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NORTHERN INDIA TOUR REPORT

1st-16th December 2023

TOUR LEADER

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PARTICIPANTS

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LOCAL GUIDES

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The tour took in four areas each with its own character brought about by habitat and altitude and thus we encountered a wide variety of avifauna, mammals and other aspects of Natural History.

Firstly, we arrived in Delhi and then visited Bharatpur - set in a vast, flat plain, a World Heritage site and a wetland home to large numbers of nesting egrets, herons, ibis and storks against a backdrop of raptors, owls and passerines in the drier areas. We stayed at The Birders' Inn for 4 nights situated just three hundred metres from the entrance gates and spent just over 3 and half days in this area.

We then travelled North and spent one night in River's Edge Hotel, before we moved onto the Corbett National Park, staying about a mile from the park entrance at The Golden Tusk. For three mornings and two afternoons we were transported by safari jeep with lots of birds and mammals seen during our visits.

Next, we moved on to Vangat Lodge for 2 nights in the Corbett buffer zone. Vangat has no vehicle access and we walked just over a mile to reach the camp and then took the rather exciting river crossing to the camp on a raft! Vangat is far away from the bustle, dust and noise of Indian towns, set in a stunning surroundings, in a steep sided forested river valley next to the glacial waters of the Ramganga river.

Finally, we climbed higher towards the foothills of the Himalayas and birded the forest areas around Sattal staying at the appropriately named Birders' Den complete with bird feed station and hides.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation during the trip was of a high standard. All provided hot water and clean, Western style toilets. Staff were very friendly and went out of their way to help us. Food would be categorised as curry but while not as hot as what might be available in your local UK curry house, all of it was tasty and plentiful.

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Friday 1st December 2023 – UK Heathrow Departure

The group met up at Heathrow early morning around 8am in good time to get through the required security and baggage drop formalities. This all passed quickly without incident and the British Airways flight got away on time around 1120am, the food was good and the flight comfortable.

Saturday 2nd December - Dehli to Bharatpur

With a time difference of five and a half hours, we arrived in Delhi just before 0200 local time. We were collected in a 10 seater minibus by our driver. Even at this time of day is a bustling busy city! We were soon at the gates of the Ashok Country Resort Hotel arriving at 0330am local time and retired to our rooms, for a few hours much needed sleep!

I made it out around 0730am and joined the group for a brief hour of pre-breakfast birding in the grounds of the hotel, Jaypee our guide throughout the tour also joined us and was introduced to the group. **Indian Peafowl** and **House Crow** strutted around on the lawn and buildings, the trees held **Oriental White-eye**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Brown-headed Barbet**, **Black Drongo**, **Red-vented Bulbul**, several **Purple Sunbirds** buzzed around the treetops, whilst the first of the ubiquitous **Jungle Babblers** bounced along the paths. There was 2-3 Hume's warblers calling though we heard these better than we saw them! Overhead, a procession of **Black Kites** made their way across the city together with a small number of **Little Swifts**. **Common Myna** and **Ring-necked Parakeets** were numerous around the gardens. Just as we were heading to breakfast a very smart **Black-rumped Flameback**, landed aside one of the walls of the hotel, apparently gleaning insects from the brickwork!

After a mixed English/Indian breakfast, we were soon loaded up and heading off on the long drive towards Bharatpur. As we drove along the roads, we were soon spotting our first **White-throated Kingfishers** and **Black-winged Kites**, both favour sitting on roadside wires! Our first mammals were of course the cheeky and abundant **Rhesus Macaques**.

During the journey we made a couple of stops at roadside pools, where alongside numerous **Black-winged Stilts**, was a plethora of other birds! The more familiar were **Northern**

Shoveler, 5 Wood Sandpipers, Green Sandpiper, Redshank, 2 Greenshank, 3 Ruff, Great, Little & Cattle Egrets, Purple Heron, but also the less familiar with **Intermediate Egrets, 5 Painted Stork, Indian Spot Billed Ducks, 2 Bronze-winged Jacana, Black-headed & Red Naped Ibis**. The edges of the pools also provided **5 Yellow, 2 Citrine & a White-browed Wagtail**.

The nearby roadside scrub and bushes also offered up **Black Drongo, a Greater Coucal, Ashy & Plain Prinia, 2 Pied Bushchat, Scaly-breasted Munia** and a lovely **Isabelline Shrike!**

Overhead **Black** and **Black-shouldered Kites** drifted above us together with four **Egyptian Vultures** and **Red-rumped Swallows**. Our first proper roadside stop had offered up 47 species!

Just before we stopped off for early afternoon lunch, we were treated to a group of several very confiding **Egyptian Vultures** also enjoying their own roadside snack! Continuing our journey, there were flocks of **Cattle Egrets**, a couple of **Greater Coucal**, , **Black Drongo**, **Asian Pied** and **Brahminy Starlings**.

Just before arriving in Bharatpur we made one more final stop, as the sun was starting to drop. It proved to me an inspired decision! We had only been at the pool for a minute or so when three superb **Sarus Cranes** arrived, trumpeting calls to announce their arrival and landing close by and allowing wonderful views!

Darkness was falling as we arrived at the Birders' Inn in Bharatpur. We settled into our rooms and after a welcome hot shower, we met for dinner and enjoyed a meal of various vegetarian curries, a cold beer and the evening roll call yielded 62 species of birds.

Overnight Birders Inn, Bharatpur.

Sunday 3rd December – Bharatpur/Keoladeo NP

An early breakfast ensured that we were ready at first light to meet our guide Brijendra Singh and our three rickshaw drivers. Brijendra is very knowledgeable and has been guiding at Bharatpur for over twenty years and has a great relationship with the rickshaw drivers and the parks staff, this helps as bird & wildlife news gets passed along!

Once through the entrance gates the birding was underway immediately on foot and we were soon enjoying lots of birds. The birding in the park was immediate, intense and very exciting!! It was slow progress through the park, as the birds came thick and fast.

Over the next few hours we saw an amazing array of birds, exploring the main and side track to the nursery area.

The highlights in the morning were as follows:- **4 Lesser Whistling-duck, 5 Indian Peafowl, Grey Francolin, 5 Laughing Dove, 10 Yellow-fotted Green Pigeon, 2 Greater Coucal, 2 Common Moorhen, 5 White-breasted Waterhen, 10 Black-winged Stilt, 10 Red-wattled Lapwing, 3 Green Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Greenshank, Common Redshank, 4 Painted Stork, Little Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Great Spotted Eagle, Indian Grey Hornbill, 3 White-throated Kingfisher, Black-rumped Flameback, 20+ Ring-necked Parakeet, 4 Long-tailed Shrike, 5 Black Drongo, 4 Ashy Drongo, 5 Rufous Treepie, 2 Large-billed Crow, Barn Swallow, 1 Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher, 20 Red-vented Bulbul, White-eared Bulbul, 5 Hume's Warbler, several Siberian Chiffchaff, 2 Greenish Warbler, 2 Blyth's Reed Warbler, 3 Common Tailorbird, 10 Ashy Prinia, 5 Plain Prinia, 5 Lesser Whitethroat, 6 Common Babbler, 2 Large Grey Babbler, 3 Yellow-eyed Babbler, 6 Indian Robin, 8 Oriental Magpie-Robin, Bluethroat, 2 Red-breasted Flycatcher, 10 Brahminy Starling, 30 Common Myna, 5 Purple Sunbird, 2 Grey Wagtail, Citrine Wagtail & 10 Indian Silverbill and 6 Scaly-breasted Munia.**

I guess the stand-out moment of the morning was a good thirty-minute vigil looking for **Siberian Rubythroat**, it started calling but was invisible, it then gave tantalising glimpses, before giving us good views playing hide and seek in the shrubs!

With the hotel being so close by we were able to return there for lunch just after midday and were soon back in the park after a deserved break. This time we explored further into the park, heading further along the main track and into the open water areas and the Stork and cormorant colony. This area was fantastic both for observation and photography with hundreds of Storks and Cormorants still feeding youngsters at their nests.

This is traversed by tree lined tracks on raised up banks. The numbers and variety of water birds was staggering; **100's of Painted Storks, Black-headed Ibis, Little, Great White & Intermediate Egrets, Purple and Grey Herons, Indian, Little and Great Cormorants** all giving excellent prolonged views. Just before we reached the main colony, Brijendra stopped

us and showed us a superb roosting **Indian Nightjar** at eye level on a horizontal branch, followed shortly after by a real highlight, a **Black Bittern** deep inside the thick waterside scrub, then 2 roosting **Spotted Owlets**.

Other highlights in the afternoon were as follows:- **20 Lesser Whistling-Duck, 10 Knob-billed Duck, 5 Garganey, 10 Northern Shoveler, 4 Gadwall, 50 Eurasian Teal, 100 Eurasian Coot, 2 Wood Sandpiper, 20 Painted Stork, 12 Oriental Darter, 50 Little Cormorant, 30 Great Cormorant, 50 Indian Cormorant, Black Bittern, 4 Purple Heron, 6 Great White Egret, 4 Intermediate Egret, 10 Little Egret, 3 River Tern, 20 Indian Pond Heron, 10 Glossy Ibis, 15 Black-headed Ibis, 15 Bronze-winged Jacana, 2 Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Black-winged Kite, 4 Greater Spotted Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, 2 Western Marsh Harrier, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Black Kite, Shikra, 4 Common Kingfisher, 10 White-throated Kingfisher, 2 Pied Kingfisher, 100 Streak-throated Swallow, Wire-tailed Swallow, 6 Hume's Warbler, 10 Common Chiffchaff, 2 Greenish Warbler, 2 Blyth's Reed Warbler, 10 Ashy Prinia, 10 Plain Prinia, 5 Lesser Whitethroat, 12 Common Babbler, 5 Large Grey Babbler, 50 Asian Pied Starling, & 5 Citrine Wagtail.**

Raptors were represented by **Crested Serpent Eagle, several Marsh Harrier, Greater Spotted and a superb adult Eastern Imperial Eagle.**

We also added to our mammal list, with several troops of **Rhesus Macaque**, a small group of **Wild Boar**, a stunning adult male **Nilgai**, stood proud out on the marsh, this is the largest antelope in Asia weighing up to 250kgs! Several **Spotted Deer**, also plenty of **Indian Palm Squirrels**, very approachable and rather cute!

We reached the Hotel in the evening around 5.45pm just as the sun was setting, after showers we all had dinner and the bird log call, gave us a running total of 107 species.

Overnight Birders Inn, Bharatpur.



© Knob-billed Duck & Shikra Adrian Roach



© **Sarus Crane & Grey-headed Swampphen**



© *Black-necked Stork & Dusky Eagle Owl*



Adrian Roach



Adrian Roach



Adrian Roach



© Chris Mills

© *Southern Coucal & Siberian Rubythroat*

Monday 4th December Bharatpur

This morning was a surprise, it was raining! The first time ever I had witnessed proper rain at Bharatpur in December on this tour, it didn't dampen our spirits and we headed on deeper into the park, starting at the Stork colony where we had finished our birding yesterday.

As we headed along the main track we encountered many of the wetland species that we had seen the day before, but then an unfamiliar species appeared and flew along the tops of the bushes, it was clearly a Cuckoo species and the white panel in the wings readily identified it as **Jacobin or Pied Cuckoo**, a late migrant from the summer and a new species for myself!

We then moved to another part of the wetland area we had not visited the day before, taking the Westerly track at the Southern end of the park. More open water and scattered busy islands produced new trip species.

First one **Wryneck** was feeding at the base of a line of tree stumps and was obliging enough to give everyone telescope views, when we noted a second **Wryneck**! Other new species this morning were group of **Bar-headed Goose**, **2 Grey Lag Geese**, **50 Gadwall**, **10 Eurasian Wigeon**, **Pintail**, **30 Red-crested Pochard**, **Common Pochard**, **6 Tufted Duck**, **60 Grey-headed Swamphen**, **Booted Eagle**, noteworthy was the 'near threatened' designated **Black-necked Stork** with a brooding female sat on a nest, really nice views of several **Pied Kingfisher**, **2 Yellow Crowned Woodpecker**, **2 Clamorous Reed warblers**, noisy and eventually gave themselves up with a showy **Blyth's Reed Warbler** close by, we also got by far our best views of a showy **Bluethroat** this morning. Another, stand out moment was the loud fluty call of **Indian Golden Oriole** which then sat out in full view.

The morning's birding was rounded off very nicely with a **Dusky Eagle Owl** that was sat at it's nest visible from a high platform, alongside the roosting Black-crowned Night-herons and an amazing roost of 100+ Greater Indian Fruit bats, one of the largest bats in the world with a wingspan of 1.2m.

We were slightly late back for lunch at 1pm after a lively morning session of birding, we had a quick lunch before heading back out at 2pm.

We headed into a park for our last session at Bharatpur, heading to the Southeast track from the centre point, before heading off to the platform at the SW area of the park.

A real final Bharatpur treat was standing on the raised viewpoint with sunset views, watching over a fantastic roost of wildfowl, waders and raptors. As we headed along the westward track there was masses of wildfowl, **50 Bar-headed Geese**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Lesser Whistling Duck**, **100 Northern Shoveler**, **200 Northern Pintail**, **100 Eurasian Teal**, **20 Gadwall**, also **Common Greenshank**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Spotted Redshank** was heard, **10 Black-headed Ibis**, **100's of Grey-headed Swamphen**, hundreds of **Egrets**, then Brijendra stopped us as he had located a much scarcer visitor to the park, **3 Grey-headed Lapwing**!

We had just enough time to pop back to get further views of the **Dusky Eagle Owl** and were also rewarded with much better views of the pair of **Black-necked Storks**. We left the park and bid farewell to our wonderful rickshaw drivers and headed into the Hotel for tea and biscuits. After a filling curry, rice pudding and a beer plus an systematic list roll taking us on to 135 species.

Overnight Birders Inn, Bharatpur.

Tuesday 5th December - Chambal River visit

After discovering that the area had degraded in the farmland area last year near Bharatpur, we made the decision this year to change the itinerary and visit a different location. So today consisted of a journey over to the famous Chambal river area with a boat ride. With stops in other drier non-agricultural areas en-route, and a stop at a dammed reservoir area on the way back.

Our first stop was in an area of suitable arid, rocky habitat near Khansurjapur with some small pools. Here we encountered several of the typical species of this habitat, **Indian Bush-Lark**, **Bengal Bush lark**, **Crested Lark**, **Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark**, **Isabelline Shrike** and **Desert Wheatears**, **Long-billed** and **Tawny Pipits**. Other noteworthy species were **Hoopoe**, **Indian Roller** and a really nice surprise was a very smart **Red-necked Falcon**, perched on the wires. The nearby scrub also a flock of **Red Avadavat** and the pools held a **Rosy Pipit** as well as a nice selection of waders, and another notable bird a **Brown Crake**.

It was then a steady drive to the Chumbal river, it was an almost surreal location down a muddy track to a temporary pontoon where we boarded our luxury (wooden boat!). The next couple of hours were fantastic as we quietly motored upstream at times gently drifting and getting close and personal with birds and crocodiles! Both **Gharial** and **Mugger** were in good numbers, sat out on the edge of the sandbanks, some really large adults approaching 4m in length. We had a nice selection of birds, with quite a few **Greater Thick-knee**, several **River Lapwing**, quite a few waders including new species for the trip - **Kentish Plover**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **15 Temminck's stint & Little Stint**. At least **3 Pallas's Gulls**, groups of **Brown-headed Gull**. A **Bonelli's Eagle** sat atop the river cliffs, with another adult flying along the cliffs was memorable, but the bird that will live in my memory was stunning breeding plumage **Black-bellied Terns**, at least 3 of these beauties!

After the boat trip we found a shaded bar to have our packed lunches, we then set off for a nearby large reservoir near Dholpur and Nibhi. This held masses of wildfowl, but mainly species we had already recorded at Bharatpur, however a **Great White Pelican** flew in, **5 Asian Openbills** and the dry ground nearby held a **Paddyfield Pipit**. Further on our return journey another roadside stop and an **Indian Roller**, allowed close approach giving wonderful perched and flight views. Final stop provided more of the same, with lots of wildfowl but with very close views of **Pied Kingfisher**.

Overnight Birders Inn, Bharatpur.

Wednesday 6th December Bharatpur to Corbett NP.

With bags packed and minibus loaded, we said our farewells to Birders' Inn staff and headed northwards. It was a long day of travel in the minibus, with minibreaks every couple of hours, birding en-route gave views, albeit fleeting, of **Black** and **Black-shouldered Kites**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Shikra**, **White-throated Kingfishers**, **Black-winged Stilts** and **Common Redshank**, **Asian Openbills**, **Woolly-necked**, **Painted Storks**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **White Wagtail**, **Indian Pond Heron** and **Green Sandpiper**, **Long-tailed Shrike** and **Grey Hornbill**.

We encountered the full range of traffic using Indian roads; tractors pulling trailers loaded so high with harvested sugar cane, motor bikes carrying up to four people and a range of unexpected goods.

It was late afternoon, as we neared our accommodation, and we stopped off late afternoon for a cup of tea and some freshly fried bhaji and pakora's in a small village north of Kashipur. We were in a rural area adjoining woodland and a flock of **Plum-headed Parakeet** flew over as well as **2 Oriental Pied Hornbills**.

We eventually reached the River Edge Hotel on the edge of Corbett NP. On arrival, all members of the group were presented with a traditional garland of marigolds and fresh lemon juice. We were now in very different habitat, fast glacial river surrounded by lush steep sided forest!

Overnight River Edge Hotel, Corbett NP

Thursday 7th December Ramganga River and Corbett NP Bijrani range

We were up and ready at 6.30am at reception for tea and coffee, then headed to the nearby Kosi river, this glacial river strewn with boulders is the location and haunt of the much sought after Ibisbill!

We started our search just to the North of the bridge and temple. Before we got started on the river, the nearby bushes gave us our first flock of forest birds, a lovely mixed group with **White-throated Fantail**, a **stunning Rufous-bellied Niltava**, **4 Black chinned Babbler**, **Hume's Warbler**, **Oriental White-eye**, **Grey-hooded Warbler**, and **Siberian Chiff-chaff**.

Then a steady wander upstream saw some more notable and new birds:- **12+ River Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, 2 Green Sandpiper, 2 Striated Heron, 2 White-throated Fantail, 1 Grey-headed Canary- Flycatcher, Hume's Warbler, Oriental White-eye, 6 Plumbeous Redstart, 4 White-capped Redstart and 5 White-and browed Wagtail.**

A brief **Wallcreeper**, prolonged views came along later in the trip! Two **Crested Kingfishers** were superb, but we still hadn't located our big target species!

But then a call from another guide further upstream, he had located the Ibisbill and we quickly worked our way 800m further up the river. I was relieved to get everyone on to the first **Ibisbill**, before two more appeared, we were then treated to wonderful views over the next hour as the **3 Ibisbill** fed showing very well in full sunlight providing great views!

We arrived back for a hearty mid-morning breakfast, it went down very well after an adrenaline fuelled couple of hours birding along the river.

After breakfast we took short drive and birded in the edge of the Corbett buffer zone, it was nearly midday, and quite hot so the forest was relatively quiet, though we dug out **3 Lineated Barbet, a Black-rumped Flameback, 5 Grey-breasted Prinia, several Red-whiskered Bulbul, White-throated Fantail** and overhead we noted our first **Himalayan Vultures**.

After a casual lunch, a short drive took us to the Golden Tusk Hotel close to the entrance to the Corbett NP. We got our gear into our rooms and then were collected and headed out for our first jeep safari. At the Bijrani gate, formalities were completed quickly and we were able to enter the park.

We entered an area of grassland, scrub and woodland with dried up river beds. Not far from the gate we had our first views of **Red Jungle Fowl** skulking through the undergrowth.

In the course of the afternoon noteworthy birds were **3 Blue-bearded Bee-eaters**, such stunning birds they gave quite a show as they glided from tree to tree, several **Black-hooded Oriole, 3 Changeable Hawk-eagle, 3 Black-winged Kite, 4 Streak-throated Woodpecker, Red-rumped and Wire-tailed Swallow, several Grey Bushchat, plus Tawny and Tree Pipit.**

Though we did see **Spotted Deer, Sambar deer** (the Tiger's favoured prey!), **Indian Muntjac** and good numbers of **Spotted Deer**.

Overnight at Golden Tusk



sue carter



Adrian Roach

© **Brahminy Starling & Ibisbill**



© *Indian Roller & Gharial Crocodile*



© **Greater Thick-knee & Pied Kingfisher**

Friday 8th December Corbett NP Jhirna Range

After an early morning tea & biscuits in reception, we were in our jeeps for a 6.15am departure from the hotel.

It was a busy morning of birds, with a lot more activity than on the previous afternoon in the woodland with several **Red Junglefowl**, **2 Pin-tailed Green Pigeon** were the first of the trip, , a great selection of Barbets with **3 Lineated**, **3 Brown-headed**, **2 Blue-throated & 3 Coppersmith Barbets**, **1 Blue-throated Barbet**, **Shikra**, **Black-hooded Oriole**, **Streak-throated Woodpecker**, **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Scarlet**, **Small & Long-tailed Minivet** flocks were stunning as crimson reds dashed over the forest tree tops, a good flock of **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike**, **White-throated fantail**, several **Hair-crested Drongo**, a group of **Common Woodshrike**, **Common Iora**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, the only **White-rumped Shama** of the trip, **Cinereous Tit**, **Pale-rumped Warbler**, , **Grey-hooded Warbler**, **Grey-breasted Prinia**, **Black-crested Bulbul**, **Ashy Bulbul**, **Himalayan Bulbul**, **White-crested laughing-thrush**, **White-throated laughing-thrush** and **Blue Whistling Thrush**,

Above the trees, parties of 50+ **Crested Tree Swifts** hawked for insects and higher still there were soaring a group of **Himalayan Vultures** in the company of **Red-headed Vulture**. In the more open grassland areas flocks of **Plum headed Parakeets** were feeding, alongside mixed flocks of **Red-vented**, **Whiskered** and **Himalayan Bulbuls** and small number so **Purple Sunbirds**.

Our guides showed us fresh Tiger pugmarks, but despite a couple of false alarms, the stripey cats were so far keeping a low profile.

Lunch was taken at the hotel and there was time for a brief walk around the hotel grounds seeing **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and **Lemon-rumped Warbler** before returning to the park when it reopened at 1.30.

Typically, in the afternoon the forest was quieter for bird activity, but the first new bird was a **Kalij Pheasant** in the shadows, followed by **2 Black-crested Bulbul**, then the aptly named **Stork-billed Kingfisher** perched in a tree by a bend in the river, while **Common Kingfisher** sat on the riverside rocks. As we entered the forest, a group of fast flying 'swifts' were overhead, eventually coming closer for better views they were a nice group of **White-rumped Spinetails**, another addition to the bird list. Also whilst in the forest we came across **2 Yellow-throated martens**, these swift moving mustelids, almost like very large stoats and equally as efficient hunters!

Other new birds encountered were **3 Great Hornbills**, these huge Hornbills, are truly amazing with their huge bills and bodies perched in the outer most branches, delicately picking tiny fruit! We were really spoilt with really close views of these scarce, beautiful birds, nearby we also had views of **2-3 Oriental Hornbills** as well.

Alarm calls of **Spotted Deer** late afternoon, were an indicator of a Tiger nearby and the excitement grew but nothing more for a while. We then stopped for a loo stop, with not too much time left before we needed to depart, suddenly there was close by alarm calls again, and we saw a couple of jeeps heading swiftly towards the open river bed, did they have something? We moved quickly to join them, and there crossing the riverbed at about 100m away was a **Tiger**, not close but in plain view for a good 30 seconds until it disappeared! Everyone was ecstatic and we headed back out of the park, and enjoyed celebratory tea taken on the lawn as the sun went down, back at the Golden Tusk.

As well as the clear Tiger highlight, the bird list had now reached 225 species on our 7th day of full birding!

Overnight at Golden Tusk

Saturday 9th December Corbett National Park Jhirna range (morning) Narsinghpur area & Tumariya Reservoir (afternoon)

After an early morning tea & biscuits in reception, we were in our jeeps for a 6.15am departure from the hotel.

Another good morning of birding, but new species in the park were now slowing, as the law of diminishing returns started to kick in! But great repeat views of both Oriental & Pied Hornbill again this morning, other new birds were a **Peregrine**, proper views of **White-crested Laughingthrush** with other highlights: -

Asian Emerald Dove, 60+ Crested Treeswift, 1 Black Vulture, 1 Himalayan Griffon, 2 Changeable Hawk-Eagle, 5 Common Iora, Long-tailed Shrike, 3 Black-hooded Oriole, 1 White-bellied & Hair-crested Drongo, 10 Oriental White-eye, 5 Jungle Babbler, Indian Robin, Blue Whistling-Thrush & Slaty-blue Flycatcher.

In the afternoon we decided to visit another area, where there was a Vulture colony and then travel on through some diverse farmed areas to a reservoir area near Narsinghpur. This proved to be a good decision, giving us great views of some additional birds and quite different habitat.

Our first stop was on a river bridge, where there was a **few Dusky Crag Martin** 'insecting' just above head height. We next stopped off by a river and river plain. There was **20 Black-winged Stilt** and **2 Greater Coucal** showing very well on arrival, then just behind us perched in the trees were **15 Woolly-necked Stork**. Circling in the skies and at times lovely close overhead were a wonderful selection of **5 Egyptian Vulture, 5 Cinerous Vulture, 25**

Himalayan Vulture, 5 Steppe Eagle and a single **Bonelli's Eagle** plus eventually another new species a **Black Stork** drifted over as well, a lovely selection! Plus closer inspection and views of hawking 'brown' Martins with obvious chest bands proved to be **Sand Martins**.

We continued towards the reservoir but made a stop in some mixed farmland on the way. Nice diversity with more new birds, **being 12 Chestnut-tailed Starling, 15 Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, 20 Spotted Dove, a Hoopoe, Citrine and White Wagtail** plus a **Long-billed Pipit**.

We then headed on to the reservoir area, this held masses of wildfowl including a flock of **c500 Bar-headed Geese**, the largest flock I've ever seen! Plus plenty of **Ruddy Shelduck, Shoveler, Gadwall, Wigeon, Teal, Red-crested Pochard, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe**, a new trip species **Great crested Grebe, Grey-headed Swamphen, River Lapwing, Bronze-winged Jacana, Pallas's** and **Brown-headed Gull**, all 4 species of Egret, and 3 species of Cormorant, **White-throated and Common Kingfisher**.

After the reservoir we made it back to the vulture colony area just as the sun was setting, and were treated to close views of **4+ Golden Jackal**. There was time on the drive back for a couple of stops as **2 Jungle Owlets** perched out posing for photography on top of buildings!

We were quite late back but fortunately just caught evening tea, hot samosas, fries and biscuits in the garden!

Overnight at Golden Tusk

Sunday 10th December Corbett NP to Vangat

For our last morning in Corbett we were in the park soon after 6.30am and were in the grassland Jhirna zone. The safari started well with **2 White-naped Woodpeckers**, a nice surprise not a species we record regularly on this tour. Another real surprise and outside of its usual range was a beautiful and stunning, **Orange-breasted Green Pigeon**, close and warming itself in the early rays of sun on this frosty morning. Shortly after this another good bird, a Bush-warbler showed unusually well allowing identification, **Chestnut-crowned Bush warbler**, plus **Black-chinned Babbler, Common Iora**, then a **Southern Grey Shrike** appeared on top of the bushes. Other notable birds were good views of **Grey Francolin**, followed by a roosting **Spotted Owlet** brief views of a **Wryneck**. Overhead, a soaring **Crested Honey Buzzard, Red-headed Vulture** plus several **Asian House Martin**. Back in the grassland a Bengal Bushlark showed well on the track, plus nearby a Scaly-breasted Woodpecker was feeding close by on the ground.

With a short while left we start heading towards the main track to start driving towards the exit gate, though on the road 3-4 jeeps were stopped waiting. Just as we approached one of our guides heard the low grumbling growl of a Tiger, it was fairly close and it called again. Several more jeeps joined. We were waiting on the main track with forest either side, but it

was a known crossing area and the Tiger sounded close. The silence was deafening and the expectation fuelled the whole intensity. All eyes stared ahead and then suddenly an adult **Tigress** appeared!! She gave a quick look either way, as she appeared from the forest, then walked steadily across at about 15m away, it was a superb view and there were further brief views as she disappeared into the vegetation. What an amazing way to round off our last jeep safari, and back at the Hotel everyone was buzzing over brunch.

After brunch we gathered luggage and transferred back to minibus transport and we now headed off to our next destination, Vangat. This took us through and along the Kosi river habitat and staring from the windows paid dividends as I located a species that had so far evaded us – the superb, tiny raptor **Collared Falconet**, sat perched top a dead tree.

We reached Vangat mid-afternoon and during a very enjoyable 2km walk to the camp, we were soon watching many new birds a **Pallas's Fish Eagle, Mountain Hawk-eagle and 1 Common Woodshrike, 10 Red-vented Bulbul, 10 Himalayan Bulbul, 3 Grey-hooded Warbler, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Cinerous Tit, 10 Oriental White-eye, Plumbeous Redstart, Grey Bushchat and Crested kingfisher.**

Next, we all had fun crossing the river on the wooden raft. We were all fitted up with life-jackets & hard hats! Plus a **Blue Rock Thrush**, was flitting around rocks nearby. We arrived at the camp late afternoon, around the camp area there were **Great, Lineated and Blue-throated Barbets**, plus a stunning **Rufous-bellied Niltava** showing very well in the restaurant area in the shadows.

After a cup of tea we then took a short walk through the camp and along the river, we found **Buff-barred Warblers, Grey-hooded Warbler and Red-billed Leiothrix, Kalij Pheasant, 1 Lesser Fish-Eagle, 2 Common Kingfisher, 3 Great Barbet, 1 Grey-headed Woodpecker, 11 Slaty-headed Parakeet, 10 Grey Treepie 1 Long-tailed Shrike, 20 Bronzed Drongo, 5 Red-billed Leiothrix, Indian Robin, Oriental Magpie-Robin, White-capped & Plumbeous Redstart, Grey Wagtail and White-browed Wagtail.**

As the sun dropped we watched on as around **40 Bronzed Drongo's** hawked insects over the stunning river, whilst Water Redstarts flitted from rock to rock. Above them, a group of 5 rare **Ghoral** (similar to Mountain Goats but in a separate genus of their own) fed shore footed on the vertical exposed cliffs, taking minerals!

Evening snacks were served around a campfire, before we moved to the dining table complete with glowing embers to keeps us warm, now we were higher up and in the open area dining area. Plenty of Sambar alarm calls could be heard, but we were safe inside the electrified fence of the camp!

The evening log was completed under candlelight and head torches, revealing our species total at just over 250 species now!

Overnight Vangat Camp



© *Velvet-fronted Nuthatch*



© Plum-headed Parakeet & Hanuman Langur



© *Tiger & Indian Junglefowl*

Monday 11th December Vangat

This morning we were up early again and after tea and biscuits, we took a walk to explore the river pre-breakfast. There were excellent views of **Wallcreeper** on arrival by the river, this one showing well for a prolonged period on boulders close by. Two **Great Hornbills** were calling in the distance and we got very distant views, noting to rival our previous experience, but nice, nonetheless. The usual water redstarts and Wagtails were along the river, plus we had views of **Red-billed Blue Magpie** and **Common Green Magpie** feeding distantly in the trees, a Lesser Fish eagle flew along the river, a **Brown Dipper** passed by calling but wasn't seen! Amusingly, the only group of the trip **Wood pigeons** also passed upriver.

We then headed towards the grassland and scrub areas, this proved fruitful with an unexpected group of **5+ Rufous Breasted Accentors** appearing, a species usually seen much higher up, also here **10 Yellow-breasted Greenfinch**, back around the camp a couple of Crimson Sunbirds, plus as we arrived back the "Sleeping buddha" aka bird table was alive with birds coming to fruit and seeds that had been laid out. **Red-billed Leiothrix, Blue-winged Siva, White-crested Laughingthrush, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Blue Whistling Thrush, Grey treepie** all showing very well.

Whilst enjoying the coming and goings of the bird table we had a hearty breakfast, and then discuss the rest of the morning's plans. We split into two groups those that preferred to try and get pictures of the many birds in and around the camp and river area, then others who were happy to take a raft crossing, and a slightly more strenuous hike in the forest on the other side of the river! We took the raft and then set off birding on to the other side of the river, we soon hit a nice flock of birds in the forest, with **Fulvous breasted Woodpecker, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Long-tailed and Scarlet Minivets, Common Woodshrike, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrikes, Common Ioras. Yellow-bellied Fantail Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Himalayan Black-lored tit, Grey Hooded Warbler, Velvet-fronted and Chestnut-Bellied Nuthatch** all featuring.

We then continued up to a waterfall area, a beautiful setting and befitting that a **Little Forktail** was showing very well and the vertical rock face!

It was now early afternoon and getting very warm, so we started heading back, but did find another nice smaller feeding flock, **3 Black-chinned Yuhina**, were nice and shortly after we also located a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**.

We arrived back for a late lunch at 2.30pm, we then all took a bit of time to birdwatch around the camp, a few more species were found with additional species for the tour - **2 Whistlers warblers** and a **Black-throated Sunbird**. Late afternoon we headed out for a walk around the river and grassland again, the definite highlights were eventual good views of **Himalayan Rubythroat**, a showy **Hoopoe** and nice perched views of **Lesser Fish Eagle**.

Evening snacks were served around a campfire, before we moved to the dining table for dinner. The evening log had us totalling around 264 species now. This was quite the end of the evenings observations though as a **Porcupine** visited the feeding area!

Overnight Vangat Camp



© *Little Forktail & Crested Kingfisher*

Tuesday 12th December Vangat to Sattal

We had breakfast and then prepared to head off over the river via raft and then meet up back with the minibus to journey up to Sattal.

A brief look again at the feeders over breakfast produced **Blue-winged Siva, Grey-headed Woodpecker** and **Red-billed Leiothrix, White-crested laughingthrushes and Great Barbets**. We made our farewells to Vangat and were on the trail by 8am. En route we saw **Lesser Fish Eagle** and **Himalayan Griffon**. We crossed the river without incident, though a wonderful distraction was a group of **Smooth coated Otters** feeding in the rapids of the river, and on view for quite some time!

A brief stop was made at a local shop selling gifts in aid of local charities and then a birding stop at the dam area near Ramnagar which hosted in excess of **100 Ruddy Shelduck**, single a wide variety of **Egrets** and **Cormorants, Green and Common Sandpiper, 200 Ruddy Shelduck, Gadwall, Red-rumped Swallow, Crested Treeswift, Common Moorhen, Red-wattled Lapwing, Indian Pond Heron, Black Kite, Steppe eagle and 2 White-throated Kingfisher** before a hair-pin filled journey to Sattal.

We arrived at the Birders' Den, our hotel for three nights, late afternoon and settled in.

Overnight Birders Den

Wednesday 13th December Sattal Area.

In the grounds of the hotel, a hide overlooks a series of well stocked feeders, we started our birding here pre-breakfast at 7am, it started slowly but by 8am there was lots of birds coming and going, including several new species for the trip.

At times four species of **Woodpecker; Lesser and Greater Yellownape, Brown-fronted and Grey-headed Woodpecker**, plus **Kalij Pheasants, Black Francolin, Grey-winged Blackbird, Blue-whistling Thrush, Streaked Laughing Thrush, Rufous chinned and White-crested Laughingthrush, Grey Treepie and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**. Just before breakfast called around 40 **Oriental Turtle Doves** arrived and were joined by the real characters around the **White-throated Laughing Thrushes** with their attitude and demeanour. Just outside reception there was a flowering bush, the nectar attracting several **Green-tailed Sunbird**, a stunning male was the photographers prize!

After a filling breakfast, we then headed to the Sattal studio. Birding area, this is always lively in the morning with plenty of passerines in the trees, today was the same with both **Lemon-rumped** and **Buff-barred Warblers**, **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Fantail**, **Bar-tailed Treecreeper**, small group of **Black-throated Tit** and **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** and **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**.

Also hear is nice low level stream running through dense vegetation, and we did wonderfully well with a **Spotted Forktail** giving prolonged and then a diminutive and shy **Chestnut-headed Tesia**, showing very well in the same area.

Our guide, Jaypee went off on his own to search for Brown Fish Owl but no luck so we continued along the track. We had several more small flocks, and added **Rufous Sibia**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie**, **Black Bulbul** and **Black-headed Jay** to our list.

We then headed back for lunch, after lunch we took the minibus to the Gaula river area. The afternoon started brilliantly when Jaypee who had been tipped off, managed to find a roosting **Tawny Fish Owl**, it's a large Owl with a wingspan just under 1.0m wide, beautiful patterned with rich yellow eyes. Next was the final and third forktail species, it took a bit of tracking down but eventually we all got good views of a Slaty-backed Forktail, as it fed amongst the leaf litter in the riverbed, we also saw 2 more **Spotted Forktails!** Whilst searching for Forktails, a bonus bird was found a **Long-billed Thrush**, which spent over 30 minutes digging out leaf litter at the forest edge alongside the river.

After this success we then headed much further downstream into the village area, there was quite a few **Siberian Chiff-chaffs** here, plus the usual assembly of riverine Wagtails and Redstarts. Though nearby it was pleasing to find our only **Blue-capped Redstart** of the trip. Further along the river, a close **Crested Kingfisher** posed, and after some further searching we eventually tracked down **2 Brown Dipper**, a species we had surprisingly not got properly to grips with at Vangat.

It had been an excellent day and we now headed back to Birders Den for showers and evening meals.

Overnight Birders Den



© *Black-headed Jay & Red-billed Blue Magpie*



© *Kalij Pheasant & Emerald Dove*



© Tawny Fish owl & Striated Laughingthrush



© *Spotted Forktail & Great Barbet*



© *Brown fronted Woodpecker*

Thursday 14th December Sattal Area.

We were up again bright and early for tea and biscuits before heading to a pre-breakfast vigil at another hide and feeding station at Sattal Church bird hide, this was going to offer a lot of similar species to Birders Den but with the opportunity for maybe 1-2 species that we hadn't seen yet, and one particular partridge species.

Within minutes of arrival the feedstation was very busy! An incredible **55 Rufous Turtle Dove** were soon present, plus **8 Red Junglefowl**, **10 Kalij Pheasant**, **3 Great barbet**, **Greater Yellownape**, incredibly **5 species of Laughingthrush**, with around **30 White-throated appearing, but also** including a single **Striated Laughingthrush** which was a real stunner. On cue, after about an hour **6 Rufous-throated Partridges** appeared, this was a species I've never seen here before, my only previous encounter was in Assam, so this was a real bonus. The photography was wonderful with close views a good light by 8am onwards, and both **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler** and **Red-billed Blue Magpie** also appeared giving great photography opportunities!

We headed back for breakfast just before 9am, after breakfast I had a chat with everyone and we decided that the grounds and the hide were favourite until lunch, allowing each person opportunity to pursue their preference, the feeders offered up **Black Francolin**, around the gardens there was a small flock of **Nepal House Martins**, plus nice views of a couple of **Russet Sparrows** and an **Olive-backed Pipit**.

After lunch in the afternoon we headed back to the Gaula river area, we repeated quite a few species from yesterday and the **Tawny Fish Owl** was still present, we also had nice views of a **Wallcreeper** near the village, doing exactly what this species do on the vertical river bank! We also had brief views again of another **Himalayan Rubythroat**, but it wouldn't pose for photography! As the light faded, it was time to head back, and we had our final evening meal at the Birders Den, the evenings log call suggested a total of 295 or 296 species.

Overnight Birders Den, Sattal.



© *Rufous chinned Laughingthrush & Rufous throated Partridge*

Friday 15th December Sattal to Delhi.

With a long journey in front of us, an early departure was made but not before a brief look at the feeders where the assemblage of birds was similar to yesterday.

We stopped off in for coffee and a final meet up with Sumantha Ghosh, who had arranged much of our ground arrangements. We also dropped off Jaypee our lovely guide over the whole trip. Each member of the group was given a mug as gift, inscribed with their name and a photograph of an Indian bird or mammal glazed on it. A lovely gesture and great memento of a wonderful trip. Our last task was to compete with the traffic in Delhi, not to be underestimated!

A meal was taken back at the Ashok Hotel before heading off to the airport at around 11pm and in good time for all pre-flight formalities to be completed in plenty of time for our overnight flight to Heathrow. Security and chedck-in was swift and we were soon relaxing over a beer, awaiting our gate to be called.

Saturday 16th December - Delhi to Heathrow

We boarded on time and departed at 3.30am local Delhi time, flight was uneventful and we arrived back at London, Heathrow local time 730am. After collecting our luggage, we said our farewells, and everyone headed home in the grey wet British weather!

Systematic List of birds recorded.

	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
2	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
4	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
5	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
6	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
8	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
9	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
10	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
12	Eurasian/Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
13	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>
14	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
15	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
16	Rufous-throated Partridge	<i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>
17	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
18	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
19	goose	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
20	Grey Francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>
21	Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
22	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
23	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
24	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
25	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
26	Rufous Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
27	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
28	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
29	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
30	Asian Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
31	Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
32	Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>
33	Pin-tailed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>
34	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
35	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
36	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
37	White-rumped Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>
38	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>
39	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>

40	Crested Treeswift	Hemiprocne coronata
41	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus
42	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra
43	Grey-headed Swamphe	Porphyrio poliocephalus
44	White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus
45	Brown Crake	Zapornia akool
46	Sarus Crane	Antigone antigone
47	Great Thick-knee	Esacus recurvirostris
48	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus
49	Ibisbill	Ibidorhyncha struthersii
50	River Lapwing	Vanellus duvaucelii
51	Grey-headed Lapwing	Vanellus cinereus
52	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus
53	White-tailed Lapwing	Vanellus leucurus
54	Kentish Plover	Anarhynchus alexandrinus
55	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus
56	Bronze-winged Jacana	Metopidius indicus
57	Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago
58	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
59	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus
60	Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis
61	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
62	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus
63	Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus
64	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
65	Ruff	Calidris pugnax
66	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii
67	Little Stint	Calidris minuta
68	Brown-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus
69	Pallas's Gull	Ichthyiaetus ichthyiaetus
70	River Tern	Sterna aurantia
71	Black-bellied Tern	Sterna acuticauda
72	Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans
73	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra
74	Asian Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus
75	Black-necked Stork	Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus
76	Painted Stork	Mycteria leucocephala
77	Oriental Darter	Anhinga melanogaster
78	Little Cormorant	Microcarbo niger
79	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo
80	Indian Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscicollis
81	Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus
82	Black Bittern	Ixobrychus flavicollis

83	Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
84	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
85	Striated Heron	Butorides striata
86	Indian Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii
87	Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus
88	Great White Egret	Ardea alba
89	Medium Egret	Ardea intermedia
90	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
91	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
92	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
93	Black-headed Ibis	Threskiornis melanocephalus
94	Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
95	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus
96	Crested Honey-buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus
97	Red-headed Vulture	Sarcogyps calvus
98	Black Vulture	Aegypius monachus
99	Himalayan Griffon	Gyps himalayensis
100	Crested Serpent-Eagle	Spilornis cheela
101	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus nipalensis
102	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus cirrhatus
103	Indian Spotted Eagle	Clanga hastata
104	Greater Spotted Eagle	Clanga clanga
105	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus
106	Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis
107	Imperial Eagle	Aquila heliaca
108	Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata
109	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus
110	Shikra	Accipiter badius
111	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus
112	Black Kite	Milvus migrans
113	Pallas's Fish-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucoryphus
114	Lesser Fish-Eagle	Ichthyophaga humilis
115	Tawny Fish-Owl	Ketupa flavipes
116	Dusky Eagle Owl	Ketupa coromanda
117	Jungle Owlet	Glaucidium radiatum
118	Spotted Owlet	Athene brama
119	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops
120	Great Hornbill	Buceros bicornis
121	Indian Grey Hornbill	Ocyrceros birostris
122	Oriental Pied-Hornbill	Anthracoceros albirostris
123	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis
124	Stork-billed Kingfisher	Pelargopsis capensis
125	White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis

126	Crested Kingfisher	Megaceryle lugubris
127	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
128	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis athertoni
129	Indian Roller	Coracias benghalensis
130	Coppersmith Barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus
131	Great Barbet	Psilopogon virens
132	Lineated Barbet	Psilopogon lineatus
133	Brown-headed Barbet	Psilopogon zeylanicus
134	Blue-throated Barbet	Psilopogon asiaticus
135	Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla
136	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus canicapillus
137	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	Leiopicus mahrattensis
138	Brown-fronted Woodpecker	Dendrocoptes auriceps
139	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos macei
140	White-naped Woodpecker	Chrysocolaptes festivus
141	Himalayan Flameback	Dinopium shorii
142	Black-rumped Flameback	Dinopium benghalense
143	Lesser Yellownape	Picus chlorolophus
144	Streak-throated Woodpecker	Picus xanthopygaeus
145	Grey-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus
146	Greater Yellownape	Chrysophlegma flavinucha
147	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus
148	Red-necked Falcon	Falco chicquera
149	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
150	Ring-necked Parakeet	Psittacula krameri
151	Slaty-headed Parakeet	Psittacula himalayana
152	Plum-headed Parakeet	Psittacula cyanocephala
153	Small Minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus
154	Long-tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus
155	Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus speciosus
156	Indian Golden Oriole	Oriolus kundoo
157	Black-hooded Oriole	Oriolus xanthornus
158	Common Woodshrike	Tephrodornis pondicerianus
159	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus
160	Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia
161	White-throated Fantail	Rhipidura albicollis
162	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus
163	Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus
164	White-bellied Drongo	Dicrurus caerulescens
165	Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus
166	Hair-crested Drongo	Dicrurus hottentottus
167	Isabelline Shrike	Lanius isabellinus
168	Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach

169	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
170	Black-headed Jay	<i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i>
171	Red-billed Blue-Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>
172	Common Green-Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>
173	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
174	Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>
175	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
176	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
177	Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i>
178	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
179	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
180	Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
181	Himalayan Black-lored Tit	<i>Machlolophus xanthogenys</i>
182	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>
183	Bengal Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>
184	Indian Bushlark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>
185	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
186	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
187	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
188	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
189	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
190	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
191	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
192	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
193	Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>
194	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
195	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>
196	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
197	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
198	Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>
199	Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalense</i>
200	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
201	Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>
202	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>
203	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
204	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>
205	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
206	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
207	White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>
208	Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
209	Buff-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>
210	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
211	Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>

212	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita
213	Whistler's Warbler	Phylloscopus whistleri
214	Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides
215	Grey-hooded Warbler	Phylloscopus xanthoschistos
216	Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler	Cettia major
217	Chestnut-headed Tesia	Cettia castaneocoronata
218	Aberrant Bush Warbler	Horornis flavolivaceus
219	Black-throated Tit	Aegithalos concinnus
220	Lesser Whitethroat	Curruca curruca
221	Yellow-eyed Babbler	Chrysomma sinense
222	Black-chinned Yuhina	Yuhina nigrimenta
223	Indian White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus
224	Black-chinned Babbler	Cyanoderma pyrrhops
225	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler	Erythrogonys erythrogonys
226	Puff-throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps
227	Striated Laughingthrush	Grammatoptila striata
228	Streaked Laughingthrush	Trochalopteron lineatum
229	Rufous Sibia	Heterophasia capistrata
230	Blue-winged Minla	Actinodura cyanouroptera
231	Red-billed Leiothrix	Leiothrix lutea
232	Large Grey Babbler	Argya malcolmi
233	Jungle Babbler	Argya striata
234	Common Babbler	Argya caudata
235	Striated Babbler	Argya earlei
236	White-crested Laughingthrush	Garrulax leucolophus
237	Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	Ianthocincla rufogularis
238	White-throated Laughingthrush	Pterorhinus albogularis
239	Wallcreeper	Tichodroma muraria
240	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	Sitta frontalis
241	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	Sitta cinnamoventris
242	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	Certhia himalayana
243	Brown Dipper	Cinclus pallasii
244	Indian Pied Starling	Gracupica contra
245	Brahminy Starling	Sturnia pagodarum
246	Chestnut-tailed Starling	Sturnia malabarica
247	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
248	Bank Myna	Acridotheres ginginianus
249	Long-billed Thrush	Zoothera monticola
250	Grey-winged Blackbird	Turdus boulboul
251	Indian Robin	Copsychus fulicatus
252	Oriental Magpie-Robin	Copsychus saularis
253	White-rumped Shama	Copsychus malabaricus
254	Rufous-bellied Niltava	Niltava sundara

255	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
256	Blue Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
257	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>
258	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>
259	Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>
260	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>
261	Himalayan Rubythroat	<i>Calliope pectoralis</i>
262	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>
263	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophciata</i>
264	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
265	Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
266	White-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
267	Blue-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>
268	Eastern Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
269	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
270	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
271	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
272	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
273	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
274	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
275	Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>
276	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>
277	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
278	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>
279	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
280	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
281	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophciata</i>
282	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
283	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>
284	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
285	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
286	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
287	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
288	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
289	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
290	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>
291	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
292	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
293	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
294	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
295	Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	<i>Chloris spinoides</i>
296	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>

Mammals recorded

Unusually for the first time on this tour we didn't see Indian Elephant, though we did witness plenty of evidence of their presence round the camps, particularly at Vangat.

MAMMALS
Greater Indian Fruit Bat
Rhesus Macaque
Hanuman Langur
Himalayan Langur
Golden Jackal
Tiger
Wild Boar
Indian Muntjac
Ghoral
Sambar
Spotted Deer or Chital
Nilgai or Blue Bull
Indian Palm Squirrel
Indian Porcupine
Yellow-throated Marten
Smooth-coated Otter
OTHERS
Gharial Crocodile
Mugger Crocodile
Soft-shelled Roof Turtle
Hard-shelled Turtle
Soft-shelled Turtle
Golden Mahseer (fish)