

India – Bharatpur and Kanha 2008



Day 1 Sunday 17th February

After an overnight flight from London, our group arrived on the Virgin Atlantic flight in New Delhi at midday and after going through the formalities and collecting baggage (and ticking a few **Dusky Crag-martins**



around the airport buildings), were met by the guide, Nick Bray. We drove the short distance to the Ashok Hotel for some much needed lunch and a wash before heading out on the journey to Bharatpur.

Along the way we passed lots of common birds such as 6 **Sarus Cranes**, 2 **Woolly-necked Storks**, **Black Kite**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Black Drongo** and **House Crow**. A quick stop at a roadside pond proved very productive as there were lots of birds present and amongst a good number of ducks present we saw **Northern Shoveler**, **Common Teal**, **Northern Pintail**, and pride of place went to a pair of **Indian Spot-billed Ducks**. Quite a few waders were present and we

enjoyed looking at **Common**, **Wood** and 2 **Marsh Sandpipers**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Ruff**, **Red-wattled** and **White-tailed Lapwing**, as well as several **Black-winged Stilts**. Also present were **Little Cormorant**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Purple Swamphen**, **Common Moorhen**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **White-throated Kingfisher**, **Citrine** and **White-browed Wagtails** and **Paddyfield Pipit**.

However, most of our time was taken up with driving and our only other stop was at a roadside tourist complex where we paused for a refreshing cup of tea and we saw our first **Purple Sunbird** of the tour, before eventually reaching the Laxmi Vilas Palace at 8.15pm.

Day 2 Monday 18th February

The world famous Keoladeo Reserve at Bharatpur was our destination this morning and after a 6.30am breakfast we drove the short distance into the park. For this first week we were privileged to have the services of local guide Harishe to assist us and he certainly found some great birds for us. In fact what a day we had with 115 species being seen inside the park certainly slaying claims that it's not worth a visit due to the lack of water! We began with a buffet breakfast and a friendly pair of **Brown Rock-chats** and a pair of **Spotted Owlets** at the hotel before driving into the park. As soon as we left the bus there were birds everywhere and first up was a group of obliging **Brahminy Starlings** perched at the top of a dead tree. Then a **Grey Francolin** ran along the road in front of us, whilst **Oriental Magpie-robin** and **Black Redstart** of the *rufiventris* race showed well on some prominent perches nearby. The high-pitched whistling call of **Indian Grey Hornbill** betrayed the presence of a couple of these Indian endemics in a nearby fruiting tree, and other birds observed included a couple of **Oriental White-eyes**, **Chestnut-shouldered**



Petronia and a **Greater Coucal** at the barrier.

We walked along the road further towards an area of mature trees known as the Nursery where **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon**, **Brown-headed Barbet**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and **Ashy Drongo** were present, and under a large leaf Harishe showed us a roosting bunch of tiny **Short-nosed Bats**. He then led us quietly off the track and pointed out an amazingly camouflaged, close roosting **Large-tailed Nightjar**. But the best was yet to come and probably bird of the trip let alone the day was an out-of-range **Small-billed Scaly Thrush** that Hatsi located around the edge of a small pool. We had the most superb views of it feeding



right out in the open and noted some strange behaviour as it fanned its tail and flicked its wings constantly. Nearby a **Bluethroat** showed well and as we walked along the forested trail good views were had of **Orange-headed Thrush** in the leaf litter beside the trail, **Black-rumped Flameback**, **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**, a **Tickell's Thrush** seen on a damp patch beside a wall, **Ashy Prinia**, **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Long-tailed** and **Small Minivets**, **Common Woodshrike** and **Siberian Chiffchaff**. Overhead, **Indian**

Spotted Eagle soared in the clear blue sky, whilst a pair of **Dusky Eagle-owls** flew through the woodland being mobbed by some **House Crows** and **Rufous Treepies**. An **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was scoped in a tree, before we walked out into the open where **Shikra**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Indian Roller**, **Indian Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Long-tailed Shrike** and several **Pied Bushchats** were obvious. Non avian sightings included **Spotted Deer**, **Nilgai** and **Rhesus Macaque**.



Our picnic lunch was taken beside the



lake at the Sapan Mori trail and there was plenty to see! A female **Black-necked Stork** was present, and there were several newly arrived **Comb Ducks** present, along with **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Bar-headed Goose**, **Spot-billed Duck**, **Great**, **Little** and **Intermediate Egrets**, **Grey Heron**, **Water Rail**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Green** and **Wood**

Sandpipers, **Common** and **Spotted Redshanks**, **Ruff**, **Red-wattled Lapwing**, **Common Greenshank**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **White-throated Kingfishers**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Citrine Wagtails**, **Indian Silverbill**, **Plain Prinia** and a couple of great **Rufous-tailed Larks**. It really was great fun to sit in the shade and watch all these birds over a prolonged picnic!

Walking back to the main path an **Indian Reed-warbler** (split from **Clamorous Reed-warbler**) showed extremely well below us before we walked towards the Temple area. There was quite a bit of water on the left hand side and lots of all the previously mentioned waders

were present, as well as many **Temminck's Stints**, several **Common Snipe** and **Marsh Sandpipers**, plus **Little Grebe**, **Ruddy Shelduck** and **Booted Eagle**. At the Temple we had prolonged views of a **Brook's Leaf-warbler** that eventually came quite low down and close to us and a pair of roosting **Collared Scops-owls**, whilst overhead **Red-rumped Swallow** and **Short-toed Eagle** flew by.

On Mansarovar there was a small area of water that held a fine assortment of birds, including all of the previously mentioned species, plus 2 **Little Stints**, several fine **White-tailed Lapwings** and a **Greater Spotted Eagle**. A large group of wagtails were present and made for a fine sight in the late afternoon sun and amongst the 50+ Citrine Wagtails we saw a few of the dark-backed *Calcarata* race, and we also identified several **Yellow Wagtails** of the *Thunbergi* and *Beema* races.

Day 4 Tuesday 19th February

Headed out towards Bund Baretha this morning, leaving at 6am and made our first stop at a level crossing where a **Shikra**, **Indian Robin**, **Common** and **Large Grey Babblers** were seen, along with a big flock of **Indian Silverbills**. We walked over the railway line and checked out the arid area alongside the road and found some really good and scarce birds, beginning with a **Southern Grey Shrike**, followed by **Ashy-crowned Finch-lark**, a small group of 6 **Red-headed Buntings**, **Red-necked Falcon**, 11 **Greater Short-toed** and a few **Crested Larks**, **Isabelline Wheatear**, **Spanish Sparrow**, **Pied Bushchat** and several **Common Stonechats**.



Our next stop at some cliffs produced an **Indian Vulture** perched high up on a ledge and it was good to see considering the scarcity of vultures in India these days. A singing **Striolated (House) Bunting** was also a good find and a new species for this particular tour, whilst there were several **Rufous-tailed Larks** feeding in the arid fields nearby. We walked along the base of the cliffs but by now we were feeling the heat and headed towards the waiting coach, seeing **Common Kestrel**, **Plum-headed Parakeet**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Dusky Crag-martin**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Masked Wagtail**, **Indian Silverbill** and several **Brown Rock-chats**.

A short drive then took us to the huge reservoir of **Bund Baretha** where a multitude of water-loving birds were waiting for us. Amongst the huge number of wildfowl on view we saw **Red-crested Pochard**, **Cotton Pygmy-goose**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Mallard**, **Tufted Duck**, **Common Pochard**, **Garganey** and **Greylag Goose**, which were all new for our list. There was also 2 **Glossy Ibis**, a group of **Indian Shags**, **Great Cormorant**, hundreds of **Black-tailed Godwits**, 5 **Indian Skimmers**, **River Tern**, **Common Kingfisher**, and an **Osprey**.

Also present were **Western Marsh Harrier**, **White-tailed Lapwing**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, and loads of **Bar-headed Geese** amongst others.

We had a picnic lunch overlooking all these birds before walking across the dam and then driving a short distance to a side track which we followed all the way up to the ruins of the Maharajah's former Summer Palace. The track took us across some very arid areas where Harishe found us a **Long-billed Pipit** which remained just long enough for most of us to see and as we walked across the rocky escarpment a pair of **Indian Stone-curlews** was disturbed from their shady roosting spot. Continuing along the track we passed several inlets where species such as **Oriental Darter**, **Asian Openbill**, **Cotton Pygmy-goose**, **Ferruginous Duck**, **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, **Brown Shrike** and both **Pheasant-tailed** and **Bronze-winged Jacanas**. Roger and Hatsi had walked on ahead and saw a **White-capped Bunting** which promptly flew away as the rest of us approached but the view from here was pretty spectacular. A quick scan across the reservoir revealed a flock of 10 **Black-crowned Night-herons** flying across the reservoir and another **Indian Vulture** high up overhead. But before we found anything else we were hassled by some **Honey Bees** which prompted us to make a premature departure from the old



palace and we walked briskly back to the coach and drove to a small wooded area to look at the **Indian Flying Fox** colony.

Leaving here we headed back towards our hotel, but we hadn't finished birding yet as the road passed several good little pools and marshes, and at the first one we found a female **Grey Bushchat**, which is a very scarce in this part of India. Our first **Brown Crake** eventually showed very well at the edge of the marsh and came right out into the open and there was also a few **Tree Pipits**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Indian Reed-warbler**, 3 distant **Common Rosefinches** and a small flock of **Indian Baya Weavers**. And our final stop of the day at another marsh produced great views of 2 **Yellow Bitterns**, as well as **Purple Swamphen**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Yellow-eyed Babbler** and a brief **Red Avadavat**.



Day 5 Wednesday 20th February

We returned to Keoladeo National Park this morning after a bit later than usual and headed to the Nursery once again. It was quieter than our previous visit but we still managed to nail a fine **Bluethroat** on the approach road, and once inside we found a perched **Shikra**, **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, **Spotted Owlet**, **Indian Grey Hornbill**, **Brown-headed** and **Coppersmith Barbets**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, and both **Hume's** and **Greenish Warblers**. We then took some rickshaws



down to the Temple where Harishe found a **Blyth's Reed-warbler**, before we walked alongside Mansarovar and out into the arid fields where we eventually found the elusive flock of **Indian Coursers**. In fact we counted 11 of these much-wanted birds and watched them for quite some time before our rumbling stomachs told us it was nearly lunch-time. So we headed back slowly passing several **Yellow-wattled Lapwings**, as well as a soaring **Red-headed Vulture**, a flyby **Red Collared Dove**, a couple of **Tawny Pipits**, and a fine trio of **Southern Grey, Brown and Bay-backed Shrikes**.

Our picnic was taken at the Temple where we found a nice shady spot to sit and relax, and the fact the shop was open and we could buy some nice cold drinks was a bonus! Yet we didn't dally too long and eventually we walked down to the Sapan Mori Trail and checked out the pools where a **Black-necked Stork** was quite close, and there was also a **Black-**



crowned Night-heron, Water Rail, White-tailed Lapwing, Comb Duck, Eurasian Spoonbill and Glossy Ibis.

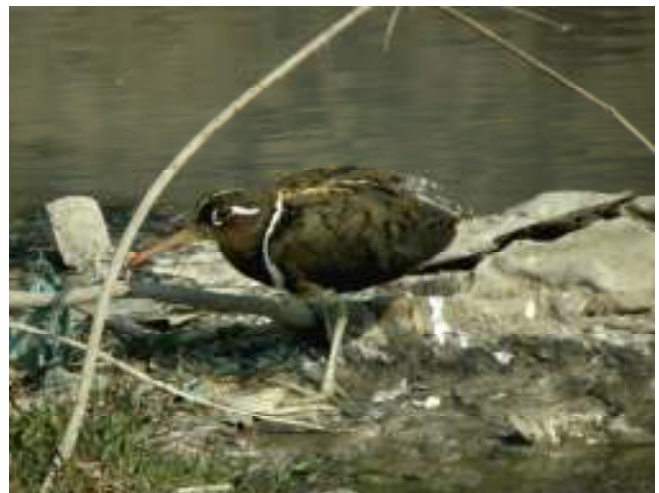
This time we walked all the way along the trail and into the dry centre of the park, finding a good number of birds which started when Ute spotted an immature **Steppe Eagle** flying over. The trail passed a stand of large trees where an adult **Dusky Eagle-owl** was stood sentinel close to its large chick on a huge nest. A bit further along Viv found a **Brook's Leaf-warbler**, and we also saw **Grey Francolin**, a couple of **Oriental Honey Buzzards, Common Kestrel,**

several **Shikras, Indian Thick-knee, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Brown-headed Barbet, Black-rumped Flameback, Bay-backed and Southern Grey Shrikes** and our first **White-bellied Drongo** of the tour. We finished the day with a beautiful red sunset as we drove back to the Laxmi Vilas Palace for the last night.

Day 6 Thursday 21st February

Early this morning we birded a partially flooded canal on the edge of Bharatpur town, seeing a close **Red Collared Dove** as well as all the usual waders. It was great fun sifting through the hordes of feeding birds, as many were at very close range such as **Temminck's Stint, Marsh, Wood and Green Sandpipers, Common Snipe, Black-winged Stilts**, as well as **Glossy Ibis, Citrine, Masked and Sykes's Yellow Wagtails, Bluethroat**, and our first **Painted Storks** of the trip.

We returned to the hotel and packed our luggage onto the coach before checking out another canal where 2 **Greater Painted Snipes** were sat right out in the open below us giving excellent views. In fact we



watched them for ages, as well as more extremely close waders before having lunch and driving off towards the excellent Chambal Safari Lodge. As always, we were made to feel at home and on arrival enjoyed a nice cup of tea in then garden whilst the porters took our luggage to our cabins. When everyone was ready, one of the local guides took us for a walk around the gardens and led us to a shady spot where a roosting **Brown Hawk Owl** slumbered contentedly from its perch, not bothered at all by the presence of scope wielding, camera clicking birders! There were also a few **Little Green Bee-eaters**, as well as a **Shikra** and **Coppersmith Barbet**, plus a whole bunch of other commoner birds as well. With the light fading fast we had just enough time to return to our cabins for a hot shower before meeting on the lawn and waiting for the sun to set. Eventually it became dark enough and we were fortunate to have superb views of a pair of **Common Palm Civets** emerging from their daytime roosting holes and they proceeded to climb up into the large tree where they remained for several minutes. During all this excitement we also managed to spotlight our first **Jungle Cat** as it walked across the lawn behind us. What a great way to end the day!

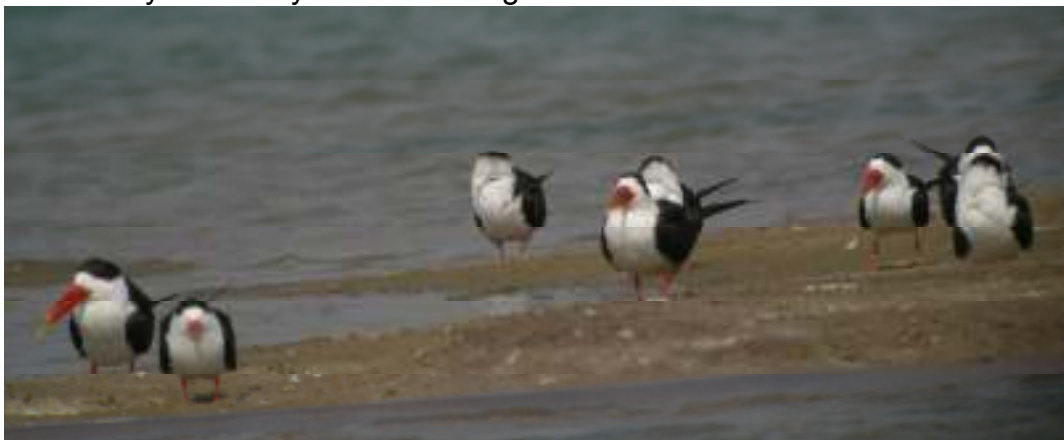
Day 7 Friday 22nd February

Our destination this morning was the Chambal River and after an early breakfast we were soon driving across the fertile plains, stopping briefly to look at a few **Crested Buntings** along



the way. As we approached the river both **Grey-breasted** and **Rufous-fronted Prinias** were seen by some of the group during a brief walk alongside the road and as the coach stopped above the river, a dark-phase **Long-legged Buzzard** was seen on top of a nearby bush. We walked down the hill towards the river and found a large flock of **Small Pratincoles** roosting on the sand bank which we watched for quite a while. Many other birds were on view from here as well, such as **Short-toed Eagle, River Lapwings, Tawny Pipit, Crested Lark, Ashy-crowned Finch-lark** and a fine male **Desert Wheatear**.

Once everyone was assembled we boarded our 2 boats and headed upstream for the first of 2 excursions on the river today. As we slowly made our way along birds were plentiful and, as always, it was a fascinating journey along the tranquil river with species such as both **River** and **Black-bellied Terns** showing well and the first of at least 10 **Great Thick-knees** to be seen today. As always our main target is the much-wanted flock of **Indian Skimmers** that



reside here and sure enough we had excellent views of them roosting on a sand bank in the middle of the river. But today we also had a couple of new birds for this tour, firstly when

a couple parties of **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** flew down to the river's edge for a drink. Then we saw the female **Variable Wheatear** that has been frequenting the rocky margins of the river over the past few weeks and is a bird one would normally expect to see much farther west. Of course there were lots of other birds seen such as flyover **Dalmatian Pelican**, 2 **Black-necked Storks**, several small parties of **Garganey**, **Brown Crake**, **Black-headed** and **Indian Black Ibis**, **Bonelli's Eagle**, **Plain Martins**, **Sand Lark** and **Blue Rock Thrush**. Another of the highlights here are the big numbers of **Gharials** and **Marsh Muggers** which are a frequent sight as they lounge on the sandbanks in the sun.



After our picnic lunch in the shade of some large trees we headed downstream but things were much quieter than the morning, although we found another **Jungle Cat**, as well as a flock of **Kentish Plovers**, **Eurasian Spoonbills**, **Red-crested Pochard**, lots of **Ruddy Shelducks**, a flock of 15 **Pallas's Gulls** and a **Southern Grey Shrike**. So we decided to wrap things up

slightly early and spend some time looking in a nearby area for **Rufous-fronted Prinia**, which turned out to be a good move as everyone had good looks at a group of 3 birds in a small bush on one of the arid hillsides. During our search there was also a fine male **White-capped Bunting** present to round off a spectacularly great day's birding.

We spent the evening back at the Chambal Safari Lodge, sitting around the log fire, sipping ice cold beer under a beautiful starlit sky. Now what could be better than that?

Day 8 Saturday 23rd February

After a relaxing night's sleep we enjoyed a late breakfast and had some spare time in which to pack our bags in readiness for the day ahead. We also walked along the entrance to the lodge, seeing the first **Taiga Flycatcher** of the trip that

showed really well. Out in the fields both **Eastern Orphean Warbler** and **Paddyfield Warbler** were also new for us, but unfortunately the views of a bush-quail species running across the sparsely vegetated field in front of us were inconclusive. Also seen during our short walk were **Red Collared Dove**, **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon**, **Ashy** and **Plain Prinias**, **Little Green Bee-eater**, **Bay-backed Shrike**, lots of **Tree Pipits** and a flock of **Small Minivets**. Some of us took one final look at the roosting **Brown Hawk-owl** which was still in its usual roosting site, before we boarded the coach and set off for the tourist's Mecca of Agra.



After a nice lunch we visited a souvenir shop before heading to the world famous **Taj Mahal**. Due to a visit by a visiting v.i.p, the approach road to the Taj was blocked so we had to leave the coach some distance away and set off through the cities' back streets in a convoy of rickshaws. But we all made it in one piece (eventually) and had an interesting couple of hours admiring the architectural splendour of one of the world's most famous buildings or scanning for birds across the Yamuna River from the rear of the Taj! Once our visit was over we drove to the train station and after changing platforms at the last minute, boarded the overnight sleeper train to Jabalpur and headed out on the next phase of our Indian adventure.



Day 9 Sunday 24th February

After an uneventful night spent on the train we arrived in Jabalpur more or less on time and were soon heading to a nearby hotel in a convoy of Landcruisers for breakfast. So after a wash and brush up and a fine buffet-style breakfast we met outside and a few of us saw a **Greenish Warbler** and **Grey-headed (Chestnut-tailed) Starling** before heading out on the 3.5 hour drive (160 kms) to Kanha. It's an interesting journey across the rolling hills of Madhya Pradesh and the drive was enlivened by a few birds such as **Oriental Turtle Dove**, **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, **Olive-backed Pipit** and **Brown Shrike**. There was also another **Grey-headed Starling** seen besides a small roadside café where we took some refreshments and as we returned to the vehicles a fine male **Besra** circled overhead. As we drove back out onto the main road a **Common Hawk-cuckoo** was spotted by Hatsi perched on some telegraph wires which turned out to be one of only two sightings during the tour! A short while later we were pulling in to the wonderful **Tuli Tiger Resort** just in time for a spot of lunch and a short rest.

With mounting excitement we departed the lodge at 2.45pm and drove towards the park in 3 Land Rovers, seeing **Crested Serpent Eagle** and **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** along the way. This was probably the only day we didn't have to wait for the park's gates to open and once inside we headed along the main track, mainly with then purpose of familiarizing ourselves with the habitat and some of the commoner birds.

One thing that is apparent is how vast Kanha National Park truly is, comprising 1,945 square kilometers of mature forest, bamboo, grassland, lakes and rivers. During our brief introduction to the park we saw a few birds such as **Jungle Owlet**, **Alexandrine Parakeet**, the very grey-looking **Great Tit**, **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Black-naped Monarch** and a brief **Black-hooded Oriole**. Other animals seen included **Hanuman Langur**, **Spotted** and **Barking Deer**, and a fine stag **Sambar**.

Day 10 Monday 25th February

Up bright and early this morning and we were amongst the first vehicles waiting at the park entrance for the sun to rise above the distant hills and the gates to open. Once inside it was amazing to listen to the forest coming to life and my vehicle saw **Orange-headed Thrush**, a pair of endemic **Indian Scimitar-babblers** and a **White-bellied Drongo** along the main path. We took a side track and killed the engine beside a large patch of bamboo, listening for signs of movement and were rewarded with close views of **White-rumped Shama**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**, and a pair of **Puff-throated Babblers** feeding right out in the open. From here the track went steeply uphill through an arid rocky area which has always provided us with some good sightings in the past and this year was no different.

Just as we rounded a corner we came across another vehicle whose occupants were staring intently into the bamboo choked gully below us. To our utter amazement there was an adult **Leopard** no more than 30 feet away just sitting there, totally unconcerned by our presence. You had to really look hard as it blended in so well with the orange-brown leaves on the floor and the bright bamboo stems but the neck and head were clearly visible. And oh how those eyes stared balefully at us! After a few minutes the animal was on the move and walked parallel to us through the bamboo and we followed him for a little while before it melted away into the densely cloaked forest below us. John, Sue, Lesley and myself were all in a state of euphoria



after this and it was with high spirits that we continued along the track, with several large feeding flock of **Brown-cheeked Fulvettas**, as well as a **Black Stork** and quite a few **Spotted Deer** for company. In fact, had we been a little quicker we may well have seen two more **Leopards** crossing the track, instead of very fresh pug marks over the tyre tracks of another jeep that had overtook us just a couple of minutes before!

Anyway, as we approached the Reserve Centre, 6 **Alpine Swifts** flew overhead to round off a very good early morning session.

In fact everyone met at the centre for a picnic breakfast telling stories of how amazingly lucky they had been. With one of our vehicles scoring with a **Sloth Bear**, which turned out to be the only one seen and our other vehicle with Viv and Ted having seen a male **Tiger**! Their vehicles also saw **Lesser Adjutant**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike**,



Golden-fronted Leafbird, and both **White-rumped** and **Indian Vultures** and a herd of **Swamp Deer**. Meanwhile, around the

centre were **Crested Hawk-eagle**, **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, several **Crested Treeswifts** and a **Grey-headed Starling**.

Leaving here we meandered around the forest, passing a couple small streams and a pond where **Striated Heron**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, **Large Cuckooshrike** and a **Blyth's Reed-warbler** were seen. Undoubtedly the highlight was a fine male **Himalayan** (or **White-tailed**) **Rubythroat** that showed briefly below us and is a species that you more than likely won't see here with any other tour company! A little later at another area he heard the distinctive call of another **Himalayan Rubythroat** although it was not reacting much to the tape, probably as it was late morning and the weather was pretty hot. So we headed out of the park and back to the lodge for lunch and a siesta.

On returning to the park at 3pm we headed off in different directions once more. My vehicle took a short circular loop through the Sal forest and came across a feeding flock containing several **Oriental White-eyes** and **Great Tits**, 3 **Velvet-fronted Nuthatches**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** and **Black-naped Monarch** and a couple of **Tickell's Leaf-warblers**. Just ahead of us was a feeding party of Red **Junglefowl** feeding on the edge of the track which we disturbed as we drove up to another vehicle close by whose driver was a friend of ours. He stated that they could hear a **Tiger** feeding on a kill a few metres into the dense forest beyond. What excitement! So we waited and waited and watched a few regular species of flycatcher, plus a fine male **Asian Paradise-flycatcher** and **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** when all of a sudden the alarm calls of **Muntjac**, **peafowl** and **junglefowl** signaled the presence of a predator somewhere nearby and my driver said the animal was probably moving down towards a small drinking pool. So we drove back down the track but couldn't locate it, so for the next half an hour listened to more alarm calls and drove up and down the track and eventually were rewarded when a young male **Tiger** finally appeared at the edge of the forest and we watched it walking back to its kill from the pool.

Leaving here we drove on a little further seeing a pair of **Rufous Woodpeckers**, as well as **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, another **Verditer Flycatcher** and a herd of **Gaur** was present in the grassland next to the track as we approached the main gate. Other species seen by our group this afternoon included **Greater Painted Snipe**, a fine male **Blue-capped Rock-thrush**, **Taiga Flycatcher**, and an **Indian Rat Snake**.

Day 11 Tuesday 26th February



Patrick, Viv and I spent some time in the early morning looking for last night's **Tiger**, and we had it walking briefly through the dense foliage but it wasn't a satisfactory view. So we drove back down the main track and spent some time around the bamboo where excellent views were had of a pair of **Indian Scimitar-babblers** feeding right out in the open on some dead bamboo stalks. I tried the call of **Puff-throated Babbler** without success and searched the area I'd seen them over the previous two days but without success. However, about 50 metres away we had paused to watch a stag **Sambar** and the distinctive call of the babbler came from a short distance away, and sure enough 2 extremely responsive birds came up into the

bamboo about 3 metres off the ground and gave a superb show. As we watched these, a **Golden-fronted Leafbird** showed well in the large flowering tree behind us.

From here we headed up to an area I always like to check out and besides a nice pond a **Lesser Adjutant** feeding. In the tall Sal trees beside the path Viv picked up a **Rufous Woodpecker**, whilst **Indian Pygmy Woodpecker** and **White-bellied Drongo** were also present. Moving on, another reliable site produced a female **Himalayan Rubythroat** which came up to the top of some tall grasses in response to the ipod. Just then the loud roar of a **Tiger** echoed out through the forest and a short while later we drove at speed towards the sound of alarm calls from **Hanuman Langurs** and **Barking Deer**. We followed the alarm calls for quite a way but despite our patience were not rewarded with a **Tiger** sighting. So we retraced our steps having called into a guard post and learnt of a potential Tiger Show by the Kisli entrance gate. In fact, we were No10 in the queue so had time for our packed breakfast in the sun which allowed us to thaw out our frozen fingers and whilst waiting saw **Crested Serpent-eagle**, **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, a **White-eyed Buzzard** and flock of 30+ **Alpine Swifts** soaring overhead.



And then it was time to go, so we drove to a pre-arranged point in the forest, boarded the elephants which took us 100metres into the jungle and we found ourselves extremely up close and personal with a couple of male **Tigers** that were protecting a **Spotted Deer** kill from a huge **Gaur**. What a sight! The mahout maneuvered the elephant around and we could watch the tense stand-off between these impressive beasts for a few minutes before returning to the jeep. Leaving here we drove back into the forest briefly and had good views of a **White-naped Woodpecker** before returning to the lodge.

After lunch we drove along the track towards Indri, seeing a fine adult **Rufous-bellied Eagle** soaring above us in the clear blue sky. It was a stunning bird in full breeding plumage and is one of very few recent records from the park. A short distance away we saw yet another **White-naped Woodpecker** before reaching a pool where **Citrine Wagtail**, **Common** and **Pintail Snipes** and a **Greater Painted Snipe** were present. All of a sudden we heard some alarm calls and scooted into the forest, following some very fresh **Leopard** pug marks that must have been just minutes old as they were over the top of the jeeps tyre tracks that had overtaken us at the pool about 10 minutes before. Alarm call of **Hanuman Langurs** echoed through the forest and one monkey in particular was extremely agitated and we watched it peering intently into the bamboo beside the road. We spent quite a while watching and waiting without success before racing off when more distant alarm calls sounded, eventually catching up with Viv's vehicle at a small meadow where a fine male **Ultramarine Flycatcher** showed



well in the trees at the edge of a clearing. My vehicle drove further into the forest, and we caught a few glimpses of a group of **Red Spurfowl** before Umesh advised us to drive another kilometre further to an area where a **Tigress** with 3 small cubs had been seen the day before.

So off we went, but there was nothing happening in this area, so we drove back to the pool and found our other 2 vehicles watching an amazingly confiding juvenile **Baillon's Crake** feeding right below the path. Also present were several **Oriental Turtle Doves** and numerous other common species already mentioned.



Day 12 Wednesday 27th February

We again took the trail towards Indri at 6am this morning, seeing all the usual birds such as **Pintail Snipe**, **Baillon's Crake**, **White-naped** and **Streak-throated Woodpeckers**, **Black-naped Monarch** and **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta**, as well as watching a **Western Marsh Harrier** quartering the grassland and flushing a **Painted Francolin**. During our game drive we heard about another Tiger Show and raced back to the entrance to get our ticket and this time had prolonged views

of a male **Tiger** sat right out in the open. Ute and Sue were probably the last ones to go on the **Elephant** and were really fortunate to follow the **Tiger** walking through the grassland for quite a long time.



An early return to the lodge was quite nice as it was very hot by 11am, but in the afternoon we were raring to go and saw lots of previously mentioned birds including really good views of **Black-naped Monarch** and **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**. There were lots of alarm calls in several sections of the park but despite intensive searching we never managed to find the cause, however John and Sue were in a jeep alone watching a beautiful white morph **Asian Paradise-flycatcher**, when a male **Tiger** came and sat down some 20 feet behind them giving fantastic views. In fact he just stayed there for ages allowing Sue to take some truly excellent photos. Lady Luck was really on their side a short while later when a **Cinnamon Bittern** appeared along a narrow watercourse beside them as well!

Day 13 Thursday 28th February

We headed up towards the plateau this morning, driving along the main track where 2 male **Tigers** have been hanging around, but didn't linger very long before driving on to a large pool. On arrival our other 2 jeeps were already there and one of the park guides spotted a **Tiger** at the far end so we raced around, hearing Sambar alarm calls on the way. Despite a good search we had no luck and returned to the pool but immediately heard more alarm calls further up the road. Just as we were about to head off in that direction a **Jungle Cat** appeared below us and delayed us further. Viv & Dr Shiva raced up towards the alarm calls and their jeep saw a male **Tiger** walk across the track in front of them and disappear into the jungle. Myself and Hatsi's vehicles arrived just a fraction too late, so after a short wait we returned to the lake. Not long after we left a different male **Tiger** with a collar appeared in front of Viv's vehicle and they had to reverse quickly as it decided to walk downhill towards them quite some distance before turning off back into the forest. Meanwhile, back at the lake our other two vehicles were having a great time watching a **Brown Crake** in the creek below us and Lesley spotted a male **Common Rosefinch** perched in the bamboo before coming down to the creek to drink. There was also a very confident and close **Blyth's Reed-warbler** and a flock of **White-rumped Munias**. But the star birds were the 2 male **Himalayan (White-tailed) Rubythroats** which gave such a fantastic display below us, waving their tails and calling. Amazing!

Leaving here we drove maybe 400 metres and saw a different male **Tiger** crossing the road ahead of us, so we drove closer thinking he had melted away into the forest and stopped abruptly close to the point we thought he had entered the forest on our right. Once the dust had settled, which for a few seconds reduced visibility to practically zero, the **Tiger** suddenly appeared and sprang up on its haunches having been crouched in the grass beside the road and started walking towards us. We reversed quickly and he walked right in front of the jeep and up the bank into a dense stand of bamboo and disappeared! So after all this excitement we still had quite a long drive up to the plateau and really tried hard not to stop too often but birds kept getting in the way and we saw **Red Spurfowl**, **White-eyed Buzzard**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, **Crested Treeswift** perched, **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, **Red-whiskered Bulbul**, **Small Minivet**, **Puff-throated Babbler**, **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** and a **White-bellied Drongo**. Eventually we made it and our picnic breakfast tasted extra good this morning! And what a view confronted us, with dense forested hills all the way to the horizon. There was also a confident **Blue Rock Thrush** and a **Common Jezebel** butterfly to entertain us before we had to leave in order to be out of the park on time.



Along the way we saw **Lesser Adjutant**, **Black Stork**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Collared Scops-owl**, **Sirkeer Malkoha**, **Alpine Swifts** and a close herd of **Gaur**.

After lunch we met at 2.45pm for the afternoon safari and had already decided to return to the rubythroat pool from this morning. On the way in a couple of **Asian Brown Flycatchers** were found by Viv's jeep, but the forest apart from that was pretty quiet as it was still very hot. Normally about 4pm it begins to cool down and all the action begins so we based ourselves at

Zoothera Global Birding: Birds and Tiger tour 2008

the pool for a long time and just 'sat and watched' in what some might say is an old fashioned way! Our patience was rewarded with a flock of **Lesser Whistling-ducks**, **Black Ibis**, **Black Stork**, **Blyth's Reed-warbler**, **White-rumped Munia** and a male **Himalayan Rubythroat** that eventually showed very well along the edge of the creek below us. A **Jungle Cat** was also spotted by John walking along the edge of the lake and it eventually came and sat in full view on the track behind us to round off another excellent day.



Day 14 Friday 29th February

Our final morning's game drive had the sole purpose of searching for **Tiger** and was a total success as everyone managed to see a fine male from the back of an **Elephant**. Indeed Ted, Polly and I were privileged to follow it through some bamboo and along a dry river bed for a good 30 minutes before he settled in the shade of a tree.



But eventually we had to leave the Tuli Tiger Resort at midday and set out on the 5 hour drive to Nagpur, where after a buffet dinner we took a late evening flight back to Delhi. On arrival we were met by a coach and drove to a very nice hotel for the night.

Day 15 Saturday 1st March

After breakfast we drove to the airport and flew back to London, arriving in the early evening where everyone said their goodbyes and set out on the journey home.

BIRDLIST FOR INDIA – Birds & Tigers 2008

	SPECIES RECORDED	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Seen on 8 dates on both stages of the tour.
2.	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	A single individual flew over Chambal River.
3.	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	A small group of 8 roosting on an island at Bund Baretha on 19 th Feb were the only ones.
4.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
5.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Common and easily seen
6.	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A few seen at Bund Baretha
7.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Very common & seen daily
8.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A daily sighting.
9.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
10.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	A recent spit from Western Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> and seen every day.
11.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen on 7 dates, with a conservative count of 300+ seen on the Chambal River.
12.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Just a few singles seen on 3 dates
13.	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Common and seen most days.
14.	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	11 at Bund Aretha and a single at Keoladeo were the only ones.
15.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Single at Kanha on 25 th Feb.
16.	Cinnamon (Chestnut) Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	A single seen at Kanha was the only one.
17.	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	A couple seen at a roadside pond on the way back from Bund Baretha.
18.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Only seen at Bund Baretha.
19.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	2 seen on the way to Bharatpur from Delhi, and a daily sighting at Kanha.
20.	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	A few along a partially dried up canal in the town of Bharatpur, and several on Chambal River.
21.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Seen on 3 dates at Kanha.
22.	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	The regular male seen at Keoladeo and a couple on the Chambal River.
23.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Just a single at Keoladeo, but quite a few seen at Bund Baretha and Chambal River.
24.	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Reasonably common in small numbers during the first half of the tour.
25.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Common during the first leg of the tour, with a highest count of 20+ at Bund Baretha on 19 th Feb.

26.	Indian Black Ibis	e	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	Seen on 9 dates and ever present near the Kisli Gate at Kanha NP.
27.	Lesser Adjutant		<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Seen every day at Kanha NP.
28.	Bar-headed Goose		<i>Anser indicus</i>	Common during the first week.
29.	Greylag Goose		<i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i>	Common at Bund Baretha.
30.	Lesser Whistling-duck		<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	First seen on Chambal River, and then a frequent sighting at Kanha.
31.	Ruddy Shelduck		<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	A regular sighting during the first week of the tour.
32.	Comb Duck		<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	As with previous species, a regular sighting.
33.	Common Teal		<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common and seen on 9 dates.
34.	Garganey		<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Seen at Bund Baretha and Chambal River.
35.	Gadwall		<i>Anas strepera</i>	Several hundred seen at Bund Baretha on 19 th Feb.
36.	Eurasian Wigeon		<i>Anas penelope</i>	Several hundred seen at Bund Baretha on 19 th Feb.
37.	Northern Shoveler		<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Seen on 2 dates, including 300+ at Bund Baretha on 19 th Feb.
38.	Northern Pintail		<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen on 5 dates, including hundreds at Bund Baretha.
39.	Indian Spot-billed Duck		<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Seen on 5 dates. Recently split into 2 species to include Chinese Spot-billed Duck <i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>
40.	Mallard		<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	A few seen at Bund Baretha.
41.	Tufted Duck		<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Only seen at Bund Baretha.
42.	Ferruginous Pochard		<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	A group of 10+ seen at Bund Baretha was our only sighting.
43.	Common Pochard		<i>Aythya ferina</i>	400+ at Bund Baretha.
44.	Red-crested Pochard		<i>Netta rufina</i>	Seen at Bund Baretha (200+) and Chambal River.
45.	Cotton (Pygmy Goose) Teal		<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Seen on 5 dates in small flocks.
46.	Black-winged Kite		<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	A common sight in most areas visited and seen on 11 dates.
47.	Black Kite		<i>Milvus migrans migrans</i>	Seen around the larger towns and cities.
48.	Besra		<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	A good run of sightings, beginning with a male en-route to Tuli Tiger resort from Jabalpur. Followed by 2 further fly-overs.
49.	Shikra		<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
50.	Long-legged Buzzard		<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Several seen around the Chambal River, including 2 dark morphs.
51.	Oriental Honey-buzzard		<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
52.	White-eyed Buzzard		<i>Butastur teesa</i>	A soaring individual over the Khatia Gate at Kanha and a couple perched on the way to the plateau at Kanha were the only ones.
53.	Crested Serpent Eagle		<i>Spilornis cheela cheela</i>	A regular sighting at Kanha.

54.	Short-toed Eagle		<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Seen on 3 dates during the first week of the tour.
55.	Rufous-bellied Eagle		<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>	One of very few record of a soaring adult at Kanha. Superb!
56.	Booted Eagle		<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Just a couple seen during the first week of the tour.
57.	Bonelli's Eagle		<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>	Several present on the Chambal River.
58.	Crested Hawk-eagle	e	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	Endemic to India and Sri Lanka and a recent split from what was formerly called Changeable Hawk-eagle <i>Spizaetus limnaeetus</i> which is found further north and east. Seen most days at Kanha.
59.	Indian Spotted Eagle		<i>Aquila hastata</i>	A relatively recent split from lesser Spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> . A single at Bharatpur on 18 th Feb gave good views.
60.	Greater Spotted Eagle		<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Probably the same individual seen on 2 dates at Bharatpur.
61.	Steppe Eagle		<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	A 1 st -year bird at Bharatpur was the only sighting this year.
62.	Eastern Imperial Eagle		<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	A superb adult gave excellent views at Bund Baretha.
63.	Osprey		<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Seen on 4 dates, including a bird at Kanha which is quite a good record for the park.
64.	White-rumped Vulture		<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	Several seen at Kanha.
65.	Indian Vulture	E	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	Endemic to India and extreme SE Pakistan. What was formerly known as Long-billed Vulture was split into this species and Slender-billed Vulture <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i> . Seen en-route to Bund Baretha and at Kanha.
66.	Egyptian Vulture		<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	A common bird during the first week of the tour.
67.	Red-headed Vulture		<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Locally known as 'King Vulture'. Seen on 3 dates.
68.	Western Marsh Harrier		<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Seen on 3 dates.
69.	Common Kestrel		<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
70.	Red-necked Falcon		<i>Falco chicquera</i>	The first time we have recorded the species on this tour. A perched bird en-route to Bund Baretha was scoped by everyone.
71.	Grey Francolin		<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	Common during the first week of the tour.
	Black francolin		<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	Heard on the way to Bund Baretha.
72.	Painted Francolin	e	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>	Endemic to India and Sri Lanka. Apart from a brief flight view, John & Sue were privileged to have outstanding views of a close bird on the last morning.
73.	Red Spurfowl	E	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	Endemic to India. Typical views of this true skulker on 2 dates at Kanha.

74.	Red Junglefowl		<i>Gallus gallus</i>	A common sight and sound at Kanha.
75.	Indian Peafowl	e	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Seen daily.
76.	Sarus Crane		<i>Grus antigone</i>	6 seen en-route to Bharatpur and a pair on the way to Agra.
77.	European Water Rail		<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	The same bird seen on 2 dates at Bharatpur was the only one present in the park.
78.	Eastern Baillon's Crake		<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	A potential split from so-called 'western' race. A 1 st -winter seen at Kanha.
79.	Brown Crake		<i>Amauornis akool</i>	A good run of sightings and seen on 4 dates.
80.	White-breasted Waterhen		<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
81.	Purple Swamphen		<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	Seen en-route from Delhi to Bharatpur and at Bund Baretha.
82.	Common Moorhen		<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen on 10 dates.
83.	Eurasian Coot		<i>Fulica atra</i>	Seen on 3 dates during the first week of the tour.
84.	Black-winged Stilt		<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
85.	Bronze-winged Jacana		<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Seen on 2 dates.
86.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana		<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Only seen at Bund baretha.
87.	Small Pratincole		<i>Glareola lactea</i>	200+ on the Chambal River gave superb views.
88.	Indian Courser	e	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A flock of 12 were eventually located at Bharatpur.
89.	Great Thick-knee		<i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>	At least 10 were present on the Chambal River.
90.	Indian Stone-curlew		<i>Burhinus indicus</i>	Close views of a pair at Bund Baretha were followed by another at Bharatpur. Ever present just inside the main Kisli Gate at Kanha.
91.	Red-wattled Lapwing		<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Common and seen daily.
92.	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	e	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Due to the drier conditions this species is getting more common and was seen on 6 dates.
93.	River Lapwing		<i>Vanellus spinosus</i> <i>duvaucelii</i>	Seen on Chambal River and on the Yamuna River behind the taj Mahal.
94.	White-tailed Lapwing		<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
95.	Northern Lapwing		<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A single on the Chambal River was the only one seen.
96.	Little Ringed Plover		<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
97.	Kentish Plover		<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	A flock of around 30 were seen on the Chambal River.
98.	Western Black-tailed Godwit		<i>Limosa limosa</i>	300+ were present at Bund Baretha.
99.	Common Greenshank		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Ever present during the first week of the tour.
100.	Wood Sandpiper		<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
101.	Green Sandpiper		<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Seen on 11 dates.
102.	Common Sandpiper		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen on 6 dates.

103.	Marsh Sandpiper		<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Several seen, including a few moulting into breeding plumage.
104.	Common Redshank		<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
105.	Spotted Redshank		<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
106.	Ruff		<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
107.	Temminck's Stint		<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Good views on at least 6 dates.
108.	Little Stint		<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Just a couple seen at Keoladeo and Chambal River.
109.	Greater Painted Snipe		<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	A pair gave good views in a partially dry canal at Bharatpur. And seen on 3 dates at Kanha.
110.	Common Snipe		<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
111.	Jack Snipe		<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Another new bird for this tour, seen on a small pool at Kanha.
112.	Pintail Snipe		<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	At least 2 present on a small pool at Kanha.
113.	Pallas's Gull		<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	30+ at Chambal River was our highest ever count there.
114.	Common Black-headed Gull		<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A single flyby at Chambal River was the only one seen.
115.	Black-bellied Tern		<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	Very good views of at least 6 on Chambal River.
116.	River Tern		<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
117.	Indian Skimmer		<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	5 at Bund Baretha and 21 on Chambal River were one of the Top 5 highlights of the tour.
118.	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse		<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	Several small groups totaling 20 birds were seen coming to drink at the Chambal River.
119.	Rock Pigeon		<i>Columba livia</i>	Seen daily.
120.	Oriental Turtle-dove		<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	A daily sighting at Kanha
121.	Laughing Dove		<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Seen on 12 dates.
122.	Red Collared-dove		<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Seen on 3 dates.
123.	Spotted Dove		<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
124.	Eurasian Collared-dove		<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen on 12 dates.
125.	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon		<i>Treron p. phoenicoptera</i>	Seen at most sites and several confiding individuals.
126.	Plum-headed Parakeet	e	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. First seen at Bayena, followed by daily sightings at Kanha.
127.	Rose-ringed Parakeet		<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Seen daily.
128.	Alexandrine Parakeet		<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Seen daily at Kanha.
129.	Common Hawk-cuckoo	e	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A good find by Hatsi as we left a restaurant on the way to Kanha from Jabalpur and was the only one seen. Heard most days at Kanha.
130.	Greater Coucal		<i>Centropus sinensis parroti</i>	A daily sighting throughout the tour and is subject to potential split in the future.
131.	Sirkeer Malkoha	e	<i>Taccocua leschenaultia</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen very well by one lucky jeep at Kanha meadows one evening.

132.	Brown Hawk-owl		<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	A roosting bird gave superb views at Chambal Safari Lodge.
133.	Dusky Eagle-owl		<i>Bubu coromandus</i>	4 birds seen at Keoladeo included a well grown chick on a nest.
134.	Indian Scops-owl	e	<i>Otus bakkomoe</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A recent split from Collared Scops-owl <i>Otus lettia</i> . A pair roosting near The Temple at Keoladeo and a roosting pair at Kanha gave good views.
135.	Spotted Owlet		<i>Athene brama</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
136.	Jungle Owlet	e	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Common at Kanha and seen there daily.
137.	Large-tailed Nightjar		<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	A roosting bird at Keoladeo on 18 th Feb gave close views.
138.	Crested Treeswift		<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	Seen on 3 dates at Kanha.
139.	House Swift		<i>Apus affinis</i>	Seen on 12 dates.
140.	Alpine Swift		<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>	Several large flocks of up to 50+ birds present at Kanha showed some signs of migrating north.
141.	Indian Roller		<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
142.	Eurasian Hoopoe		<i>Upupa epops</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
143.	White-throated Kingfisher		<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Very common and seen daily.
144.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher		<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	A few seen during the first week.
145.	Common Kingfisher		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
146.	Little Green Bee-eater		<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Common and seen at most sites.
147.	Indian Grey Hornbill	e	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Common and seen on 10 dates.
148.	Malabar Pied Hornbill		<i>Anthracoceros coronotus</i>	A good view of a pair at Kanha was the only sighting this year.
149.	Coppersmith Barbet		<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Widespread and seen on 8 dates.
150.	Brown-headed Barbet	e	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Common and seen at most places visited.
151.	Indian Pygmy Woodpecker	e	<i>Dendrocopus nanus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Singles seen at Keoladeo and Kanha.
152.	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopus mahrattensis</i>	Seen a few times at Keoladeo.
153.	Streak-throated Woodpecker		<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	A couple seen on 2 dates at Kanha gave good views.
154.	Rufous Woodpecker		<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	Good views this year at Kanha and seen on 4 dates there.
155.	Black-rumped Flameback	e	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. The commonest woodpecker and seen on 11 dates
156.	White-naped Flameback	e	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Good views on 4 dates at Kanha.
	Greater Flameback		<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Just heard at Kanha this year.
157.	Crested Lark		<i>Galerida chendoola</i> <i>cristata</i>	Seen on way to Bund Baretha and at the Chambal River.

158.	Sand Lark		<i>Calandrella raytal</i>	A pair beside the Chambal River was our first record on this tour.
159.	Ashy-crowned Finch-lark	e	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
160.	Greater Short-toed Lark		<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Due to the drier condition this species was very numerous this year, with our biggest flock comprising 50+
161.	Rufous-tailed Lark	e	<i>Ammomanes phoenicura</i>	Several good views of this attractive lark.
162.	Grey-throated (Plain) Sand-martin		<i>Riparia chinensis</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
163.	Dusky Crag-martin		<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	Seen at Indira Gandhi Airport, Delhi and Bund Baretha.
164.	Barn Swallow		<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen on 7 dates.
165.	Red-rumped Swallow		<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Several large pre-migration flocks were seen.
166.	Wire-tailed Swallow		<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
167.	Yellow (grey-headed) Wagtail		<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	Seen a few times at Keoladeo.
	Syke's Yellow Wagtail		<i>Motacilla flava beema</i>	The common <i>flava</i> race at Keoladeo this year.
168.	Grey Wagtail		<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
169.	Citrine Wagtail		<i>Motacilla citreola citreola</i>	Seen on 8 dates and very common at Keoladeo this year with maybe 100+ present on the small pool at Mansarovar one evening.
	Citrine Wagtail		<i>Motacilla calcarata citreola</i>	A few of this 'dark-backed' race were amongst the hordes of 'regular Citrines one evening.
170.	White Wagtail		<i>Motacilla dukhunensis alba</i>	Lots of indeterminate race 1 st -year <i>alba</i> -types were seen.
	Masked Wagtail		<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>	Very common this year and several really good views of this potential split.
	Black-backed Wagtail		<i>Motacilla alba alboides</i>	One sighting at Keoladeo.
171.	White-browed Wagtail	e	<i>Motacilla madaraspatis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Common and easily seen during the first week of the tour.
172.	Olive-backed Pipit		<i>Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis</i>	Seen at Keoladeo and Kanha on several dates.
173.	Tree Pipit		<i>Anthus .t trivialis</i>	Seen a few times at Keoladeo and also Kanha.
174.	Paddyfield Pipit		<i>Anthus richardi rufulus</i>	Seen on 7 dates.
175.	Tawny Pipit		<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Just seen on 3 dates.
176.	Long-billed Pipit		<i>Anthus similis</i>	Good views of a single bird on a hillside above Bund Baretha.
177.	Common Woodshrike		<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Seen at Keoladeo and Kanha.
178.	Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike		<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	A confirmed sighting of one bird at Kanha was a very good record.
179.	Large Cuckooshrike		<i>Coracina macei</i>	Very common at Kanha.
180.	Long-tailed Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	Only seen at Keoladeo and Bund Baretha this year.
181.	Scarlet Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	A daily sight at Kanha.
182.	Small Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	Several good views of this beautiful little bird.

183.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Seen daily.
184.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Just seen on the way up to the plateau one morning at Kanha.
185.	White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Only heard this year.
186.	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	Seen daily at Kanha.
187.	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Seen on 8 dates of the <i>erythronotus</i> race.
188.	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis lahtora</i>	A few seen during the first week of the tour.
189.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius c. cristatus</i>	Widespread and seen on 7 dates.
190.	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	Much scarcer this year, but close views had on 2 dates.
191.	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Common and seen daily at Kanha
192.	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	Several good views at Kanha, including a white-morph.
193.	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Seen at Bund Baretha, Chambal and a good record of one at Kanha
194.	Blue-headed Rock-thrush e	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	Endemic to the Subcontinent. A fine male seen at Kanha.
195.	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina citrina</i>	The individual with the all-orange face at Keoladeo was of the Himalayan nominate form.
	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina cyanota</i>	The birds at Kanha were of the white-faced peninsular race.
196.	Tickell's Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>	Great views of a confiding bird at Keoladeo.
197.	Small-billed Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	Prolonged views and photos of this rare vagrant at Keoladeo.
198.	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	A regular sighting at Keoladeo and also seen on 2 dates at Kanha
199.	Himalayan Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	A female showed briefly on 26 th Feb at Kanha, and 2 males reacted strongly to the tape at another site in Kanha, giving superb views on 2 other dates. We've never dipped here!
200.	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Regularly heard at Kanha, and seen well amongst some stands of bamboo on 2 occasions.
201.	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Common in all areas visited.
202.	Indian Black Robin e	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent and seen most days.
203.	Brown Rock-chat e	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent and seen on 7 dates.
204.	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris</i>	This attractive species was seen on 10 dates.
205.	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe d. deserti</i>	A fine male gave good views besides the Chambal River.
206.	Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>	A female at the Chambal River was unexpected but reflects the more arid conditions this year.

207.	Isabelline Wheatear		<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	A new species for this tour and seen on the way to Bayena and at Chambal River.
208.	Pied Bushchat		<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
209.	Common Stonechat		<i>Saxicola torquata indicus</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
210.	Grey Bushchat		<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	A female showed well en-route to Bund Baretha and was a little out of range.
211.	Asian Brown Flycatcher		<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	A good find by Viv's jeep in Kanha on 28 th Feb.
212.	Ultramarine Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>	Seen on 3 different days in Kanha and all spectacular males.
213.	Red-breasted Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula parva</i>	The only <i>Ficedula</i> species seen during the first week and also seen at Kanha.
214.	Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	Conspicuous by its absence during the first week, but was abundant during our stay at Kanha.
215.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher		<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	Common around the bamboo stands in Kanha.
216.	Verditer Flycatcher		<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	Seen on 4 dates at Kanha.
217.	Yellow-eyed Babbler		<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	First seen well alongside Bund Baretha and subsequently seen at Keoladeo and a daily sighting at Kanha.
218.	Tawny-bellied Babbler	e	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A couple skulking individuals accompanying a flock of Grey-breasted Prinias at Kanha.
219.	Common Babbler	e	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen on our visits to Bund Baretha and Chambal River.
220.	Large Grey Babbler	e	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen a few times during the first week of the tour.
221.	Jungle Babbler	e	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Common and seen most days.
222.	Indian Scimitar-babbler	E	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>	An Indian endemic. Seen daily at Kanha and usually gives very good views.
223.	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta		<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Very common around bamboo stands at Kanha and recorded daily, usually in large flocks.
224.	Puff-throated Babbler		<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	Seen very well on 4 successive days at Kanha.
225.	Zitting Cisticola		<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen on 5 dates at Kanha.
226.	Ashy Prinia	e	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Common and seen on 11 dates.
227.	Grey-breasted Prinia		<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	Seen on 5 dates, always in small flocks.
228.	Jungle Prinia	e	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Poor views on our first afternoon in Kanha were

252.	Striolated Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	A recent split from House Bunting and seen well at Bayena.
253.	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	After some distant views on 19 th Feb, we had point-blank views of a small flock coming to drink at a creek in Kanha.
254.	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	Seen on 2 dates.
255.	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	Very common during the first week of the tour in dry, open areas.
256.	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	A feeding flock was seen one afternoon at Kanha.
257.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus indicus</i>	Seen daily.
258.	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	A few birds seen in an arid field en-route to Bayena were a surprise.
259.	Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	Widespread.
260.	Indian Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus p. philippinus</i>	Poor views in some fields as we returned from Bund Baretha.
261.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Seen daily at Kanha.
262.	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Common and seen daily.
263.	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	First seen at Keoladeo and then on 2 occasions at Kanha.
264.	White-bellied Drongo e	<i>Dicrurus caerlescens</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen at Keoladeo and quite common at Kanha.
265.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Common and conspicuous at Kanha.
266.	Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Seen on 4 dates at Kanha.
267.	Brahminy Starling e	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen on 8 dates, but much commoner during the first week.
268.	Grey-headed(Chestnut-tailed) Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	A recent split from Chestnut-tailed Starling. Several seen at Kanha.
269.	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	A daily sighting.
270.	Bank Myna e	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen daily during the first week of the tour.
271.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Very common.
272.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendensponensis</i>	Common.
273.	Indian Jungle Crow e	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Part of a 3-way split from the large-billed crow complex.
274.	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Common and seen most days.

	OTHER ANIMALS	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Nos days out of 13 recorded	
1.	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	4	4
2.	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	1	1
3.	Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>	3	1
4.	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	2	10+
5.	Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos frontalis</i>	5	31
6.	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	6	N/C
7.	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Axis axis</i>	8	C
8.	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Cervus duvauceli</i>	4	3+
9.	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	4	N/C
10.	Wild Boar	<i>Sus sciofa</i>	4	15+
11.	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	8	C
12.	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	4	N/C
13.	Common Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>	1	2
14.	Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>	1	1
15.	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	5	N/C
16.	Bengal Fox	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>	1	3
17.	Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	2	3
18.	Common Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	1	1
19.	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	2	1
20.	Ganges River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	1	1
21.	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	8	C
22.	Indian Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus coromandra</i>	1	N/C
23.	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatto</i>	6	LC
24.	Hanuman Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	7	LC
25.	Indian Rock Python	<i>Python molurus</i>	3	5
26.	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus flaviridis</i>	7	C
27.	Red-tailed Skink	<i>Eumeces sp</i>	1	1
28.	Bengal Monitor Lizard	<i>Veranus bengalensis</i>	2	2
29.	Marsh Mugger	<i>Crocodylus palostris</i>	1	10+
30.	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>	1	30+
31.	Flap-shelled Terrapin	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	1	5
32.	Red-crowned Turtle	<i>Kachuga kachuga</i>	1	2

ZOOTHERA GLOBAL BIRDING Ltd,
19 Tudor Close, Paignton, Devon. TQ4 7RF
Tel: 01803 431765
e-mail: info@zooterabirding.com
www.zooterabirding.com