

INDIA 1 and 2 TOUR REPORT

27th February to 20th March 2013

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

INDIA 1

- Dalmatian Pelican
- Black Bittern
- Black-necked Stork
- White-eyed Buzzard
- Bonelli's Eagle
- Eastern Imperial Eagle
- Painted Spurfowl
- Sarus Crane
- Indian Courser
- Indian Skimmer
- Painted Sandgrouse
- Dusky Eagle Owl
- Common Hawk-cuckoo
- Siberian Rubythroat
- Ashy Minivet
- Moustached Warbler
- Sykes's Warbler
- Whistler's Warbler
- Brook's Leaf-warbler
- White-capped Bunting
- Striolated Bunting
- Sind Sparrow
- Sloth Bear & Tiger

INDIA 2

- Lammergeier
- Collared Falconet
- Himalayan Parakeet
- Collared Owlet
- Great Hornbill
- Speckled Piculet
- Himalayan Woodpecker
- Great Slaty Woodpecker
- Black-throated Thrush
- Long-billed Ground-thrush
- Himalayan Bluetail
- Golden Bush-robin
- Himalayan Rubythroat
- Spotted Forktail
- Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush
- Himalayan Shrike-babbler
- Pygmy & Scaly-breasted Wren-babblers
- Chestnut-headed Tesia
- Sulphur-bellied Warbler
- Wallcreeper
- Altai Accentor
- Pink-browed Rosefinch
- Tiger & Asian Elephant

SUMMARY:

Our popular India tours once again proved to be a great success with 408 species seen overall, with 239 on India 1 and 319 on India 2. But it is not all about numbers as we saw many sought-after species as the list above shows, and also these tours are full of variety with a superb boat ride on the Chambal River, jeep safaris at Ranthambhor and Corbett, an Elephant ride and a visit to the incomparable Taj Mahal as well. Add to these highlights the amazing views of Sloth Bear and 3 individual Tigers, and the attendant thrill of tracking these beautiful predators which is nothing compared to finally seeing one for the first time. We were also privileged to witness the myriad birds at Bharatpur and the thrill of being in the Himalayas with numerous mixed species flocks vying for our attention. That is why we love India so much!

Days 1 – 2 27th – 28th February

** INDIA 1**

Following an overnight flight we landed in Delhi around 11.30am on Day 2 and then drove some five hours to the wonderful Chambal Safari Lodge. Along the way we notched up a number of the more common Indian species, but pride of place went to a **Pallid Harrier** and a few **Sarus Cranes** seen along the way.

Day 3 Friday 1st March

We all woke up in eager anticipation of what our first proper days birding would bring, so after a good breakfast we drove towards the Chambal River. Our first stop amongst some arid canyons proved to be very good with a close perched **Shikra**, followed by numerous **Roseringed Parakeets** and **Laughing Doves**, **Spotted Owlet**, **Indian Robin**, groups of **Common** and **Large Grey Babblers**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **White-eared Bulbul**, **Brahminy Starling**, **Indian Silverbill** and best of all a superb **White-capped Bunting** perched in an Acacia with a **Rufous-fronted Prinia**. A **Golden Jackal** sat on a close ridge was also well received and



Indian Skimmer

boosted our animal tally. adding to some Rhesus Macaques we had seen earlier in the nearby town. A short drive brought us to another area where walked along the track and saw our first Grey Francolin, Indian Peafowl. Black Redstart. Bay-backed Shrike and Ashy-crowned Sparrowlark before cresting the ridge and getting our first views of the river below us. A few Grey-throated Martins were flying around a narrow gulley here, and a Tree Pipit was perched up nicely as well, whilst a Crested and

then a flock of **Greater Short-toed Larks** and a few **Siberian Chiffchaffs** were seen on our walk down to the river and our waiting boats. As we approached the water's edge a **Masked Wagtail** was seen at close quarters, a pair of **Black-bellied Terns** flew along the opposite shore, a pair of **Great Thick-knees** were spotted on a nearby island, and we also saw **Comb Duck**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Bar-headed Goose**, **Temminck's Stint** and a flock of **Red-crested Pochards**. Once aboard our two boats we got closer to the thick-knees, who were also joined by a pair of **River Lapwings** and a **River Tern** which all gave superb close views. A boat ride along the Chambal River is one the the 'must-do' things a birder should do in India as the main focus is on seeing **Indian Skimmer**, the bird that has made this area famous. Sure enough we did see them after an hour or so journey upstream and were fortunate indeed to get such great views of a flock of 45 birds roosting on a sandy island. The views of everything seen this morning were incredible and we had nice looks at a pair of **Bonelli's Eagles** flying over, at one stage they mobbed an **Osprey** that had a recently caught fish in its talons. There was also **Greater Flamingo**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Woolly-necked** and **Painted Storks**, **Indian Black** and **Black-headed Ibis**. There was also some flyover **Chestnut-bellied**

Sandgrouse, a Brown Crake, a flock of Small Pratincoles, Great Black-headed Gull, Lesser Pied Kingfisher, Desert Wheatear and Wire-tailed Swallow. Non avian interest was plenty with many huge Gharials, as well as Marsh Muggers, a few Soft-shelled Turtles, Jungle Cat and another jackal. Following lunch and a siesta we walked around the gardens, chasing a previously reported Whistler's Warbler without any luck, which is a major rarity here and quite out of its usual range. But the walk was very pleasant and gave us 7 Yellowwattled Lapwings, Yellow-footed Green-pigeon, a pair of day-roosting Indian Scops-owls, lots of Indian Grey Hornbills, both Brown-headed and Coppersmith Barbets, and best of all a pair of Ashy Minivets – another really scarce bird here. There was also Taiga and Redbreasted Flycatchers, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher and Hume's Warbler as well. That evening, just before dinner, we managed to spotlight a Common Palm Civet in the garden to round off a great day.

Day 4 Saturday 2nd March

We left just after breakfast and drove into Agra where we visited the Taj Mahal and spent a

nice couple of hours marvelling at the architecture and sheer beauty of this most amazing building. Birds were something of a distraction (thank goodness!) and we saw **Black-eared** Kite, a pair of Oriental Honeybuzzards, House Swift and Brown Rock-chat, plus a few previously seen species along the Yamuna River behind the Taj. Afterwards, we drove on a couple of hours to Bharatpur and checked in to a nice, comfortable hotel for a three-night stay. As we were a little late in arriving for lunch we headed out into the countryside straight after lunch and drove for around an hour to some arid fields. Within a few minutes we were scoping a pair of **Indian Coursers** – our main target here. What a stunning bird and we



Indian Courser

were fortunate to be able to manoeuvre a lot closer to get really great views. As is always the way in India we picked up lots of other birds, but most notable was an **Indian Bushlark** that showed nicely and allowed us to see all the salient i.d features. There was also a **Peregrine**, **Brown Shrike**, **Spotted Owlet**, **Red Collared-dove** and a nice close **Black-rumped Flameback** as well. Leaving here we drove back to Bharatpur and checked out a particularly smelly old drainage ditch which was surprisingly full of birds. There was a nice selection of species here with **Temminck's Stint**, **Ruff**, **Wood** and **Green Sandpipers** vying for attention, as well as numerous **Black-winged Stilts**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Long-tailed Shrike** and others all feeding just below. However, pride of place went to at least 3 male and 2 female **Greater Painted Snipes**, with a couple of them even feeding out in the open.

Day 5 Sunday 3rd March

Our first full day at Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur) began with a cracking and rather confiding male **Siberian Rubythroat** feeding under some bushes near the car park. What a

way to start the day! Then we walked over to the Nursery area and began what turned out to be a protracted search for **Dusky Eagle-owl**. But there were plenty of birds to distract us from our search, and we saw **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon**, **Small Minivet**, **Bluethroat**, **Ashy Drongo**, **Tickell's Thrush**, **Blyth's Reed-warbler**, **Greenish Warbler**, and a pair of **Yelloweyed Babblers**, all accompanied to the backdrop of **Grey Francolins** calling everywhere.

Returning to the main park road we jumped onto a fleet of rickshaws and headed further into the park, and the new birds began to flow. Either side of the road was filled with water which



is now guaranteed due to the new pipeline and we saw all 4 egrets, Glossy and Black-headed lbis, Comb Duck, numerous Purple Herons and lots of other birds before taking a side trail. Just a short distance along here were a pair of huge **Dusky Eagle-owls** roosting in a large tree on one of the Acacia covered islands, which eclipsed the pair of Black Bitterns here just a bit. So we then returned to the main track and walked up to the Temple where we were to have our packed lunch. It took quite a while to reach

Black Bittern

the lunch point as birds were numerous and we took our time

to admire the rookery, where although most of the birds had finished nesting there were still many **Painted Storks** nests occupied with almost fully grown young. We enjoyed close views of almost everything, including several **Steppe Eagles** and a **Booted Eagle**, **Pheasanttailed** and **Bronze-winged Jacanas**, **Purple Swamphens**, and a fine **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**.

Our picnic lunch turned out to be a hot meal brought from the hotel and was actually one of our best meals so far and much better than the cheese sandwiches we had been expecting. As it was quite hot we decided to hang around in the shade and rest (or raptor watch) and during this time we had an **Indian Spotted Eagle** fly over, along with numerous **Steppe Eagles**, another **Booted Eagle** and a few **Egyptian Vultures**.

In the afternoon we walked along the path bordering Mansarovar Lake and picked up Greylag Goose, a White-tailed Lapwing, 20+ Small Pratincoles, 3 Greater Flamingos, Pintail Snipe, another Black Bittern, Eurasian Wryneck, numerous Citrine Wagtails, Indian Reed-warbler, and most surprisingly an immature Pallas's Fish-eagle. At the far end we walked into the forest and quickly found a Brooks's Leaf-warbler which showed quite well in the canopy above, even doing its distinctive hovering action for us. There was also a huge raft of ducks present comprising of nine common species to bump the list up and there were loads of waders present. Mainly Wood Sandpipers, but also Ruff, Temminck's Stint, Green Sandpiper, and a few Common Sandpipers as well. Returning to our coach by rickshaw we stopped along the way to look at a Yellow Bittern and found a Moustached Warbler picking its way quietly along the waterside vegetation. And finished off with a superb male Pallid Harrier flying right over our heads just as we were about to board the bus. What a day!

Day 6 Monday 4th March

So after yesterday's successful visit we didn't quite know what to expect today, but needn't have worried as we nailed a number of really good quality birds. We headed off along a different direction from the car park and soon found the first of several **Ruddy-breasted Crakes**, with this first bird showing particularly well down to just a few feet away. It seemed to me there were more birds in this area of the park and Frank kept a tally of 51 species seen in the first hour, followed by 45, 45 and then 51 again for the following few hours birding. Lots of

the same birds as vesterday were present and we really enjoyed further views of them as we walked guite slowly along. When what appeared to be a **Blyth's Reed Warbler** skulking in some dense acacia branches began to sing, it set my alarm bells ringing. No way was it a Blyth's and sure enough when I played a Sykes's Warbler song it matched perfectly. Over the next half an hour we had repeated views as the bird moved around the tree beside the path – we even had it or another one about 400m along the same path on our return. It was such a pleasure to be able to study this species at leisure. There was also a female

Eastern Orphean Warbler seen well



Booted Eagle

along here, and we'd see a male later in the day as well. An **Indian Pygmy Woodpecker** was also very responsive as I played its call on the way back to our waiting rickshaws. At lunch we did another raptor watch and had **Greater Spotted Eagle**, **Egyptian Vulture** and **Booted Eagle** as well. Walking along the path after lunch we scanned the open area from the viewing platform and picked up a **Black-necked Stork** soaring over the treetops and a short while later a **Red-headed Vulture** soaring as well. The tree-lined path also held a fine **Indian Golden Oriole**, whilst out in the marshes were a pair of **Sarus Cranes** and an **Indian Spotted Eagle** flew overhead. We took the rickshaws around the far side of Mansarovar Lake but didn't find anything new, although several **Golden Jackals** were here and we had a cracking finale as the sun set with huge amounts of wildfowl and waders including 3 **Whitetailed Lapwings**, and both **Common** and **Pintail Snipe**, **Greater Flamingo** and others as well.

Day 7 Tuesday 5th March

Mainly a travelling day as it took almost 6 hours to reach the wonderful Tiger Moon Resort close to the entrance of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. Along the way we did stop to scope a **Variable Wheatear** and again to get a good close look at a colony of **Streak-throated Swallows** nesting under a small bridge. Upon arrival at the lodge we had a great lunch and even had time for a swim for some and a short siesta before driving out to an open rocky habitat. Our main quarry was **Painted Sandgrouse** so we walked quite away across some small pools and along a hill without any luck before Ganesh found 6 birds feeding amongst the rocks and bushes which gave great views for a few minutes. Just as we were thinking about getting closer for some photos in the perfect late afternoon light, a **Common Kestrel**

flew over and they all took flight. Unbelievable! We also saw a few **Indian Vultures** soaring in the distance, as well as **Indian Bushlark** and **Rufous-fronted Prinia** here before driving back to the lodge and checking out a small waterhole nearby. A good move as it turned out with a few waders present such as **Temminck's Stint**, **Spotted Redshank** and both **Green** and **Wood Sandpipers**. But a **Common Hawk-cuckoo** was a much better find as we scoped it in a leafless tree after I had called it in from miles away. As we walked back in neardarkness a **Large-tailed Nightjar** flew over, flocks of **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** flew past and an **Indian Stone Curlew** called from the distance.

Day 8 Wednesday 6th March

Our first safari into Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve couldn't have started better with a female **Painted Spurfowl** feeding beside the road. It got even better when we found ourselves in close proximity to a huge **Sloth Bear** feeding beside the bumpy track on some termites. We followed it for quite a while as it walked through the bushes bordering the track and after 10 minutes it walked across right in front of us and disappeared into the forest. We then drove along exploring other areas of this rather scenic reserve which is dominated by a huge escarpment complete with an old fort. We stopped at a forest outpost to stretch our legs and



Sloth Bear

got swamped by a gang of Jungle Babblers and a few Rufous Treepies that actually took some biscuits out of our hands and we also added a **Black Stork** as well. So we headed back to the lodge for a late breakfast and afterwards drove to Suriwal Lake despite the heat. What a good move as we found several new birds for the trip starting with a **Great** Grey Shrike perched on some roadside telegraph wires and followed by a single breeding-plumaged **Dalmatian Pelican** swimming in the middle of

the lake. Further scanning from the dam revealed a flock of 500+ **Great White Pelicans** on the far side of the lake, as well as flocks of **Avocets**, **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Greater Flamingos**, **Bar-headed Geese** and a good selection of ducks. Driving along the other side we saw a couple of **Greater Thick-knees** and numerous **Kentish Plovers**, **Dunlins**, **Little** and **Temminck's Stints** as well. A surprise came in the shape of a **White-eyed Buzzard** which flew around in front of us before landing in a field and began drinking from a small pool.

In the afternoon at 2.30pm we returned to the reserve on another safari and I was hoping to get the Route No 1 where a **Tiger** had been seen this morning, but we were given Route No 4 and I must admit I felt really cheesed off at this. So we bumbled along the bumpy track and got to a large lake where there were a few waterbirds and we began scanning. We'd only been here a few minutes and I was thinking how stupid it was to go into a Tiger Reserve this early as any self-respecting Tiger is going to be sleeping in some shady section of forest

when we heard the distinctive sound of a **Spotted Deer** alarm call. It's the one sound you want to hear and when it called again we were off rather speedily around the lake and stopped to listen. After a few minutes of random scanning and listening we drove on further towards where we thought the sound had come from, passing a few jeeps along the way and asked them if they'd heard anything. The blank faces told us all we needed to know. We rounded a corner and headed up a long straight track and could see a couple of jeeps at the top of the hill – and when one guy urgently beckoned us forward the hairs on the back of my

neck began to rise. As we drove over the brow of the hill we could see a few more jeeps already here and everyone was staring at a small waterhole off to the right..... And there it was! Words can never fully describe the adrenaline rush and sheer relief when you first eyeball a Tiger and even after seeing so many over the years it is always the same, like seeing your first one all over again. So here we were, looking at a young **Tiger** with just her head showing above the murky water. After a while it got



Tiger at Ranthambhore

up and walked over towards us and off to our left where in the shade of some trees was her recent kill of a Sambar. He sniffed and licked it a few times before going back to the pool for a drink and then reversed into the water where he started licking his paws. After some time he rolled over and then a little later got back up and walked over to the kill and it was then that an idiot jeep driver drove in front of us cracking some branches on the floor. I'm sure the Tiger would have stayed if this didn't happen as he walked off across the path and away into the forest. Of course the jeep in front held a photographer with a lense the size of a cannon and wanted to get that crucial close up – it always seems to me that a high percentage of wildlife photographers are total idiots and care nothing for the welfare of their subject. Anyway, we'd been with the Tiger for well over half an hour and everyone was so happy as we drove away. So nothing could beat that and we birded for a while around the lakes and had a nice group of **Sambar** in the water and a few nice birds such as **Greater Painted Snipe**, **White-browed Fantail**, **Bronze-winged Jacana** etc But we soon had enough and drove on through the forest with only a **Cinereous Tit** stopping us before reaching the exit and a nice cool swim back at the lodge.

Day 9 Thursday 7th March

Had a change of plan this morning and decided to not go on safari but use our canter to go explore the fields and canyons about half an hours drive away. A good move as it turned out because we finally caught up with **Striolated Bunting**, a relatively recent split from **House Bunting**, and had amazingly close views as I called one in and sure enough it did come in – to within about 2 metres!! Amidst a quite dramatic area of badlands and canyons we also had **White-capped** and **Crested Bunting**, **Grey-breasted** and numerous **Rufous-fronted**

Prinias, **Grey-throated Martin** and others. Moving on down to a small river bordered by fields and tall rushes we had **Crested** and **Oriental Skylarks**, and both **Paddyfield** and



Striolated Bunting

Tawny Pipits in the same field as the village kids were playing cricket. An Asian **Openbill, Indian Black Ibis, Purple** Heron, Marsh Harrier, Long-tailed and Great Grey Shrikes and Sykes's Wagtail were all present. But by now it was getting hot so we drove off and headed back to the lodge, checking a few arid areas for more larks without success, but Ganesh did spot a close Indian Courser beside the road which was very nice indeed. In the afternoon we had a safari back in the reserve along route 5 and scored with two Brown Fish-owls, Indian Vulture and Large Cuckooshrike, plus the usual Sambar, Spotted Deer, Wild Boar and Ruddy Mongoose. In the evening we

walked out behind the lodge in search of **Indian Stone-curlew** which a few of the group managed to get on as it flew out of some Acacia trees and groups of **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** flew over. But then I called in an **Indian Little Nightjar** which circled us several times, a **Large-tailed Nightjar** then flew over the trees behind us and a **Savanna Nightjar** called overhead and was spotlighted but it never came back in for seconds. So what a lovely way to end the day!

Day 10 Friday 8th March

Our final jeep safari into Ranthambhore saw us travelling along Route 3, and this turned out to be not only a very scenic area but also held more birds than other sections of the park we

had visited. We began with a cracking pair of Painted Spurfowls right beside the track – not a bad start. There were several lakes that held a lot of the usual birds and we spent some time observing the overall scene as Marsh Muggers cruised by close to shore and all the usual egrets, herons and waders were dotted along the water's edge. At the first lake there was a distant Crested Serpent-eagle which was new for the tour, but best of all was an Indian Stone-curlew standing in the shade of a tree next to another

lake. We'd spent a few hours going around all of the good areas



Painted Spurfowl

and were just about thinking of leaving when a canter went speeding by us in the opposite direction. They were obviously aware of something we weren't so followed them in hot pursuit and after a bumpy, dusty fast drive we pulled up behind a group of 6 or 7 other jeeps and sure

enough, there was a rather large female **Tiger** sitting amongst some bushes under the trees. She was partially obscured but kept moving around and she looked huge compared to the other **Tiger** we saw a few days ago. After 20 minutes or so she got up and went over to her recently killed **Sambar** and dragged some branches and leaves over it and walked off into the jungle. And that was it. The whole episode made us fully appreciate the amazing encounter with our first beast the other day. On the way out of the park we had a close perched **Indian Vulture**, followed by a soaring **Red-headed Vulture** to end our wildlife encounters here. In the afternoon we drove to Mansarovar Lake for a quick look and was surprised to find 9 **Great Black-headed Gulls** present, as well as a whole bunch of common birds but had nothing new to add to our lists since the **Common Iora** in the car park of our lodge. All that remained to do was make our way to Sawai Modhpur train station and catch the overnight sleeper train to Delhi – and all the chaos that always surrounds such an event!

Day 11 Saturday 9th March

We went straight to our hotel upon arrival in Delhi in the early morning and had breakfast



Black-necked Stork at Sultanpur

before heading out to Sultanpur – a drive of about two hours. As soon as we arrived we headed over to the main area of pools and had cracking views of a pair of Sind Sparrows which were nesting in a hole in a tree right below the track. This is such a range restricted and local species so was a great way to start the mornings birding. We also found an Eastern **Imperial Eagle** perched in a large dead tree and several Ferruginous Ducks, both new species for our ever growing list. We also got

word that a **Baikal Teal** had been present recently so we sifted through several thousand waterfowl, but to no avail. We also found **Black-necked Stork**, **Greater Spotted** and **Booted Eagles**, another **Brooks's Leaf-warbler**, a pair of **Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers**, and a surprise find in a **Yellow-browed Warbler**. There were loads of birds here and it was a very pleasant few hours watching all the activity with numerous egrets, herons, storks. Then we drove back to our hotel after a picnic lunch and met up with the new members of the group joining us for the second half of the tour – and said our goodbyes to Anthony after dinner.

Day 12 Sunday 10th March

** INDIA 2 **

We left Delhi early doors and drove up to Corbett National Park, stopping at Tiger Camp for lunch. As lunch was not quite ready for us, we walked down to the river. Lots of raptors were soaring around the clear sky and we had **Red-headed**, **Himalayan Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures**, **Black Kite** and an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** as well. Margaret made the find of the morning when she spotted a **Wallcreeper** several hundred metres downriver, which prompted a brisk walk to get closer views. We also had **White-capped Water-redstart**, **White-browed Wagtail** and a **Grey-backed Shrike** as well before returning for lunch. Afterwards we set off into Corbett NP in three gypsies (jeeps) with our luggage going in a 4th vehicle ahead of us. It was several kilometres to the park entrance and along the way we had **Spangled Drongo**, **Plum-headed Parakeet**, **Chestnut-tailed Starling**, **Common Woodshrike** and **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker**. Once inside the park things livened up and it was a very pleasant drive through rolling hills covered in dense forest, along river valleys and through grassland to our destination at Dikhala. We kicked off with **Red-breasted Parakeet**, **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Short-billed Minivet**, **Lemon-rumped Warbler**, **Pied Flycatcher-shrike**, a few **White-crested Laughingthrushes** and **Yellow-throated Marten**. As the scenery got ever better as we followed some huge boulder-strewn rivers we saw **Changeable Hawk-eagle**, **Collared Falconet**, and a cracking **Pallas's Fish-eagle**. Time was slipping away fast so we had to speed up our journey but still managed flocks of **Grey-winged Blackbirds** and at one gulley a superb **Long-billed Thrush** was watched feeding right out in the open, oblivious to us watching it. What a bird! So we eventually arrived at Dhikala compound around 6.15pm and were regaled with stories of a Tiger on a kill just a few kilometre away, which made our minds up what to do first thing tomorrow morning!

Day 13 Monday 11th March

We woke pre-dawn to the calls of Large-tailed and Savanna Nightjars around the Dhikala compound and after breakfast headed out on our jeep safari around the grassland. It was wonderful to listen to the sounds of the jungle coming to life and as we drove around the grassland following the edge of the forest a small herd of Indian Elephants emerged onto the

track in front of us. At least 6 animals with a youngster tagging along were present and as we watched them heard the alarm call of a Sambar from behind us. We spent the next 30 minutes or so chasing the calls and waiting for a **Tiger** to appear without much luck. But still saw Jungle Owlet, a pair of Black-chinned Babblers, Short-billed, Long-tailed and Scarlet Minivets, Chestnutbellied Nuthatch, Lesser Rackettailed Drongo and Maroon Oriole. In the grassland a Chestnut-crowned (Large) Bush-warbler only showed briefly, but a female Slaty-blue Flycatcher was a little more obliging nearby. Blyth's Leaf-warbler and



Elephants at Corbett NP

Lemon-rumped Warbler, Hen Harrier and an Eurasian Wryneck was seen well. Moving on we had an Aberrant Bush-warbler that wasn't so successful at skulking in some tussocks beside the track, and both Zitting and Bright-capped Cisticola showed very well. A Black-throated Thrush perched out in the grassland was a bit out of the ordinary, and we also had both Steppe Eagle and Pallas's Fish-eagle – oh and we did get another Tiger this morning. Without trying hard at all we were driving through an open grassy area when we could see a guy waving to us from 100m away and sped towards his jeep and there it was, a fine male Tiger striding into the forest. We drove along a trail into the same forest and parked up and waited. After a short wait, it reappeared and walked though the forest to our left and eventually crossed the track in front of us giving amazing views. How lucky were we? Upon arrival back at the lodge we spent a very pleasant hour scanning the Ramganga River, lake

and grassland below our lookout point. Highlights here included a pair of **Black-necked Storks**, 8+ **Black Storks**, a flock of **Small Pratincoles**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, an **Osprey**, 2 **Great Black-headed Gulls**, plus a few **Gharials** and **Marsh Muggers**. In the afternoon we drove along the Sambar Road which meant crossing several little tributaries of the Ramganga River which was a very scenic route and we got off to a great start with a perched Lesser

Fish-eagle, which we would also see flying overhead giving its distinctive call later. A **Pygmy** Wren-babbler was only glimpsed a while later but a fine male Ultramarine Flycatcher and a Stork-billed Kingfisher were very obliging, as was a **Streak-throated Woodpecker**. Crossing the streams we found a pair of Crested Kingfishers, White-capped Riverchat, River Lapwings and more Elephants before entering the forest. Here we had Pied Flycatcher-shrike and a few other common species but it was a little quiet. So on our return we had a perched Mountain Hawk-eagle, as



Jeep safari at Corbett NP

well as Alexandrine Parakeet, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler, our first Ashy Woodswallows and best of all, a pair of Great Hornbills that slowly flew overhead. Another great way to end a successful day.

Day 14 Tuesday 12th March

This was the morning of our Elephant safari through the grasslands and we set off with a beautiful sunrise behind us and the sounds of trumpeting wild **Asian Elephants** as a backdrop. It is more of an experience than anything, but we did get close to seeing a **Tiger** with one **Elephant** almost standing on it (well that's what it looked like) as it bellowed, trumpeted and seemed to lurch sideways very guickly. All of this was observed from a



Scenery at Corbett NP

distance by my group I have to add! We searched and searched but couldn't come up with a view of the beast so had to settle for **Black** Francolin. Black-hooded Oriole. Yellow-eyed Babbler and best of all, a Chestnut-eared Bunting that perched nicely for us. With that over we jumped in the jeeps and drove along the Sambar Road again, but it was very quiet and all we got that was new was a little flock of Red Avadavat. With both Pygmy Wrenbabbler and Grev-bellied Tesia calling but not responding it was a very frustrating couple of hours. Upon our return we vacated the rooms and then

phaffed around waiting for lunch, which gave us plenty of time to scan the scene below us. All the same birds were present as yesterday, albeit in smaller numbers, but a **Golden Jackal** was new. So as soon as lunch was over we headed back towards the Dhangari Gate on what turned out to be a very 'birdy' drive, starting with **Greater** and **Himalayan Flamebacks** finally being seen, followed by a **Grey-faced Woodpecker**. Continuing the theme, there was a fine **Rufous Woodpecker**, followed by **Grey-capped Pygmy** and **Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers** as well. We also managed a pair of **Large Woodshrikes** and an **Orangegorgeted Flycatcher** as well before reaching the main gate. I must admit, Tiger Camp was sheer luxury after 2 nights at the basic Dhikala site – with chicken sandwiches and hot chocolate from room service. That's right Frank!

Day 15 Wednesday 13th March

We spent the morning birding around Khaladungi and beyond which resulted in a few new birds including 5 flyover **Great Slaty Woodpeckers** over the river as we scanned forlornly for **Ibisbill**, which has not been seen for the past week or more now. Bummer! There were several **Crested Kingfishers** here, as well as **River Lapwings** and other common birds. Further along the road we found several cracking **Crimson Sunbirds** feeding on some roadside flowering bushes, along with **Oriental White-eyes**, **Whistler's Warbler**, **Black-Iored Yellow Tit** and our first **Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler**. Then we walked along a dried-up

river bed and found Asian Barred Owlet, a pair of Chestnut-bellied Rockthrushes, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Lesser Yellownape, a superb Chestnut-bellied Tesia, Ashy Bulbul, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Goldenfronted Leafbird, Great, Blue-throated and Lineated Barbets, plus other common species.

After lunch we headed for pastures new (and higher) as we drove up into the Himalayas to Pangot, making a quick stop along the way at the Jim Corbett Museum, as well as taking a look at some nesting **White-rumped Vultures**. As the road wound its way ever higher the scenery became more and more



Cheer Pheasant

spectacular but we didn't make our first stop until a broken-down truck blocked the road. So we hopped out of the coach and began walking which was a good move as we found **Green-backed** and **Red-headed Tits**, **Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler**, **Grey Bushchat**, a cracking **Himalayan Bluetail**, **Grey-hooded Warbler**, **Red-billed Blue-magpie** and best of all, a pair of **Spotted Forktails**. We arrived at Jungle Lore Birding Lodge just before sunset...

Day 16 Thursday 14th March

Another early start as we headed up higher into the mountains to try for **Cheer Pheasant**. After one of our vehicles didn't turn up which delayed us and ruined any chance of getting **Koklass Pheasant**, we slowly drove up (for some reason) and got to the regular spot and began scanning. After some time, during which we watched **Himalayan Griffons** and a **Lammergeier** at point blank range overhead, the amazing actually happened. We had a male and two female **Cheer Pheasants** in the scope as they fed on the slope below us in the lovely morning sunshine. Wow! When dark clouds rolled in and it began to rain we hopped into the vehicles and drove back down into the forest and no sooner had we got to a certain point than the sun came out again. So I decided to head back up again, but before we got back into the vehicles a **Himalayan Pied Woodpecker** was spotted excavating a nest hole just a few feet



Lammergeier and Himalayan Griffon Vulture

off the ground. As we watched this fascinating bit of behaviour, a pair of **Brown-fronted** Woodpeckers flew in. Back up at the pheasant spot we quickly found a flock of Altai Accentors perched in a tree, and then kept on searching for **Upland Pipit**. Walking up higher we went into the forest and called in a pair of Himalayan Shrikebabblers that came in perfectly for a look at us, and following that we managed to find the pipit at last. So back down in

the forest we had a **Collared Owlet** which was being mobbed by lots of tits including a **Yellow-browed**, as well as **Buff-barred Warbler**. Further down the road and in some good forest we had a fine **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, followed by **Blyth's Leaf-warbler** and more **Red-headed Tits**. Over lunchtime we had a bit of time to rest and enjoyed the **Blackheaded Jays** in the garden, along with a **Tickell's Thrush**, **Blue-winged Minla** and several **Streaked Laughingthrushes**. For our afternoon excursion we headed to lower levels and walked along a side road seeing **Grey Bushchat**, brief **Rufous-breasted Accentor** and **Grey-sided Bush-warbler**, **Bonelli's Eagle** etc. At the bridge a **Scaly-breasted Wrenbabbler** showed well, whilst a **Golden Bush-robin** didn't play ball nearby.

Day 17 Friday 15th March

Driving down from the lodge early this morning resulted in a pair of Asian Barred Owlets and some Mountain Bulbuls being seen before we began walking. Our target, Grey-crowned Prinia, was found quite easily and is certainly a rather unusual habitat for this species. Black Francolins called nearby and flocks of Himalayan Parakeets flew around. A real Collared Owlet came in to the ipod and was harassed by lots of passerines, a pair of Himalayan Aberrant Bush-warblers showed well, whilst Russet Sparrow was also nice. Overhead a flew Alpine Swifts were seen and a flock of 100+ Eurasian Crag-martins were also present. Walking back we had a flock of Himalayan Bluetail and a male Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush.

At lunchtime a **Black Eagle** flew over and a **Grey-sided Bush-warbler** showed extremely well and a **Rosy Pipit** was also found in the garden. Meanwhile 9 **Black-headed Jays** came in to the feeding station, along with **Oriental Turtle-doves**, **Streaked Laughingthrushes**, **Grey-winged Blackbird** and **Tickell's Thrush**.

In the afternoon we drove up the mountain to an open area and had a cracking session beginning with three species of laughingthrush in one small valley. We were able to look down on the valley which had several flowering Rhododendrons and first of all a few **Rufous**



Black-headed Jay

Sibias appeared and were followed by a Red-headed Laughingthrush. Further up a pair of **White-throated** Laughingthrushes came into a close bush and were quickly followed by a few Striated Laughingthrushes. What a start! Then another flowering tree was heaving with birds – pride of place went to Fire-tailed Sunbird and Whiskered Yuhina, but there were lots of other previously seen birds. Nearby a Spot-winged Coal Tit showed nicely but a Speckled **Piculet** was only seen by Ganesh. The path then went across some nice meadows where Rock Buntings

were found perched up nicely. Then a flock of **Dark-breasted Rosefinches** posed close to the path before we headed back up the mountain to look for **Koklass Pheasant**, but it was rather pointless and we only succeeded in seeing a pair of **Mistle Thrushes** and almost seeing a **Chestnut Thrush** that flew away just as we got out of the vehicles to look at it.

Day 18 Saturday 16th March

We left Pangot early doors as there's a crazy rule that coaches cannot drive through Nainital after 8am, which was a shame as I'd have liked to stay up in these higher areas for a bit longer. Anyway, the scenic delights of Nainital (not!) held some perched Steppe Eagles before we took a walk near one of the lakes. There's a special little spot where birds come down to drink and as we walked down to the site there was already a few photographers clicking away much too close to the birds. This is another pet hate of mine – why do they think they have a Godgiven right to be that much



Pangot is set amidst stunning Himalayan scenery

closer to the birds than birders...? Answers please..... Anyway, there were several **Ultramarine Flycatchers**, a cracking couple of **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers** and **Rufous Sibias** as well. We walked along a path through lovely forest ringing with the sounds of an

early springtime, **Bronzed Drongos** sang everywhere, **Black-lored Yellow Tits**, **Greater Yellownape**, **Greater Flameback** and flocks of **White-throated Laughingthrushes** were all around. Back at the stream we saw a superb long tailed **Asian Paradise-flycatcher** coming in to drink, and a startling blue and orange lightbulb in a bush was a **Rufous-bellied Niltava**. So we then drove up to our superb hotel and spent a relaxing couple of hours before heading down to a picturesque stream and walked alongside a boulder strewn river where **Chestnutheaded Tesia**, both water-redstarts, **Crested Kingfisher**, a pair of **Spotted Forktails** and eventually a **Brown Dipper** were found. An area of scrub was productive with several **Himalayan Rubythroats**, **Siberian Chiffchaff**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, and a **Chestnut-tailed Starling**. Driving back to the hotel several **Ashy Woodswallows** and **Little Swifts** were seen, but a pair of **Blyth's Swifts** just whizzed across the valley and never showed that well.

Day 19 Sunday 17th March

We birded from the road this morning after an early breakfast, and walked through lovely forest once again. It is uncanny how things work out as literally the first bird we found was our main target, a superb **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush**. It was feeding on the slope above us amidst some dense bushes, but after the initial sighting proved fairly elusive and took a long time for everyone to get on. As we waited for better views some distraction came in the form of a flock of **Red-billed Leiothrix** which came in very close and showed extremely well. Continuing on, we had **Red-billed Blue Magpie**, **Blyth's Leaf-warbler**, great views of Speckled Piculet, and another pair of laughingthrushes as well. It was quite a long walk and by 9.30am became guite hot and numerous raptors were soaring overhead. Mainly **Steppe** Eagles, but several Himalayan Griffons as well. We checked out the waterhole from vesterday but only had **Ashy Bulbuls** coming down to drink and bathe so left for an early lunch back at the hotel. In the afternoon we birded a scrub covered valley which was fairly quiet but we had a few Slaty-blue Flycatchers, Common Rosefinch, lots of Lemonrumped Leaf-warblers, a brief Golden Bush-robin, and Black-throated Thrush. Back at the hotel a male Himalayan Rubythroat, Great Barbet and another Black-throated Thrush were seen.

Day 20 Monday 18th March

We spent the morning birding along the road in the sunshine enjoying view of plenty of previously seen species such as Kalij Pheasant, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Greywinged Blackbird, Black-throated Thrush, Golden Bush-robin, Himalayan Rubythroat, Streaked Laughingthrush, Blue-winged Minla, Black-breasted and Green-tailed Sunbirds, and a fine Rufous-breasted Accentor. The only new bird of the morning was a Fire-breasted Flowerpecker feeding in some mistletoe overhead! We headed down to Kathgodam in the late afternoon and boarded an overnight sleeper train back to Delhi.

Day 21 Tuesday 19th March

It had been a very pleasant overnight journey and upon arrival in Delhi we drove to a nearby hotel for breakfast before heading over to Okhla Bird Sanctuary. This is one of my favourite places as there are just so many birds here and there's always something of interest. There are, in fact, masses of waterbirds, egrets, herons, ducks and waders to be seen here but we were on the lookout for the specialities that this site has to offer. We picked up **Striated Babbler**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia** and **Striated Grassbird** pretty quickly, but it took a while before we found a **White-tailed Stonechat**. A fine supporting cast held **Purple Heron**, **Greater Flamingo**, **Painted Stork**, **Glossy** and **Black-headed Ibis**, **Comb Duck**, **Indian** Spot-billed Duck, Black-eared Kite, Booted Eagle, Bronze-winged Jacana, Brownheaded Gull, Yellow-footed Green-pigeon, Asian Koel, Spotted Owlet, Indian Grey Hornbill, Citrine Wagtail, Rosy Pipit, Long-tailed Shrike, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Indian Reed-warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, and both Greenish and Hume's Warblers. We also found our first Dusky Warbler which had been extremely conspicuous by its absence during the tour so far, but the undoubted highlight was a Sulphur-bellied Warbler we watched for half an hour as it worked its way on the floor beside the main path. What a cracking way to finish a great tour.

Day 22 Wednesday 20th March

All that was left was to catch our direct flight back to the UK where the tour concluded..

Nick Bray.



An Elephant ride at dawn in Corbett National Park

BIRDLIST FOR NORTHERN INDIA TOUR - MARCH 2013

	SPECIES		SCIENTIFIC NAME	India 1	India 2
	E – Endemic BE - Breeding Endemic NE - Near Endemic			Tour	Tour
1.	Little Grebe		Tachybaptus ruficollis	✓	~
2.	Great Crested Grebe		Podiceps cristatus		v
3.	Great White Pelican		Pelecanus onocrotalus	~	
4.	Dalmatian Pelican		Pelecanus crispus	~	
5.	Indian (Cormorant) Shag		Phalacrocorax fuscicollis	~	
6.	Great Cormorant		Phalacrocorax carbo	~	~
7.	Little Cormorant		Phalacrocorax niger	~	~
8.	Oriental Darter		Anhinga melanogaster	~	~
9.	Little Egret		Egretta garzetta	~	~
10.			Ardea alba	~	~
11.	Intermediate Egret		Egretta intermedia	~	
12.	Eastern Cattle Egret		Bubulcus coromandus	~	~
13.	Grey Heron		Ardea cinerea	~	~
14.	Purple Heron		Ardea purpurea	~	~
15.	Indian Pond-heron		Ardeola grayii	~	~
16.	Black-crowned Night-heron		Nycticorax nycticorax	~	
17.	Striated Heron		Butorides striata		~
18.	Black Bittern		Dupetor flavicollis	~	
19.	Yellow Bittern		Ixobrychus sinensis	~	
20.	Greater Flamingo		Phoenicopterus roseus	~	
21.	Asian Openbill		Anastomus oscitans	~	
22.	Woolly-necked Stork		Ciconia episcopus	~	~
23.	Painted Stork		Mycteria leucocephala	~	~
24.	Black Stork		Ciconia nigra	~	~
25.	Black-necked Stork		Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus	~	~
26.	Glossy Ibis		Plegadis falcinellus	~	~
27.	Black-headed Ibis		Threskiornis melanocephalus	~	~
28.	Eurasian Spoonbill		Platalea leucorodia	~	~
29.	Indian Black Ibis	е	Pseudibis papillosa	~	~
30.	Bar-headed Goose		Anser indicus	~	~
31.	Greylag Goose		Anser anser	~	
32.	Lesser Whistling-duck		Dendrocygna javanica	✓	
33.	Ruddy Shelduck		Tadorna ferruginea	~	~
34.	Comb (Knob-billed) Duck		Sarkidiornis melanotos	~	~
35.	Common Teal		Anas crecca	✓	~
36.	Garganey		Anas querquedula	✓	~
37.	Gadwall		Anas strepera	~	~
38.	Eurasian Wigeon	_	Anas penelope	~	~
39.	Northern Shoveler		Anas clypeata	~	~
40.	Northern Pintail		Anas acuta	✓	~
41.	Mallard		Anas platyrhynchos	~	

42.	Indian Spot-billed Duck		Anas poecilorhyncha	~	~
43.	Tufted Duck		Aythya fuligula	 ✓ 	 ✓
44.	Ferruginous Pochard		Aythya nyroca	 ✓ 	
45.	Common Pochard		Aythya ferina	 ✓ 	~
46.	Red-crested Pochard		Netta rufina	 ✓ 	
47.	Common Merganser		Mergus merganser		~
48.	Black-winged Kite		Elanus caeruleus	 ✓ 	 ✓
49.	Black Kite		Milvus migrans govinda	 ✓ 	 ✓
50.	Black-eared Kite		Milvus lineatus	 ✓ 	 ✓
51.	Shikra		Accipiter badius	 ✓ 	 ✓
52.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk		Accipiter nisus	 ✓ 	~
53.	Oriental Honey-buzzard		Pernis ptilorhyncus	 ✓ 	~
54.	White-eyed Buzzard		Butastur teesa	 ✓ 	
55.	Crested Serpent-eagle		Spilornis cheela	 ✓ 	~
56.	Booted Eagle		Hieraaetus pennatus	 ✓ 	 ✓
57.	Bonelli's Eagle		Hieraaetus fasciatus	 ✓ 	v
58.	Mountain Hawk-eagle		Spizaetus nipalensis		v
59.	Changeable Hawk-eagle		Spizaetus cirrhatus		v
60.	Black Eagle		Ictinaetus malayensis		~
61.	Indian Spotted Eagle		Aquila hastata	 ✓ 	
62.	Greater Spotted Eagle		Aquila clanga	 ✓ 	~
63.	Steppe Eagle		Aquila nipalensis	 ✓ 	 ✓
64.	Eastern Imperial Eagle		Aquila heliaca	 ✓ 	
65.	Western Osprey		Pandion haliaetus	 ✓ 	~
66.	Lesser Fish-eagle		Ichthyophaga humilil		~
67.	Pallas' Fish-eagle		Haliaeetus leucoryphus	 ✓ 	 ✓
68.	White-rumped Vulture		Gyps bengalensis		~
69.	Indian Vulture		Gyps indicus	 ✓ 	
70.	Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture		Gyps himalayensis		 ✓
71.	Egyptian Vulture		Neophron percnopterus	 ✓ 	 ✓
72.	Lammergeier		Gypaetus barbatus		~
73.	Red-headed Vulture		Sarcogyps calvus	 ✓ 	 ✓
74.	Cinereous (Black) Vulture		Aegypius monachus		 ✓
75.	Pallid Harrier		Circus macrourus	 ✓ 	
76.	Hen Harrier		Circus cyaneus		 ✓
77.	Western Marsh Harrier		Circus aeruginosus	 ✓ 	~
78.	Collared Falconet		Microhierax caerulescens		v
79.	Common Kestrel		Falco tinnunculus	v	v
80.	Peregrine Falcon		Falco peregrinus	 ✓ 	
81.	Grey Francolin		Francolinus pondicerianus	v	
82.	Black Francolin		Francolinus francolinus	 ✓ 	 ✓
83.	Common Hill-partridge		Arborophila torqueola		 ✓
84.	Painted Spurfowl	Е	Galloperdix lunulata	 ✓ 	
85.	Red Junglefowl		Gallus gallus		 ✓
86.	Kalij Pheasant		Lophura leucomelanos		 ✓
87.	Koklass Pheasant (H)		Pucrasia macrolopha		Н
88.	Cheer Pheasant	е	Catreus wallichii		 ✓
89.	Indian Peafowl	е	Pavo cristatus	v	v
90.	Sarus Crane		Grus antigone	~	 ✓

91.	Ruddy-breasted Crake		Porzana fusca	~	
92.	Brown Crake		Amaurornis akool	 ✓ 	
93.	White-breasted Waterhen		Amaurornis phoenicurus	~	~
94.	Purple Swamphen		Porphyrio porphyrio	 ✓ 	v
95.	Common Moorhen		Gallinula chloropus	~	~
96.	Eurasian Coot		Fulica atra	~	~
97.	Pied Avocet		Recurvirostra avosetta	~	
98.	Black-winged Stilt		Himantopus himantopus	~	~
99.	Bronze-winged Jacana		Metopidius indicus	~	~
	Pheasant-tailed Jacana		Hydrophasianus chirurgus	~	
101.	Small Pratincole		Glareola lactea	~	~
102.	Indian Courser	е	Cursorius coromandelicus	~	
103.	Great Thick-knee		Burhinus recurvirostris	~	~
104.	Indian Stone-curlew		Burhinus coromandelicus	~	~
105.	Red-wattled Lapwing		Vanellus indicus	~	~
	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	е	Vanellus malabaricus	~	
	River Lapwing		Vanellus spinosus duvaucelii	 ✓ 	v
	White-tailed Lapwing		Vanellus leucurus	~	
	Little Ringed Plover		Charadrius dubius	~	~
	Kentish Plover		Charadrius alexandrinus	~	
111.	Eurasian Curlew (H)		Numenius arquata	~	
	Western Black-tailed Godwit		Limosa limosa	~	
	Common Greenshank		Tringa nebularia	~	~
	Wood Sandpiper		Tringa glareola	~	~
	Green Sandpiper		Tringa ochropus	~	~
	Common Sandpiper		Actitis hypoleucos	 ✓ 	v
	Common Redshank		Tringa totanus	~	
	Spotted Redshank		Tringa erythropus	~	
	Ruff		Philomachus pugnax	~	~
120.	Dunlin		Calidris alpina	~	
121.	Temminck's Stint		Calidris temminckii	~	
122.	Little Stint		Calidris minuta	~	
	Greater Painted Snipe		Rostratula benghalensis	~	
124.	Common Snipe		Gallinago gallinago	~	~
	Pin-tailed Snipe		Gallinago stenura	~	
	Eurasian Woodcock		Scolopax rusticola		~
127.	Great Black-headed Gull		Larus ichthyaetus	~	~
			Larus brunnicephalus		 ✓
	Common Black-headed Gull		Larus ridibundus	 ✓ 	v
	Black-bellied Tern		Sterna acuticauda	 ✓ 	
			Sterna aurantia	 ✓ 	 ✓
	Whiskered Tern		Chlidonias hybridus	 ✓ 	
	Indian Skimmer		Rynchops albicollis	 ✓ 	
	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse		Pterocles exustus	 ✓ 	
	Painted Sandgrouse	е	Pterocles indicus	 ✓ 	
	Rock Pigeon		Columba livia	 ✓ 	v
	Speckled Woodpigeon		Columba hodgsonii		v
	Oriental Turtle-dove		Streptopelia orientalis		 ✓
	Laughing Dove		Streptopelia senegalensis	 ✓ 	v

140. Red Collared-dove		Streptopelia tranquebarica	~	v
141. Spotted Dove		Streptopelia chinensis	~	v
142. Eurasian Collared-dove		Streptopelia decaocto	 ✓ 	~
143. Emerald Dove		Chalcophaps indica		v
144. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon		Treron p. phoenicoptera	 ✓ 	~
145. Himalayan Parakeet	е	Psittacula himalayana		~
146. Plum-headed Parakeet	е	Psittacula cyanocephala	 ✓ 	~
147. Rose-ringed Parakeet		Psittacula krameri	 ✓ 	~
148. Alexandrine Parakeet		Psittacula eupatria	 ✓ 	~
149. Red-breasted Parakeet		Psittacula alexandri		~
150. Asian Koel		Eudynamys scolopacea		~
151. Common Hawk-cuckoo	е	Hierococcyx varius	 ✓ 	
152. Greater Coucal		Centropus sinensis	 ✓ 	v
153. Brown Hawk-owl (H)		Ninox scutulata	Н	
154. Brown Fish-owl		Ketupa zeylonensis	 ✓ 	~
155. Dusky Eagle-owl		Bubo coromandus	 ✓ 	
156. Indian Scops-owl	е	Otus bakkamoena	 ✓ 	
157. Spotted Owlet		Athene brama	 ✓ 	~
158. Jungle Owlet	е	Glaucidium radiatum		~
159. Asian Barred Owlet		Glaucidium cuculoides		~
160. Collared Owlet		Glaucidium brodiei		 ✓
161. Grey Nightjar (H)		Caprimulgus jotaka		Н
162. Indian Little Nightjar		Caprimulgus asiaticus	 ✓ 	
163. Large-tailed Nightjar		Caprimulgus macrurus	 ✓ 	 ✓
164. Savanna Nightjar		Caprimulgus affinis	 ✓ 	Н
165. Crested Treeswift		Hemiprocne coronata		v
166. Indian White-rumped Spinetail		Zoonavena sylvatica		v
167. Little Swift		Apus affinis	 ✓ 	 ✓
168. Blyth's (Pacific) Swift		Apus leuconyx		 ✓
169. Alpine Swift		Tachymarptis melba		 ✓
170. Indian Roller		Coracias b. benghalensis	 ✓ 	~
171. Common Hoopoe		Upupa epops	 ✓ 	 ✓
172. Stork-billed Kingfisher		Pelargopsis capensis		 ✓
173. White-throated Kingfisher		Halcyon smyrnensis	 ✓ 	~
174. Crested (Himalayan Pied)		Megaceryle lugubris		~
175. Lesser Pied Kingfisher		Ceryle rudis	 ✓ 	~
176. Common Kingfisher		Alcedo atthis	 ✓ 	~
177. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater		Merops leschenaulti		v
178. Little Green Bee-eater		Merops orientalis	 ✓ 	
179. Indian Grey Hornbill		Ocyceros birostris	 ✓ 	v
180. Great Pied Hornbill		Buceros bicornis		v
181. Oriental Pied Hornbill		Anthracoceros albirostris		 ✓
182. Coppersmith Barbet		Megalaima haemacephala	 ✓ 	Н
183. Blue-throated Barbet		Megalaima asiatica		v
184. Brown-headed Barbet	е	Megalaima viridis	 ✓ 	
185. Lineated Barbet		Megalaima lineata		v
186. Great Barbet		Megalaima virens		v
187. Eurasian Wryneck			 ✓ 	v
		Jynx torquilla	V	V V

189. Indian Pygmy Woodpcker	Dendrocopus nanus	~	
190. Yellow-fronted Woodpcker	Dendrocopus mahrattensis	 ✓ 	
191. Brown-fronted Woodpecker e	Dendrocopus auriceps		v
192. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	Dendrocopos canicapillus		v
193. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos macei		v
194. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	Dendrocopos hyperythrus		v
195. Himalayan Pied Woodpecker e	Dendrocopus himalayensis		v
196. Streak-throated Woodpecker	Picus xanthopygaeus		v
197. Greater Yellownape	Picus flavinucha		v
198. Lesser Yellownape	Picus chlorolophus		v
199. Grey-faced Woodpecker	Picus canus		 ✓
200. Rufous Woodpecker	Celeus brachyurus		 ✓
201. Himalayan Flameback	Dinopium shorii		v
202. Black-rumped Flameback e	Dinopium benghalense	~	
203. Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes lucidus		v
204. Great Slaty Woodpecker	Mulleripicus pulverulentus		 ✓
205. Indian Bushlark e	Mirafra erythroptera	 ✓ 	
206. Oriental Skylark	Alauda gulgula	 ✓ 	v
207. Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	 ✓ 	
208. Ashy-crowned Finch-lark e	Eremopterix griseus	 ✓ 	
209. Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	 ✓ 	
210. Grey-throated Sand-martin	Riparia chinensis	 ✓ 	v
211. Dusky Crag-martin	Ptyonoprogne concolor	 ✓ 	
212. Eurasian Crag-martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		v
213. Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	~	
214. Streak-throated Swallow	Petrochelidon fluvicola	~	 ✓
215. Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	~	v
216. Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica	~	v
217. Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii	~	
218. Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava feldegg	~	
219. Syke's Wagtail	Motacilla flava beema	~	
220. Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	~	v
221. Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola citreola	 ✓ 	v
222. Masked Wagtail	Motacilla alba personata	 ✓ 	v
223. Himalayan Wagtail	Motacilla alba alboides		 ✓
224. Amur Wagtail	Motacilla alba leucopsis		v
225. White-browed Wagtail e	Motacilla madaraspatensis	 ✓ 	v
226. Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni	 ✓ 	v
227. Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	 ✓ 	
228. Rosy Pipit	Anthus roseatus		~
229. Richard's Pipit	Anthus novaeseelandiae	 ✓ 	
230. Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus richardi rufulus	 ✓ 	v
231. Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	 ✓ 	 ✓
232. Upland Pipit	Anthus sylvanus		 ✓
233. Ashy Woodswallow	Artamus fuscus		V
234. Common Woodshrike	Tephrodornis pondicerianus	 ✓ 	V
235. Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis gularis		V
236. Pied Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus		V
237. Black-winged Cuckooshrike	Coracina melaschistos		· ·

238. Large Cuckooshrike		Coracina macei	~	~
239. Ashy Minivet		Pericrocotus divaricatus	 ✓ 	
240. Long-tailed Minivet		Pericrocotus ethologus		v
241. Short-billed Minivet		Pericrocotus brevirostris		v
242. Scarlet Minivet		Pericrocotus speciosus		v
243. Small Minivet		Pericrocotus cinnamomeus	~	
244. Red-vented Bulbul		Pycnonotus cafer	~	v
245. Red-whiskered Bulbul		Pycnonotus jocosus	~	v
246. Himalayan Bulbul		Pycnonotus leucogenys		v
247. White-eared Bulbul		Pycnonotus leucotis	~	
248. Himalayan Black Bulbul		Hypsipetes leucocephalus		 ✓
249. Ashy Bulbul		Hemixos flavala		 ✓
250. Mountain Bulbul		Ixos mcclellandii		v
251. Black-crested Bulbul		Pycnonotus flaviventris		v
252. Common lora		Aegithina tiphia	~	v
253. Golden-fronted Leafbird		Chloropsis aurifrons		 ✓
254. Long-tailed Shrike		Lanius schach tricolor		 ✓
255. Long-tailed Shrike		Lanius schach erythronotus	 ✓ 	 ✓
256. Great Grey Shrike		Lanius excubitor lahtora	 ✓ 	
257. Grey-backed Shrike		Lanius tephronotus		 ✓
258. Brown Shrike			 ✓ 	
259. Bay-backed Shrike		Lanius cristatus Lanius vittatus	 ✓ 	
260. Asian Paradise Flycatcher		Terpsiphone paradisi		 ✓
261. Yellow-bellied Fantail		Rhipidura hypoxantha		 ✓
262. White-browed Fantail		Rhipidura aureola	 ✓ 	 ✓
263. White-throated Fantail		Rhipidura albicollis		v
264. Brown Dipper		Cinclus pallasii		 ✓
265. Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush		Monticola rufiventris		 ✓
266. Blue Rock-thrush		Monticola solitarius	 ✓ 	
267. Blue Whistling-thrush		Myiophonus caeruleus		 ✓
268. Black-throated Thrush		Turdus atrogularis		 ✓
269. Tickell's Thrush		Turdus unicolor	 ✓ 	 ✓
270. Grey-winged Blackbird		Turdus boulboul		 ✓
271. Chestnut Thrush (L)		Turdus rubrocanus		L
272. Mistle Thrush		Turdus viscivorus		- /
273. Long-billed Ground-thrush		Zoothera monticola		 ✓
274. Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail		Tarsiger rufilatus		V
275. Golden Bush-robin		Tarsiger chrysaeus		· ·
276. Bluethroat		Luscinia svecica	 ✓ 	· ·
277. Himalayan Rubythroat		Luscinia pectoralis		· ·
278. Siberian Rubythroat		Luscinia calliope	 ✓ 	
279. White-rumped Shama		Copsychus malabaricus		 ✓
280. Oriental Magpie Robin		Copsychus saularis	 ✓ 	· ·
281. Indian Black Robin	е	Saxicoloides fulicatus	· ·	
282. Brown Rock-chat	e	Oenanthe fusca	· ·	
283. Spotted Forktail	0	Enicurus maculatus		 ✓
284. Black Redstart		Phoenicurus ochruros	 ✓ 	· ·
285. Blue-fronted Redstart (L)		Phoenicurus frontalis		L
286. Plumbeous Water-redstart		Rhyacornis fuliginosus		

White-capped River-chat		Chaimarrornis leucocephalus		 ✓
Desert Wheatear		Oenanthe deserti	 ✓ 	
Variable Wheatear		Oenanthe picata	 ✓ 	
Pied Bushchat		Saxicola caprata	 ✓ 	~
Eastern Stonechat		Saxicola maura	 ✓ 	v
White-tailed Stonechat		Saxicola leucura		 ✓
		Saxicola ferrea		~
		Ficedula westermanni		~
		Ficedula superciliaris		~
		Ficedula albicilla	 ✓ 	~
		Ficedula parva	 ✓ 	~
				~
		Ficedula tricolor		~
		Niltava sundara		 ✓
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		Garrulax striatus		· · ·
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Striated Prinia		Prinia criniger		· ·
	Variable Wheatear Pied Bushchat Eastern Stonechat	Variable WheatearPied BushchatEastern StonechatWhite-tailed StonechatGrey BushchatLittle Pied FlycatcherUltramarine FlycatcherRed-throated (Taiga) FlycatcherRed-breasted FlycatcherOrange-gorgeted FlycatcherSlaty-blue FlycatcherRufous-bellied NiltavaVerditer FlycatcherStreaked LaughingthrushRed-headed LaughingthrushRufous-chinned LaughingthrushStriated LaughingthrushWhite-throated LaughingthrushWhite-crested LaughingthrushYellow-eyed BabblerChestnut-capped Babbler (H)Black-chinned BabblerCommon BabblereStriated BabblerLarge Grey BabblerEasted BabblerLarge Grey BabblerRed-billed LeiothrixWhite-bellied ErpornisWhiskered YuhinaRufous SibiaBlue-winged MinlaHimalayan Shrike-babblerScaly-breasted Wren-babblerPygmy Wren-babblerPygmy Wren-babblerPright-capped CisticolaZitting CisticolaZitting CisticolaStriated GrassbirdAshy PriniaeGrey-breasted PriniaPlain PriniaRufous-fronted PriniaRufous-fronted PriniaERufous-fronted PriniaRufous-fronted PriniaRufous-fronted Prinia	Variable WheatearOenanthe picataPied BushchatSaxicola caprataEastern StonechatSaxicola nauraWhite-tailed StonechatSaxicola leucuraGrey BushchatSaxicola ferreaLittle Pied FlycatcherFicedula superciliarisRed-throated (Taiga) FlycatcherFicedula abicillaRed-breasted FlycatcherFicedula parvaOrange-gorgeted FlycatcherFicedula superciliarisRed-breasted FlycatcherFicedula strophiataSlaty-blue FlycatcherFicedula tricolorRufous-bellied NiltavaNiltava sundaraVerditer FlycatcherEumyias thalassinaStreaked LaughingthrushGarrulax erythrocephalusRufous-chinned LaughingthrushGarrulax tritogularisStriated LaughingthrushGarrulax albogularisWhite-trocated LaughingthrushGarrulax striatusWhite-crested LaughingthrushGarrulax striatusYellow-eyed BabblerChrysomma sinenseChestnut-capped Babbler (H)Stachyris ruficepsBlack-chinned BabblerE Turdoides caudatusStriated BabblerE Turdoides caudatusStriated BabblerPometorinus erythrogenysRed-billed LeiothrixLeiothrix luteaWhite-bellied ErpornisYuhina zantholeucaWhite-bellied ScioclaCisticola exilisStriated BabblerPrometorinus erythrogenysRed-breased LaughingthrushGarrulax stristusRufous-capped Babbler (H)Stachyris ruficepsBlack-chinned BabblerE Turdoides caudatusStriated Babbler<	Variable Wheatear Oenanthe picata ✓ Pied Bushchat Saxicola caprata ✓ Eastern Stonechat Saxicola maura ✓ White-tailed Stonechat Saxicola leucura ✓ Grey Bushchat Saxicola superciliaris ✓ Little Pied Flycatcher Ficedula superciliaris ✓ Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher Ficedula abicilla ✓ Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher Ficedula parva ✓ Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher Ficedula strophiata ✓ Slaty-blue Flycatcher Ficedula strophiata ✓ Straked Laughingthrush Trochalopteron lineatum Red-headed Laughingthrush Garrulax rthrocephalus Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush Garrulax striatus ✓ ✓ White-trosted Laughingthrush Garrulax albogularis ✓ White-crested Laughingthrush Garrulax albogularis ✓ Verditer Recepted Babbler (H) Stachyris ruficeps ✓ Black-chinned Babbler E vanoderma pyrrhops ✓ Common Babbler Turdoides caudatus ✓ Striated Babbler E vurdoides raicolmi ✓

336.	Chestnut-crowned Bush-warbler		Cettia major		v
337.	Grey-sided Bush-warbler		Cettia brunnifrons		 ✓
338.			Acrocephalus melanopogon	 ✓ 	
339.	Indian Reed-warbler		Acrocephalus brunnescens	 ✓ 	 ✓
340.	Blyth's Reed Warbler		Acrocephalus dumetorum	 ✓ 	
341.			Iduna rama	 ✓ 	
342.	,		Orthotomus sutorius	 ✓ 	~
343.			Tesia cyaniventer		Н
	Chestnut-headed Tesia		Tesia castaneocoronata		~
	Black-faced Warbler		Abroscopus schisticeps		~
346.	Grey-hooded Warbler		Seicercus xanthoschistus		 ✓
	Whistler's Warbler		Seicercus whistleri		 ✓
348.	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher		Culicicapa ceylonensis	 ✓ 	~
	Siberian Chiffchaff		Phylloscopus collybita tristis	 ✓ 	~
350.	Dusky Warbler		Phylloscopus fuscatus		~
	Sulphur-bellied Warbler		Phylloscopus griseolus		 ✓
352.			Phylloscopus trochiloides	 ✓ 	 ✓
	Blyth's Leaf-warbler		Phylloscopus reguloides		v
	Hume's Warbler		Phylloscopus humei	 ✓ 	v
	Brooks's Leaf-warbler	е	Phylloscopus subviridis	 ✓ 	
	Orange-barred Leaf-warbler	-	Phylloscopus pulcher		 ✓
	Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler		Phylloscopus chloronotus		 ✓
	Yellow-browed Warbler		Phylloscopus inornatus	 ✓ 	
	Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler		Phylloscopus maculipennis		 ✓
	Eastern Orphean Warbler		Sylvia crassirostris	 ✓ 	
	Lesser Whitethroat		Sylvia curruca halimodendri	 ✓ 	 ✓
	Spot-winged Coal Tit		Periparus melanolophus		 ✓
	Cinereous Tit		Parus cinereus	 ✓ 	 ✓
	Green-backed Tit		Parus monticolus		 ✓
	Red-headed (Black-throated) Tit		Aegithalos concinnus		 ✓
	Black-lored Yellow Tit	е	Parus xanthogenys		~
	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	-	Certhia himalayana		 ✓
	Wallcreeper		Tichodroma muraria		 ✓
	Yellow-browed Tit		Sylviparus modestus		~
	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch		Sitta frontalis		~
	White-tailed Nuthatch		Sitta himalayensis		~
	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch		Sitta cinnamoventris		v
	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker		Dicaeum ignipectus		v
	Oriental White-eye		Zosterops palpebrosus	 ✓ 	v
	Purple Sunbird		Cinnyris asiaticus	 ✓ 	v
	Crimson Sunbird		Aethopyga siparaja		v
	Fire-tailed Sunbird		Aethopyga ignicauda		v
	Black-breasted Sunbird		Aethopyga saturata		 ✓
	Green-tailed Sunbird		Aethopyga nipalensis		 ✓
	Altai Accentor		Prunella himalayana		v
	Rufous-breasted Accentor		Prunella strophiata		 ✓
	Crested Bunting		Melophus lathami	 ✓ 	
	White-capped Bunting		Emberiza stewarti	 ✓ 	
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385. Striolated Bunting		Emberiza striolata	 ✓ 	
386. Rock Bunting		Emberiza cia		v
387. Himalayan Greenfinch		Carduelis spinoides		v
388. Common Rosefinch		Carpodacus erythrinus		~
389. Pink-browed Rosefinch		Carpodacus rodochroa		v
390. Dark-breasted Rosefinch		Carpodacus nipalensis		v
391. Red Avadavat		Amandava amandava		v
392. Indian Silverbill		Euodice malabarica	~	
393. House Sparrow		Passer domesticus indicus	~	v
394. Sind Sparrow	е	Passer pyrrhonotus	~	
395. Russet Sparrow		Passer rutilans		~
396. Yellow-throated Sparrow		Petronia xanthocollis	~	
397. Indian Golden Oriole		Oriolus kundoo	~	
398. Maroon Oriole		Oriolus traillii		v
399. Black-hooded Oriole		Oriolus xanthornus		v
400. Black Drongo		Dicrurus macrocercus	~	 ✓
401. Ashy Drongo		Dicrurus leucophaeus	~	~
402. Bronzed Drongo		Dicrurus aeneus		v
403. White-bellied Drongo	е	Dicrurus caerulescens	~	
404. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo		Dicrurus remifer		v
405. Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo		Dicrurus hottentottus		v
406. Common Starling		Sturnus vulgaris	~	
407. Brahminy Starling	е	Temenuchus pagodarum	~	
408. Chestnut-tailed Starling		Sturnia malabarica		v
409. Asian Pied Starling		Gracupica contra	~	v
410. Bank Myna	е	Acridotheres ginginianus	~	~
411. Common Myna		Acridotheres tristis	~	v
412. Jungle Myna		Acridotheres fuscus		v
413. House Crow		Corvus splendensponensis	~	v
414. Indian Jungle Crow		Corvus culminatus	~	v
415. Large-billed Crow		Corvus japonensis		v
416. Eurasian Jay		Garrulus glandarius		v
417. Black-headed Jay		Garrulus lanceolatus		v
418. Red-billed Blue Magpie		Urocissa erythrorhyncha		 ✓
419. Grey Treepie		Dendrocitta formosae		v
420. Rufous Treepie		Dendrocitta vagabunda	~	~

	OTHER ANIMALS	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta
2.	Common Grey Langur	Semnopithecus schistaceus
3.	Sambar	Cervis unicolor
4.	Nilgai	Boselaphus tragocamelus
5.	Hog Deer	Hyelaphus porcinus
6.	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	Muntiacus muntjai
7.	Spotted Deer	Rusa alfredi
8.	Himalayan Ghoral	Naemorhedus goral
9.	Wild Boar	Sus scrofa
10	Asian Elephant	Elephas maximus
11.	Sloth Bear	Melursus ursinus
12.	Golden Jackal	Canis aureus
13.	Bengal Tiger	Panthera tigris
14.	Jungle Cat	Felis chaus
15.	Himalayan Palm Civet	Paguma larvata
16.	Common Palm Civet	Paradoxurus hermaphroditus
17.	Yellow-throated Marten	Martes flavigula
18.	Grey Mongoose	Herpestes edwardsii
19.	Ruddy Mongoose	Herpestes smithii
20.	Black-naped Hare	Lepus nigricollis
21.	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	Funambulus pennantii
22.	Indian Flying Fox	Pteropus gigantteus
23.	Gharial	Gavialis gangeticus
24.	Marsh Mugger	Crocodylus palostris
25.	Common Garden Lizard	Calotes versicolor
26.	Northern House Gecko	Heidacylus flaviviridis
27.	Common Indian (Bengal) Monitor	Varanus bengalensis
28.	Brahminy Skink	Mabuya carinata
29.	Common Indian Monitor	Varanus bengelensis
30.	Soft-shelled Turtle	Apalone ferox
31.	Rat Snake	Elaphe sp.



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