

NORTHERN INDIA: TIGERS, BIRDS AND THE HIMALAYAS CUSTOM TOUR TRIP REPORT FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

By Jason Boyce



The majestic Brown Fish Owl!



Overview

This was a new destination for all the participants on the tour, a tour that offered a whole lot more than you would expect, something for everyone. This is a country that is rich in culture, history. and indeed both fauna and flora! We visited many great destinations during the tour, the world-famous Corbett and Ranthambhore National Parks as well as Keoladeo Ghana National Park, and the beautiful Himalayan foothills at both Pangot and Sattal. We also made a turn to the truly breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Fatehpur Sikri and the Taj Mahal.

The tour connected with a great number of bird families (77 to be exact), including a wonderful variety of species such as **Brown Fish Owl** (seen on the cover of the report), **Bar-headed Goose**, **Jungle Bush Quail**, an assortment of woodpeckers including **White-naped Woodpecker**, **Himalayan Woodpecker**, **Greater Flameback**, and the diminutive **Speckled Piculet**, **Indian**, **Himalayan**, and **Bearded Vultures**, **Bonelli's Eagle**, the amazing **Black Eagle**, and **Greater Spotted** and **Indian Spotted Eagles**, as well as **Indian Courser**, **Small Pratincole**, **Maroon Oriole**, **Cheer** and **Koklass Pheasants**, and **Chestnut-headed** and **Greybellied Tesias**, as well as **Slaty-backed** and **Spotted Forktails**. There are too many excellent birds to mention here; a full list of all species recorded on the tour can be seen at the bottom of this report.



The common but beautiful Blue Whistling Thrush at Sattal

India Tour: Tigers, Birds and the Himalayas

Day 1, 20 February 2018. Okhla Bird Sanctuary

The tour began with a relaxing day of birding at the well-known Okhla Bird Sanctuary on the outskirts of Delhi. The group was ready to go after a day's rest the day before, and so we kicked things off in the car on the way to the wetland with **Rose-ringed Parakeet** and **Common** and **Bank Mynas** as well as the ever-present **House Crow.** The wetland of Okhla is home to many



hundreds of waterfowl; the first few we saw were Tufted Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Common Pochard, Eurasian Wigeon, Greylag Goose, and Gadwall.

The wide trails at the bird sanctuary are lined with some excellent vegetation, good for warblers and other smaller passerines. We spent at least an hour on the first 300-meter section, enjoying the likes of Greenish Warbler, Hume's Leaf Warbler, Common Chiffchaff, Booted Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Common Tailorbird, Black Redstart, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Purple Sunbird, and Jungle Babbler, as well as Ashy, Plain, and Yellow-bellied Prinias. Rufous Treepie was great to see, as was a small group of Yellow-footed Green Pigeons, the young Shikra nearby, and Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher. Further along we got better looks at more waterfowl and added Bar-headed Goose, Great White Pelican, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, and Little Grebe. A pair of Indian Grey Hornbills flew right overhead but unfortunately didn't hang around for prolonged views. Two highlights up to this point had been both the barbets that were possible here, the larger Brown-headed Barbet, which was sitting up high and calling away for a long time, and the smaller Coppersmith Barbet, a pair of which was also very vocal, and both species gave us excellent views. A Bonelli's Eagle was seen eating something on one of the islands across the wetland.

After a quick break we carried on to the eastern side of the sanctuary, where we picked up a few different species, egrets and herons in form of Eastern Cattle, Little, Intermediate, and Great Egrets and Purple and Grey Herons as well as Indian Pond Heron. We also thoroughly enjoyed the resident Spotted Owlet as well as a single Red-breasted Flycatcher flitting about from tree to tree. Our first large mammal of the tour was a male Nilgai feeding in the marshy areas of the wetland.

We added a few more species when we took to the grassy fields alongside the trails; here we picked up many Green Bee-eaters, Pied Bush Chat, Graceful Prinia, Grev Francolin, a single Western Yellow Wagtail, and a female Bluethroat. This had been a very enjoyable day for everyone, and many a lifer had come rolling in.



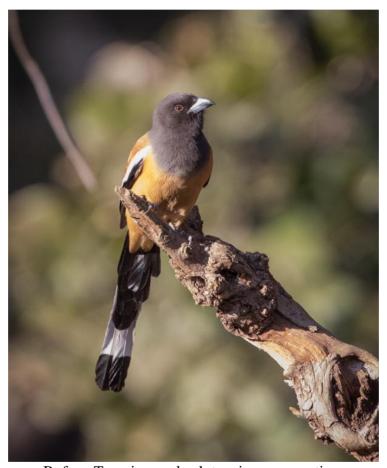
By February these Green Bee-eaters were very active and vocal from Delhi all the way to Ranthambhore.



Day 2, 21 February 2018. Travel to Ranthambhore National Park

We boarded the train in Delhi only about 15 minutes after the scheduled departure and made good time south toward Ranthambhore National Park, arriving in time for a really enjoyable lunch at our hotel. We freshened up and made our way into the park – our safari (that's what they call a game drive here) was in zone 5.

It didn't take too long to pick up our first new species; it came in form of a pair of brilliant, endemic Painted Spurfowl at the entrance to the park. Some of the other species we enjoyed early on were Southern Grey Shrike, Rufous Treepie, Dusky Crag Martin, and a brilliant **Brown Fish Owl** in a large fig-type tree within the deciduous forest.



Rufous Treepie, an absolute winner every time

We carried on scanning the dry but fairly dense woodland for anything – specifically large cats with dark stripes. We enjoyed seeing Jungle Bush Quail, Indian Jungle Crow, Indian Peafowl, Rose-ringed and Plum-headed Parakeets, Cinereous Tit, White-bellied Drongo, Grey Francolin, and both White-naped Woodpecker and Black-rumped Flameback.

This afternoon safari, being our first one, was a really good way for us to get to grips with some of the mammals that we would be seeing over the course of the next few days. Our first deer was Sambar, a dark and larger deer. We also saw many Chital (spotted deer) here; these were very common, and it didn't seem like they were too perturbed by the possibility that there could be a



Leopard close. We also saw Southern Plains Grey Langurs and a single Mugger crocodile, which were enjoyable to see. Birding highlights were **Grey Francolin** and **White-browed Fantail**. We made our way back to the hotel, and on the way we were treated to **Indian Roller** and a large number of **Green Bee-eaters** – a really great end to the day, even though we didn't manage any cat sightings, but there is always tomorrow!

Day 3, 22 February 2016. Ranthambhore National Park

Today was a day of safari drives through Ranthambhore National Park — we enjoyed a morning drive before 'brunch' and then later an afternoon drive. For the morning drive we were allocated zone 4, and this area led also through some beautiful dry deciduous forest patches and some rocky hillsides. We didn't take long to see our first herds of Sambar and Chital and a little later on a large male Wild Boar showed really well. Bird-wise we picked up **Plum-headed Parakeet** and **Coppersmith Barbet** early on, **White-browed Fantail** and **Indian Jungle Crow** further along the track. and a brilliant **Stork-billed Kingfisher** in the valley below us. We tried hard this morning for either of the feline mammals but we did not succeed and knew that we had to try for them later on our last safari. We did pick up quite a few new trip birds later, though; these were **Indian Silverbill**, **Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark**, **White-capped** and **Grey-necked Buntings**, and a female **Crested Bunting**.

A walk around lunchtime was actually fairly productive; it yielded some good sightings such as Common and Yellow-eyed Babblers, Purple Sunbird, Long-tailed and Bay-backed Shrikes, Spotted Dove, Indian Robin, Brown Rock Chat, Plum-headed Parakeet once again, and the interesting Common Iora. We grabbed a quick bite to eat and headed out for the afternoon safari.

We were well aware that this was our last shot in Ranthambhore to see a Tiger, so we put in all the effort possible to find this mystical creature. We absolutely loved seeing **Indian Vulture** perched on a cliff face as we drove toward our the zone, and the Southern Plains Grey Langurs were also a treat at the entrance to our afternoon safari gate, zone 1. Sightings were a little slow in the afternoon, but at a larger body of water we did manage to find the likes of **Great Stone-curlew**, **River Tern**, **Little Cormorant**, **Eurasian Teal**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Marsh** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Common Redshank**, and **Pied** and **White-throated Kingfishers**, as well as a flock of **Little Swifts** overhead. Later on we spotted a single **Brown Fish Owl** roosting in a tall tree in a dry riverbed as well as a pair of **Spotted Owlets** in a large crack of a tree. As disappointing as it was, at this point we had accepted the fact that Corbett National Park would be our only shot at seeing a Tiger.

Day 4, 23 February 2018. Ranthambhore area and travel to Bharatpur

We had a leisurely start with a cup of masala chai (tea) and some biscuits at the hotel. Thereafter we headed out to bird some of the scrub and sparse woodland near the Ranthambhore gate. We really did have a good morning, picking up most of our targets and more. Indian Robin and Rose-ringed and Plum-headed Parakeets put in early appearances, but it was a pair of White-naped Woodpeckers that really got us excited. We heard them calling and then soon thereafter picked them up in a large dead tree right near where we were standing. A bit further on we enjoyed Yellow-crowned Woodpecker and our first Grey-breasted Prinia hopping about small bushes. A pair of Common Woodshrikes passed by and showed nicely too. The impressive Alexandrine Parakeet also played ball; at first we had a few in the scopes to enjoy and then had three of them fly by at close range — large size, chestnut wing patch. and an impressively loud



call were distinctive. A troop of Southern Plains Gray Langurs bounded past us toward a nearby temple. Other highlights at this site were **Jungle Prinia**, **Common Babbler**, **Spotted Owlet**, **Bay-backed Shrike**, and **Large Cuckooshrike**.

Another site closer to the lodge had a group of seven **Indian Stone-curlews** for us to enjoy as well as a pair of the incredible and sought-after **Painted Sandgrouse**. We enjoyed really good scope views of both these species here. We ended the morning with a brilliantly displaying **Indian Bush Lark** – a sign that spring was around the corner.



The whole group really enjoyed these stunners, a Plum-headed Parakeet pair.

We headed north out of Sawai Madhopur and crossed the Banas River, where we stopped for some birding. The bridge obviously gave us a good vantage point from which we could scope, and we picked up some great new additions. Asian Openbill and Woolly-necked Stork caused the most excitement early on – both being really neat birds. A couple of River Terns were present, while a single Common Snipe slowly moved along the far bank. Other shorebirds that were present included Common Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, and a single Black-tailed Godwit. We also really enjoyed Pied and White-throated Kingfishers, Purple Heron, and the hundreds of Streak-throated Swallows that were cruising around overhead. The swallows use the underside of the bridge to build their nests now in the spring. Our last spot of this travel day to Bharatpur was in the town itself; a known site for Greater Painted-snipe delivered, a single male bird, seen at close range. Here we also picked up Spotted Redshank, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Bluethroat, and Grey-headed Swamphen. We arrived at the lodge, did our list, and enjoyed yet again the excellent Indian cuisine.

Day 5, 24 February 2018. Keoladeo Ghana National Park

Everyone was rested and ready to begin our full day of birding at the well-known Keoladeo Ghana National Park. It was truly a great day as we recorded over 40 new species for the trip and a total of 110 species. Our mode of transport for the day was by cycle rickshaw — a perfect way of traversing the 10-kilometer-long national park. We didn't get far before we jumped off the rickshaws and notched up the likes of **Indian Grey Hornbill**, **Brahminy Starling**, **White-eared**



and Red-vented Bulbuls, Egyptian Vulture, Coppersmith and Brown-headed Barbets, and a lovely male Indian Peafowl.

The park is fairly large and has some excellent woodland as well as a big area of wetland in the center. We first birded some woodland areas and then moved on to the very productive wetland area. The woodland held the likes of Large Grey Babbler, Two-barred Greenish Warbler, Bluethroat, Black-rumped Flameback, and Pied Bush Chat. Although the water levels were lower than normal the waterfowl were still present in good numbers. Lesser Whistling Duck were really very numerous, while the numbers of Knob-billed Duck, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Eurasian Teal, Gadwall, Garganey, and both Bar-headed and Greylag Geese were lower. Bronze-winged Jacana was one of the group's favorite birds of the day, and we recorded about eight individuals. We also picked up a lovely pair of Black-necked Storks and recorded about a dozen or more Painted Storks. The park also holds good numbers of ibis and cormorant: Rednaped, Glossy, and Black-headed Ibis were all present, while Great and Little Cormorants outnumbered the fewer Indian Cormorants. We also recorded three lapwing species, the common Red-wattled and the uncommon White-tailed and Yellow-wattled Lapwings.

Raptors are one of the main attractions of Bharatpur, and once the temperature got up (which was fairly early, I might add) the raptors came out 'to play'. We soon recorded **Greater Spotted Eagle**, **Tawny Eagle**, and the less common **Eastern Imperial Eagle** in flight. It was also nice to pick up **Crested Honey Buzzard** as well as **Crested Serpent-Eagle**. Other raptors for the morning included **Indian Spotted Eagle**, **Shikra**, and a single **Common Kestrel**.

After we had enjoyed a picnic-style hot lunch we were ready to roll again. A resident **Indian Scops Owl** was roosting nearby, while a mother and two young **Dusky Eagle-Owls** were also seen on their nest. Late in the day we did well to find **Red Avadavat** and **Eurasian Wryneck** at the southern end of the park, both being new birds for our trip list. Other birds for the day were **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Ferruginous Duck**, and a single **Common Pochard**.



Bronze-wined Jacana showed incredibly well at Keoladeo Ghana National Park.



Day 6, 25 February 2018. To Chambal Safari Lodge via Fatehpur Sikri and the Taj Mahal Today would include some agricultural land birding in the Kumher area and thereafter visits to both Fatehpur Sikri and the majestic Taj Mahal.

We enjoyed a warm breakfast and then headed off to the Kumher area before things heated up a bit too much. We started with a flock of Greater Short-toed Larks, Black Redstart, Ashycrowned Sparrow-Lark, and a female Desert Wheatear in an open, abandoned field. We continued, keeping an eye open for the main target of the area, Indian Courser. We hadn't walked too far into the field before we picked up our first, soon-after our second, third, fourth and fifth. A small group of about six **Indian Coursers** were present. We spent some time watching them and getting some photographs. Tawny Pipit and Crested Lark also kept us entertained in the same vicinity. The last few birds that we picked up in the area were **Indian** Bush Lark, Large Grey Babbler, Red-rumped Swallow, and a single Isabelline Wheatear. A pair of Sarus Cranes were right next to the road as we drove away from the fields, but as we turned around to get better looks they were disturbed by traffic and some people alongside the road.

We headed back to the hotel, checked out, and made our way east to the monument of Fatehpur Sikri. The Fatehpur Sikri monument is a collection of red sandstone buildings with beautifully crafted details, and it was founded back in the 16th century by a Mughal emperor. The story of the emperor and why he built the monument is very interesting. While listening to the story we did take a quick peek at a pair of **Booted Eagles** as they came soaring overhead!

We had a guick lunch, and soon we had arrived in Agra, the Indian city of love, for our visit to the Taj Mahal. Once again we were joined by one of the best local historical guides, who did a marvelous job at giving us the full story behind the Taj Mahal. The compelling story of India's very own Romeo and Juliet, Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal, as well as the details of the extraordinary building, 'the Taj', truly must be experienced firsthand. Without giving too many details away here, the building, which took 22 years to complete, is not actually a palace at all but a mausoleum. Needless to say, the group absolutely loved the visit, and the beauty of this architecture can be seen in the picture below.



The phenomenal story of the Taj Mahal must be heard firsthand.



Onward we went to Chambal Safari Lodge! We didn't manage to fit much birding in before it was time for dinner, but we did have a night walk planned after dinner. The lodge grounds here at Chambal Safari Lodge are excellent for owls and nocturnal mammals; on our last tour our group managed to locate a Collared Hedgehog moving though the leaf litter. We spent about one and a half hours out tonight but were largely unsuccessful, having only a couple of **Spotted** Owlet sightings. But then the star of the evening showed up, a Common Palm Civet moving through the trees. The group was ecstatic to get visuals of this rather secretive mammal.



Common Palm Civet – moving about in the trees above us

Day 7, 26 February 2018. Chambal River boat cruise and transfer to Noida

On one of the most-anticipated mornings of the tour it was time for our boat cruise on the Chambal River. We had a good breakfast and drove from the Chambal Safari Lodge to the National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, where we would board. Before we made it to the boat, though, we picked up our first birds of the morning; these included Green Bee-eater, Indian Roller, and a few raptors in form of Black-winged Kite, Common Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, and Long-legged Buzzard. The riverbank held some waterfowl and shorebirds, among them Bar-headed Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard, Northern Pintail, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, and Common Greenshank.

It was a good cruise for shorebirds; we picked up more species on the boat trip: Wood Sandpiper, Spotted and Common Redshanks, Great Stone-curlew, River Lapwing, Redwattled Lapwing, and Black-winged Stilt. The river is well known for the strange Ganges River Dolphin, which we managed to see very well. At one point the dolphin breached the water surface and was about 80 percent out of the water. We also noticed two Golden Jackals taking a drink from the river on the far side. Avian additions as we traveled upstream were Pallas's Gull, Black-bellied, River, and Whiskered Terns, Asian Openbill, Painted Stork, Pied Kingfisher, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Western Osprey, and Red-naped Ibis. A little further along we saw our first Gharial – a first of many. This strange, fish-eating crocodile is common along this section of the 900-kilometer-long Chambal River, along with its relative, the Mugger crocodile.



We stopped to have a cup of Indian chai and some coffee (which was always welcome) and noticed **Blue Rock Thrush** moving around the rocks at one of the banks.

One of the last highlights of the morning (a morning which really included many amazing sightings and many new species for the tour) was a small group of three **Indian Skimmers** roosting on one of the small islands –a special bird for us and a special genus to connect with anywhere in the world.

After this great morning we started to head back to the lodge. We made sure to do a little more birding en route and picked up two **Baya Weavers** as well as **Long-tailed Shrike** in a patch of agricultural land nearby. **Brown-headed** and **Coppersmith Barbets** saw us off at the lodge as we made our way north back to Noida, a satellite city of Delhi, for our transition to the Himalayan foothills the following day.



Great Stone-curlew has one impressive-looking bill!

Day 8, 27 February 2018. Drive from New Delhi to and birding at Sattal

Yesterday we had begun the transition from the northern plains to the Himalayan foothills, and this morning we completed that journey by traveling to Sattal, which is located at about 1600m above sea level. We immediately knew that we were higher than in Delhi, as the air had a slight chill to it. We arrived for lunch and soon after started our afternoon-birding along a small rocky stream nearby.

The first few birds we connected with were White-capped Redstart, Plumbeous Water Redstart, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Black-throated Bushtit, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, and the uncommon Whiskered Yuhina. We also enjoyed a Brown-fronted Woodpecker working one of the tall pine trees alongside the road. A pair of Great Barbets was calling nearby, and we stopped to admire this spectacular bird. Blue Whistling Thrush is known to be common, but the group really enjoyed this bird this afternoon. A single Collared Owlet sat out in the open in a tall bare tree, while a couple of skulky Scaly-breasted Wren-babblers were calling nearby. It actually didn't take too much time to get a few visuals of these crazy brown balls, and the group was well satisfied. Striated Laughingthrush is often fairly tricky to pin down, but we were lucky enough to encounter one singing from some open branches of a tree for enough time to scope it too. Other species that were in the area were Small Niltava, Grey-



hooded and **Whistler's Warblers**, the very smart **Spotted Forktail**, and a couple of **Steppe Eagles** overhead. It was a really good start to our birding in the Himalayan foothills and left us even more excited for what was to come.

Day 9, 28 February 2018. A full day birding around Sattal

What an incredible day today would turn out to be! We enjoyed a fairly early breakfast and then headed out to a local hotspot quite close to the lodge. The area is great for rubythroat species as well as Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, and we managed great visuals of both species – **Himalayan Rubythroat** and **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush**! It was absolutely incredible to get both these birds on our first morning here.

The area we were birding had a few open sections of grass surrounded by small thickets and some taller trees. A pair of **Olive-backed Pipits** enjoyed the open, overgrazed, grassy area, while **Slaty-blue Flycatcher** and a stunning **Rufous-bellied Niltava** enjoyed the cover of the trees. A pair of **Verditer Flycatchers** was spotted flying above us. Both **Slaty-headed** and **Plum-headed Parakeets** were constant throughout the day, both were also very vocal. We picked up the call of **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler** behind us and then managed to get nice visuals of three different birds of this species. The area was also alive with bird song; the most common calls we could here were **Grey-hooded Warbler**, **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, and **White-throated Fantail**. We also managed to get nice looks at all of these.



Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes were moving around in groups near our lodge in Sattal.

From here we made our way to the main Sattal Lake area – there is so much habitat and so much birding to be done in this area. We stopped on the way to try for a couple of targets. Within a few minutes we picked up a beautiful male **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** in the same flowering tree. We also did really well with bulbuls this morning, recording a total of five species, including the common **Black** and **Himalayan Bulbuls**, **Ashy Bulbul**, and the rare **Mountain Bulbul**.

On the walk through the forest we came across an amazing feeding party, which really kept us busy for a good hour. This bird party was full of many different types of passerines; some of the



highlights here were Scaly and Tickell's Thrushes, Grey-winged Blackbird, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Scarlet and Long-tailed Minivets, Whistler's Warbler, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Himalayan Black-lored and Green-backed Tits, Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Bronzed Drongo, Red-billed Leiothrix, and Black-chinned Babbler.

When we continued further down the valley Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker made a brief appearance as too did Velvet-fronted Nuthatch. We heard Chestnut-headed Tesia and spent a decent amount of time on this species, of which we did manage to get visuals in the end — what an incredible miniature bird! We also recorded Grey-sided Bush Warbler as well as Aberrant Bush Warbler in the area. A bit further down the track we managed a brilliant little Pygmy Wren-babbler, which was giving a loud, high-pitched contact call. The last couple of birds at this location were also crackers: Blue-winged Minla, White-throated Laughingthrush, Greater and Lesser Yellownapes, Greater Flameback, Black-headed Jay, and another brilliant Brown Fish Owl.

After a lovely Indian-style lunch we made our way back out to a local rocky stream. This location was productive; we picked up the classy **Red-billed Blue Magpie** and **Slaty-backed Forktail** rather quickly and also enjoyed scope views of **Great** and **Blue-throated Barbets** in a large, flowering tree. A great bird, **Brown Dipper**, surprised us and allowed for really great views too. We ended the day in the bottom of the valley with the likes of **Streaked Laughingthrush**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Russet Sparrow**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Grey Treepie**, **Greybreasted Prinia**, a cracking pair of **Speckled Piculets**, and an amazing **Crested Kingfisher** above the stream.

Day 10, 1 March 2018. Sattal to Pangot

Today we headed back to the Sattal Lake area, where we had spent some time the previous morning, in order to take care of some unfinished business with a couple of species, one of them being **Pygmy Wren-babbler**. The wren-babbler really gave us the run around, but in the process of finding it again we were blown away with some of the other species we found in this area. First came a **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker**, which some of the group had missed the previous morning, and second an **Ultramarine Flycatcher** – one of the more stunning-looking flycatchers in the area

A small stream flowed nearby, and in the adjacent undergrowth we occasionally picked up some movement. The calls of **Pygmy Wren-babbler** as well as **Chestnut-headed Tesia** were around, and we finally managed to see both. But soon we briefly noticed that one skulker was neither the wren-babbler nor the tesia. What could it have been? Noticing that it had had no tail the only possibility was Grey-bellied Tesia. And sure enough, once we managed more definitive views (at least 30 minutes later) it actually was **Grey-bellied Tesia** – the rare eastern-Himalayan species, a top find!



The bird of the morning at Sattal, the diminutive Grey-bellied Tesia

Soon it was time to travel from the Sattal area to the famous Pangot birding area and the Jungle Lore Birding Lodge. En route we stopped for some visuals and photographs of the breathtaking Himalayan snow-capped peaks. Just as we were enjoying them a **Black Eagle** came soaring by at eye-level and then caught a thermal and cruised overhead – one of my personal favorite sightings of the tour!



One of the top birds of the Himalayas, Black Eagle

After we arrived at the lodge we got ready for our afternoon birding session. It turned out to be a great day for **Ultramarine Flycatcher**, as we saw not one or two today but three different birds in different areas! The latest sighting came in a bird party that we picked up to the north of Pangot town and which included **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**,



Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Lemon-rumped Warbler, Black-faced Warbler, Eurasian Jay, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, and a small group of Black Bulbuls. Further along the track we started to make our way down the hillside to an area with a slight change in habitat. It was amazing to pick up a few bird parties along the roadside, made up of a new assortment of species; here we found Streaked Laughingthrush, Striated Prinia, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Verditer Flycatcher, Rock Bunting, Rufous-breasted Accentor, and Red-rumped Swallows overhead.

Day 11, 2 March 2018. Full day at elevation above Pangot

The group was all excited about heading up from Pangot to slightly higher elevations, knowing that we would have a good chance to see a few pheasants and high-elevation species.

The morning did not disappoint. We kicked things off in the forest patches first – here we picked up one or two mixed parties, which included species like Coal Tit, Black-throated Bushtit, Black-faced Warbler, Green-tailed Sunbird, Whiskered Yuhina, Oriental White-eye, and many Grey-hooded Warblers.

We traveled a little further and once again stopped at a point where there was some good bird activity. Here we found White-tailed Nuthatch, Himalayan Woodpecker, Maroon Oriole, and finally Rufous Sibia, which had avoided us to this point. We also heard the call of Hill Partridge at this spot. We arrived at the famous 'Cheer Point' to find that another birding group were looking at five Cheer Pheasants below us in the tall grass. We all managed great visuals and spent a good amount of time enjoying these endangered birds. Other species in the area included three vulture species: Himalayan Vulture and Griffon Vulture were both at times at eye-level with us, while the striking Bearded Vulture was first seen cruising overhead and then later a little lower, closer to where we were having an enjoyable picnic breakfast.



The characteristic wing and tail shape of the Bearded Vulture.

We moved back into some more thickly forested patches briefly, where more of our target birds prefer to hang out. **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** was the first to show, first the male came by and soon after the female also showed well. **Koklass Pheasants** spend time moving on the forest floor and in low cover – they are rather secretive pheasant. We picked one up on call and slowly



worked toward where the call had come from. It took some time, and only after another 30 minutes did some of the group manage to get close-up visuals of this elusive bird.

Later that afternoon we were extremely lucky to find a few excellent species, the first of which was Chestnut-eared Bunting, a species not often seen in this area. Other notable species included Crimson Sunbird, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, Hill Partridge, Himalayan Rubythroat, an awesome close flyby of Bonelli's Eagle, a few Pink-browed Rosefinches, Spot-winged Grosbeak, and a Black-throated Accentor that got away before we could really get good looks.

During dinner we had a thrilling interruption when we first heard and then tracked down the fabulous Mountain Scops Owl.



We would be distracted from dinner any day of the week for a Mountain Scops Owl!

Day 12, 3 March 2018. Pangot to the Corbett area

An early morning stroll around the lodge grounds yielded no less than three Spot-winged Grosbeaks as well as a small group of Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes. Better looks at Yellow-breasted Greenfinch were also welcome.

After breakfast we started the journey from our higher elevation all the way to the base of the foothills at around 400m above sea level. We stopped at a local spot called Baur Reservoir, where we birded from the banks. There is a known roosting site nearby for Large-tailed Nightjar, which unfortunately wasn't around this afternoon. A pair of Chestnut-capped Babblers, however, really gave us great views in the reedbeds along the shoreline. Then there was some excitement a few moments later, with cries of "Eurasian Bittern, Eurasian Bittern"! A single bird had taken flight over the reedbeds and proceeded to land in the reeds, at first hidden from our sight, but with a bit of work we managed to get enjoyable scope views. Richard's Pipit, Oriental Skylark, and Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark were all flitting about on the grassy embankment behind us, and a single Common Kestrel made sure that the nearby Black Kites weren't causing too much trouble by 'escorting' them away. Black-headed Gull had made a few flybys by now, and the water surface held Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Tufted Duck, Garganey, and many Great Crested Grebes. Purple Heron was also present; a single bird was seen in the reedbeds further along the track.



After lunch we drove to the Corbett area with heaps of anticipation for what it would offer us. We had enough time to head to the Kosi River before checking in at our lodge. The rocky river here is home to some exciting birds, including the incredible Ibisbill and the fascinating Wallcreeper, which both can be seen here only during the winter months. As we arrived several **Plumbeous Water Redstarts** were hopping around the rocks, hawking insects, while **Common Kingfisher** was perched right above the water on a small rock. We also had good looks at the smart-looking **Spotted Dove**, all the while keeping an eye out for where the Wallcreeper might be lurking. Soon enough Shyam spotted a male **Wallcreeper** on the water's edge, moving close to the ground between medium-sized round rocks. We then had amazing flight views as it flew by with its bouncy and extravagant flight – its flight feathers are an electric, dark-pink color, really great to see. **Crested Kingfisher** was our last new bird for the day since we were not able to locate the Ibisbill that had occupied this river section for the entire winter. A theory suggests that the birds had already started to move north again with the onset of warmer weather.

Day 13, 4 March 2018. Birding Corbett National Park to Dhikala

The Dhikala zone of Corbett National Park is unique in that the accommodation is located 30 kilometers into the park itself and overlooks a tributary of the Kosi River, so it is truly an amazing part of the park to explore. We grabbed breakfast at our lodge on the outskirts of the park and thereafter loaded up our gypsy vehicles (small jeep-type safari vehicles used within the national parks of India) and made our way into the park via the Dhangadi gate.

We started with sightings of both Rhesus Macaque and Central Himalayan Langur at the park entrance as well as Lineated Barbet and Red-breasted Parakeet. We encountered one or two small bird parties, which included some cracking birds: Common Green Magpie, White-throated Laughingthrush, White-crested Laughingthrush, Black-crested Bulbul, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, and Greater Yellownape, as well as Crested Treeswift and White-rumped Spinetail overhead.



Laughingthrushes! In this case, the smart White-throated Laughingthrush – we just couldn't get enough of these great birds.



Closer to Dhikala itself we found our first **Red Junglefowl** – always strange to see this bird in the wild. Himalayan Flameback finally decided to show well for the group after a couple of "heard only" days. We checked into our accommodation and then spent some time birding the grounds of Dhikala, picking up Woolly-necked and Black Storks, Hen Harrier, and River **Lapwing** over the river. Then we had lunch. Still up to this point we had not picked up a Tiger – there was nothing much we could do but be positive and keep trying.



Red Junglefowl –we had mixed feelings about seeing a "chicken", but just look at that plumage!

Our afternoon safari begun with a really nice herd of Asian Elephants in the river, and we had a great vantage point from higher up near the Dhikala camp and enjoyed them for some time. As we crossed the river to the forest area (where we spent the first two hours of our safari) we saw Grey-headed Fish Eagle cruising over the river, a very good bird for our trip. Other species that we picked up on the far side of the river were Grev-headed Woodpecker, the sometimes overlooked Rufous Treepie, Siberian Stonechat, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Green Bee-eater, and Black-winged Kite.

Just as we started to move from this area back to the other side of the river, Chris, stunned with excitement upon spotting the striped cat, could hardly get the word 'Tiger' out of his mouth. And yes, there was a female Bengal Tiger, right alongside the track in the deep forest and on the move – what a sight! Finally we had found our Tiger, much to the delight of the whole group. We spent a bit of time watching her move through the forest undergrowth until eventually she moved off up the forest hillside. Seeing a Tiger was indeed a dream come true for some of us, and we were happy beyond what words could describe! What next?

Well, as we crossed back over the river there was another fly-by fish eagle. This time we had a Pallas's Fish Eagle, and it was turning out to be a great day indeed! We continued and still added new species, Common Emerald Dove, Red Turtle Dove, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Common Hawk-Cuckoo, Streak-throated Woodpecker, and Changeable Hawk-Eagle, as well as an incredible sighting of a great number of Small Pratincoles, which seemed to be migrating north-east. We did a rough count, and there were over 200 birds!



We spent some time that evening walking around within the fenced Dhikala camp and were rewarded when we heard a **Brown Hawk-Owl** calling nearby. We scampered over and found two birds perched up high, calling. We also picked up the distant call of **Savanna Nightjar** but unfortunately couldn't get close enough to have decent visuals.

Day 14, 5 March 2018. Birding Corbett National Park, transfer to Ramnagar

Our final full day's birding was also done within Corbett, a morning safari from 6:30 to 10:30 and then later a safari as we traveled to Ramnagar, a town on the outskirts of Corbett, for our last night of the tour. Our two jeeps were ready and waiting for us, but we had spotted a bird, of course. This time it was a **Jungle Owlet**, and we had great visuals of this small, barred owlet. Once we got going we naturally didn't get far before something else was spotted. A small bird party yielded **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Black-hooded Oriole**, **Redwhiskered Bulbul**, **Yellow-eyed Babbler**, **Greenish Warbler**, **Streak-throated Woodpecker**, and **Lesser Yellownape**. Crossing a small stream up ahead we spotted a **Brown Crake**; occasionally it would move out into the open for some visuals. We also witnessed a **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** dive from rather high into a grassy section ahead of us. A female **Northern Pintail** flew out of the area that the hawk-eagle had dived into. We didn't see anything else thereafter and feared the worst for a male Northern Pintail. **Kalij Pheasant** was really rather common in this area, a species that we didn't think we would see so easily. A low fly-by **Pallas' Fish Eagle** was a really neat sighting as we had previously only seen them cruising above us.



Changeable Hawk-Eagle

Straight after lunch we had our bags packed and ready to load up for the last time. We 'jumped' into our two small gypsies for our trip back to the lodge in Ramnagar, but not before a little more time was spent around the incredible Dhikala area. **Red-headed Vulture** made an appearance overhead, and so too did **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, another **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Crested Honey Buzzard**, and later on that afternoon another 'ringtail' **Hen Harrier**. The area around the lake at Dhikala is normally host to a family of Hog Deer, and today was no exception. The deer were around in force, almost 30 of them were present.



On the way out of the park through the forest the notable species along the way were **Common Green Magpie**, **Black-crested Bulbul**, **Himalayan Flameback**, and another small group of **Kalij Pheasants**. The calls of **Indian Grey Hornbill** welcomed us back to the lodge, where we settled in, had dinner, and enjoyed a drink together. We also fit in a session of owling and somehow managed to see another **Brown Hawk-Owl** before we retreated for some much-earned rest.

Day 15, 6 March 2018. Morning birding at the Kosi River and transfer to New Delhi

In the morning we made our way to a spot along the Kosi River where we would try for our last few target birds before starting our drive back to Delhi to end the trip. On the way to the river site we heard the far-carrying call of **Great Hornbill**, a bird we had missed in Corbett. Unfortunately, we couldn't get great views and only managed to get a glimpse. Other species we encountered on the way to the site were **Brown-headed Barbet**, **Plum-headed Parakeet**, and another brilliant **Black-crested Bulbul**. It was amazing to finally connect with **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** as well, a small active species standing out among the green foliage. **White-crested Laughingthrush** as well as **Yellow-bellied Fantail** were both notable too.

We continued down a dirt track that led to the rocky bed of the Kosi River. Just as we walked out onto the rocks a fish eagle flew by, this time **Lesser Fish Eagle!** Well, now we had seen all three possible fish eagles in a matter of three days!

The river section obviously had a few treats too. **Brown Dipper** was present at this site, as it usually is, and **Plumbeous Water** and **White-capped Redstarts** as well as **Grey Wagtail** were all hawking insects above the slowly flowing rapids.

Sadly we now had to make our way back to New Delhi, where an exciting and wonderful tour through northern India came to an end.

| Northern India Custom Tour Bird List, February/March2018 Bold = country endemic Status: NT = Near-threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|--|--------------|---|
| | | | Critically Endangered Common name Scientific name Tri | | |
| | | | | ANSERIFORMES | • |
| Ducks, Geese and Swans | <u>Anatidae</u> | | | | |
| Lesser Whistling Duck | Dendrocygna javanica | 1 | | | |
| Bar-headed Goose | Anser indicus | 1 | | | |
| Greylag Goose | Anser anser | 1 | | | |
| Knob-billed Duck | Sarkidiornis melanotos | 1 | | | |
| Ruddy Shelduck | Tadorna ferruginea | 1 | | | |
| Garganey | Spatula querquedula | 1 | | | |
| Northern Shoveler | Spatula clypeata | 1 | | | |
| Gadwall | Mareca strepera | 1 | | | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | Mareca penelope | 1 | | | |



| Indian Spot-billed Duck | Anas poecilorhyncha | 1 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Northern Pintail | Anas acuta | 1 |
| Eurasian Teal | Anas crecca | 1 |
| Red-crested Pochard | Netta rufina | 1 |
| Common Pochard - VU | Aythya ferina | 1 |
| Ferruginous Duck - NT | Aythya nyroca | 1 |
| Tufted Duck | Aythya fuligula | 1 |
| Common Merganser | Mergus merganser | 1 |
| Common Weiganser | GALLIFORMES | 1 |
| Pheasants and allies | Phasianidae | |
| Black Francolin | Francolinus francolinus | 1 |
| Grey Francolin | Francolinus pondicerianus | 1 |
| Jungle Bush Quail | Perdicula asiatica | 1 |
| Hill Partridge | Arborophila torqueola | H |
| Painted Spurfowl | Galloperdix lunulata | 1 |
| Koklass Pheasant | Pucrasia macrolopha | 1 |
| Red Junglefowl | Gallus gallus | 1 |
| Kalij Pheasant | Lophura leucomelanos | 1 |
| Cheer Pheasant - VU | Catreus wallichii | 1 |
| Indian Peafowl | Pavo cristatus | 1 |
| | PODICIPEDIFORMES | |
| Grebes | Podicipedidae | |
| Little Grebe | Tachybaptus ruficollis | 1 |
| Great-crested Grebe | Podiceps cristatus | 1 |
| | CICONIIFORMES | |
| <u>Storks</u> | <u>Ciconiidae</u> | |
| Painted Stork - NT | Mycteria leucocephala | 1 |
| Asian Openbill | Anastomus oscitans | 1 |
| Black Stork | Ciconia nigra | 1 |
| Woolly-necked Stork - VU | Ciconia episcopus | 1 |
| Black-necked Stork - NT | Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus | 1 |
| | PELECANIFORMES | |
| Ibises, Spoonbills | Threskiornithidae | |
| Black-headed Ibis - NT | Threskiornis melanocephalus | 1 |
| Red-naped Ibis | Pseudibis papillosa | 1 |
| Glossy Ibis | Plegadis falcinellus | 1 |
| Eurasian Spoonbill | Platalea leucorodia | 1 |
| Herons, Bitterns | <u>Ardeidae</u> | |
| Eurasian Bittern | Botaurus stellaris | 1 |







| Ruff | Calidris pugnax | 1 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Temminck's Stint | Calidris temminckii | 1 |
| Common Snipe | Gallinago gallinago | 1 |
| Common Sandpiper | Actitis hypoleucos | 1 |
| Green Sandpiper | Tringa ochropus | 1 |
| Spotted Redshank | Tringa erythropus | 1 |
| Common Redshank | Tringa totanus | 1 |
| Marsh Sandpiper | Tringa stagnatilis | 1 |
| Wood Sandpiper | Tringa glareola | 1 |
| Common Greenshank | Tringa nebularia | 1 |
| Coursers, Pratincoles | Glareolidae | |
| Indian Courser | Cursorius coromandelicus | 1 |
| Small Pratincole | Glareola lactea | 1 |
| Gulls, Terns and Skimmers | <u>Laridae</u> | |
| Indian Skimmer - VU | Rynchops albicollis | 1 |
| Black-headed Gull | Chroicocephalus ridibundus | 1 |
| Pallas's Gull | Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus | 1 |
| River Tern - NT | Sterna aurantia | 1 |
| Whiskered Tern | Chlidonias hybrida | 1 |
| Black-bellied Tern - EN | Sterna acuticauda | 1 |
| | PTEROCLIFORMES | |
| Sandgrouse | Pteroclidae | |
| Painted Sandgrouse | Pterocles indicus | 1 |
| | COLUMBIFORMES | |
| Pigeons, Doves | Columbidae | |
| Rock Dove | Columba livia | 1 |
| Oriental Turtle Dove | Streptopelia orientalis | 1 |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | Streptopelia decaocto | 1 |
| Red Turtle Dove | Streptopelia tranquebarica | 1 |
| Spotted Dove | Spilopelia chinensis | 1 |
| Laughing Dove | Spilopelia senegalensis | 1 |
| Common Emerald Dove | Chalcophaps indica | 1 |
| Yellow-footed Green Pigeon | Treron phoenicopterus | 1 |
| | CUCULIFORMES | |
| Cuckoos | Cuculidae | |
| Greater Coucal | Centropus sinensis | 1 |
| Asian Koel | Eudynamys scolopaceus | 1 |
| Common Hawk-Cuckoo | Hierococcyx varius | 1 |
| | STRIGIFORMES | |



| Owls | Strigidae | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Indian Scops Owl | Otus bakkamoena | 1 |
| Mountain Scops Owl | Otus spilocephalus | 1 |
| Dusky Eagle-Owl | Bubo coromandus | 1 |
| Brown Fish Owl | Ketupa zeylonensis | 1 |
| Collared Owlet | Glaucidium brodiei | 1 |
| Jungle Owlet | Glaucidium radiatum | 1 |
| Spotted Owlet | Athene brama | 1 |
| Brown Hawk-Owl | Ninox scutulata | 1 |
| Short-eared Owl | Asio flammeus | 1 |
| | CAPRIMULGIFORMES | |
| <u>Nightjars</u> | <u>Caprimulgidae</u> | |
| Large-tailed Nightjar | Caprimulgus macrurus | Н |
| Indian Nightjar | Caprimulgus asiaticus | Н |
| Savanna Nightjar | Caprimulgus affinis | Н |
| | APODIFORMES | |
| <u>Treeswifts</u> | Hemiprocnidae | |
| Crested Treeswift | Hemiprocne coronata | 1 |
| <u>Swifts</u> | Apodidae | |
| White-rumped Spinetail | Zoonavena sylvatica | 1 |
| Alpine Swift | Tachymarptis melba | 1 |
| Little Swift | Apus affinis | 1 |
| | CORACIIFORMES | |
| Rollers | <u>Coraciidae</u> | |
| Indian Roller | Coracias benghalensis | 1 |
| Kingfishers | <u>Alcedinidae</u> | |
| Stork-billed Kingfisher | Pelargopsis capensis | 1 |
| White-throated Kingfisher | Halcyon smyrnensis | 1 |
| Common Kingfisher | Alcedo atthis | 1 |
| Crested Kingfisher | Megaceryle lugubris | 1 |
| Pied Kingfisher | Ceryle rudis | 1 |
| Bee-eaters | <u>Meropidae</u> | |
| Green Bee-eater | Merops orientalis | 1 |
| | BUCEROTIFORMES | |
| <u>Hoopoes</u> | <u>Upupidae</u> | |
| Eurasian Hoopoe | Upupa epops | 1 |
| <u>Hornbills</u> | <u>Bucerotidae</u> | |
| Great Hornbill - NT | Buceros bicornis | 1 |
| Oriental Pied Hornbill | Anthracoceros albirostris | Н |



| Indian Grey Hornbill | Ocyceros birostris | 1 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | PICIFORMES | |
| Asian Barbets | Megalaimidae | |
| Great Barbet | Psilopogon virens | 1 |
| Brown-headed Barbet | Psilopogon zeylanicus | 1 |
| Lineated Barbet | Psilopogon lineatus | 1 |
| Blue-throated Barbet | Psilopogon asiaticus | 1 |
| Coppersmith Barbet | Psilopogon haemacephalus | 1 |
| Woodpeckers | <u>Picidae</u> | |
| Eurasian Wryneck | Jynx torquilla | 1 |
| Speckled Piculet | Picumnus innominatus | 1 |
| Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker | Yungipicus canicapillus | 1 |
| Brown-fronted Woodpecker | Dendrocoptes auriceps | 1 |
| Yellow-crowned Woodpecker | Leiopicus mahrattensis | 1 |
| Rufous-bellied Woodpecker | Dendrocopos hyperythrus | 1 |
| Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker | Dendrocopos macei | 1 |
| Himalayan Woodpecker | Dendrocopos himalayensis | 1 |
| Greater Yellownape | Chrysophlegma flavinucha | 1 |
| Lesser Yellownape | Picus chlorolophus | 1 |
| Streak-throated Woodpecker | Picus xanthopygaeus | 1 |
| Scaly-bellied Woodpecker | Picus squamatus | 1 |
| Grey-headed Woodpecker | Picus canus | 1 |
| Himalayan Flameback | Dinopium shorii | 1 |
| Black-rumped Flameback | Dinopium benghalense | 1 |
| Greater Flameback | Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus | 1 |
| White-naped Woodpecker | Chrysocolaptes festivus | 1 |
| | FALCONIFORMES | |
| <u>Caracaras, Falcons</u> | Falconidae | |
| Common Kestrel | Falco tinnunculus | 1 |
| Peregrine Falcon | Falco peregrinus | 1 |
| | PSITTACIFORMES | |
| Old World Parrots | Psittaculidae | |
| Slaty-headed Parakeet | Psittacula himalayana | 1 |
| Plum-headed Parakeet | Psittacula cyanocephala | 1 |
| Red-breasted Parakeet - NT | Psittacula alexandri | 1 |
| Alexandrine Parakeet - NT | Psittacula eupatria | 1 |
| Rose-ringed Parakeet | Psittacula krameri | 1 |
| | PASSERIFORMES | |
| Woodshrikes and allies | Tephrodornithidae | |







| Chestnut-headed Tesia | Cettia castaneocoronata | 1 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Bushtits | <u>Aegithalidae</u> | |
| Black-throated Bushtit | Aegithalos concinnus | 1 |
| Leaf Warblers and allies | Phylloscopidae | |
| Common Chiffchaff | Phylloscopus collybita | 1 |
| Tickell's Leaf Warbler | Phylloscopus affinis | 1 |
| Sulphur-bellied Warbler | Phylloscopus griseolus | 1 |
| Buff-barred Warbler | Phylloscopus pulcher | 1 |
| Lemon-rumped Warbler | Phylloscopus chloronotus | 1 |
| Hume's Leaf Warbler | Phylloscopus humei | 1 |
| Greenish Warbler | Phylloscopus trochiloides | 1 |
| Grey-hooded Warbler | Phylloscopus xanthoschistos | 1 |
| Two-barred Greenish Warbler | Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus | 1 |
| Whistler's Warbler | Seicercus whistleri | 1 |
| Reed Warblers and allies | <u>Acrocephalidae</u> | |
| Clamorous Reed Warbler | Acrocephalus stentoreus | 1 |
| Paddyfield Warbler | Acrocephalus agricola | 1 |
| Blyth's Reed Warbler | Acrocephalus dumetorum | 1 |
| Syke's Warbler | Iduna rama | 1 |
| Booted Warbler | Iduna caligata | 1 |
| Cisticolas and allies | <u>Cisticolidae</u> | |
| Zitting Cisticola | Cisticola juncidis | 1 |
| Golden-headed Cisticola | Cisticola exilis | 1 |
| Striated Prinia | Prinia crinigera | 1 |
| Rufous-fronted Prinia | Prinia buchanani | 1 |
| Grey-crowned Prinia - VU | Prinia cinereocapilla | Н |
| Grey-breasted Prinia | Prinia hodgsonii | 1 |
| Graceful Prinia | Prinia gracilis | 1 |
| Jungle Prinia | Prinia sylvatica | 1 |
| Yellow-bellied Prinia | Prinia flaviventris | 1 |
| Ashy Prinia | Prinia socialis | 1 |
| Plain Prinia | Prinia inornata | 1 |
| Common Tailorbird | Orthotomus sutorius | 1 |
| Babblers, Scimitar Babblers | <u>Timaliidae</u> | |
| Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler | Pomatorhinus erythrogenys | 1 |
| Black-chinned Babbler | Stachyridopsis pyrrhops | 1 |
| Chestnut-capped Babbler | Timalia pileata | 1 |
| Laughingthrushes & allies | <u>Leiothrichidae</u> | |
| Common Babbler | Turdoides caudata | 1 |



1

1 1

1

1

1

1

1

1 1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1 1

1

1

1

1

1

Turdoides earlei

Turdoides striata

Turdoides malcolmi

Garrulax leucolophus

Garrulax rufogularis

Garrulax albogularis

Minla cyanouroptera

Heterophasia capistrata

Trochalopteron lineatum

Trochalopteron erythrocephalum

Garrulax striatus

Leiothrix lutea

Sylvia curruca

Zosteropidae

Sittidae

Yuhina flavicollis

Yuhina nigrimenta

Zosterops palpebrosus

Sitta cinnamoventris

Sitta himalayensis

Sylvia crassirostris

Chrysomma sinense

Sylviidae

White-crested Laughingthrush

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush

White-throated Laughingthrush

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush

Striated Laughingthrush

Streaked Laughingthrush

Blue-winged Minla

Red-billed Leiothrix

Svlviid Babblers

Lesser Whitethroat

Eastern Orphean Warbler

Yellow-eyed Babbler

Whiskered Yuhina

Oriental White-eve

Black-chinned Yuhina

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch

White-tailed Nuthatch

Rufous Sibia

White-eves

Nuthatches

Striated Babbler

Jungle Babbler

Large Grey Babbler



| Chats, Old World Flycatchers | Muscicapidae | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Indian Robin | Copsychus fulicatus | 1 |
| Oriental Magpie-Robin | Copsychus saularis | 1 |
| White-rumped Shama | Copsychus malabaricus | 1 |
| Rufous-bellied Niltava | Niltava sundara | 1 |
| Small Niltava | Niltava macgrigoriae | 1 |
| Verditer Flycatcher | Eumyias thalassinus | 1 |
| Bluethroat | Luscinia svecica | 1 |
| Himalayan Rubythroat | Calliope pectoralis | 1 |
| Himalayan Bluetail | Tarsiger rufilatus | 1 |
| Slaty-backed Forktail | Enicurus schistaceus | 1 |
| Spotted Forktail | Enicurus maculatus | 1 |
| Blue Whistling Thrush | Myophonus caeruleus | 1 |
| Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher | Ficedula strophiata | 1 |
| Red-breasted Flycatcher | Ficedula parva | 1 |
| Taiga Flycatcher | Ficedula albicilla | 1 |
| Snowy-browed Flycatcher | Ficedula hyperythra | 1 |
| Ultramarine Flycatcher | Ficedula superciliaris | 1 |
| Slaty-blue Flycatcher | Ficedula tricolor | 1 |
| Black Redstart | Phoenicurus ochruros | 1 |
| Blue-fronted Redstart | Phoenicurus frontalis | 1 |
| Plumbeous Water Redstart | Phoenicurus fuliginosus | 1 |
| White-capped Redstart | Phoenicurus leucocephalus | 1 |
| Blue Rock Thrush | Monticola solitarius | 1 |
| Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush | Monticola rufiventris | 1 |
| Siberian Stonechat | Saxicola maurus | 1 |
| Pied Bush Chat | Saxicola caprata | 1 |
| Grey Bush Chat | Saxicola ferreus | 1 |
| Isabelline Wheatear | Oenanthe isabellina | 1 |
| Desert Wheatear | Oenanthe deserti | 1 |
| Brown Rock Chat | Oenanthe fusca | 1 |
| Variable Wheatear | Oenanthe picata | 1 |
| <u>Dippers</u> | <u>Cinclidae</u> | |
| Brown Dipper | Cinclus pallasii | 1 |
| <u>Leafbirds</u> | <u>Chloropseidae</u> | |
| Orange-bellied Leafbird | Chloropsis hardwickii | 1 |
| <u>Flowerpeckers</u> | <u>Dicaeidae</u> | |
| Fire-breasted Flowerpecker | Dicaeum ignipectus | 1 |
| <u>Sunbirds</u> | <u>Nectariniidae</u> | |



| Purple Sunbird | Cinnyris asiaticus | 1 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Green-tailed Sunbird | Aethopyga nipalensis | 1 |
| Crimson Sunbird | Aethopyga siparaja | 1 |
| Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches | Passeridae | |
| House Sparrow | Passer domesticus | 1 |
| Russet Sparrow | Passer cinnamomeus | 1 |
| Yellow-throated Sparrow | Gymnoris xanthocollis | 1 |
| Weavers, Widowbirds | <u>Ploceidae</u> | |
| Baya Weaver | Ploceus philippinus | 1 |
| Waxbills, Munias and allies | Estrildidae | |
| Red Avadavat | Amandava amandava | 1 |
| Indian Silverbill | Euodice malabarica | 1 |
| Scaly-breasted Munia | Lonchura punctulata | 1 |
| Accentors | Prunellidae | |
| Altai Accentor | Prunella himalayana | 1 |
| Rufous-breasted Accentor | Prunella strophiata | 1 |
| Black-throated Accentor | Prunella atrogularis | 1 |
| Wagtails, Pipits | Motacillidae | |
| Western Yellow Wagtail | Motacilla flava | 1 |
| Citrine Wagtail | Motacilla citreola | 1 |
| Grey Wagtail | Motacilla cinerea | 1 |
| White Wagtail | Motacilla alba | 1 |
| White-browed Wagtail | Motacilla maderaspatensis | 1 |
| Richard's Pipit | Anthus richardi | 1 |
| Paddyfield Pipit | Anthus rufulus | 1 |
| Tawny Pipit | Anthus campestris | 1 |
| Long-billed Pipit | Anthus similis | 1 |
| Olive-backed Pipit | Anthus hodgsoni | 1 |
| Upland Pipit | Anthus sylvanus | 1 |
| Finches, Euphonias | <u>Fringillidae</u> | |
| Spot-winged Grosbeak | Mycerobas melanozanthos | 1 |
| Common Rosefinch | Carpodacus erythrinus | 1 |
| Pink-browed Rosefinch | Carpodacus rodochroa | 1 |
| Yellow-breasted Greenfinch | Chloris spinoides | 1 |
| Buntings | Emberizidae | |
| Crested Bunting | Emberiza lathami | 1 |
| Rock Bunting | Emberiza cia | 1 |
| White-capped Bunting | Emberiza stewarti | 1 |
| Grey-necked Bunting | Emberiza buchanani | 1 |



| Chestnut-eared Bunting | Emberiza fucata | 1 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| TOTAL | | 376 |

| English Name | Scientific Name | Trip |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| | MAMMALS | |
| | PRIMATES | |
| | Cercopithecidae | |
| Rhesus Macaque | Macaca mulatta | 1 |
| Southern Plains Grey Langur | Semnopithecus dussumieri | 1 |
| Central Himalayan Langur | Semnopithecus schistaceus | 1 |
| | CETARTIODACTYLA | |
| | Cervidae | |
| Sambar | Rusa unicolor | 1 |
| Northern Red Muntjac | Muntiacus vaginalis | 1 |
| Hog Deer | Axis porcinus | 1 |
| Chital | Axis axis | 1 |
| | Bovidae | |
| Nilgai | Boselaphus tragocamelus | 1 |
| | Suidae | |
| Wild Boar | Sus scrofa | 1 |
| | Platanistidae | |
| Ganges River Dolphin | Platanista gangetica gangetica | 1 |
| | PROBOSCIDEA | |
| | Elephantidae | |
| Asian Elephant | Elephas maximus | 1 |
| - | CARNIVORA | |
| | Canidae | |
| Golden Jackal | Canis aureus | 1 |
| | Felidae | |
| Bengal Tiger | Panthera tigris tigris | 1 |
| Indian Leopard | Panthera pardus fusca | 1 |
| | Viverridae | |
| Common Palm Civet | Paradoxurus hermaphroditus | 1 |
| | Herpestidae | |
| Grey Mongoose | Herpestes edwardsii | 1 |
| Ruddy Mongoose | Herpestes smithii | 1 |



| | LAGOMORPHA | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| | Leporidae | |
| Indian Hare | Lepus nigricollis | 1 |
| | RODENTIA | |
| | Sciuridae | |
| Five-striped Palm Squirrel | Funambulus pennantii | 1 |
| | CHIROPTERA | |
| | Pteropodidae | |
| Indian Flying Fox | Pteropus giganteus | 1 |
| Short-nosed Fruit Bat | Cynopterus sphinx | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 21 |
| | <u>REPTILES</u> | · |
| | CROCODYLIA | |
| | Crocodylidae | |
| Mugger | Crocodylus palustris | 1 |
| Gharial | Gavialis gangeticus | 1 |
| | SQUAMATA | |
| | Gekkonidae | |
| Common House Gecko | Hemidactylus frenatus | 1 |
| | Scincidae | |
| Keeled Indian Mabuya | Eutropis carinata | 1 |
| | Varanidae | |
| Common Indian Monitor | Varanus bengalensis | 1 |
| | TESTUDINES | |
| | Geoemydidae | |
| Red-crowned Roofed Turtle | Batagur kachuga | 1 |
| Indian Tent Turtle | Pangshura tentoria | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 7 |

