchinello	<i>Zemeros flegyas allica</i>
Orange Punch	<i>Dodona egeon</i>
White Punch	<i>Dodona deodata</i>
Mixed Punch	<i>Dodona ouida</i>
Lesser Punch	<i>Dodona dipoea</i>
Banded Judy	<i>Abisara bifasciata</i>
Dark Judy	<i>Abisara fylla</i>



Tailed Judy  
Purple leaf Blue  
Mountain Columbine

*Archigenes neophron*  
*Amblyopia sp*  
*Stiboges nymphidia elodinia*

## **Lycaenidae**

Malayan Sunbeam  
Common Pierrot  
Elbowed Pierrot  
White-banded Pierrot  
Angled Pierrot  
Straight Pierrot  
Dark Cupid  
Hedge Cupid  
Pale Hedge Blue  
Common Hedge Blue  
Siam Babel Blue  
Pale Grass Blue  
Tiny Grass Blue  
Jewel Blue  
Forget-me-not  
Common Cerulean  
Royal Cerulean  
Dark Cerulean  
Ciliate Blue  
Inornate Blue/Quaker  
Malayan  
Large Spot Blue  
Transparent Six-line Blue  
Pale Four-line Blue  
Black-spotted Cupid  
Zebra Blue  
Pea Blue (Long-tailed Blue)  
Common Line Blue  
Tailless Line Blue  
Singleton  
Large-pointed Pierrot  
White-banded Pierrot  
Restricted Purple Sapphire  
Golden Sapphire  
Large Long-banded Silverline  
Long-banded Silverline  
Club Silverline  
Yellow Tinsel  
Grey Tinsel  
Branded Imperial  
Common Imperial  
Blue Imperial  
Bi-spot Royal  
Chestnut and Black Royal

*Curetis santana*  
*Castalius rosimon*  
*Caleta elna noliteia*  
*Niphanda asialis*  
*Caleta decidia*  
*Caleta roxus*  
*Tongeia potanini*  
*Bothrinia chennellii celastroides*  
*Udara dilecta*  
*Acytolepis puspa*  
*Azanus urios*  
*Pseudozizeeria maha maha*  
*Zizula hylax*  
*Chilades putli*  
*Catochrysops strabo*  
*Jamides celeno*  
*Jamides caeruleus*  
*Jamides bochus*  
*Anthene amolus*  
*Neopithecops zalmora*  
*Megisba malaya sikkima*  
*Caerulea coeligena*  
*Nacaduba kurava*  
*Nacaduba hermus*  
*Tongeia ion*  
*Leptotes plinius*  
*Lampides boeticus*  
*Prosotas nora*  
*Prosotas dubiosa*  
*Una usta*  
*Niphanda tessellata*  
*Niphanda asialis*  
*Heliophorus ila*  
*Heliophorus brahma*  
*Spindasis seliga*  
*Cigaritis lohita*  
*Spindasis syama*  
*Catapaecilmas subochrea*  
*Catapaecilmas major albicans*  
*Eooxylides tharis*  
*Cheritra freja evansi*  
*Ticherra acte*  
*Ancema ctesia*  
*Tajuria yajna*

Common Tit  
Blue Tit  
Orchid Tit  
Fluffy Tit  
Centaur Oakblue  
Indian Oakblue  
Common Guava Blue  
Common Yamfly  
Horsfield's Banded Yamfly

*Hypolycaena erylus*  
*Hypolycaena kina*  
*Hypolycaena othona*  
*Zeltus amasa*  
*Arhopala centaurus*  
*Arhopala atrax*  
*Virachola isocrates*  
*Loxura atymnus*  
*Yasoda pita*

### **Hesperiidae**

White-tipped Palmer  
Green-streak Awlet  
White-banded Awl  
Malayan White-banded Awl  
Orange-tail Awlet  
Fulvous Pied Flat  
Brown Pied Flat  
Common Small Flat  
Large Snow Flat  
Common Snow Flat  
Suffused Snow Flat  
Dark Yellow-banded Flat  
Marbled Flat  
Yellow Flat  
Chestnut Bob  
Swinhoe's Forest Bob  
Bright Red Velvet Bob  
Lesser Dart  
Sikkim Dart  
Common Banded Demon  
Large Branded Swift  
Bamboo Paintbrush Swift  
Pale-marked Ace  
Bi-spot Banded Ace  
Tufted Ace  
Dubious Flitter  
Purple and Gold Flitter  
Watson's Wight  
Nonsuch Palmer  
Chestnut Angle

*Iotungus calathus*  
*Burara amara*  
*Hasora taminatus bhavara*  
*Hasora malayana malayana*  
*Bibasis sena*  
*Pseudocoladenia dan*  
*Coladenia agni agni*  
*Sarangesa dasahara*  
*Tagiades gana*  
*Tagiades japetus*  
*Tagiades gana meetana*  
*Aurivittia aurivittata*  
*Lobocla liliana*  
*Mooreana trichoneura*  
*Iambrix salsala*  
*Scobura phiditia*  
*Koruthaialos sindu*  
*Potanthus omaha*  
*Potanthus nesta nesta*  
*Notocrypta paralysos*  
*Pelopidas subochracea barneyi*  
*Baoris farri farri*  
*Halpe hauxwelli*  
*Halpe porus*  
*Ebastonyma puden*  
*Quedra albifascia*  
*Zographetus satwa*  
*Iton watsonii*  
*Creteus cyrina*  
*Odontoptilum angulata*

Total 256 species

### **Other Taxa**

Long-horned Beetle  
Long-horned Beetle  
Orchid Mantis  
Stick Mantis

*Dorysthenes granulosus*  
*Thysia wallichii*  
*Hymenopus coronatus*  
*Mantis sp.*

Large Stick Insect  
 Planthopper  
 Large Cicada  
 Large Katydid  
 Green Katydid  
 Sphinx moth  
 Glassy Tiger mimic moth  
 Jade Hawkmoth  
 False Tiger Moth  
 Helen Mimic moth  
 Marbled White Moth  
 Eastern Carpenter-bee Hawkmoth  
 Peacock Jewel  
 Ditch Jewel  
 Anderson's Greenwing  
 Green Metalwing  
 Common Parasol  
 Crimson-tailed Marsh Hawk  
 Blue-tailed Forest Hawk  
 Tawny Hooktail  
 Common Picture-wing Dragonfly  
 Crimson Marsh Glider

*Lawana imitata*  
*Distantalna splendida*  
  
*Ambulyx pryeri*  
*Cyclosia papilionaris*  
*Daphnis hypothous*  
*Dyshania militaris*  
*Histia flabellicornis*  
*Nyctemera adversata*  
*Sataspes xylocoparis*  
*Aristocypha fenestrella*  
*Brachythemis contaminata*  
*Mnais andersoni*  
*Neurobasis chinensis*  
*Neurothemis fluctuans*  
*Orthetrum pruinosum*  
*Orthetrum triangulare*  
*Paragomphus capricornis*  
*Rhyothemis variegata*  
*Trithemis aurora*

## Photo Gallery





Grand Duchess © Bob M



Gaudy Baron © Bob M



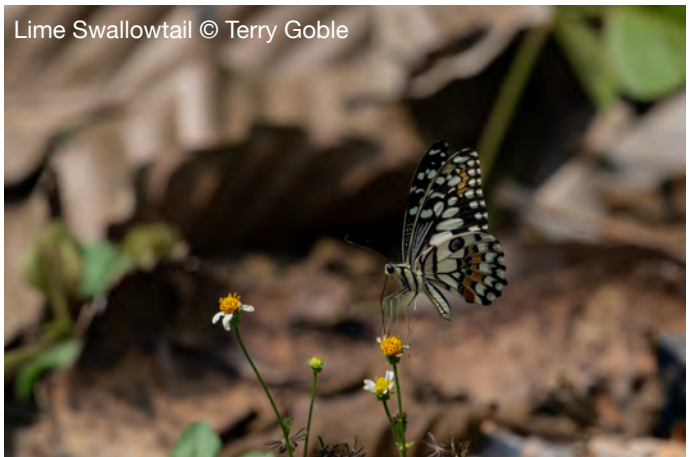
Red Helen © Allan F



Crimson Marsh Glider © Allan F



Pale Jezebel © Allan F



Lime Swallowtail © Terry Goble



Oriental Garden Lizard © Allan F



Grand Duchess © Bob M



Taiga Flycatcher © Allan F



Restricted Purple Sapphire © Terry Goble



Short-banded Grey Sailer © Allan F



Leopard Lacewing © Allan F



Malay Baron © Bob M



Knight © Terry Goble

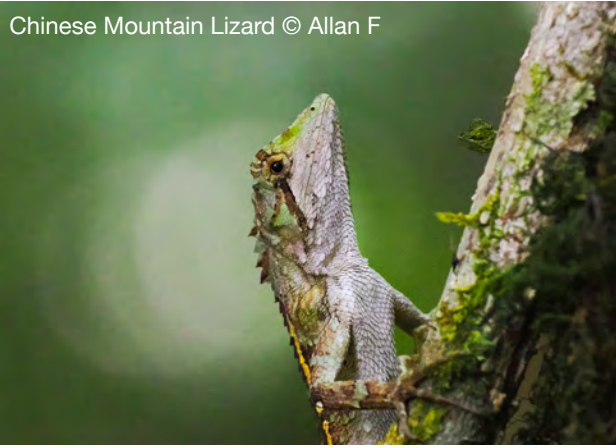


Kaiser-i-Hind © Terry Goble

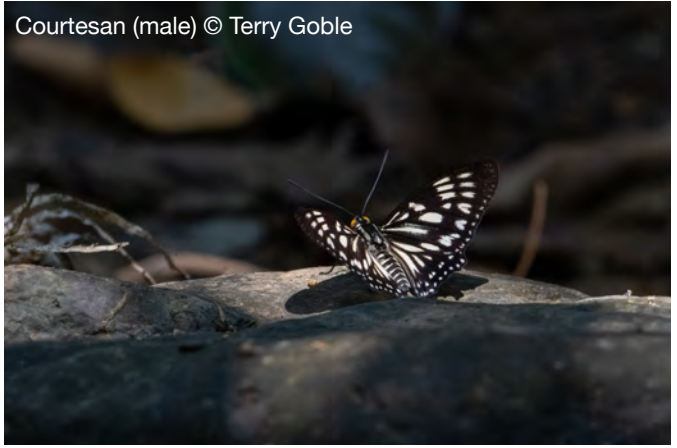


Blue Nawab © Allan F

Chinese Mountain Lizard © Allan F

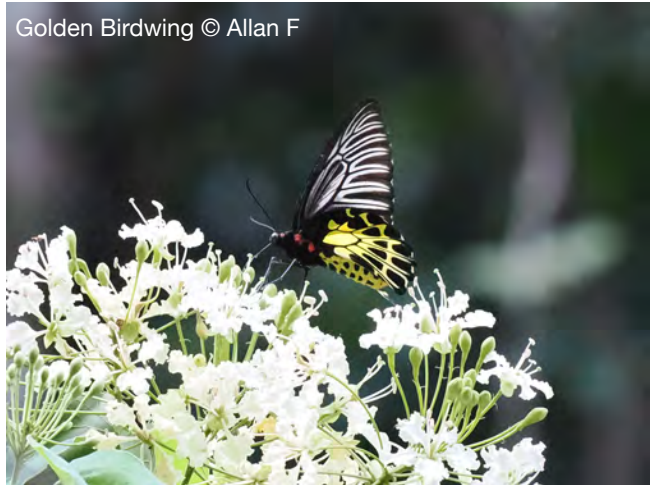


Courtesan (male) © Terry Goble



Courtesan (female) © Allan F

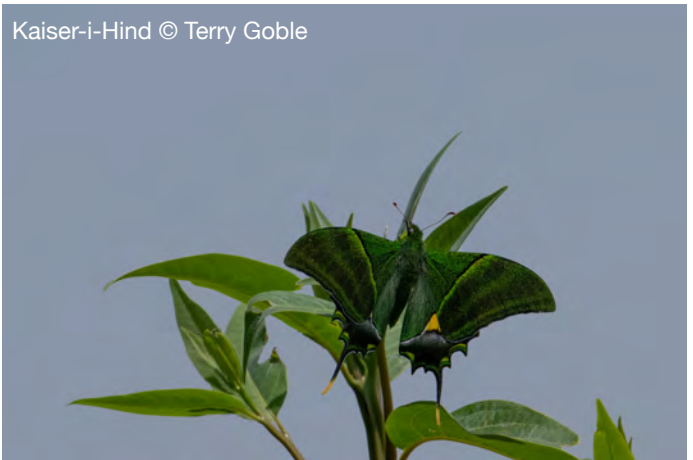
Golden Birdwing © Allan F



Greater Coucal © Allan F



Kaiser-i-Hind © Terry Goble



Common Grass Yellow © Allan F



White Dragontail © Bob M





Golden Birdwing © Allan F



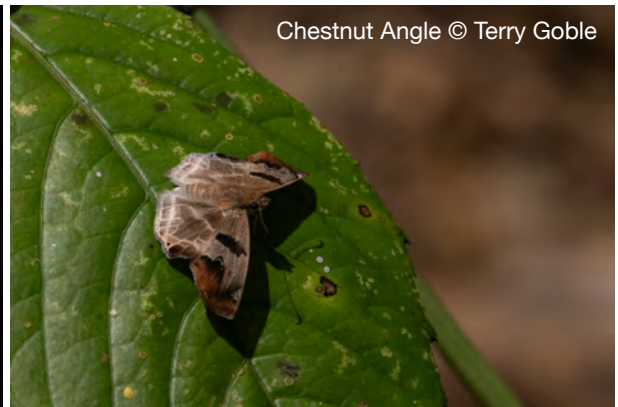
Commander © Bob M



Black-collared Starling  
© Allan F



Lavender Count © Terry Goble



Chestnut Angle © Terry Goble