

## TOUR SUMMARY: THE MISHMI HILLS and BEYOND 2010

SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Either for rarity value, exceptional views or simply a group favourite:

- **Mishmi Wren-babbler**
- **Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler**
- **Eye-browed Wren-babbler**
- **Indian White-hooded Babbler**
- **Rusty-bellied Shortwing**
- **Black-breasted Thrush**
- **Greater Adjutant**
- **Spotted Laughingthrush**
- **Beautiful Nuthatch**
- **Long-billed Wren-babbler**
- **Ibisbill**
- **Oriental Scops-owl**
- **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie**
- **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide**
- **Rufous breasted Bush-robin**
- **Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler**
- **Ward's Trogon**
- **Blyth's Tragopan**
- **Green Cochoa**
- **Blue-naped Pitta**
- **Pied Falconet**
- **Bengal Florican**
- **Sultan Tit**
- **Manipur Fulvetta**

**Tour Leaders: Nick Bray and Peter Lobo**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> tour to the seldom visited and near-mystical Mishmi Hills once again resulted in a number of Eastern Himalayan specialties being seen. It is a real privilege to go birding in such a remote place that few western birders have visited and the birds certainly did not disappoint, although it is one of those places where you have to persevere to reap the rewards. The weather was dry for most of the tour and the logistics organised by Peter Lobo were, as always, superb.

So we began our birding adventure shortly after arrival in Delhi with a few hours spent at Okhla Barrage producing a number of species not seen elsewhere on the tour including 70+ **Greater Flamingo**, 8+ **Painted Storks**, **White-tailed Stonechat**, **Comb Duck**, **Hume's Warbler**, a flock of **Indian Silverbills**, **Purple Sunbird**, **White-tailed Lapwing**, **Graceful Prinia**, **Siberian Chiffchaff** and **Red Avadavat**. Huge rafts of wildfowl were loafing on the sluggish water and all were familiar to us and in amongst the regular gulls we picked out a few **Steppe Gulls**.

With **Black Kites** appearing over the rooftops and **Rose-ringed Parakeets** screeching past us, our dawn breakfast on the rooftop garden was certainly quite eventful. A **Brown Rock-chat** also put in an all too brief appearance, as did the warm toast! And soon after we were heading to the brand new Domestic Terminal and after a minor delay we touched down in Dibrugarh only 40 minutes later than scheduled. My good friend and our guide for the tour, Peter Lobo, had joined us on the same plane when we touched down in Guwahati en-route and after collecting our luggage we were quickly driving along the road to Tinsukia and our hotel for the night.



Mishmi Wren-babbler was originally discovered by the famous Salim Ali and S.Dillon Ripley in 1947. There were no subsequent sightings until its rediscovery in 2004 by Ben King. It is endemic to just a few valleys in the Mishmi Hills and is the primary reason for our visit to this rather unexplored region in north-east India.



The stunning Beautiful Nuthatch is also found in the Mishmi Hills and usually provides excellent views.

An early start was required in order to reach the ferry at Saikhowa Ghat this morning on our journey to the fabled and bird-rich Mishmi Hills in Arunachal Pradesh. It really is an amazing experience to watch the organisation of this delicate loading operation and with water levels so low it meant a very direct and quick crossing across the depleted Brahmaputra River. A few birds were noted here including **Great Black-headed Gulls**, **Ruddy Shelducks**, a **Black Stork** and a **Merlin** of the *pallidus* race before we headed off across the sandy and very bumpy track to a site Peter has found for **Bengal Florican**. At the appointed place our crew had already set up a sumptuous breakfast of omelettes and porridge which was consumed avidly by all. Then we walked across the grassland and within 5 minutes or so had unbelievably prolonged flight views of a florican slowly flying past us and into the tall grass. A few other species were present such as **Lesser Coucal**, **Greater Painted-snipe** and **Pintail Snipe**. Our raptor list was also doing well with **Himalayan Griffon** and **White-rumped Vultures**, **Changeable Hawk-eagle** and **Short-toed Eagle** being seen amongst some commoner species. A long and bumpy, pot-holed drive ensued to Roing, and a short while later we arrived at our secluded lodge and base for the next few nights. This area has proved very productive to us in the past and this afternoon was no exception with a good selection of typical Himalayan species on show and all readily visible in the garden. Of course **Beautiful Sibia** was the first bird but was quickly followed by **Blue-throated Barbet**, **Fulvous-breasted** and **Grey-faced Woodpeckers**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **White-capped River-chat**, **Black-backed Forktail** and a fine **Black-throated Sunbird** feeding in a Bombax tree. Down by the lake we had **Silver-eared Mesia**, female **Red-headed Trogon**, **White-throated** and **Yellow-bellied Fantails** and a mixed flock of **Greater** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes**.

We awoke early the following morning to a perfect starlit sky and headed along the Roing-Hunli Road and after a quiet start found our first flock of **Black-chinned Yuhinas**. As we watched these little beauties, a group of **Striated Yuhinas** appeared and gave decent views, followed by **Grey Treepie**, **Plain Flowerpecker**, **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and **Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush**. We drove up to a section of Bamboo and scored heavily with 3 **Pale-headed Woodpeckers** giving prolonged views. From here we drove to 1300m and had a tree full of **Golden-throated Barbets** and **Striated Bulbuls** before finding our first group of **Cachar Wedge-billed Wren-babblers** that were feeding on the floor around some cow dung! A **Rufous-necked Hornbill** called from the forest somewhere on the hill above us but remained out of view, whilst a flock of **White-naped Yuhinas** appeared beside the road. Shortly after, a **Long-billed Wren-babbler** gave a brief appearance and a **Collared Owlet** stared down at us with piercing eyes. One of the great things about this section of the



Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch showed really well around our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.



White-naped Yuhina is an Eastern Himalayan speciality which is easily seen in the Mishmi Hills.



This Collared Owlet posed nicely above the Roing-Hunli Road in the Mishmi Hills and gave walk-away views.

tour is that you walk around a corner in the road and there is a table and chairs with our hot lunch waiting for us. Afterwards we continued walking along the road and found plenty of more regular species as well as lots of **Olive-backed Pipits**, **Ashy-throated Warbler**, a flock of 9 **Coral-billed Scimitar-babblers**, several groups of **Rusty-fronted Barwings**, another **Long-billed Wren-babbler**, our first **Maroon-backed Accentor**, **Daurian Redstart**, **Golden Babbler** and **Nepal Fulvetta** before returning to our lodge a little earlier than usual where the traditional Mishmi pakoras and flasks of tea were waiting for us.

After a night of heavy rain and thunder we awoke to clearing skies and were soon driving back along the road and up into the hills. This time we headed above Tewarigaon and were enjoying **Slaty-backed** and **Spotted Forktails** and flocks of **Maroon-backed Accentors** feeding beside the road. Parking up around the 2000m mark we began walking back down in the decidedly cool early morning air and were soon notching up **Dark-rumped Rosefinch**, the first of many **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robins**, an **Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher** and a tame **Plain-backed Thrush** that gave point-blank views as it fed in the leaf litter beside the road. Our first flock of the day held two **Black-eared Shrike-babblers**, **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper**, **Yellow-browed** and **Black-spotted (Yellow-cheeked) Yellow Tit**, **Rufous-capped Babbler** and several **Rufous-winged Fulvettas**. A group of demure **Manipur Fulvettas** also fed unobtrusively on the bank above us and belied their impressive reputation! We had a few more small flocks later on but found nothing new for a while apart from an impressive male **Green-tailed Sunbird**. So we continued walking down and had the first of 5 **Rufous-breasted Bush-robins** to be seen today, more bluetails, **White-tailed Nuthatch**, and a flock of **Chestnut-tailed** and **Red-tailed Minlas**. Peter picked up a male **Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush** way up in a tall tree on the hill above us and also a flock of **Brown Bullfinches** which we scoped. With the rain finally reaching us we drove down some way and were greeted by our ground crew who had erected a dining tent for us to shelter in and eat our excellent hot lunch. Flocks of **Olive-backed Pipits** flew by, with a male **Blue-fronted Redstart** sat on the wall below us. After we had finished a calling **Sultan Tit** led us to a massive mixed flock where we also saw lots of **Rufous-winged Fulvettas**, **Grey-chinned Minivet**, **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**, lots of **Red-tailed Minlas**, **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker**, and a selection of common species. With the cloud descending we drove down to the Bamboo zone and found several obliging **Yellow-bellied Warblers**, **Hodgson's Redstart**, a few **White-crested Laughingthrushes**, a flock of **Black-chinned Yuhinas** that gave very close views much to Roy's delight, **Asian Barred Owlet**, a flock of **Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes** and a perched **Mountain Imperial-pigeon** spotted by Abid.



Plain-backed Thrush is probably the commonest *Zoothera* in the Mishmi Hills and we had excellent views of a couple of birds feeding beside the road.



We saw five stunning male Rufous-breasted Bush-robins in a single day in the Mishmi Hills.



Sultan Tit is always nice to see and this bird was moving in a large mixed feeding flock in the Mishmi Hills.

An extremely confiding **Long-billed Wren-babbler** got the ball rolling the next day and allowed us to study every feather detail as it picked its way across the bank above us. All 3 usual forketails were around this morning and as we watched a flock of **Yellow-throated Fulvettas** feeding, a **Grey-cheeked Warbler** also came in for a look. Around the next bend, what was definitely one of the most memorable experiences of the tour occurred when a group of amazingly confiding **Cachar Wedge-billed Wren-babblers** were seen (and heard) feeding a few metres below the road. They gave repeated and close views for half an hour and even followed us up and down the road quite a way! Shortly after a **Mishmi Wren-babbler** responded to the tape but only showed briefly although we were not too worried as it is relatively common here. So we drove up higher and found a fruiting tree full of **Great Barbets**, as well as a soaring **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, a skulking flock of **Red-headed Laughingthrushes**, another two **Collared Owlets** and three **Alpine Accentors**, as well as getting the views we wanted of **Mishmi Wren-babbler**. The rest of the afternoon was spent walking towards the lodge at Mayodia where we were going to spend the next few chilly nights and came across several feeding flocks with **Stripe-throated** and **Rufous-vented Yuhinas**, **Streak-throated Barwing**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, a fast moving bunch of **Black-throated Parrotbills** and finally a pair of stunning **Yellow-billed Blue Magpies** showed well. We ended the day with a bonfire on the terrace underneath a breathtaking starry sky.

Up with the lark this morning or rather the hill-partridge and a decidedly chilly Mayodia Pass was our first port of call. A group of **Brown-throated Fulvettas** showed well straight away upon arrival and as we walked down the north side a flock of **Grey-headed Bullfinches** were seen feeding beside the road. A **Dark-rumped Rosefinch**, several **Green-tailed Sunbirds** literally glowed in the sunshine and a flock of **Black-faced Laughingthrushes** followed before we drove back up to the pass having located a few feeding parties of yuhinas but nothing else new. Walking down the road towards the lodge gave us an obliging **Hume's Bush-warbler** and as we were watching this, Peter called us over and there feeding on the sunlit bank was a superb **Bar-winged Wren-babbler**. We then found a flock of stunning **Golden-breasted Fulvettas** and a **Rufous-capped Babbler** joined in the fun as well, whilst a **Bay Woodpecker** flew across the road a couple of times. Back at the lodge for lunch and we didn't have long to rest as a random piece of tape playing resulted in a **Spotted Laughingthrush** calling back. As it became apparent that it would not show we had to make our way inside the bamboo where it showed really well. Following that a futile attempt for **Blyth's Tragopan** was made before



There is an isolated population of Cachar Wedge-billed Wren-babblers in the Mishmi Hills. They are usually relatively easy to see and this year provided our group with amazingly prolonged and close views.



Green-tailed Sunbird is very common in the Mishmi Hills but is still a stunning bird in its own right.



It really doesn't get much better than having a flock of Golden-breasted Fulvettas feeding right in front of you, as we did below Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills.

driving down the road only to be thwarted by the low cloud and some drizzle which meant that we dipped on a calling **Himalayan Cutia**. So we returned to Mayodia Lodge and found that we were above the clouds which enabled us to bird the immediate vicinity before dinner.

A couple of **Grey-headed Bullfinches** were a parting gift from Mayodia as we drove lower down in search of new birds the following morning. The early morning sunshine was enticing to several mixed feeding flocks although only a pair of **Streak-breasted Scimitar-babblers** was new to begin with, but a little later there was **Ashy woodpigeon**, **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, and at an area of bamboo a pair of **Slender-billed Scimitar-babblers** gave a superb prolonged show, a pair of **Gold-naped Finches**, and a nice little flock held **Manipur** and **Rufous-winged Fulvettas**, **Black-eared Shrike-babbler** and **Golden Babbler**. We'd heard several **Blyth's Tragopans** already this morning but when Peter spotted one on the slope above we thought our luck had changed so our crew made their way from the road above through the forest and managed to startle a tragopan and **Common Hill-partridge** into flight right over our heads and if only a pair of **Black-headed Shrike-babblers** hadn't put in an appearance right at the crucial time, then the tragopan would have literally walked into us! As we left here and drove down to our lunch site we were treated to the amazing spectacle of a male **Ward's Trogon** flying up from beside the road and landing onto everyone's life lists. It was a privilege to be able to watch this much wanted Eastern Himalayan speciality perched above the road for a good 10 minutes, during which time it sallied forth and picked a few berries from a nearby bush. After lunch events became a little frustrating as we heard **Chestnut-breasted Hill-partridge**, before spending a good hour trying to see a singing **White-gorgeted Flycatcher** with minimal success.

Our last full day began with a **Grey Nightjar** in the headlights before reaching the tragopan area where we spent an hour scanning the steep slopes for any movement. Most of the group walked down the road whilst John and I ventured into the Bamboo and had an extremely close encounter with a calling **Blyth's Tragopan** without seeing the elusive and apparently not near-mythical creature. However, a pair of **Common Hill-partridges** did walk sedately past us just a few yards away. The walk down the road turned up trumps when a **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide** was scoped beside a bee's nest on a small cliff-face, a **Scaly Laughingthrush** was perched on a rock beside the road, whilst the first of 2 pairs of the stunning **Beautiful Nuthatches** were found. In the evening the ground crew had prepared a bonfire and brought dinner to us in the hills and we enjoyed yet another amazingly fine



The scenery around Mayodia Lodge is absolutely stunning and only equalled by the excellent birding in the immediate area



To get views like this of the truly bizarre looking Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler is something you never forget.



We watched this male Ward's Trogon feeding beside the road in the Mishmi Hills for several minutes. It's one of the very special birds we have never failed to see here.

meal listening to **Mountain Scops-owl** calling. At least 3 **Hodgson's Frogmouth** called from the forest and eluded us this evening as we made our way back to the lodge.

Whilst chasing a few trip ticks around the garden the next morning a **Green Cochoa** began calling from the road above and after a mad dash up the steps we were treated to great scope views of a pair sat out in the open. The gardens were as good as ever and we watched numerous typically Himalayan birds feeding in the flowering trees including **Asian Fairy Bluebird** and **White-throated Bulbuls**, whilst the surrounding area held **White-capped River-chat**, **Black-backed Forktail** and **Lemon-rumped Warbler**. Then we drove back down through the lowlands to the ferry and said our goodbyes to the wonderful ground crew who had looked after us so well this past week. A **Great Black-headed Gull** was seen on the river and dwarfed a pair of **Ruddy Shelducks**. Driving along the sandy shoreline we found a flock of **Rosy Pipits** and a single **White-rumped Vulture**. Later on we arrived at Dibru-Saikhowa where we had lunch and could scan the large marsh which was literally full of birds with pride of place going to the **Lesser White-fronted Goose** which was here for its second year and is an extremely rare bird in India. More expected fare was present such as **Asian Openbill**, **Purple Swamphen**, **Grey-headed Lapwing**, masses of common wildfowl, numerous **Citrine Wagtails** and a few **Temminck's Stints**. We sailed along a shallow channel in two dugout canoes and got really close to both jacanas, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Bar-headed Goose** and **Striated Grassbird**. On landing an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** flew over and a **Tawny Pipit** was seen before we walked into the tall grass in search of **Swamp Prinia** without any luck. However, **Jerdon's** and **Chestnut-capped Babblers** showed well before the return boat trip afforded decent views of **Blyth's Reed-warbler**, **Paddyfield** and **Smoky Warblers**, and a **Watercock** was nearly as startled as were to see it! A final scan of the marsh produced **Red-crested Pochard** and **Ferruginous Duck** to add to our ever increasing lists.

After our abortive attempt to reach the parrotbill site at Dibru-Saikhowa in the early hours due to torrential rain we headed to Kaziranga earlier than expected which gave us plenty of time to explore the famous Tea Gardens. Unbelievably, we began with stunning views of a **Blue-naped Pitta** up a tree thanks to the hard work by Rafik and Abid. Birding was very enjoyable in the open habitat and we soon racked up a few good species such as **Rufous-fronted Babbler**, **White-rumped Shama**, **Greater and Lesser Yellownapes**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**, **Tickell's Leaf-warbler**, a flock of **Rufous-necked Laughingthrush**, and a few **Oriental Turtle-doves**.



This female Gold-naped Finch is an altitudinal migrant and was feeding beside the road in the Mishmi Hills.



It is always a special moment when you finally see a Green Cochoa. A pair was present at Sally Lake in the Mishmi Hills this year.



Never an easy bird to see, except when they fly up into a tree! This Blue-naped Pitta performed amazingly well in the Tea Gardens at Kaziranga.

We got our big day at Kaziranga, during which we saw 133 species, off to a good start with a **Thick-billed Warbler** beside the restaurant, as well as close views of several **Grey-headed Starlings** feeding in a small bush, a **Grey-backed Shrike** and several **White-vented Mynas**. A mass of birds were seen on Sohola Bheel in the Eastern Range and we had **Spot-billed and Great White Pelicans**, **Cotton Pygmy-goose**, several **Black-necked Storks**, **Greater Adjutant** and **Pacific Golden Plover** which were all new additions for the tour. Also present were **Lesser Adjutant**, **Grey-headed Lapwing**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, as well as loads of commoner birds. We drove along the edge of the forest and came across a **Pallas's Fish-eagle** perched beside a huge nest, whilst a little later the smaller **Grey-headed Fish-eagle** put in several appearances. There followed **Red Junglefowl**, **Great Pied Hornbill**, nice close **Woolly-necked Storks**, **Brown Shrike**, with **Common Hill-mynas** and **Spot-winged Starlings** feeding in the huge, flowering Bombax trees. In the channel beside us we added a group of **Smooth-coated Otters** to our mammal list which now included **Hog** and **Swamp Deer**, **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros** and **Asian Elephant**. Continuing on we had **Green Imperial-pigeon** and **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** before returning along the same track. At Sohola Bheel a gathering of vultures now included **Eurasian Griffon**, **White-rumped** and **Slender-billed** adding to the **Himalayan Griffon Vulture** we had seen earlier and made for an impressive sight. Other raptors seen were **Changeable Hawk-eagle**, **Steppe** and **Greater Spotted Eagles** and **Crested Serpent-eagle**. In the afternoon we visited the Central Range and began with close **Black-headed Ibis** and an adult and 2 nearly fully-fledged **Brown Fish-owls** in a nest. Ian D found a pair of **Kalij Pheasants** which showed really well, and we followed this with **Streak-throated Woodpecker**, **Indian Spotted Eagle**, **Eastern Baya Weaver**, and one of the key species here, **Swamp Francolin**. At a large lake a new observation tower had been erected since my last visit and gave us a fine view of the surrounding area, albeit into the setting sun. But we had closer francolins, **Spot-billed Pelican** and loads of species seen earlier today. A male **Pied Harrier** quartering the grassland made for an exquisite sight in the late afternoon sunshine and rounded off a perfect day.

The next day began with an Elephant ride across the grassland of the Central Range in Kaziranga National Park during which we got up close and personal with several more **Rhinos**, as well as herds of **Swamp Deer** and a few **Wild Boars** It certainly was a very enjoyable experience and we were grateful to have already seen the francolin earlier in the tour as this species was conspicuous by its absence. As ever it doesn't pay to switch off on this tour as



The population of Black-necked Stork is decreasing all across Asia, but is easily seen around Kaziranga.



A herd of Asian Elephants are bathing in the early morning at Kaziranga. Mammal watching in this fantastic reserve is very rewarding.



Indian One-horned Rhinoceros is easily seen at Kaziranga.

a pair of **Greater Flamebacks** and a **Blue-eared Barbet** was scoped from the dining hall during breakfast. Afterwards we returned to the Central Range and whilst waiting for the gates to open, Roy found a **Eurasian Hoopoe** feeding in the grass nearby. Once inside the park we made our first stop at a large lake where a large and very old bull **Elephant** was quietly grazing with **Rosy, Paddyfield** and **Richard's Pipits** doing their best not to get trampled beneath him! Our intention was to get to the far side of the range this morning and visit the lush riverine forest, but as usual we were delayed by the multitude of birds present along the way including **Red-headed Vulture, Pallas's Fish-eagle, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Lineated Barbet, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** and more **Spot-winged Starlings**. In the forest Rafik found a **Blossom-headed Parakeet** perched in the canopy, and there was also **Blyth's Leaf-warbler, a Slender-billed Vulture** on a nest, **Striped Tit-babbler, Small Niltava**, and returning to the park gate a close **Grey-headed Fish-eagle** showed well beside the main lake. After lunch we visited the western Range and from the observation tower which overlooks an oxbow lake and grassland we counted an impressive total of 33 **Rhino's**, as well as a **Hen Harrier** spotted by Mick, **Black-necked Stork, Greater Adjutant, 40+ Temminck's Stints, 4 Marsh Sandpipers, 20+ Pied Avocets**, with a **Green-billed Malkoha** beside the parking area. Driving through the grassland gave us calling **Himalayan Rubythroats, Blyth's Reed-warbler, Yellow-eyed Babbler**, and a couple of rare **Finn's Weavers** in a large flock of **Eastern Baya Weavers**. A very close view of an **Oriental Scops-owl** after dinner ended another superb day's birding.

A calling **Banded Bay Cuckoo** flew in and landed in one of the trees in the gardens this morning to get the ball rolling before we headed back to the tea gardens for a fine couple of hours birding in the relatively cool morning air. A couple of **Buff-breasted Babblers** came in to the tape quite easily and were a new species for this tour which really made my day! But plenty of other birds were present with a flock of **Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes** and several **Black-winged Cuckooshrikes** vying for our attention at the same time. Further on we saw a **Grey-throated Babbler** and a cooperative **White-browed Scimitar-babbler** before returning to the lodge where we had an hour to get packed before departing for Nameri. So we made the best of it and came up with a rather unexpected **Yellow-vented Flowerpecker**, male **Small Niltava, Taiga Flycatcher** and close flyover **Oriental Honey-buzzard**. Following the couple of hours drive to **Nameri Eco-Camp** we had lunch as well as fine scope views of **Oriental Hobby**. Then a walk along the track towards the river produced **Daurian Redstart**, several **Barred Cuckoo-doves, Grey Bushchat** and brief views of **Siberian Rubythroat**, although we heard at least 8 more. A **Brown Hawk-owl** posing nicely in the



An increasingly rare sight after the population crash but thankfully **Slender-billed Vulture** is keeping a toe-hold in NE India.



**Nameri Eco-Camp** provides a relaxing and comfortable setting from which to explore the bird-rich forests across the nearby river.



One of the star birds at Nameri is this **Oriental Hobby**.

scope was the final bird of note for today.

Nameri Tiger Reserve always plays host to a wealth of good birds and today proved no exception and was in all probability one of the best days of the entire tour. As we set off along the bumpy track down to the river a pair of **Wreathed Hornbills** flew into a nearby tree and we jumped out of the vehicles and had excellent views in the scope. At the river **Dollarbird** and **Long-tailed Minivet** were new for the tour, and we also had nice views of a pair of **River Terns** and a flyby **Sand Lark**. In fact, we had 27 new birds for the tour today, which was an excellent result considering we were fast approaching the end of the trip. So once we had crossed the river in the dugout canoes we walked towards the ranger station, seeing a **Black-breasted Thrush** along the way. The path bordered the river all the way and with low cloud cover and cool conditions bird activity was intense until lunchtime. A few **Black-crested Bulbuls**, **Crimson Sunbird**, **Vernal Hanging-parrot** and **Dusky Warbler** were all seen quite quickly. However, our observation of a **Pied Falconet** devouring a **Red-vented Bulbul** from a few metres away was a totally mind-blowing experience considering the usual view is of a bird at the top of the biggest tree imaginable and yet this individual was totally unconcerned by our presence, We watched it for 45 minutes before leaving it to its breakfast! More new birds followed in the form of **River Lapwing**, **Crested Kingfisher**, **Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon** and **Slaty-bellied Tesia** before taking a side trail to one of the currently dried up pools. No wood-ducks but we came across a great flock with **Whistler's**, **Yellow-vented**, **Blyth's Leaf**, **Western Crowned** and **Yellow-browed Warblers**, **Plain Flowerpecker**, with a cooperative **White-tailed Robin** present as well. Nearby we found **Slaty-backed** and **Ultramarine Flycatchers**, **Large Niltava**, with a **Pale Blue Flycatcher** showing well. Returning to the main trail we watched a group of **Scarlet Minivets** being followed by a **Crow-billed Drongo**. More feeding flocks followed before we returned to the Ranger Station where our lunch was waiting for us. Afterwards a few of the group went with Peter back to the camp whilst the rest of us went with Rafik through the forest and into the grassland. The main highlight was a pair of **Rusty-bellied Shortwings** skulking in a dense corner of the forest but with a little bit of perseverance was seen reasonably well. Later on, a **Blue-eared Barbet** was scoped in a tall tree, both **Siberian** and **Himalayan Rubythroats** showed well, a **Barred Buttonquail** was flushed from the grassland, and we also had a fine view of 6 **Great Hornbills** in a tree.



This Pied Falconet gave prolonged views as it devoured a freshly caught bulbul! Normally this is a hard to find bird in the north-east!



One of our targets during the rafting excursion at Nameri. Crested Kingfisher inhabits fast-flowing rivers in the region.



Ibisbill is one of the star birds of any tour to the Himalayas and easily seen along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.

One of the highlights of Nameri is the rafting trip along the Jai-Bhorelli River and a very pleasant and fun morning was spent quietly sailing along in search of **Ibisbill**. Sure enough we quickly came across a single bird, followed by a group of 17 and later another lone bird. This is one of the star birds of any Himalayan tour and we had prolonged views of the group when we landed and walked across the river bank to get a little closer. There was also a large flock of **Small Pratincoles**, as well as all the usual birds. Back at camp and Roy discovered an **Orange-headed Thrush** feeding behind the tents which everyone saw well. After lunch we headed over to the forest once again and walked quickly down to the last pool where we found a **Snowy-browed** and **Pygmy Blue Flycatchers** sharing the same tall bush. A **Rufous-bellied Niltava** was also here as well, along with **Grey-winged Blackbird** and a brief **Small-billed Scaly Thrush**. There were plenty of previously seen birds around as well to make the afternoon very enjoyable.

But eventually we had to leave the wonderful Nameri and return to Delhi where we had a final dinner together before making our way back home.

On behalf of Peter and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the group for making it such a pleasure to lead. This year's tour produced a vast haul of 418 species seen, including many rare, local, endemic and Eastern Himalayan specialties, as well as a diverse range of experiences. From boat rides and rafting to jeep safaris and elephant rides this tour gave us the works and without Peter's organisation all of this simply would not have been possible. As ever, I am in his debt for yet another superb tour to the Mishmi Hills.

Nick Bray.



**Maroon-backed Accentors were very common in the Mishmi Hills, usually in small flocks beside the road.**



**Asian Barred Owlet is common in the foothills and lowland forests.**



**Rafting at Nameri**

# BIRDLIST FOR THE MISHMI HILLS & BEYOND 2010

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMENTS
1.	<b>Little Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Just a couple seen at Okhla.
2.	<b>Spot-billed Pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	An endangered species. Present at the superb Kaziranga but only in small numbers.
3.	<b>Great White Pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Single bird seen at Kaziranga.
4.	<b>Great Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Not uncommon and quite a few widespread sightings in the lowlands.
5.	<b>Little Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates.
6.	<b>Oriental Darter</b>	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	A few seen at Kaziranga.
7.	<b>Greater Flamingo</b>	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	70+ at Okhla were the only ones.
8.	<b>Little Egret</b>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Common in the lowlands.
9.	<b>Great Egret</b>	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Common in the lowlands.
10.	<b>Intermediate Egret</b>	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Reasonably common in the lowlands.
11.	<b>Eastern Cattle Egret</b>	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	A recent split from Western Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> . Common in the lowlands.
12.	<b>Grey Heron</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Quite common in the lowlands.
13.	<b>Purple Heron</b>	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A couple seen at Okhla & Kaziranga.
14.	<b>Indian Pond-heron</b>	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Common in the lowlands.
15.	<b>Striated Heron</b>	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Singles at Dibru-Saikhowa and along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.
16.	<b>Black-crowned Night-heron</b>	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Single in the pre-dawn as we drove to Saikhowa Ghat.
17.	<b>Asian Openbill</b>	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Quite common in the lowlands.
18.	<b>Woolly-necked Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Seen daily at Kaziranga.
19.	<b>Black Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Single feeding in the shallows of the Brahmaputra River as we waited for the ferry crossing at Saikhowa Ghat.
20.	<b>Black-necked Stork</b>	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	On our first day at Kaziranga we counted 10+ - which is the highest number since we started visiting here.
21.	<b>Painted Stork</b>	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	A few birds were feeding along the Yamuna River at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
22.	<b>Glossy Ibis</b>	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Only seen at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
23.	<b>Black-headed Ibis</b>	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Seen at Okhla and Kaziranga in small numbers.
24.	<b>Lesser Adjutant</b>	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Seen en-route to Saikhowa Ghat, 20+ at Sohola Bheel in Kaziranga and a few at Nameri as well.
25.	<b>Greater Adjutant</b>	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	A globally endangered species. Some decent views at Kaziranga in the Eastern and Western Ranges.
26.	<b>Bar-headed Goose</b>	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Seen at most of the wetlands visited during the tour.
27.	<b>Lesser White-fronted Goose</b>	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	A single bird was present at Dibru-Saikhowa for its 2 <sup>nd</sup> successive winter.
28.	<b>Greylag Goose</b>	<i>Anser anser</i>	A couple of flocks present at Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Kaziranga.
29.	<b>Ruddy Shelduck</b>	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ever present along all the rivers visited during the tour.

30.	<b>Comb Duck</b>	<i>Sarkidornis melanotos</i>	Group of 5 flying over the Yamuna River.
31.	<b>Eurasian Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common at most wetlands.
32.	<b>Gadwall</b>	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Common at most wetlands.
33.	<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Frequently seen at most wetlands.
34.	<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Common at all wetlands visited.
35.	<b>Northern Pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Common at all wetlands.
36.	<b>Indian Spot-billed Duck</b>	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Seen in small numbers at Okhla, Kaziranga & Dibru-Saikhowa.
37.	<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	A few seen.
38.	<b>Tufted Duck</b>	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Present at the wetlands in small numbers.
39.	<b>Ferruginous Duck</b>	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Small numbers present at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga.
40.	<b>Common Pochard</b>	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Less common than the previous wildfowl.
41.	<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A small group of 8+ at Dibru-Saikhowa were the only ones seen this year.
42.	<b>Cotton (Pygmy Goose) Teal</b>	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	6 seen at Sohola Bheel in Kaziranga NP.
43.	<b>Common Merganser</b>	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	It's Goosander to you and me! Several noted along the Jai-Bhorelli River.
44.	<b>Black-winged Kite</b>	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Just a couple seen in the lowlands as we drove between sites.
45.	<b>Black Kite</b>	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>	Common around Delhi.
46.	<b>Black-eared Kite</b>	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Seen in a few places around Assam.
47.	<b>Shikra</b>	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Singles noted at Okhla, Sally Lake and Kaziranga National Park.
48.	<b>Eurasian Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	A good run of sightings in the Mishmi Hills and seen on 5 consecutive days.
49.	<b>Crested Goshawk</b>	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Seen a couple of times in the higher parts of Mishmi Hills.
50.	<b>Oriental Honey-buzzard</b>	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Singles over Dibru-Saikhowa on our first visit and good views of a circling adult over our lodge at Kaziranga.
51.	<b>Himalayan Buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>	A recent split from Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> . AN individual perched over the road in the Mishmi Hills was the only sighting.
52.	<b>Crested Serpent-eagle</b>	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Seen quite frequently in the lowland forests
53.	<b>Short-toed Eagle</b>	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Singles over the 'florican fields' and Nameri.
54.	<b>Rufous-bellied Eagle</b>	<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>	A distant soaring adult in the Mishmi Hills.
55.	<b>Mountain Hawk-eagle</b>	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	A couple decent views of soaring birds in the Mishmi Hills.
56.	<b>Changeable Hawk-eagle</b>	<i>Spizaetus limnaeetus</i>	A relatively recent split with Crested Hawk-eagle <i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i> found in Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Single bird near Saikhowa-Ghat and a sprinkling of sightings around Kaziranga.
57.	<b>Indian Black Eagle</b>	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Seen only once in Mishmi Hills.
58.	<b>Greater Spotted Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Nice views at Kaziranga.
59.	<b>Indian Spotted Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila hastata</i>	A relatively recent split from Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila pomarinus</i> . A perched bird on top of a tree caused us a few headaches but eventually turned out to be this species.
60.	<b>Steppe Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	A group of 3 birds soaring over the Mishmi Hills were early migrants, followed by sightings in Kaziranga's Eastern Range and at Nameri.
61.	<b>Osprey</b>	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Always nice to see and a few were seen at Okhla, and Kaziranga on 2 dates.

62.	<b>Grey-headed Fish-eagle</b>	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	Frequently seen at Kaziranga.
63.	<b>Pallas' Fish-eagle</b>	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	This awesome beast showed well at Kaziranga, especially the adult perched next to its huge nest at Sohola Bheel.
64.	<b>White-rumped Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	A big group of circling vultures over the north bank of the Brahmaputra was good to see and contained a few of this species.
65.	<b>Slender-billed Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	A recent split from what was formerly known as Long-billed Vulture. Quite a few present at Kaziranga this year bodes well for the future. A daily sighting there.
66.	<b>Eurasian Griffon Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Several seen around a carcass with Slender-billed and Himalayan Griffons at Kaziranga.
67.	<b>Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Nice view of this species with the previous two vultures around a carcass in Kaziranga's Eastern Range
68.	<b>Red-headed Vulture</b>	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Single observed over the Eastern Range at Kaziranga.
69.	<b>Pied Harrier</b>	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	The sight of a male quartering the grassland in Kaziranga's Central Range late one afternoon was something to behold!
70.	<b>Hen Harrier</b>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Mick spotted a fine male from the watch-point in Kaziranga's Western Range.
71.	<b>Western Marsh Harrier</b>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Seen on 5 dates in small numbers.
72.	<b>Pied Falconet</b>	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>	Watching an adult devour a still kicking bulbul at Nameri just above eye level was quite something.
73.	<b>Common Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	A few seen in the lowlands.
74.	<b>Oriental Hobby</b>	<i>Falco severus</i>	The resident pair still remains at Nameri Eco-Camp. Surely the easiest place to see this sometimes tricky species.
75.	<b>Merlin</b>	<i>Falco columbarius pallidus</i>	A bird perched on the sand flats near Saikhowa Ghat turned out to be this species.
76.	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Single observed at DIBRU-Saikhowa.
77.	<b>Swamp Francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. This lowland terai specialist treated us to fine views on a couple of occasions at Kaziranga.
78.	<b>Common Hill-partridge</b>	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	One bird flew over the Roing-Hunli Road with a Blyth's Tragopan and a pair walked slowly past John and I during our tragopan hunt in the Mishmi Hills.
79.	<b>Chestnut-breasted Hill-partridge</b>	<i>Arborophila mandellii</i>	Heard in the Mishmi Hills.
80.	<b>Barred Buttonquail</b>	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	Flushed a couple of times in the grassland at Nameri Tiger Reserve.
81.	<b>Red Junglefowl</b>	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	A few seen at Kaziranga & Nameri.
82.	<b>Blyth's Tragopan</b>	<i>Tragopan blythii</i>	Heard a few times in the Mishmi Hills and we had a couple close encounters but in the end had to settle for flight views.
83.	<b>Grey Peacock-pheasant</b>	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	Heard in the Mishmi Hills.
84.	<b>Kalij Pheasant</b>	<i>Lophura leucomelanos lathamii</i>	A pair was spotted at Kaziranga feeding near the jeep.
85.	<b>Bengal Florican</b>	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	Superb prolonged flight views in the grassland en-route to Mishmi Hills.
86.	<b>White-breasted Waterhen</b>	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	A few seen in the lowlands.
87.	<b>Purple Swampphen</b>	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Seen in small numbers at Okhla, DIBRU-Saikhowa and Kaziranga.
88.	<b>Common Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen on 8 dates at various sites.

89.	<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Present at Okhla and Dibru-Saikhowa.
90.	<b>Watercock</b>	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	A surprise find when one sprang up from waterside vegetation at Dibru-Saikhowa. A new species for this tour.
91.	<b>Ibisbill</b>	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	Our count of 19 along the Jai-Bhorelli River is higher than last year. One of the most wanted birds in the Himalayas never disappoints on this tour.
92.	<b>Pied Avocet</b>	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	Quite scarce in the north-east usually but much commoner this year with sightings at Dibru-Saikhowa and 20+ in the Western Range at Kaziranga.
93.	<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	A few seen at Okhla and Kaziranga.
94.	<b>Bronze-winged Jacana</b>	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Quite common at most wetland sites.
95.	<b>Pheasant-tailed Jacana</b>	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Scarcer than the previous species but nice views at Dibru-Saikhowa & Kaziranga.
96.	<b>Small Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola lacteal</i>	A large flock was present along the Jai-Bhorelli River during our rafting adventure.
97.	<b>Red-wattled Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Common in the lowlands.
98.	<b>River Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus spinosus duvaucelii</i>	Several of this very smart <i>vanellus</i> were present along the Jai-Bhorelli River.
99.	<b>Grey-headed Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	Small numbers present at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga.
100.	<b>White-tailed Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	Found a couple at Okhla Bird Sanctuary on our first afternoon's birding.
101.	<b>Northern Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Seen at most wetlands visited on the tour.
102.	<b>Pacific Golden Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Seen at Sohola Bheel at Kaziranga.
103.	<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A few seen at scattered sites.
104.	<b>Kentish Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Present during both crossings of the Brahmaputra in small numbers.
105.	<b>Common Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Present at all the wetlands visited.
106.	<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Very nice views at Dibru-Saikhowa and also seen at Kaziranga.
107.	<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Always present around the wetlands.
108.	<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Quite a few seen at various sites.
109.	<b>Marsh Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	This elegant bird was present at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga in small numbers.
110.	<b>Common Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	Present at Okhla and Kaziranga.
111.	<b>Spotted Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Several feeding in the shallows below the watchtower in the Western Range at Kaziranga.
112.	<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Seen at Okhla and Kaziranga.
113.	<b>Temminck's Stint</b>	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Highest count of 40+ from the watchtower in the Western Range at Kaziranga.
114.	<b>Eurasian Woodcock</b>	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	A bird in the short grass beside the Roing-Hunli Road in Mishmi Hills gave good views.
115.	<b>Greater Painted Snipe</b>	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	One was flushed in the 'florican fields' on the north side of the Brahmaputra.
116.	<b>Common Snipe</b>	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Noted at all the usual sites.
117.	<b>Pin-tailed Snipe</b>	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Seen in the 'florican fields' and at Nameri.
118.	<b>Great Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ichthyaeus</i>	Present on both crossings of the mighty Brahmaputra River.
119.	<b>Brown-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	Present in the 100's at Okhla.
120.	<b>Common Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Smaller numbers than previous species along the Yamuna River.
121.	<b>Steppe Gull</b>	<i>Larus barabensis</i>	Several seen on the Yamuna River at Okhla.

122.	<b>River Tern</b>	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	First seen distantly on Sohola Bheel, before several close encounters along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.
123.	<b>Rock Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common in the lowlands.
124.	<b>Green Imperial-pigeon</b>	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	Quite common in small numbers during the last half of the tour.
125.	<b>Mountain Imperial-pigeon</b>	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Several sightings in the Mishmi Hills.
126.	<b>Ashy Woodpigeon</b>	<i>Columba pulchricollis</i>	A couple of flyovers in the Mishmi Hills before Abid spotted a perched bird.
127.	<b>Oriental Turtle-dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	A few seen around Kaziranga & Nameri.
128.	<b>Laughing Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Present at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
129.	<b>Red Collared-dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Common around Kaziranga.
130.	<b>Spotted Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Common and seen most days.
131.	<b>Eurasian Collared-dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	A few seen at Okhla and Kaziranga.
132.	<b>Barred Cuckoo-dove</b>	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	Several were seen between Nameri Eco-Camp and the Jai-Bhorelli River.
133.	<b>Emerald Dove</b>	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Just a couple seen in Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
134.	<b>Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon</b>	<i>Treron sphenura</i>	A small group perched in a bare tree at Nameri was the only sighting.
135.	<b>Yellow-footed Green Pigeon</b>	<i>Treron p. phoenicoptera</i>	First seen at Okhla Bird Sanctuary, followed by sightings at Dibru-Saikhowa and at Kaziranga several times.
136.	<b>Vernal Hanging-parrot</b>	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	Nice views of feeding birds on both visits to Nameri Tiger Reserve.
137.	<b>Blossom-headed Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>	RAFik did well to hear this in the canopy as we drove through a dense section of woodland in the Central Range at Kaziranga. He did even better to put it in the scope!
138.	<b>Rose-ringed Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Quite common in the lowlands.
139.	<b>Alexandrine Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	A regular sight and sound from Kaziranga to Nameri.
140.	<b>Red-breasted Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	The commonest <i>psittacid</i> at Nameri and Kaziranga.
141.	<b>Banded Bay Cuckoo</b>	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	A calling bird was scoped in the gardens of our lodge at Kaziranga.
142.	<b>Green-billed Malkoha</b>	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	A few seen well at Kaziranga and Nameri.
143.	<b>Lesser Coucal</b>	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Relatively brief views in the 'florican fields'.
144.	<b>Greater Coucal</b>	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	A few seen here and there in the lowlands.
145.	<b>Brown Hawk-owl</b>	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Nice scope views at Nameri Eco-Camp and a constant sound at night.
146.	<b>Brown Fish-owl</b>	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	A nest with an adult and full grown chick was beside the main path at the Central Range at Kaziranga.
147.	<b>Oriental Scops-owl</b>	<i>scops sunia</i>	An extremely obliging pair at Kaziranga showed very well in the spotlight.
148.	<b>Spotted Owlet</b>	<i>Athene brama</i>	Seen at Okhla, Dibru-Saikhowa & Kaziranga.
149.	<b>Mountain Scops-owl</b>	<i>Otus spilkocephalus</i>	As usual, heard-only in the Mishmi Hills.
150.	<b>Asian Barred Owlet</b>	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Many good views at various sites.
151.	<b>Collared Owlet</b>	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	A total of 3 birds seen in Mishmi Hills.
152.	<b>Large-tailed Nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Heard a few times and one flew low over our lodge at Kaziranga early one morning.
153.	<b>Grey Nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>	One seen by the front vehicle early one morning in the Mishmi Hills.
154.	<b>Savannah Nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	One flew off the road in front of Peter's vehicle as we returned to Tinsukhia early in the morning. Another new bird for the tour.

155.	<b>Hodgson's Frogmouth</b>	<i>Batrachostomos hodgsoni</i>	At least 3 heard in the Mishmi Hills but despite a concerted effort we failed to see it
156.	<b>Asian Palm Swift</b>	<i>Cypsiurus balasieni</i>	Seen frequently during the second half of the tour.
157.	<b>Himalayan Swiftlet</b>	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>	A big flock was present one evening below Tewarigaon in Mishmi Hills.
158.	<b>House Swift</b>	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Seen in Delhi, Tinsukhia and over Nameri.
159.	<b>Black-billed Roller</b>	<i>Coracias benghalensis affinis</i>	A distinctive subspecies which may well be a split from nominate Indian Roller in the future. Common in the lowlands.
160.	<b>Dollarbird</b>	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Previously unrecorded on this tour, but a few birds were flying over the trees at Nameri early one morning.
161.	<b>Eurasian Hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Singles present at Okhla and Kaziranga.
162.	<b>Red-headed Trogon</b>	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	A female was in the garden of our lodge in the Mishmi Hills soon after our arrival and a male was seen above Tewarigaon a few days later.
163.	<b>Ward's Trogon</b>	<i>Harpactes wardi</i>	As we drove down the road to our lunch stop in the Mishmi Hills, a fine male flew up from the roadside and perched on a bare snag in full view above us. For 10 minutes he just sat there before taking some berries and disappearing.
164.	<b>Stork-billed Kingfisher</b>	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	A few were seen around Kaziranga.
165.	<b>White-throated Kingfisher</b>	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Common in the lowlands.
166.	<b>Crested Kingfisher</b>	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Seen on a couple of occasions along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.
167.	<b>Lesser Pied Kingfisher</b>	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Quite common in the lowlands.
168.	<b>Common Kingfisher</b>	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen on 6 dates at various sites.
169.	<b>Chestnut-headed Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	Several groups present at Kaziranga and Nameri.
170.	<b>Little Green Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Quite common in small numbers in the lowlands.
171.	<b>Rufous-necked Hornbill</b>	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	This Eastern Himalayan speciality was unfortunately only heard in Mishmi Hills this year.
172.	<b>Great Pied Hornbill</b>	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A group of 6 in a large leafless tree at Nameri was quite a sight. Several were also seen at Kaziranga.
173.	<b>Oriental Pied Hornbill</b>	<i>Anthracoseros albirostris</i>	A good run of sightings from Kaziranga to Nameri.
174.	<b>Wreathed Hornbill</b>	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	After a distant view in the Mishmi Hills, we were treated to close perched views on our first morning at Nameri. Another pair flew over the river during our rafting trip the next day.
175.	<b>Indian Grey Hornbill</b>	<i>Ocyeros birostris</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A bird flew past us during breakfast on the terrace of our hotel in Delhi. Very bizarre, but was our last trip tick and a new bird for this tour.
176.	<b>Yellow-rumped Honeyguide</b>	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>	Another new bird for this very productive tour. Superb views of a male attending to a bee's nest on a cliff-face below the Roing-Hunli Road in the Mishmi Hills.
177.	<b>Brown-headed Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Distant views during breakfast on our last morning in Delhi.

178.	<b>Coppersmith Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	A few seen around Kaziranga.
179.	<b>Blue-eared Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima australis</i>	This bird teased us with a few brief sightings at Kaziranga but was scope-shy. We had better luck with a co-operative bird at Nameri though.
180.	<b>Blue-throated Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Common and seen on 13 dates.
181.	<b>Golden-throated Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	Quite common in the Mishmi Hills.
182.	<b>Lineated Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	A frequent sight from Kaziranga to Nameri.
183.	<b>Great Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	<b>THE</b> sound of the Himalayas. Common in the Mishmi Hills.
184.	<b>Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	A few sightings at Kaziranga and Nameri.
185.	<b>Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	First seen in the Mishmi Hills and also a few times at Nameri.
186.	<b>Crimson-breasted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>	Nice views in the Mishmi Hills.
187.	<b>Darjeeling Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>	Good scope views of a single bird beside the road in the Mishmi Hills.
188.	<b>Streak-throated Woodpecker</b>	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	Showed several times at Kaziranga.
189.	<b>Greater Yellownape</b>	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	First seen in the tea garden at Kaziranga and gave fine comparisons with the next species. Also seen well at Nameri.
190.	<b>Lesser Yellownape</b>	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	Seen in company with the previous species at the tea gardens and also at Nameri.
191.	<b>Grey-faced Woodpecker</b>	<i>Picus canus</i>	Present a couple of times in the garden of Sally Lake Lodge in the Mishmi Hills. Also seen at Nameri.
192.	<b>Rufous Woodpecker</b>	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	Seen well at Kaziranga.
193.	<b>Bay Woodpecker</b>	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	Regularly heard in the Mishmi Hills and this year we only had flight views of an inquisitive bird circling us a few times.
194.	<b>Pale-headed Woodpecker</b>	<i>Gecinulus grantia</i>	One of <b>THE</b> highlights of the tour happened early on in our stay in the Mishmi Hills when a pair performed amazingly well right next to the road.
195.	<b>Black-rumped Flameback</b>	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen daily in Kaziranga and Nameri.
196.	<b>Greater Flameback</b>	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Subject of a recent split with the Sri Lanka birds now deemed an endemic separate species. Several nice views at Kaziranga and Nameri.
197.	<b>Blue-naped Pitta</b>	<i>Pitta nipalensis</i>	Superb views of a male perched out in the open in the tea plantation at Kaziranga.
198.	<b>Oriental Skylark</b>	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Only heard this year.
199.	<b>Sand Lark</b>	<i>Calendrella raytal</i>	Present beside the Brahmaputra on both river crossings and also at Nameri.
200.	<b>Grey-throated Sand-martin</b>	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>	A split from Plain Martin. Present at most rivers during the tour.
201.	<b>Dusky Crag-martin</b>	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	Seen by a few of us at Delhi Airport.
202.	<b>Nepal House Martin</b>	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>	Very common with some large flocks present in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
203.	<b>Barn Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common.
204.	<b>Yellow Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla Flava thunbergi</i>	The <i>Grey-headed</i> race seemingly common around marshes at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga. Some large flocks flying high overhead at Okhla may have been this species.
	<b>Syke's Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla flava beema</i>	A possible sighting at Dibru-Saikhowa.

205.	<b>Citrine Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Very close views of 40+ birds at Dibru-Saikhowa and seen elsewhere.
206.	<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba alboides</i>	Common.
	<b>Amur White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla lugens leucopsis</i>	Present at the Brahmaputra during both crossings.
207.	<b>Olive-backed Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Common at various sites during the tour.
208.	<b>Rosy Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	A flock was present near Saikhowa Ghat and others were at Kaziranga and Nameri.
209.	<b>Richard's Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	First seen in the 'florican fields', with others at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga.
210.	<b>Paddyfield Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus richardi rufulus</i>	The commonest pipit and a frequent sight and sound in the lowlands.
211.	<b>Tawny Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Very close views at Dibru-Saikhowa.
212.	<b>Pied Flycatcher-shrike</b>	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	A flock of 10+ were seen a few kilometres above our lodge in the Mishmi Hills, and the only others seen were at Kaziranga.
213.	<b>Black-winged Cuckooshrike</b>	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Several present in the tea gardens at Kaziranga. And a frequent presence in mixed feeding flocks at Nameri.
214.	<b>Large Cuckooshrike</b>	<i>Coracina macei</i>	Several seen around Nameri & Kaziranga.
215.	<b>Long-tailed Minivet</b>	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	Only seen at Nameri but quite common there in mixed feeding flocks.
216.	<b>Short-billed Minivet</b>	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	Seen on our last morning in the Mishmi Hills as we birded the gardens of Sally Lake.
217.	<b>Scarlet Minivet</b>	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	A recent split, with Orange Minivet <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i> now being found in South India and Sri Lanka. Seen frequently during the second half of the tour.
218.	<b>Grey-chinned Minivet</b>	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	A few sightings in the Mishmi Hills and also at Kaziranga.
219.	<b>Red-vented Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Seen most days.
220.	<b>Red-whiskered Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Common at most sites.
221.	<b>Ashy Bulbul</b>	<i>Hemixos flava</i>	Small numbers present in the Mishmi Hills.
222.	<b>Himalayan Black Bulbul</b>	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	Another recent split, with Square-tailed Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i> being found in S India and Sri Lanka.
223.	<b>Mountain Bulbul</b>	<i>Ixos mccllellandii</i>	Several nice views in the Mishmi Hills.
224.	<b>White-throated Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus flaveolus</i>	Common around Sally Lake in Mishmi Hills.
225.	<b>Black-crested Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>	Subject of a 3 way split according to the Ripley Guide, with endemics now in W Ghats & Sri Lanka. A few present at Nameri.
226.	<b>Striated Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	In the Mishmi Hills we came across several large feeding flocks.
227.	<b>Common Iora</b>	<i>Aegithina tiphia ciphia</i>	Common at Nameri.
228.	<b>Orange-bellied Leafbird</b>	<i>Chloropsis h. hardwickii</i>	One of the commonest birds in the Mishmi Hills and nearly every stop seemed to produce a couple of these.
229.	<b>Golden-fronted Leafbird</b>	<i>Chloropsis a. aurifrons</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills, Kaziranga and Nameri.
230.	<b>Asian Fairy Bluebird</b>	<i>Irena puella</i>	A couple birds came in to feed in the flowering trees at Sally Lake Lodge on our last morning there.
231.	<b>Long-tailed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>	Common in the north-east and seen most days there.
	<b>Long-tailed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>	This was the race we saw at Okhla Bird Sanctuary on our first day.
232.	<b>Grey-backed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	Quite common and seen at most sites.

233.	<b>Brown Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	A couple of views at Kaziranga but not for everyone in the group.
234.	<b>Black-naped Monarch</b>	<i>Hypothymis azurea styani</i>	A couple seen well at Nameri.
235.	<b>Yellow-bellied Fantail</b>	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills, and a few seen at Nameri.
236.	<b>White-throated Fantail</b>	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Taxonomic status unclear with Peninsular India birds possibly warranting full species status. Common in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
237.	<b>Green Cochoa</b>	<i>Cochoa viridis</i>	Most of us ran up the steep steps to connect with a calling bird at Sally Lake. But it was worth it as we were able to scope a pair in a leafless tree for quite a while.
238.	<b>Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush</b>	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	Peter spotted a bird high up on the hillside that we managed to scope in the Mishmi Hills. Also seen at Nameri as well.
239.	<b>Orange-headed Thrush</b>	<i>Zoothera citrina citrina</i>	Roy did well to find this feeding behind the tents at Nameri. Surprisingly this was the first time we have recorded the species on this tour.
240.	<b>Blue Whistling-thrush</b>	<i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	Common and seen everyday in the Mishmi Hills. Also present at Nameri.
241.	<b>Black-breasted Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>	This exquisite <i>turdus</i> gave superb views in the forest at Nameri. Also seen feeding in the camp next to the Orange-headed Thrush.
242.	<b>Grey-winged Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>	Another new bird for this tour. A female showed very well near the last pool at Nameri.
243.	<b>Plain-backed Thrush</b>	<i>Zoothera m. mollissima</i>	The commonest <i>zoothera</i> species and seen a couple of times in the Mishmi Hills.
244.	<b>Small-billed Scaly-thrush</b>	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	A very flighty individual was present around one of the pools at Nameri, although it never really showed that well.
245.	<b>Rusty-bellied Shortwing</b>	<i>Brachypteryx hyperythra</i>	A pair showed pretty well in a secluded area of forest at Nameri.
246.	<b>White-tailed Robin</b>	<i>Cinclidium leucurum</i>	Outstanding views of a single bird near one of the dried pools at Nameri.
247.	<b>Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin</b>	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>	A recent split from the species we see in the western palearctic. Seen on 5 dates in the Mishmi Hills, with a highest count of 8+ in a single day.
248.	<b>Rufous-breasted Bush-robin</b>	<i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i>	A nice run of sightings in the Mishmi Hills, with a highest day count of 5.
249.	<b>Bluethroat</b>	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Seen well at Okhla and also en-route to Roing.
250.	<b>White-browed Bush-robin</b>	<i>Tarsiger indicus</i>	An unresponsive bird was heard below Mayodia Lodge.
251.	<b>Himalayan Rubythroat</b>	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	Having thought we'd dipped on this at Kaziranga, we found several obliging birds in the grassland at Nameri.
252.	<b>Siberian Rubythroat</b>	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>	Commonly heard at Nameri and initially we only had flight views. But we found a very responsive bird eventually.
253.	<b>White-rumped Shama</b>	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Quite a few sightings at Kaziranga and Nameri.
254.	<b>Oriental Magpie Robin</b>	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Common.
255.	<b>Slaty-backed Forktail</b>	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	Seen on 3 dates in the Mishmi Hills.

256.	<b>Black-backed Forktail</b>	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills this year and seen most days around Sally Lake or on the main road.
257.	<b>Spotted Forktail</b>	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	This stunner was a regular sight in the Mishmi Hills.
258.	<b>Daurian Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	Singles present in Mishmi Hills, Kaziranga and Nameri.
259.	<b>Hodgson's Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>	Seen a few times in the Mishmi Hills, but the male at Nameri showed best.
260.	<b>Blue-fronted Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	Quite common in the Mishmi Hills.
261.	<b>Plumbeous Water-redstart</b>	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	Seen along most fast flowing rivers in the region.
262.	<b>White-capped River-chat</b>	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Several great views of this stunner along the fast flowing rivers visited. The birds around Sally Lake were also very cooperative.
263.	<b>Pied Buschat</b>	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	Seen at Okhla.
264.	<b>Common Stonechat</b>	<i>Saxicola torquata maura</i>	Common in the lowlands.
265.	<b>White-tailed Stonechat</b>	<i>Saxicola leucura</i>	A cooperative pair present at Okhla was the only ones of the tour.
266.	<b>Grey Bushchat</b>	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	Single observed near Nameri Eco-Camp.
267.	<b>Brown Rock-chat</b>	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen in Delhi.
268.	<b>Little Pied Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	The first of 14 species of flycatcher recorded on this tour. Seen many times at Kaziranga and Nameri.
269.	<b>White-gorgeted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula monileger</i>	A prolonged attempt at nailing a singing bird only resulted in the leader seeing it!
270.	<b>Ultramarine Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>	Several present at Nameri.
271.	<b>Taiga Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	A recent split from Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i> . Seen at Okhla, followed by frequent sightings at Kaziranga and Nameri.
272.	<b>Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula s. strophciata</i>	A few seen in the Mishmi Hills.
	<b>Slaty-blue Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	A bird present at Nameri Eco-Camp was only seen by Roy.
273.	<b>Slaty-backed Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula hodgsonii</i>	Seen a couple of times at Nameri, with one bird in particular giving eye-level views around one of the dried up pools.
274.	<b>Snowy-browed Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula h. hyperythra</i>	Great views of a responsive bird at Nameri.
275.	<b>Pygmy Blue Flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapella hodgsoni</i>	Showed well in a large bush in company with the previous species.
276.	<b>Verditer Flycatcher</b>	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	Quite common at various sites.
277.	<b>Pale Blue Flycatcher</b>	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	A singing bird gave prolonged scope views at Nameri.
278.	<b>Rufous-bellied Niltava</b>	<i>Niltava sundara</i>	Seen a couple of times at Nameri.
279.	<b>Small Niltava</b>	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	Seen daily at Kaziranga and Nameri.
280.	<b>Large Niltava</b>	<i>Niltava grandis</i>	A difficult one this year, but seen briefly at Nameri.
281.	<b>Blue-winged Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax squamatus</i>	One of 10 laughingthrush species seen on this tour. One small group seen beside the road in the Mishmi Hills.
282.	<b>Scaly Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax subunicolor</i>	Very good views of a single bird perched on a rock beside the road, high up in the Mishmi Hills.
283.	<b>Red-headed Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>	Also known as Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush. Here of the <i>nigrimentum</i> race. A couple skulking flocks seen in the Mishmi Hills.

284.	<b>Rufous-necked Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax ruficollis</i>	A fast moving flock crossed the road in the Mishmi Hills. Further sightings including some inquisitive flocks at the tea gardens in Kaziranga and beside our lodge there.
285.	<b>Spotted Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>	Probably not that unexpected but an extremely obliging bird was a new species for this tour. What a stunner!
286.	<b>Black-faced Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax affinis</i>	Several decent looks at this species below Mayodia Lodge.
287.	<b>Striated Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>	A common sight and sound in the Mishmi Hills.
288.	<b>White-crested Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	A little tricky this year but we eventually had several views low down in the Mishmi Hills.
289.	<b>Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	Quite common around Sally Lake.
290.	<b>Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	Several flocks seen along the lower section of the Roing-Hunli Road in the Mishmi Hills. Sometimes in company with the previous species.
291.	<b>Jerdon's Babbler</b>	<i>Chrysomma altirostre griseigulare</i>	Very good views of a couple calling birds on our afternoon visit to Dibru-Saikhowa.
292.	<b>Chestnut-capped Babbler</b>	<i>Timalia pileata</i>	Some close birds seen at Dibru-Saikhowa.
293.	<b>Yellow-eyed Babbler</b>	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	A small flock at Kaziranga was new for this tour.
294.	<b>Striped Tit-babbler</b>	<i>Macronous gularis</i>	Common at Kaziranga and Nameri.
295.	<b>Rufous-capped Babbler</b>	<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>	Seen several times in the Mishmi Hills.
296.	<b>Rufous-fronted Babbler</b>	<i>Stachyris rufifrons</i>	Close views at Kaziranga and heard in the Mishmi Hills as well.
297.	<b>Golden Babbler</b>	<i>Stachyris chrysie</i>	A frequent sighting in the Mishmi Hills.
298.	<b>Grey-throated Babbler</b>	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	Amazingly close views in the tea garden at Kaziranga. Heard elsewhere.
299.	<b>Striated Babbler</b>	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	A small group showed well at Okhla and also seen at Kaziranga.
300.	<b>Jungle Babbler</b>	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	Amazingly, our sighting at Okhla meant this was another new species for this tour!
301.	<b>Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler</b>	<i>Xiphirhynchus superciliaris</i>	One of the highlights of the tour when a very inquisitive pair gave prolonged and crippling views in the Mishmi Hills.
302.	<b>Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler</b>	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	Showed very well in the Mishmi Hills.
303.	<b>White-browed Scimitar-babbler</b>	<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>	Repeated views in the tea garden at Kaziranga.
304.	<b>Coral-billed Scimitar-babbler</b>	<i>Pomatorhinus ferruginosus</i>	A flock of 9 birds moving with Rusty-fronted Barwings fed beside the road and gave prolonged views.
305.	<b>Long-billed Scimitar-babbler</b>	<i>Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps</i>	Formerly called Red-billed Scimitar-babbler. A pair performed admirably in the Bamboo in the Mishmi Hills.
306.	<b>Silver-eared Mesia</b>	<i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	Common around Sally Lake.
307.	<b>Black-chinned Yuhina</b>	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	Seen frequently in the Mishmi Hills in small flocks.
308.	<b>Striated Yuhina</b>	<i>Staphida castaniceps</i>	Several roving flocks observed in the Mishmi Hills.
309.	<b>Whiskered Yuhina</b>	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills.
310.	<b>White-naped Yuhina</b>	<i>Yuhina bakeri</i>	This Eastern Himalayas speciality was observed on several occasions in the Mishmi Hills.
311.	<b>Rufous-vented Yuhina</b>	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	Seen in small numbers in the Mishmi Hills.

312.	<b>Stripe-throated Yuhina</b>	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>	Common in the higher parts of the Mishmi Hills.
313.	<b>Rufous-winged Fulvetta</b>	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>	Seen a few times in small flocks in the Mishmi Hills.
314.	<b>Yellow-throated Fulvetta</b>	<i>Alcippe cinerea</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality and seen frequently in the Mishmi Hills.
315.	<b>Golden-breasted Fulvetta</b>	<i>Alcippe chrysotis</i>	An Eastern Himalayan speciality observed below Mayodia Lodge.
316.	<b>Brown-throated Fulvetta</b>	<i>Alcippe ludlowi</i>	This Eastern Himalayas speciality showed very well a couple of times in the Mishmi Hills.
317.	<b>Manipur Fulvetta</b>	<i>Alcippe manipurensis</i>	A major target in the Mishmi Hills and this eastern Himalayas speciality did not disappoint with excellent close views.
318.	<b>Nepal Fulvetta</b>	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Frequently observed in the Mishmi Hills.
319.	<b>Rusty-fronted Barwing</b>	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	Common in Mishmi Hills in roving flocks.
320.	<b>Streak-throated Barwing</b>	<i>Actinodura waldeni</i>	A small flock proved to be very inquisitive below Mayodia Pass.
321.	<b>Long-tailed Sibia</b>	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	An Eastern Himalayan speciality and seen several times in Mishmi Hills.
322.	<b>Beautiful Sibia</b>	<i>Heterophasia pulchella</i>	Very common in the Mishmi Hills and seen at all altitudes.
323.	<b>Indian White-hooded Babbler</b>	<i>Gampsorhynchus rufulus</i>	A pair moving in a mixed species flock in the Bamboo zone in the Mishmi Hills gave repeated views on a slope above the Roing-Hunli Road.
324.	<b>Blue-winged Minla</b>	<i>Minla cyanouroptera</i>	Leader only sighting in the Mishmi Hills.
325.	<b>Chestnut-tailed Minla</b>	<i>Minla strigula</i>	Seen frequently in the Mishmi Hills.
326.	<b>Red-tailed Minla</b>	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	Several good close views in the Mishmi Hills.
327.	<b>Black-eared Shrike-babbler</b>	<i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>	A number of sightings in mixed flocks in the Mishmi Hills this year.
328.	<b>Black-headed Shrike-babbler</b>	<i>Pteruthius rufiventer</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. A pair were found high up in the Mishmi Hills, unfortunately just at the wrong time as they probably cost us a decent view of Blyth's Tragopan.
329.	<b>Himalayan Cutia</b>	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	A couple birds were calling beside the road below Mayodia but unfortunately dense mist meant we couldn't see them!
330.	<b>Pygmy Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	Several calling birds at Sally Lake but there was always something far more interesting to try for!
331.	<b>Mishmi Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Spelaeornis badeigularis</i>	An Indian endemic. Took a while this year but eventually we had excellent views of a singing bird beside the road.
332.	<b>Spotted Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Spelaeornis formosus</i>	Heard but not tape responsive in the Mishmi Hills.
333.	<b>Bar-winged Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Spelaeornis troglodytoides</i>	Here of the race <i>Souliei</i> . Crippling views below Mayodia Pass this year.
334.	<b>Long-billed Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Rimator malacoptilus</i>	Stunning views of this Eastern Himalayan speciality of a bird working its way across a bare slope beside the road.
335.	<b>Cachar Wedge-billed Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Sphenocichla roberti</i>	We located a couple groups this year. The first were feeding on the floor and slightly obscured. The second were very confiding and followed us along the road and we could hear them snapping Bamboo branches to get at insects. Amazing!

336.	<b>Buff-breasted Babbler</b>	<i>Pellorneum tickelli</i>	Showed well at the tea gardens at Kaziranga. Another new species for this tour.
337.	<b>Puff-throated Babbler</b>	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	A very confiding bird appeared behind the kitchen of our lodge at Kaziranga.
338.	<b>Black-throated Parrotbill</b>	<i>Paradoxornis nipalensis</i>	A fast moving flock disappeared all too quickly below Mayodia.
339.	<b>Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill</b>	<i>Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris</i>	A pair was seen well in a mixed feeding flock in the Bamboo zone in the Mishmi Hills.
340.	<b>Zitting Cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	A few seen on this tour.
341.	<b>Striated Grassbird</b>	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	Several seen in a few places.
342.	<b>Ashy Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Fairly common at Okhla.
343.	<b>Grey-breasted Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	A few seen on the way to the Mishmi Hills.
344.	<b>Plain Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	A few were seen at Dibru-Saikhowa.
345.	<b>Yellow-bellied Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Seen well at Okhla and Dibru-Saikhowa.
346.	<b>Graceful Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	At least 3 seen at Okhla.
347.	<b>Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler</b>	<i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>	Also called Hume's Bush-warbler. Single bird observed beside the road at Mayodia.
348.	<b>Thick-billed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>	A couple seen at Kaziranga.
349.	<b>Blyth's Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	A few present at Dibru-Saikhowa.
350.	<b>Paddyfield Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	Seen from the boats as we quietly made our way along a secluded channel at Dibru-Saikhowa.
351.	<b>Common Tailorbird</b>	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	First seen at Okhla and then a few other places later in the tour.
352.	<b>Slaty-bellied Tesia</b>	<i>Tesia olivea</i>	We had a few glimpses at Sally Lake and better views at Nameri.
353.	<b>Chestnut-headed Tesia</b>	<i>Tesiastaneocoronata</i>	Single bird at Kaziranga was quite rare there
354.	<b>Oriental White-eye</b>	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Common on this tour.
355.	<b>Black-faced Warbler</b>	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>	A few small flocks seen in the Mishmi Hills.
356.	<b>Rufous-faced Warbler</b>	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. A leader only sighting in the Mishmi Hills.
357.	<b>Yellow-bellied Warbler</b>	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Showed well in the Mishmi Hills.
358.	<b>Chestnut-crowned Warbler</b>	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>	A couple were seen in some large mixed species flocks in the Mishmi Hills.
359.	<b>Grey-cheeked Warbler</b>	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>	A few seen well in the Mishmi Hills.
360.	<b>Whistler's Warbler</b>	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>	One was present in a large feeding flock beside a dried up pool at Nameri.
361.	<b>Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher</b>	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	A common bird in most forested areas visited on this tour.
362.	<b>Siberian Chiffchaff</b>	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	Several noted at Okhla.
363.	<b>Dusky Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	After hearing them over several days at Kaziranga, we eventually had some crippling views at Nameri.
364.	<b>Smoky Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus fuligiventer</i>	Seen a few times from the boats at Dibru-Saikhowa.
365.	<b>Tickell's Leaf-warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	Several seen during this tour.
366.	<b>Greenish Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Only heard this year.
367.	<b>Blyth's Leaf-warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	A single bird gave close views in the Central Range at Nameri. More were seen at Nameri.
368.	<b>Western Crowned Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>	Just a couple were seen at Nameri.
369.	<b>Yellow-browed Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Quite common this year.

370.	<b>Hume's Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	Single showed well at Okhla.
371.	<b>Buff-barred Leaf-warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	Seemingly quite scarce in Mishmi Hills this year with only a few seen.
372.	<b>Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	Just a pair present in the gardens of our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
373.	<b>Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	Frequently seen above the mid-level of Mishmi Hills.
374.	<b>Yellow-vented Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	Only seen at Nameri this year.
375.	<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia curruca halimodendri</i>	Heard at Okhla.
376.	<b>Grey Tit</b>	<i>Parus cinereus</i>	A recent split from Great Tit <i>Parus major</i> . Relatively common.
377.	<b>Green-backed Tit</b>	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Strangely just a couple seen on one day in Mishmi Hills. Much scarcer this year than is usual.
378.	<b>Yellow-cheeked Tit</b>	<i>Parus spilonotus</i>	Also called Black-spotted Yellow Tit. Quite common in the Mishmi Hills.
379.	<b>Sultan Tit</b>	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	Several great views this year, especially at Nameri.
380.	<b>Rusty-flanked Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia nipalensis</i>	Nice views in the Mishmi Hills of single bird.
381.	<b>Yellow-browed Tit</b>	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	Abundant in small groups in the Mishmi Hills this year.
382.	<b>Velvet-fronted Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	A couple present in mixed flocks at Nameri.
383.	<b>White-tailed Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	Quite common on the higher stretches of the Mishmi Hills.
384.	<b>Beautiful Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta formosa</i>	One of the most wanted birds in the Eastern Himalayas and this year they were already in pairs. The second pair performed well in a large tree beside the road for 10 minutes.
385.	<b>Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>	This species has been recently split with Indian Nuthatch <i>Sitta castanea</i> found over most of India, south of the Himalayas. Frequently seen in Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
386.	<b>Plain Flowerpecker</b>	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i>	Subject of a recent split, with Nilgiri Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum concolor</i> being restricted to W Ghats. Close views of single birds in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
387.	<b>Yellow-vented Flowerpecker</b>	<i>Dicaeum chrysorrheum</i>	Appeared briefly in the garden of our lodge at Kaziranga for a lucky few of us.
388.	<b>Fire-breasted Flowerpecker</b>	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills.
389.	<b>Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker</b>	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	Only heard and seen poorly this year.
390.	<b>Purple Sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	A few seen at Okhla.
391.	<b>Crimson Sunbird</b>	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Subject of a recent split, with Vigors's Sunbird <i>Aethopyga vigorsii</i> restricted to W Ghats. Several were present at Nameri, including some fine males.
392.	<b>Black-breasted Sunbird</b>	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills.
393.	<b>Green-tailed Sunbird</b>	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills
394.	<b>Streaked Spiderhunter</b>	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>	A frequent sighting in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
395.	<b>Tibetan Siskin</b>	<i>Carduelis thibetana</i>	A flock flew over Mayodia Pass.
396.	<b>Dark-rumped Rosefinch</b>	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>	Just a couple present at Mayodia Pass.
397.	<b>Gold-naped Finch</b>	<i>Pyrrhoptes epauletta</i>	Great find by Peter of a pair feeding unobtrusively above the road in the Mishmi Hills.
398.	<b>Brown Bullfinch</b>	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>	A flock of 7 were scoped above the road in Mishmi Hills.
399.	<b>Grey-headed Bullfinch</b>	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>	A few were present at Mayodia.

400.	<b>Alpine Accentor</b>	<i>Prunella collaris nipalensis</i>	3 birds were feeding on the road a few kilometres below Mayodia Pass.
401.	<b>Maroon-backed Accentor</b>	<i>Prunella immaculata</i>	Common and frequently seen feeding beside the road in the Mishmi Hills.
402.	<b>Red Avadavat</b>	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	A small flock were present at Okhla on our first afternoon. A new species for this tour.
403.	<b>Indian Silverbill</b>	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	A flock at Okhla were another new species for this tour.
404.	<b>White-rumped Munia</b>	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	Seen in small numbers at scattered sites.
405.	<b>Scaly-breasted Munia</b>	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	A few small flocks noted.
406.	<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus indicus</i>	Common.
407.	<b>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Common.
408.	<b>Eastern Baya Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus philippinus burmanicus</i>	A potential split – see Ripley Guide. A large flock was present in the Central Range of Nameri and gave good views.
409.	<b>Finn's Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A few were present in a large flock of the previous species. Still a very uncommon species to find anywhere.
410.	<b>Maroon Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus trailii</i>	Frequently seen in small numbers in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
411.	<b>Black-hooded Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Common in small numbers.
412.	<b>Black Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Common in the Lowlands.
413.	<b>Ashy Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Common in the forests visited. It's the <i>hopwoodi</i> race here.
414.	<b>Bronzed Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	Frequently seen in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
415.	<b>Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	A couple of sightings of birds moving in mixed flocks on the lower slopes of the Mishmi Hills.
416.	<b>Greater Racket-tailed Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Plenty of good views in the Mishmi Hills and at Nameri Tiger Reserve.
417.	<b>Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Seen near Dibru-Saikhowa and relatively common at Nameri.
418.	<b>Crow-billed Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus annectans</i>	Had a couple of sightings, possibly of the same bird at Nameri.
419.	<b>Spot-winged Starling</b>	<i>Saroglossa spiloptera</i>	A true Himalayan speciality and you only really ever see them in flowering <i>Bombax</i> trees, as we did in Kaziranga.
420.	<b>Common Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	A few small flocks flew over us at Okhla.
421.	<b>Grey-headed Starling</b>	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	One of the 2 splits from what was formerly called Chestnut-tailed Starling. A frequent sighting throughout the tour in the lowlands
422.	<b>Asian Pied Starling</b>	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Common in the lowlands.
423.	<b>Bank Myna</b>	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A few seen in Delhi.
424.	<b>Common Myna</b>	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common.
425.	<b>Jungle Myna</b>	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Common.
426.	<b>White-vented Myna</b>	<i>Acridotheres cinereus</i>	Common in Assam.
427.	<b>Common Hill-myna</b>	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	One of the recent splits from the Ripley Guide. A few seen in Nameri.
428.	<b>House Crow</b>	<i>Corvus splendensponensis</i>	Common.
429.	<b>Eastern Jungle Crow</b>	<i>Corvus levaillantii</i>	A recent split from what was formerly known simply as Large-billed Crow. A common sighting in Assam.
430.	<b>Eurasian Jay</b>	<i>Garrulax glandarius interstinctus</i>	Several present around the lodge at Mayodia.

431.	<b>Common Green Magpie</b>	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	We had a couple of sightings in the Mishmi Hills, one of which posed nicely on the hillside above us.
432.	<b>Yellow-billed Blue Magpie</b>	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	Several of these noisy birds were present in the gardens of the lodge at Mayodia.
433.	<b>Grey Treepie</b>	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	Good views in Mishmi Hills of a single bird.
434.	<b>Rufous Treepie</b>	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Common in the lowlands.

## OTHER SIGHTINGS

	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1.	<b>Hoolock Gibbon</b>	<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>	Heard regularly in the Mishmi Hills.
2.	<b>Rhesus Macaque</b>	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	A common sighting in the lowlands.
3.	<b>Capped Langur</b>	<i>Presbytis pileata</i>	A few seen at Nameri.
4.	<b>Eastern Swamp Deer</b>	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>	Common in large numbers at Kaziranga.
5.	<b>Barking Deer</b>	<i>Muntiacus muntjai</i>	Heard at Kaziranga.
6.	<b>Hog Deer</b>	<i>Axis porcinus</i>	Common at Kaziranga.
7.	<b>Water Buffalo</b>	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>	A regular sight at Kaziranga.
8.	<b>Wild Boar</b>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Seen in small numbers at Kaziranga.
9.	<b>Asian Elephant</b>	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Common at Kaziranga.
10.	<b>Indian One-horned Rhinoceros</b>	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Highest count of 40+ at Kaziranga.
11.	<b>Common Palm Civet</b>	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	Seen by one of our vehicles in Mishmi Hills.
12.	<b>Himalayan Weasel</b>	<i>Mustela sibirica</i>	A brief sighting in Mishmi Hills.
13.	<b>Small Indian Mongoose</b>	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>	Seen at Okhla and Nameri.
14.	<b>Five-striped Palm Squirrel</b>	<i>Funambulus pennentii</i>	A few seen at Okhla.
15.	<b>Himalayan Giant Squirrel</b>	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	Singles in Mishmi Hills and Nameri.
16.	<b>Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel</b>	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>	Common throughout the tour.
17.	<b>Smooth-coated Otter</b>	<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>	A group of 9 showed well at Kaziranga.
18.	<b>Indian Flying Fox</b>	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	Seen near Tinsukhia.
19.	<b>Common Garden Lizard</b>	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	Present at our lodge at Kaziranga.
20.	<b>Northern House Gecko</b>	<i>Heidacylus flaviviridis</i>	Present in our rooms at various places.
21.	<b>Common Indian Monitor</b>	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	A couple were seen at Kaziranga.
22.	<b>Indian Tented Turtle</b>	<i>Kachuga tentoria</i>	Common at Kaziranga and Nameri.