



Suan Phuttamonton (Phuttamonton Park)

(Updated 14/07/13)

Introduction

Tweet Print

Suan Phuttamonton (Phuttamonton Park) is a very large park just outside Bangkok in Nakorn Pathom province...

Much of the park consists of open woodland with mown grass underneath the canopy, with pools, flower beds and gardens...

The migratory periods of September-October and April-May usually turn up the most interesting species in Phuttamonton Park...

The only downside of Phuttamonton park is its distance from Bangkok's city centre.



Buddha Statue at Phuttamonton Park (Photo by Nick Upton)

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Birding Highlights

Phuttamonton Park has a good number of common resident birds and is a good place for photographers to get pictures of species such as Indian Roller, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Coppersmith Barbet and Lineated Barbet.

This park has a resident population of Small Minivets which are usually quite confiding, making this one of the easiest places to find this bird close to Bangkok.

However, in migratory periods, particularly autumn, the scruffy corners of Phuttamonton Park play host to a number of interesting passage migrants including Ferruginous Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Crow-billed Drongo and Pale-legged Leaf Warbler.

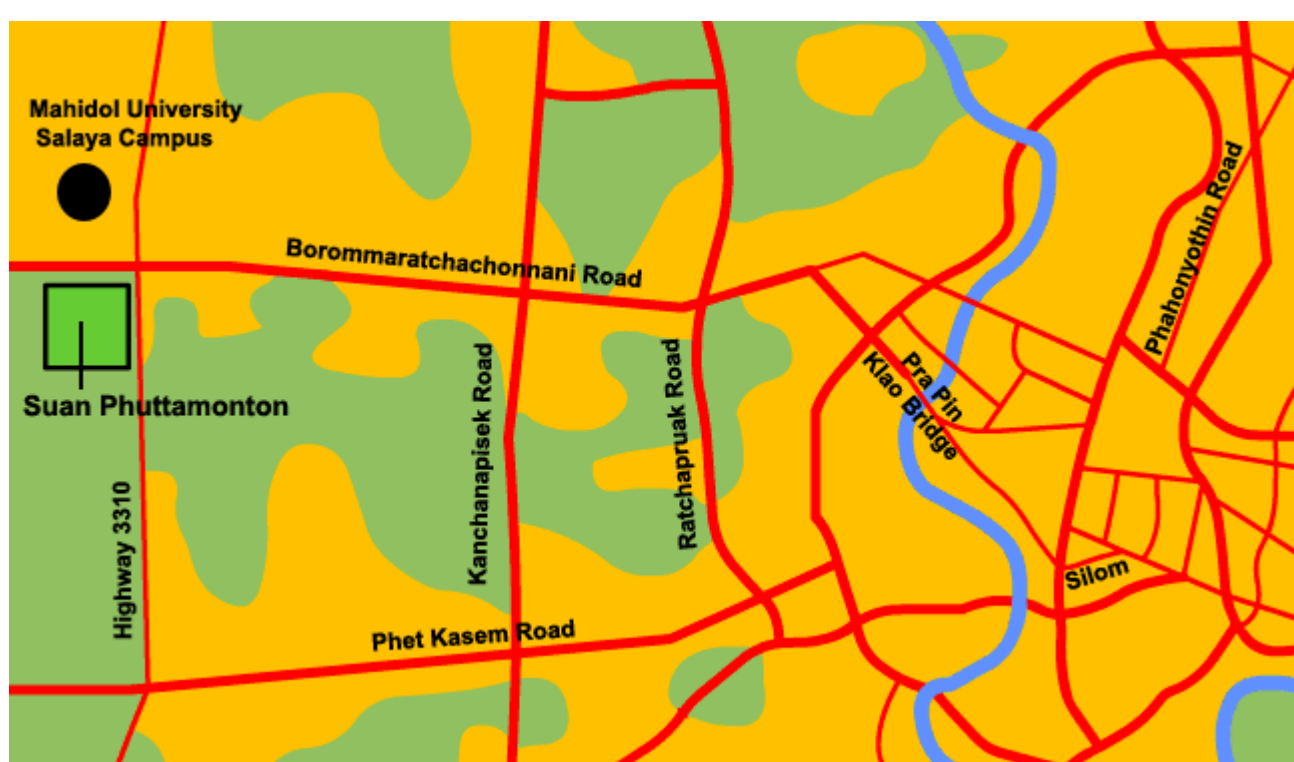
A checklist for the birds of this location can be found here - Suan Phuttamonton.



Male Small Minivet (Photo by Johan Svensson)

Bird Watching Trips: If you need help organizing a bird watching trip to Thailand, take a look at the suggested itineraries for ideas on creating a tailor-made trip and contact me for advice: Thailand bird tours.

Travel Information



The most convenient way of getting to Phuttamonton Park, as ever, is with ones own vehicle; in fact without a vehicle birding around this vast park will be extremely tiring.

For those without their own transport taking a taxi would be the most comfortable way to get to Phuttamonton, from downtown it probably costs somewhere in the region of 250-300 baht but it might be worth hiring the taxi for the morning so that you can be driven around the park in comfort and get out when you see a likely birding spot.

However, it is possible to get to the park by bus. From the southwest corner of Victory Monument (there is a skytrain station there) there are two air-conditioned buses, numbers 539 and 547 which go to Phuttamonton Park, taking about 50 minutes to get there.

Do not be tempted to take a motorcycle taxi from the town centre to Phuttamonton. the distance, traffic and lunacy of motorcycle taxi drivers means that you will almost certainly have a bad experience.

Taking a bicycle with you to the park would be a great idea and would be a really good way to go birding here.

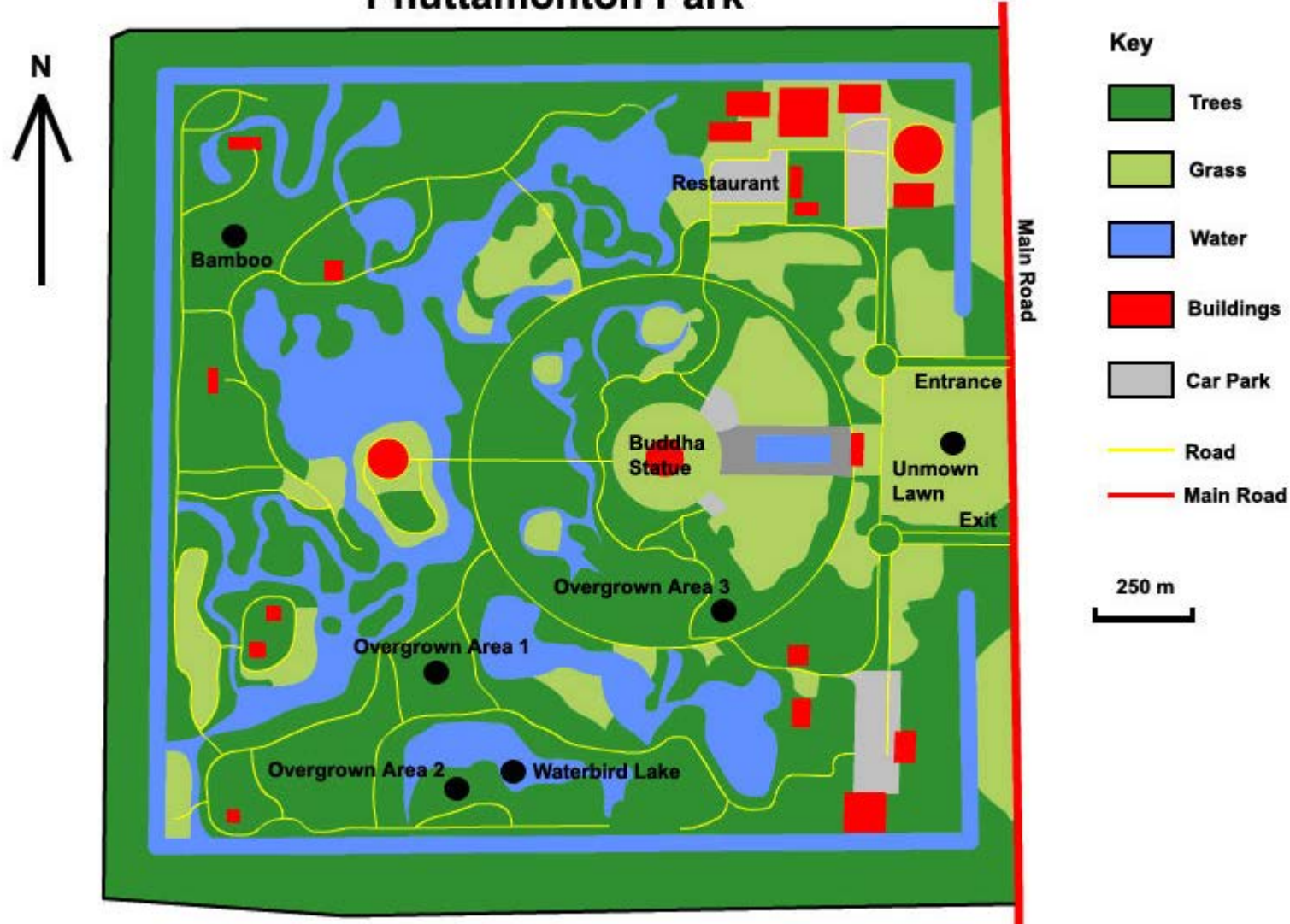
Finding Birds

A good number of species have been recorded in Phuttamonton park but it is in migratory periods, in Spring and Autumn, that one is most likely to have a memorable birding experience with passage Flycatchers, Leaf Warblers and Shrikes turning up during these times.

Phuttamonton is a huge park but most of it is highly manicured and low in bird diversity. Look out for the less cultivated areas where undergrowth has not been cut back and insect diversity is high.

In migratory periods passage migrants are abundant around bamboo which harbours large numbers of aggressive mosquitos.

Phuttamonton Park



There are a few places where certain species are likely to be seen in Phuttamonton Park;



Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (Photo by Peter Ericsson)

Unmown Lawn: Not quite unmown but certainly very irregularly mown and as such it attracts resident Paddyfield Pipits and wintering Richard's Pipits and Yellow Wagtails.

Waterbird Lake: Of all the lakes and pools at Phuttamonton Park this one has the most overgrown surroundings and plays host to a small colony of Black-crowned Night Herons.

Overgrown Area 1: A small patch of trees where the undergrowth is not cut back always seems to produce some birds including Spotted Owlet, Drongos, Black-naped Oriole, Lineated Barbet, Coppersmith Barbet with Flycatchers and Warblers on passage.

Overgrown Area 2: This is by far the most overgrown and unkempt part of the park and it is worth sneaking around in the undergrowth here.

Bamboo: An area of bamboo groves and open woodland is excellent for passage migrants such as Yellow-rumped Flycatcher and Leaf Warblers due to the high density of mosquitos.

Plenty of resident species can be found here including the ever-present Oriental Magpie Robin, Racket-tailed Treepie, Green-billed Malkoha, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Common Iora and Small Minivet.

Overgrown Area 3: This area has some small, twisted trees with long grass underneath; an area which is relatively rich in insect life and consequently it attracts a few birds.



Taiga Flycatcher (Photo by Peter Ericsson)

Facilities

Book a Bangkok hotel through thaibirding.com



Restaurant, Phuttamonton Park (Photo by Nick Upton)

Although Phuttamonton Park is in Nakorn Pathom province, it is easily visited from Bangkok which obviously has an abundance of hotels: Bangkok Hotel Reservations.

The park is huge and many areas are quite some distance from the few facilities available so it is a good idea to come armed with cold water and some snacks to consume while birding in the heat.

There are a number of clean public toilets dotted around the park and for those who enjoy massed aerobics, anyone can join in the sessions in the early morning near the giant standing Buddha which is apparently the largest in the world.

Also in the park is a monastic library and a museum of Buddhism.

There is no charge to enter the park.

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Some Useful Books

Book recommendations: How Birds Migrate, Birds of Thailand Order Now@ amazon, Atlas of Bird Migration, Birds of Southeast Asia Order Now@ amazon.

Other Related Pages

- Birdwatching Day Tours/Guiding
Other Central Thailand Birding Locations
The Birds of the Bangkok Area
My Sunbirds in Bangkok

Photo Galleries

Photo gallery thumbnails: Butterfly, Bamboo Gardens, Lake, Ornamental Gardens, Lilies, Bizarre Tree, Ornamental Gardens, Temple & Lake, Parkland Road.

Related Blog Entries

- Migrants in Bangkok's Parks - posted on 08/04/14
Autumn Migration & Phuttamonton Park - posted 25/09/08
Yellow-vented Bulbul - posted 14/09/08
Olive-backed Sunbird - posted 14/06/08
Phuttamonton Park - posted 22/04/08

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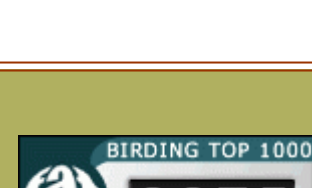
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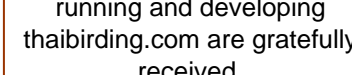
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