



# **SOUTH INDIA & ANDAMANS TOUR REPORT**

**20<sup>th</sup> November – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

## **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

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

- Andaman Serpent-eagle
- Yellow-legged Buttonquail
- Grey Junglefowl
- Andaman Crake
- Nilgiri Woodpigeon
- Andaman Woodpigeon
- Andaman Cuckoo-dove
- Andaman Green-pigeon
- Malabar Parakeet
- Violet Cuckoo
- Andaman Hawk-owl
- Hume's Hawk-owl
- Andaman Barn Owl
- Mottled Wood-owl
- Walden's Scops-owl
- Ceylon Frogmouth
- Andaman Nightjar
- White-cheeked Barbet
- Indian Pitta
- Andaman Woodpecker
- Nilgiri Pipit
- White-bellied Minivet
- Yellow-throated Bulbul
- Blue-capped Rock-thrush
- White-bellied Blue Robin
- Nilgiri Blue Robin
- Andaman Shama
- Indian Rufous Babbler
- Black-and-orange Flycatcher
- Black-chinned Laughingthrush
- Kerala Laughingthrush
- Tytler's Leaf-warbler
- Andaman White-headed Starling
- White-bellied Treepie
- Wild Dog
- Tiger

## **SUMMARY:**

Our adventure began by exploring the many delights on the Andamans, lying some 700 kilometres to the east of the Indian peninsula, across the Bay of Bengal. This fascinating archipelago is made up of 200 or so small islands with a mountainous central spine covered in pristine tropical rainforest, surrounded by idyllic palm-fringed sandy beaches and is a perfect setting to find some great birds! A current total of 20 endemics reside here (taxonomy depending) and this is a place that very few western birders have ventured – and we saw them all, including Andaman Cuckoo-dove which is often the hardest of the lot to find. Our owl list got off to a flyer with Andaman Barn Owl and Walden Scops-owls being the highlights and by the end of the tour we had seen 12 species of owl! Back on the



mainland, Southern India was a land of huge wildernesses, with the forested hills and mountains of the Western Ghats forming a treasure house of endemic species. An excellent network of national parks protects large tracts of pristine forest and grassland where around 36 endemic birds reside, as well as many more regional endemics. We visited all of the top sites starting at the fantastic Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, before crossing the Nilgiri Mountains to such classic birding destinations as Topslip, Ooty, Nagarhole and many smaller sites in between. They all played their part in providing a veritable feast of stunning birds, numerous endemics and mainly great views of everything. We were all impressed with the never-ending forested hills, mountains and obliging birds and added some amazing mammal sightings including a pack of Wild Dogs hunting Gaur and a magnificent Tiger walking in front of our jeep. This is why we love India!

## TOUR DIARY

### **Days 1 – 2 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Following an overnight flight from London via Dubai we landed in Chennai and were picked up in a small coach and made our way to the interestingly named Hotel Velocity, arriving late in the morning. After a good lunch and a quick look at our first **Yellow-billed Babblers**, and both **Purple-rumped** and **Loten's Sunbirds** in the garden, we decided to head out and try and find somewhere to go birding for a few hours and after a tip-off about Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary it seemed like a good idea to go there! Not knowing anything about the place, except that it was apparently a forest, off we went. Of course, after a 90 minute drive we discovered that it was a wetland reserve with pride of place going to a huge colony of **Spot-billed Pelicans** and we estimated around 300 pairs were present. Amongst this colony were hundreds of **Asian Openbills** and **Black-headed Ibis**, a few **Eurasian Spoonbills** and **Glossy Ibis**, and numerous **Little Cormorants** and **Indian Shags** as well. We could view the area from a concrete tower hide and it was very pleasant to be able to look down on all these birds and just watch all the action. Overhead, lots of **Asian Palm Swifts** were present, as well as flotillas of openbills and pelicans continually streaming over. An immature **Montagu's Harrier** drifted past a few times, whilst a large flock of **Green Bee-eaters** and a few **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** were seen in the distance. A pair of **Indian Spot-billed Ducks** showed well amongst the islands of vegetation below us, but a flock of **Northern Pintails** and **Lesser Whistling-ducks** were a bit more distant. Walking along the bund back towards the coach produced 4 **Yellow-wattled Lapwings** amongst a load of **Wood Sandpipers** in some recently flooded rice paddies, whilst an **Indian Golden Oriole** showed nicely and at least three **Coppersmith Barbets** posed nicely in a leafless tree. So not a bad little session, although rather unexpected, and we headed back into the city eventually arriving at the hotel a little later than expected due to the crazy traffic!

### **Day 3 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

After a short transfer to the airport we took off pretty much on time on the flight to Port Blair in the Andamans, passing over numerous forested islands on the way. Upon arrival we headed straight to our accommodation, at the rather wonderfully named Megapode Nest Resort where we found all of the rooms to contain just the one double bed. A bit of a problem if you have two guys sharing! After a bit of creative logistics it all worked out in the end though! So after a nice lunch we set off at 2.30pm to a nearby forest where we walked along the road and

notched up our first endemics in the shape of **Andaman Drongo** and **Andaman Green-pigeon**, to add to the **Andaman Coucal** a few of the group saw in the gardens of the lodge. Flocks of **Alexandrine** and **Red-breasted Parakeets** were flying over the canopy, and we also had several pale-headed **Brown Shrikes** of the *Lucionensis* race and a **Dollarbird**. But the birding was rather slow, that was until the sun set and we managed to see an **Andaman Nightjar** flying overhead. Then we called in a **Hume's Hawk-owl** which didn't stay very long, totally opposite to the **Andaman Hawk-owls** we had perched on telegraph wires at a couple of places. We finished with a **Walden's Scops-owl** (one of these Rasmussen splits from **Oriental Scops-owl**) accidentally picked up in the spotlight when searching for another hawk-owl. What luck! So a great end to our first day on the Andaman Islands indeed.



Hume's Hawk-owl

## Day 4 23<sup>rd</sup> November

The day got off to a flyer this morning with our first **Andaman White-headed Starlings** posing on a dead snag high up in the canopy, but it was pretty good views through the scope. Birds then kept coming at a steady pace throughout the morning and we continued with the first of many **Black-naped Orioles** seen today, followed by more **Andaman Drongos**, **Andaman Bulbul**, **Spot-breasted Woodpecker**, and our first and very obliging **Andaman Shama**. A pair of huge **Andaman Woodpeckers** were rather obliging and came in to the call and perched nicely in a large tree right above us, whilst the first of three **Andaman Serpent-eagles** posed very obligingly. At an open area with lots of dead trees an **Andaman Flowerpecker** was working its way around a clump of Mistletoe, 3 **Violet Cuckoos** were chasing each other, and as we watched them noticed a **Black Baza** perched quietly nearby.



Andaman Shama

Then an **Andaman Cuckooshrike** was spotted and we had really nice looks at several of these endemics. Further on and a pair of **Andaman Treepies** joined a mixed flock and were teed up nicely in the scope. Plenty of other common birds were seen this morning including **White-bellied Swiftlet**, **Vernal Hanging-parrot**, **Long-tailed Parakeet**, **Collared** and **White-throated Kingfishers**, **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **Asian Fairy Bluebirds**, **Black-naped Monarch**, both **Scarlet** and **Small Minivets**, and a not-so-common and all-too-brief **Forest Wagtail**. So we drove a short distance further along the road and parked up right beside a fruiting tree which held several **Green Imperial-**



**pigeons** and **Andaman Green-pigeons**. We then spent the rest of the morning searching for **Andaman Crake**, and although we didn't see one, we heard one calling from inside the forest at some distance away. Whilst searching here a few of us had an **Andaman Coucal** skulking on the forest floor. So after lunch at the lodge we returned to the same forest in the afternoon and again found the birding to be quiet at this time of day, but we did spectacularly nail



Great scenery on the Andamans

**Andaman Woodpigeon** with great views of a pair alongside the forest road. But apart from that all we really had were **Red-breasted** and **Long-tailed Parakeets** perched side-by-side, **Asian Brown Flycatcher** and not a lot else.

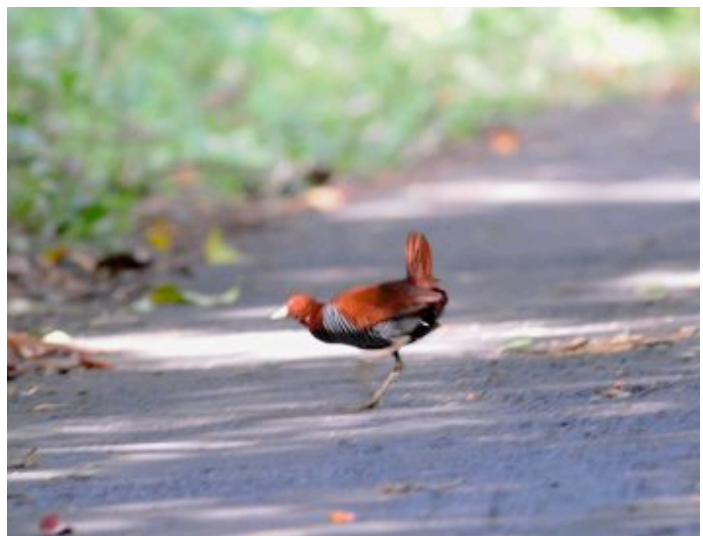
We tried the nightjar again at dusk, but this time only heard it, although had prolonged perched views of **Hume's Hawk-owl** – so leaving us just 5 endemics to get. And when a pair of **Andaman Scops-owls** called from close by we thought we'd knock off one more endemic, but try as we might we just couldn't find them in the dense foliage.

## Day 5 24<sup>th</sup> November

A 4.30am departure saw us get onto a local ferry which took us across the bay and as we reached the other side the heavens opened and it rained for quite a while as we drove to a great patch of forest. Along the way we passed some marshes where a couple of **Pacific Golden Plovers** were present. By the time we reached the forest the rain had eased to a light drizzle and off we went with brollies in hand along the road in search of **Andaman Crake**.

Over the course of the next couple of hours we made several attempts at luring one in, but all to no avail. It was a little disheartening to say the least as the little trails we followed inside the forest were becoming muddier and muddier. Eventually, we did get a decent view after a very brief showing earlier in the morning. This time it walked across an open area before crossing the path below us and everyone heaved a huge sigh of relief. And that was it, apart from a

perched **Indian Cuckoo** that Jeff found and a few other previously seen species – a pretty slow morning. So we drove on to some pools and scanned the exposed mud for waders, with both **Greater** and **Lesser Sandplovers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Common Redshank** and more **Pacific Goldies** present, along with several **Striated Herons**. As we scanned the pools on the other side of the road, where **Stork-billed Kingfisher** was seen, 6 **Andaman Teals** flew in and landed right in front of us. Wow! With that excitement over we spent a few minutes getting to grips with an **Oriental Reed-warbler** before heading off to the mangroves. Here we called in a **Mangrove**



Andaman Crake

**Whistler** almost immediately and also had views of **Dusky** and **Thick-billed Warblers** before the rain came in again and we headed back to the hotel for lunch. Afterwards we returned to the same forest as yesterday and walked along the road, seeing virtually nothing. But once the sun set we called in an **Andaman Scops-owl** within a few minutes which was totally amazing, considering yesterday's difficulties. We followed this up with a brief flyby of an **Andaman Barn Owl** before calling it a night.

## Day 6 25<sup>th</sup> November

A great days birding began at the base of Mount Harriet with an **Andaman Serpent-eagle** perched in a dead tree, and with **Forest Wagtail** and a few other species also present. We began walking from here and soon notched up plenty of other endemics with imaginative names such as **Andaman Coucal**, **Andaman Cuckooshrike**, **Andaman Shama**, **Andaman Drongo**, **Andaman Treepie**, **Andaman White-headed Starling**, **Andaman Flowerpecker**, **Andaman Woodpecker**, **Andaman Bulbul** etc. Well you get the picture! It was a very 'birdy' walk this morning and the forest was being kind to us, and we even picked up a wintering **Two-barred Warbler** high up in the canopy giving its distinctive call and a perched **Besra**. However, the undoubted highlight happened just before 10.30am when we finally caught up with our last endemic, **Andaman Cuckoo-dove**, a bird we'd more or less given up on.



Beautiful forest on Mount Harriet



Andaman Barn Owl

Vikram, our excellent guide, picked this little beauty up perched in a big tree and as soon as everyone got onto it - it flew off. Success! We'd cleaned up on all of the endemics! So we continued walking uphill until we reached the restaurant area at the top and celebrated with some moderately cold soft drinks and waited in the shade of a large tree for lunch to be served. Afterwards we drove back down to the marshes and had an enjoyable afternoon notching up some padders for the list, beginning with a co-operative **Slaty-breasted Rail**. At our next spot we spent a while trying to tease out a **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** (**Rusty-rumped Warbler**) and also **Black-browed Reed-warbler** and **Oriental Reed Warbler** – species you just don't see on the mainland. A **Chestnut Bittern** flew up out of the marsh and our only **Edible-nest Swiftlets** of the trip flew over. Leaving here we then checked out some wet paddyfields and had more luck with two **Long-toed Stints** spotted amongst a flock of **Lesser** and a single **Greater Sandplover**, **Little Ringed Plovers**, **Pacific Golden Plovers**, **Spotted** and **Common Redshank**, **Common Greenshank** and some **Wood Sandpipers**. So a really good day and we finished off with **Andaman Barn-owl** perched in a Palm tree to end the day's proceedings.



## Day 7 26<sup>th</sup> November

Today was mainly a travelling day but we managed to fit in a quick visit to the marshes before breakfast this morning. Didn't actually see a great deal but still added **Eurasian Curlew**, **Common Snipe** and more importantly, a **Watercock** as well. We then spent the rest of the day flying to Cochin via Chennai and arriving at the wonderfully named Soma Birds Lagoon Resort around 9pm.

## Day 8 27<sup>th</sup> November

Well it was certainly worth all of the effort involved to get here as our first morning session on the Indian peninsula resulted in a kaleidoscope of superb birds, endemics of all denomination and specialities galore combined with good views of most things. A short drive from the lodge and a ten minute walk through the forest brought us to an open area within Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary and around a large tree we had **Malabar Parakeet**, **Ashy Drongo**, **Cinereous Tit** and **Lesser Hill-Myna**. Moving up the rocky slope led us to a wonderful vista across the canopy of the surrounding forest where the all of the magic took place and we literally didn't



White-bellied Treepie



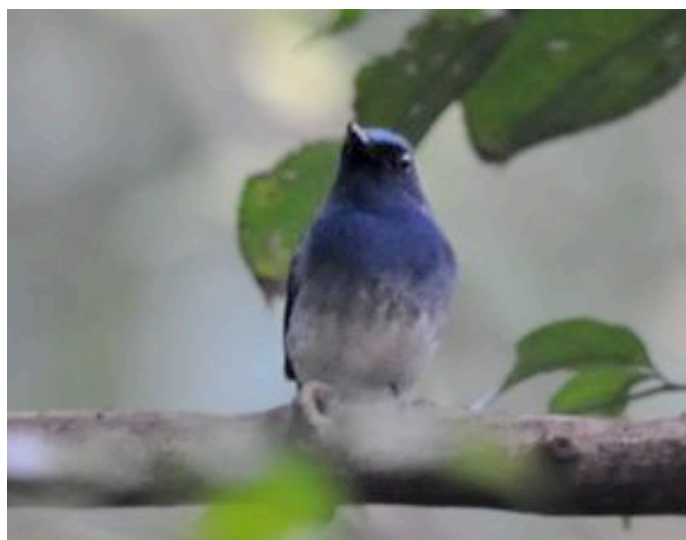
Indian Pitta

know where to turn next as new birds kept appearing at a fast and furious pace. A **Blue-bearded Bee-eater** was one of the stars of the morning and looked wonderful through the scope although a bit too distant for photos, but closer at hand **Small (Crimson-backed) Sunbird**, **Flame-throated Bulbul**, **Greenish Warbler** and **Blyth's Reed-warbler** were much appreciated. A **Common Hawk-cuckoo** was called in nicely, then a **Black Baza** was scoped at the top of a tree, both **Indian** and **Black-hooded Orioles** showed well and **Malabar White-headed Starlings** put in constant appearances. Other goodies included **Dollarbird**, **Plum-headed Parakeet**, both **Verditer** and **Tickell's Blue Flycatchers**, **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, **Black-headed Cuckooshrike** and **Orange Minivet**. A trio of woodpeckers also made their way onto our lists with **Black-rumped Flameback**, the spectacular **White-bellied Woodpecker**, and **Malabar Flameback**. Overhead a flock of **Indian Swiftlets** were joined by a cruising **Indian White-rumped Spinetail** and several stunning **Brown-backed Needletails**. More endemics were also seen on the treetops and several **Malabar Grey Hornbills** were nice, **Grey-fronted Green-pigeons** obliged, along with **White-cheeked** and **Malabar Barbets** as well. Dragging ourselves away from all of the action and back down into the forest was hard but ample compensation came in the shape of a day roosting **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** just a metre away, **Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo**, a closer **Malabar Grey Hornbill**, and along a quiet forest track a few of the group managed to get on a calling **Grey-headed Bulbul**. There was also a trio of **Oriental Honey-buzzards** soaring overhead, **Asian**

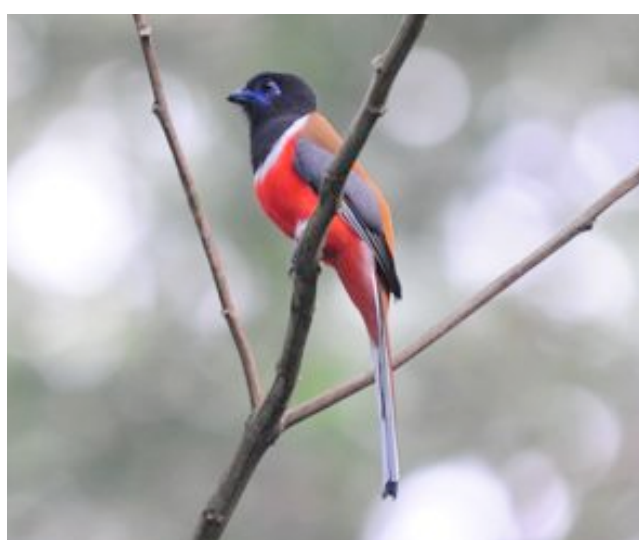
**Paradise-flycatcher**, both **Asian Brown** and **Brown-breasted Flycatchers** and **Jungle Owlet**, but an extremely obliging **Indian Pitta** really stole the show. It came straight into the tape and Chris spotted it perched inside the bushes on a tree stump. And there it stayed for ages, even coming out into the open for a minute and allowed us to get some great photos. So what a morning and we then returned to the lodge for lunch and a rest over the hottest time of the day before setting out in the mid-afternoon. And we continued our success with cracking views of several **White-bellied Treepies** – a much-wanted endemic as the saying goes! Also had a pair of very confiding **Malabar Trogons** that came into the tape, as well as **Crested Serpent-eagle**, **Bronzed Drongo** and **Crested Treeswift**. We returned to the lodge in the dark for a 7pm dinner and then set out again for some night birding. And pretty successful it was too, with an **Indian Scops-owl** called in first, followed by a pair of **Jerdon's Nightjars** and ending up with a **Brown Hawk-owl** teed up in the scope to end proceedings.

## Day 9 28<sup>th</sup> November

After yesterday's success, today was always going to be something of an anti-climax and so it proved, but during our morning in another section of forest we still pulled in some new birds, starting with an **Orange-headed Thrush** skulking in the shadows. One of our favourites was an inquisitive **Heart-spotted Woodpecker** that circled us a few times before alighting in a treetop below our vantage point on an escarpment. With the early morning mist slowly



White-bellied Blue Flycatcher



Malabar Trogon

receding and visibility improving we also enjoyed a close **Green Warbler**, both **Thick-billed** and **Nilgiri Flowerpeckers** and **Purple Sunbird**. Plenty of other birds were watched flying by, although we had much better views of them yesterday so we walked down to another rocky area to scan the forest edge. Here we had a **Yellow-browed Bulbul**, **Little Spiderhunter**, **Loten's Sunbird**, **Malabar Starling** and an **Indian Pygmy Woodpecker**.

Leaving here we walked back to the bus and had our picnic breakfast before heading down into the Bamboo forest for our first crack of the day at **Wynaad Laughingthrush**. With the news that Topslip NP is closed and therefore our best chance at this species already blown it was crucial we get this species here. However, we tried all morning and again in the afternoon to no avail, but spent most of the time fighting off the battalions of leeches that were drawn to our unprotected feet. Anyway, we had **Indian Scimitar-babbler** and **Dark-fronted Babbler**, but they were scant consolation. In the afternoon we tried again without any joy and

again tried some owling but were met by a wall of silence so called it quits and returned to the lodge for dinner.

## Day 10 29<sup>th</sup> November

So a last morning at Thattekkad and we headed to the viewing rock from our first morning here and saw many of the same species, although did add a confiding **Blue-throated Flycatcher** to our list. We spent a bit too long trying to call in a **Grey-headed Bulbul** early on as well and during this time Roy saw a **Grey Junglefowl** walking across the path behind us. With time running out we still needed **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher** so tried a few paces in this forest without a response. So we drove further on for several kilometres and tried the path we had walked yesterday. Sure enough our luck had changed, and thanks to David's vigilance had a cracking male perched close by. Phew! So with that done we drove back to the lodge much later than I'd hoped for but at least got to have a nice breakfast and some hot coffee for a change. Leaving here we then headed up into the Cardamom Hills and the town of Munnar, situated at around 1600m. The drive up was really spectacular with deep sided valleys and huge hills all around. After driving for a couple of hours we stopped at a small tea house and after admiring the splendid view got a scope on a **Nilgiri Flowerpecker** which gave much better views than last time. So continuing higher up the bumpy road we eventually stopped at a place where loads of trash had been thrown just below the road and spent a bit of time here. As soon as we arrived an **Indian Grey Mongoose** was found, and then a **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** flew in and was quickly followed by the endemic **Nilgiri Flycatcher** that posed nicely right in front of us. Then a **Greenish Warbler** showed very well,



Nilgiri Woodpigeon



Malabar Whistling-thrush

a few **Oriental White-eyes** passed by, and a **Malabar Pit Viper** was spotted amongst the bushes below us. When a pair of **Nilgiri Woodpigeons** flew in we just couldn't believe it and to get a few photos was remarkable as from my previous experience from tours in Goa, they are pretty shy. We also picked up our first **Long-tailed Shrikes** and **Pied Bushchats** further up, and a random stop produced a **Tytler's Leaf-warbler** right by the minibus and a brief view of a **Kerala (Grey-breasted) Laughingthrush** but only Jeff and I managed to get on it. Our next port of call was just a bit further on and we spent a while scrutinising some bushes along a stream and our patience was rewarded with a pair of cracking **White-bellied Blue Robins**, another **Nilgiri Flycatcher**, **Common Rosefinch** and eventually a very sexy **Black-and-orange Flycatcher** just before the light went.



## Day 11 30<sup>th</sup> November

The day got off to a flyer with a pair of really confiding **Indian Scimitar-babblers** calling back to my ipod before breakfast! After our best breakfast to-date and extremely close views of a perched **Crested Goshawk**, **Malabar Whistling-thrush** and **Grey Junglefowl** we headed up to Eravikulam National Park via use of the park's shuttle bus service which ferried us and thousands of local Indian tourists as well during the course of the morning. But it didn't seem to put the birds off and after admiring the fantastic scenery and the endangered **Nilgiri Tahr**, had a close encounter with a pair of **Kerala (Grey-breasted) Laughingthrushes** that perched up nicely for us. We walked uphill for about a kilometre and spent some time in a shady, damp area where a couple of **Black-and-orange Flycatchers** showed closer than yesterday's bird. A **White-bellied Blue Robin** was also seen and **Nilgiri Flycatcher** was also



Kerala Laughingthrush



Nilgiri Pipit

quite obvious. Other birds up here included **Black Eagle**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Dusky Crag-martin**, **Hill Swallow**, **Plain Prinia**, **Tickell's Leaf-warbler** and **Blue Rock-thrush**. It was quite astonishing when Sudeesh asked the shuttle bus driver to stop for a minute as he had spotted an **Indian Jungle Nightjar** perched on a branch above the road, much to the amusement of the locals on board. But a great spot anyway. Returning to the hotel for a quick lunch we then headed up to The Gap Road and spent a while searching for **Painted Bush-quail** at the rubbish dump area and succeeding in finding a couple of **Nilgiri Pipits** before continuing on. At a certain spot we tried for **Yellow-throated Bulbul** and nailed it within 2 minutes! What a result! So we returned along the same route, stopping to spotlight a pair of **Brown Fish-owls** and finally made it back to the lodge for 7.30pm.

## Day 12 1<sup>st</sup> December

So this was the morning of our attempt for **Broad-tailed Grassbird**, a hike up the mountain to the rocky, grass covered steep slopes just visible from our hotel. The day dawned bright and clear and the hardy few made it without too much bother but as I suspected the grassbirds weren't tape responsive, probably due to too many birders/groups visiting the same site. We did get brief tail-end views and Jeff had a conclusive view of another bird but it was far from satisfactory, and all we really had to show for our efforts up here were a couple of **Tickell's Leaf-warblers**, **Ashy** and **Plain Prinias** and a pair of **Black-throated Munias**. The walk down did give us nice looks at **Indian Blue Robin** and we flushed a small quail from beside the path that called agitatedly for ages in the undergrowth that must have been a **Painted Bush-quail**, but failed to show. We also had **Nilgiri Woodpigeon** and **Nilgiri Flowerpecker**

to add interest this morning before returning to the hotel and packing up for the drive to our next hotel at the base of the mountains that leads to Topslip – which as I said earlier is closed. Great! The drive took upwards of 4 hours during which we stopped for our packed lunch, and then again when a small herd of **Indian Elephants** were causing a parking melee and again later for coffee and ice-cream for some. Better them than me – well for the latter anyway. Good luck with that then! But we passed through varied scenery of huge rolling, forested hills before reaching the plains and passed through Chinnar National Park and then Animalai Tiger Reserve where **Hanuman Langurs** and **Bonnet Macaques** preyed on innocent parked cars. As we approached our nice digs a covey of **Grey Francolins** ran across a small field and after checking in we heard and had brief silhouetted flight views of a **Mottled Wood-owl** and also heard an **Indian Scops-owl**.

## Day 13 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Just before sunrise a few of us were lucky enough to get the **Mottled Wood-owl** in the scope just as it headed off to roost – what a bird! Then we set off on a little walk around the local vicinity seeing a few new birds starting with **Common Woodshrike**, followed by **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Red-throated Flycatcher**, **Siberian Chiffchaff** and **White-browed Bulbul**. Other birds seen included **Grey Francolin**, **Shikra**, **Asian Paradise-flycatcher**, **Common Iora** and others. After breakfast we set off on the long 5 hour journey to the hill



Black-chinned Laughingthrush



Nilgiri Blue-robin

station of Ooty, noting **Wire-tailed Swallow**, and both **Brahminy** and **Black Kites** along the way. As the road began winding its way up into the hills the temperature dropped quite quickly and a bumpy last stretch of road took us to a viewpoint teeming with people. But behind the stalls selling all manner of goods lots of rubbish and wasted food had been thrown and here numerous **Black-chinned Laughingthrushes** and **Indian Blackbirds** were present, feeding on the scraps. They even came up to the stalls on occasion to scrounge for more food. Amazing! It took a few minutes longer to get onto **Nilgiri Blue Robin**, but sure enough we did and enjoyed great views of this little skulker. And that was it and we hung around for a while enjoying repeated views of all these species before heading off to a great hotel and fabulous buffet dinner.

## Day 14 3<sup>rd</sup> December

We dropped into the Botanical Gardens after a late start and quickly picked up **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** and a superb male **Blue-capped Rock-thrush**, but the recently reported **Kashmir Flycatcher** failed to appear. So we checked out a few sites for bush-quail, one of



which was alongside a lake where several **Indian Spot-billed Ducks** were present, as well as another **Black-and-orange Flycatcher**. Then a short drive to an open, close-cropped grassland area gave us **Brahminy Kite** and more importantly at least 4 **Malabar Larks**. After a great lunch in a local restaurant we spent the remainder of the day on bush-quail duty but turned up a big, fat zero so retired early to our luxurious hotel and made the most of the facilities, as the rest of the week was going to be a full one!

## Day 15 4<sup>th</sup> December



Crested Hawk-eagle

After another leisurely breakfast we left a misty and drizzly Ooty and headed down into the foothills and our next base at the edge of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. Along the way we stopped to check out some **Hill Swallows**, much to Roy's delight and then continued lower, stopping to admire a couple of endemic **Nilgiri Langurs**. The going was slow along the winding road but eventually we passed into the reserve and started seeing a few new birds, with a cracking **Crested Hawk-eagle** and our first **Brahminy Starlings** and **Indian Black Robin** being the pick of the bunch. Having been slightly worried by the name of our next lodge, simply called Jungle Huts my imagination had been running riot and feared the worst – but upon arrival we were all

pleasantly surprised. A couple of neat blocks of rooms in some well-wooded sprawling grounds were very clean and comfortable, and we even had hot showers! A **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** greeted us and as our host tried to show us to our rooms we became distracted by a flock of **Orange Minivets** and a **Taiga Flycatcher**.

After lunch we drove a short distance and then walked along a lane and into a very open forest where we were shown a **White-naped Flameback** in its nest hole, and had some very good views of another one flying around and perched in a bare tree. The same spot also had **Coppersmith Barbet**, **Bay-backed Shrike**, a lovely **Indian Nuthatch** and a **Streak-throated Woodpecker**. Unfortunately the low mist covering the surrounding crags materialised into rain and we had to take shelter a couple of times in people's houses! So our attempt at **Jerdon's Bushlark** didn't end to our liking and we had to



Oriental Scops-owl

settle for a few **Malabar Larks** and **Yellow-throated Sparrow** instead. One of the local guides accompanying us took us to a day roosting **Savannah Nightjar** and we also had nice views of an adult **Bonelli's Eagle** flying over and perched in a big tree, as well as a **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**. By 5.30pm we had had enough, drenched to the bone and thankful of Francis (our driver) suddenly appearing in his minibus. Before dinner I spotlighted a **Brown**



**Fish-owl** in the garden and eventually an **Oriental Scops-owl** as well – our 12<sup>th</sup> species of owl on the tour so far.....

## Day 16 5<sup>th</sup> December

We drove a short distance to a nice open forest and walked along a dirt track and very quickly found a **Jerdon's Bushlark** which we scoped on top of a small tree. It was nice views after yesterday's events when rain stopped play. Then we continued our walk further along the track and picked up lots of **Brahminy Starlings** and eventually a few **Rosy Starlings** and **Grey-headed Starlings** as well. Overhead both **Indian** and **White-rumped Vultures** were



Red-headed Vulture

soaring around and towards the end of our walk we also saw a very low flying **Red-headed Vulture** as well. Continuing the raptor theme, a **Shaheen** flew over – although only a race of **Peregrine** it was still nice to see. Flocks of **Yellow-footed Green-pigeons** were perched up nicely in the trees and Chris picked up a **Brown-headed Barbet**. As we were just about finished with our walk a wonderful **White-bellied Minivet** was spotted and

everyone saw it very well, admittedly after a bit of a chase We

also came across a lone **Gaur** crashing through the scrub, had a brief look at a **Grey-headed Bulbul** and **White-rumped Shama**, saw a **Yellow-eyed Babbler** very well, several **Common Rosefinches** and had a reasonably close view of a **Sykes's Warbler**. Leaving Jungle Huts behind we set off on the drive north to Nagarhole, which was long and tedious but enlivened, inevitably, by some good new birds for the list such as **Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark** and **Indian Black Ibis**.

Eventually after a four and a half hour drive we arrived at the wonderful Kabini River Lodge, and by now it was almost 2.45pm so went straight for lunch and then right onto the boat for our 'safari' along the huge reservoir. This turned out to be pretty good with hundreds of **River Terns** present, along with a few **Whiskered Terns**. Some small islands held lots of **Pygmy** and **Indian Cormorants**, **Oriental Darters**, with a few **Great Cormorants** as well. **Black-headed Ibis**, **Asian Openbill**, **Eurasian Spoonbills**, a few **Painted Storks**, **Purple** and **Grey Herons**, and **Black-crowned Night-herons** all added to the spectacle. Flocks of **Pintail** and **Spot-billed Ducks** also contained smaller numbers of **Common Teal** and **Garganey**



Asian Elephants

which took flight as we sailed by. Raptors included several **Brahminy Kites**, an **Osprey** and best of all, a superb **Grey-headed Fish-eagle** which was perched prominently on one of the numerous dead trees protruding from the water. On the grassy banks herds of **Spotted Deer** also included some **Sambar**, along with a few **Wild Boar**, however the **Asian Elephants** stole the show. Several groups were seen digging up the grass for food, and one small herd included a young baby! As we watched this one particular group a **Malabar Pied Hornbill** flew over and gave really nice views against the clear blue sky. However, probably the best sighting this afternoon were the 3 **Small Pratincoles** perched on a bank beside the water and were a species I had not expected to see on this tour. We also saw **Stork-billed** and **Lesser Pied Kingfishers** as well. As the light began to fade huge flocks of **River Terns** congregated over the water, which made for a spectacular sight and a **Brown-headed Gull** was seen on one of the small islands. So by the end of the day we had seen 116 species, our biggest total by far and by now had seen 98 endemics of varying degree! Not bad going, and we'd break the 100 barrier tomorrow as well...

## Day 17 6<sup>th</sup> December

This morning's jeep safari took us inside the Tiger Reserve, but minus the tigers! There were plenty of **Spotted Deer** and the odd **Wild Boar**, but no predators on offer. In truth, we spent the 3 hours or so birding rather than searching for mammals, but with tape playing not allowed this severely dented our ambitions. However, there was plenty to look at, such as



Malabar Pied Hornbill

**Indian Cuckoo, Bronzed and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Malabar Starlings, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, and Indian Pygmy Woodpecker** amongst others.

Lunch back at the ranch and a little time off in the heat of the day led to the first of two sightings of **Jerdon's Leafbird** beside our cabins. And with a **Short-toed Eagle** and a dark-phase **Booted Eagle** soaring overhead just after we had been looking at a pair of **Mottled Wood-owls** in the gardens and you could say we were flying! More birds here than in the reserve huh?

The afternoon jeep safari started off promisingly as we prompted the driver and park naturalist that we were primarily interested in tracking **Tigers**, which I think confused them a little after our protestations earlier today about only looking for birds. Well, we got a few miles inside the park and checked out a waterhole where there had been a sighting yesterday – but nothing. Then as we were driving away, we heard the alarm call of a **Spotted Deer** up ahead. And then another call. So we drove rapidly along the bumpy track and killed the engine. Waiting for more calls. And waited. Then another call moments later, so we sped off through the trees and up ahead was another jeep with all its occupants staring intently into the forest. They'd just had a **Tiger** walk in front of them and it melted away into the forest. Oh no! We waited and our guide and tracker looked crestfallen. "Sorry" they said, as if it was all over. I was reluctant to go, so we waited a while in the forlorn hope of the beast returning. With a few

glum faces in our jeep everything came sharply into focus; the responsibility mainly and having done many tiger tours in the past, I knew there was always a chance. So I asked the driver if there was a track running parallel to the one we were on and preferably in the direction the **Tiger** had gone. There was and we were off. And a few minutes later we were driving slowly along another track. Up ahead there was some movement between the trees and there it was..... a young male **Tiger**. I just couldn't believe our luck. We slowly drove closer and stopped and even though I'd seen maybe 30-40 before, seeing this majestic creature still gets the pulse racing. We watched it walk on a bit further before sitting down in the middle of the track where it watched a herd of **Gaur** further along. It stayed for maybe ten minutes until another jeep came from the opposite direction, so it walked inside the forest and sat down again, this time partially concealed. Wow, what a sighting! To say we were buzzing afterwards is an understatement. Can't really remember seeing anything else after that and we had a few beers to celebrate later....



This beautiful Tiger was a real treat at Nagarhole

## Day 18 7<sup>th</sup> December

So how could we top yesterday then.....? Well on entering the safari vehicle the naturalist-guy asked kind of smugly what we'd like to go for today, having been with us yesterday afternoon for the **Tiger**. So naturally we said **Wild Dog** or **Leopard** which really wiped the smile off his face I can tell you! So we drove out to the open areas near the river and had a look, and there were a few birds around but I suspected it was going to be a bit dull this morning. Well how wrong can you be? As I scanned the far side of the grassland I picked up a couple of **Dholes (Wild Dogs)** and rather frantically said "dogs, dogs, dogs...!" Not too cool really. But then what transpired couldn't have been more amazing as there were 7 **Wild Dogs** and they had tried to reach a calf **Gaur** that was hiding behind a group of adults just inside the forest. Then a huge bull **Gaur** came charging forward and tried to scare the pack away but only succeeded in getting surrounded and it looked at one point as if it would get taken down. But three other adult **Gaurs** came charging out and saved the lone bull. So the dog pack quickly gave up and settled down for a play in the middle of the meadow where they remained for several minutes, a picture of serenity and calm. But just then a couple of domestic dogs from the nearby village ambled out into the grassland and the **Dholes** saw them immediately and gave chase. They were unbelievable fast and came hurtling past our jeep and soon caught up with one of the domestic dogs and the last we saw of them was when they disappeared into the forest. The



chase was enlivened by the almost Attenborough-esque commentary from Jeff although it couldn't be repeated here, but I think you were right and those domestic dogs definitely did poop themselves!

So with that excitement over we headed back to the lodge and after breakfast we left, checking out a nearby area where we had **Richard's Pipit**, **Malabar Lark**, **Indian Black Ibis**, and both **Woolly-necked** and **Painted Storks** before driving on to Mysore, a long and boring journey which eventually resulted in our arrival at a nice hotel in time for a late lunch. We did check out the nearby hills a little later but saw very little, so had to settle for a lovely evening meal to round the day off nicely.

## Day 19 8<sup>th</sup> December

Mainly a travelling day as we had to get to the airport earlier than anticipated due to a strike, but it did get us our last endemic when a few **Indian Grey Hornbills** were seen flying over the gardens at breakfast. Ant that is the end of our story as we all flew back to the UK without a hitch and could reflect on a wonderful tour.

Nick Bray.



Wild Dogs attacking Gaur at Nagarhole

# BIRDLIST FOR SOUTH INDIA & ANDAMANS 2012

	<b>SPECIES</b> SE – Subcontinent Endemic AE – Andaman Endemic E – Indian Endemic	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
2.	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
3.	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
4.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
5.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
6.	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
7.	Pacific Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
8.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
9.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
10.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
11.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
12.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
13.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
14.	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
15.	Chinese Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
16.	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
17.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
18.	Chestnut Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>
19.	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
20.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
21.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
22.	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
23.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
24.	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
25.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
26.	<b>Indian Black Ibis</b> <b>SE</b>	<b><i>Pseudibis papillosa</i></b>
27.	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
28.	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
29.	<b>Andaman Teal</b> <b>AE</b>	<b><i>Anas albogularis</i></b>
30.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
31.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
32.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
33.	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
34.	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
35.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
36.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
37.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
38.	Black Baza	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>
39.	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>
40.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
41.	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
42.	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>

43.	Oriental Honey-buzzard		<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>
44.	<b>Andaman Serpent-eagle</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Spilornis elgini</i></b>
45.	Crested Serpent-eagle		<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
46.	Short-toed Eagle		<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
47.	Rufous-bellied Eagle		<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>
48.	Booted Eagle		<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
49.	Bonelli's Eagle		<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
50.	<b>Crested Hawk-eagle</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i></b>
51.	Changeable Hawk-eagle		<i>Nisaetus limnaeetus</i>
52.	Black Eagle		<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
53.	Osprey		<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
54.	Grey-headed Fish-eagle		<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>
55.	White-bellied Sea-eagle		<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
56.	White-rumped Vulture		<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
57.	<b>Indian Vulture</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Gyps indicus</i></b>
58.	Egyptian Vulture		<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
59.	Red-headed Vulture		<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>
60.	Montagu's Harrier		<i>Circus pygargus</i>
61.	Common Kestrel		<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
62.	Peregrine Falcon		<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
63.	Shaheen Falcon		<i>Falco peregrinus peregrinator</i>
64.	Grey Francolin		<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
65.	Yellow-legged Buttonquail		<i>Turnix tanki</i>
66.	<b>Painted Bush-quail</b> (Heard only)	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Perdica erythrorhyncha</i></b>
67.	<b>Red Spurfowl</b> (heard only)		<b><i>Galloperdix spadicea</i></b>
68.	<b>Grey Junglefowl</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Gallus sonneratii</i></b>
69.	<b>Indian Peafowl</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Pavo cristatus</i></b>
70.	Slaty-breasted Rail		<i>Gallirallus striatus</i>
71.	<b>Andaman Crake</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Rallina canningi</i></b>
72.	White-breasted Waterhen		<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
73.	Watercock		<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>
74.	Purple Swamphen		<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
75.	Common Moorhen		<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
76.	Eurasian Coot		<i>Fulica atra</i>
77.	Black-winged Stilt		<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
78.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana		<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
79.	Small Pratincole		<i>Glareola lactea</i>
80.	Red-wattled Lapwing		<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
81.	<b>Yellow-wattled Lapwing</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Vanellus malabaricus</i></b>
82.	Pacific Golden Plover		<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
83.	Lesser Sand Plover		<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
84.	Greater Sand Plover		<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
85.	Little Ringed Plover		<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
86.	Eurasian Whimbrel		<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
87.	Eurasian Curlew		<i>Numenius arquata</i>
88.	Common Greenshank		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
89.	Green Sandpiper		<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
90.	Wood Sandpiper		<i>Tringa glareola</i>
91.	Common Sandpiper		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>



92.	Long-toed Stint		<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
93.	Spotted Redshank		<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
94.	Common Redshank		<i>Tringa totanus</i>
95.	Curlew Sandpiper (leader only)		<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
96.	Common Snipe		<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
97.	Brown-headed Gull		<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>
98.	River Tern		<i>Sterna aurantia</i>
99.	Whiskered Tern		<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
100.	Rock Dove		<i>Columba livia</i>
101.	Green Imperial-pigeon		<i>Ducula aenea</i>
102.	<b>Nilgiri Woodpigeon</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Columba elphinstonii</i></b>
103.	<b>Andaman Woodpigeon</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Columba palumboides</i></b>
104.	Laughing Dove		<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
105.	Red Collared-dove		<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
106.	Spotted Dove		<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
107.	Eurasian Collared-dove		<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
108.	<b>Andaman Cuckoo-dove</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Macropygia rufipennis</i></b>
109.	Emerald Dove		<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
110.	<b>Grey-fronted Green Pigeon</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Treron affinis</i></b>
111.	<b>Andaman Green-pigeon</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Treron chloropterus</i></b>
112.	Yellow-footed Green-pigeon		<i>Treron p. chlorigaster</i>
113.	Vernal Hanging-parrot		<i>Loriculus v. rubropygius</i>
114.	<b>Malabar Parakeet</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Psittacula columboides</i></b>
115.	<b>Plum-headed Parakeet</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i></b>
116.	Alexandrine Parakeet		<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
117.	Red-breasted Parakeet		<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
118.	Rose-ringed Parakeet		<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
119.	Long-tailed Parakeet		<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
120.	Violet Cuckoo		<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>
121.	Banded Bay Cuckoo (Heard only)		<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
122.	Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo		<i>Surniculus l. dicruroides</i>
123.	Asian Koel		<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
124.	Indian Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
125.	<b>Common Hawk-cuckoo</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Cuculus varius</i></b>
126.	<b>Southern Coucal</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Centropus (sinensis) parroti</i></b>
127.	<b>Andaman Coucal</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Centropus andamanensis</i></b>
128.	Brown Hawk-owl		<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
129.	<b>Andaman Hawk-owl</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Ninox affinis</i></b>
130.	<b>Hume's Hawk-owl</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Ninox obscura</i></b>
131.	<b>Andaman Barn-owl</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Tyto deroepstorffi</i></b>
132.	Brown Fish-owl		<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
133.	<b>Mottled Wood-owl</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Strix ocellata</i></b>
134.	Indian Scops-owl		<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
135.	<b>Andaman Scops-owl</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Otus balli</i></b>
136.	Oriental Scops-owl		<i>Otus sunia</i>
137.	<b>Walden's Oriental Scops-owl</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Otus modestus</i></b>
138.	Spotted Owlet		<i>Athene brama</i>
139.	Jungle Owlet		<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
140.	<b>Ceylon Frogmouth</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i></b>

141.	<b>Indian Jungle Nightjar</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Caprimulgus indicus</i></b>
142.	<b>Andaman Nightjar</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Caprimulgus andamanicus</i></b>
143.	<b>Jerdon's Nightjar</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i></b>
144.	Savanna Nightjar		<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>
145.	Crested Treeswift		<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
146.	Asian Palm Swift		<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
147.	<b>Indian Swiftlet</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Aerodramus unicolor</i></b>
148.	Edible-nest Swiftlet		<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>
149.	White-bellied Swiftlet		<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
150.	<b>Indian White-rumped Spinetail</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i></b>
151.	House Swift		<i>Apus affinis</i>
152.	Blyth's (Pacific) Swift		<i>Apus leuconyx</i>
153.	Brown-throated Needletail		<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>
154.	Indian Roller		<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
155.	Dollarbird		<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
156.	Common Hoopoe		<i>Upupa epops</i>
157.	<b>Malabar Trogon</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Harpactes fasciatus</i></b>
158.	Stork-billed Kingfisher		<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
159.	White-throated Kingfisher		<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
160.	Black-capped Kingfisher		<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
161.	Collared Kingfisher		<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
162.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher		<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
163.	Common Kingfisher		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
164.	Little Green Bee-eater		<i>Merops orientalis</i>
165.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater		<i>Merops philippinus</i>
166.	Chestnut-headed Bee-Eater		<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
167.	Blue-bearded Bee-eater		<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>
168.	<b>Malabar Grey Hornbill</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Ocyceros griseus</i></b>
169.	<b>Indian Grey Hornbill</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Ocyceros birostris</i></b>
170.	<b>Malabar Pied Hornbill</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i></b>
171.	Coppersmith Barbet		<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
172.	<b>Malabar Barbet</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Megalaima malabarica</i></b>
173.	<b>White-cheeked Barbet</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Megalaima viridis</i></b>
174.	<b>Brown-headed Barbet</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Megalaima zeylanica</i></b>
175.	Heart-spotted Woodpecker		<i>Hemicircus canente</i>
176.	<b>Indian Pygmy Woodpecker</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Dendrocopo nanus</i></b>
177.	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>
178.	Spot-breasted Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopus analis</i>
179.	Streak-throated Woodpecker		<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>
180.	Lesser Yellownape		<i>Picus c. chlorigaster</i>
181.	Rufous Woodpecker		<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>
182.	Common Flameback		<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
183.	<b>Black-rumped Flameback</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Dinopium benghalense</i></b>
184.	<b>White-naped Woodpecker</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i></b>
185.	<b>Malabar Flameback</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Chrysocolaptes socialis</i></b>
186.	White-bellied Woodpecker		<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>
187.	<b>Andaman Woodpecker</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Dryocopus hodgei</i></b>
188.	<b>Indian Pitta</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Pitta brachyura</i></b>
189.	Oriental Skylark		<i>Alauda gulgula</i>

190.	<b>Jerdon's Bushlark</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Mirafra affinis</i></b>
191.	<b>Malabar Lark</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Galerida malabarica</i>
192.	<b>Sykes's Lark</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Galerida deva</i></b>
193.	<b>Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Eremopterix grisea</i></b>
194.	Dusky Crag-martin		<i>Hirundo concolor</i>
195.	Northern House-martin		<i>Delichon urbica</i>
196.	<b>Hill Swallow</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Hirundo domicola</i></b>
197.	Barn Swallow		<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
198.	Wire-tailed Swallow		<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
199.	Red-rumped Swallow		<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
200.	Grey-headed Wagtail		<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>
201.	Grey Wagtail		<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
202.	Forest Wagtail		<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
203.	White Wagtail		<i>Motacilla alba dukhenensis</i>
204.	White-browed Wagtail		<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
205.	Olive-backed Pipit (heard only)		<i>Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis</i>
206.	Richard's Pipit		<i>Anthus richardi</i>
207.	Paddyfield Pipit		<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
208.	<b>Nilgiri Pipit</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Anthus nilghiriensis</i></b>
209.	White-breasted Woodswallow		<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
210.	Ashy Woodswallow		<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
211.	Common Woodshrike		<i>Tephrodornis pondiceerianus</i>
212.	<b>Black-headed Cuckooshrike</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b><i>Coracina melanoptera</i></b>
213.	<b>Andaman Cuckooshrike</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Coracina dobsoni</i></b>
214.	Large Cuckoo-shrike		<i>Coracina macei</i>
215.	Scarlet Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>
216.	<b>Orange Minivet</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i></b>
217.	<b>White-bellied Minivet</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b><i>Pericrocotus erythropygius</i></b>
218.	Small Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
219.	Red-vented Bulbul		<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
220.	Red-whiskered Bulbul		<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
221.	<b>Square-tailed Black Bulbul</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i></b>
222.	<b>Flame-throated Bulbul</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Pycnonotus gularis</i></b>
223.	<b>Andaman Bulbul</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Microtarsus</i></b>
224.	<b>Grey-headed Bulbul</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Pycnonotus priocephalus</i></b>
225.	<b>Yellow-throated Bulbul</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Pycnonotus xantholaemus</i></b>
226.	<b>White-browed Bulbul</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i></b>
227.	<b>Yellow-browed Bulbul</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Iole indica</i></b>
228.	Common Iora		<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
229.	<b>Jerdon's Leafbird</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i></b>
230.	Golden-fronted Leafbird		<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
231.	Asian Fairy Bluebird		<i>Irena puella</i>
232.	Long-tailed Shrike		<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>
233.	Brown Shrike		<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
234.	Bay-backed Shrike		<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
235.	Black-naped Monarch		<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
236.	Asian Paradise-flycatcher		<i>Perpsiphone paradise</i>
237.	White-browed Fantail		<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
238.	<b>White-spotted Fantail</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Rhipidura albogularis</i></b>



239.	<b>Blue-headed Rock-thrush</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i></b>
240.	Blue Rock-thrush		<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
241.	Orange-headed Thrush		<i>Zoothera citrina</i>
242.	<b>Malabar Whistling-thrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Myiophonus horsfieldii</i></b>
243.	<b>Indian Blackbird</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Turdus simillimus</i></b>
244.	<b>White-bellied Blue Robin</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Myiomela albiventris</i></b>
245.	<b>Nilgiri Blue Robin</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Myiomela major</i></b>
246.	Indian Blue Robin		<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>
247.	<b>Andaman Shama</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Copsychus albiventris</i></b>
248.	White-rumped Shama		<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
249.	Oriental Magpie-robin		<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>
250.	<b>Indian Black Robin</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i></b>
251.	Pied Bushchat		<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
252.	Common Stonechat		<i>Saxicola torquatus maurus</i>
253.	Mangrove Whistler		<i>Pachycephala cinerea</i>
254.	Brown-breasted Flycatcher		<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
255.	Asian Brown Flycatcher		<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
256.	Red-breasted Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula parva</i>
257.	Red-throated Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
258.	<b>Black-and-orange Flycatcher</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Ficedula nigrorufa</i></b>
259.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher		<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
260.	Blue-throated Flycatcher		<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>
261.	Verditer Flycatcher		<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>
262.	<b>White-bellied Blue Flycatcher</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Cyornis pallipes</i></b>
263.	<b>Nilgiri Flycatcher</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Eumyias albicaudatus</i></b>
264.	<b>Black-chinned Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Strophocincla cachinnans</i></b>
265.	<b>Kerala Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Strophocincla fairbanki</i></b>
266.	Yellow-eyed Babbler		<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
267.	<b>Tawny-bellied Babbler</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Dumetia h. albogularis</i></b>
268.	<b>Dark-fronted Babbler</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i></b>
269.	<b>Jungle Babbler</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Turdoides striatus</i></b>
270.	<b>Yellow-billed Babbler</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Turdoides affinis</i></b>
271.	<b>Indian Rufous Babbler</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Turdoides subrufa</i></b>
272.	<b>Indian Scimitar-babbler</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i></b>
273.	Puff-throated Babbler		<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>
274.	<b>Indian Broad-tailed Grassbird</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Schoenicola platyurus</i></b>
275.	<b>Ashy Prinia</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Prinia socialis</i></b>
276.	Grey-breasted Prinia		<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
277.	Plain Prinia		<i>Prinia inornata</i>
278.	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher		<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
279.	Common Tailorbird		<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
280.	Indian Reed-warbler		<i>Acrocephalus brunnescens</i>
281.	Blyth's Reed-warbler		<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
282.	Oriental Reed-warbler		<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>
283.	Black-browed Reed-warbler		<i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>
284.	Sykes' Warbler		<i>Hippolais rama</i>
285.	Thick-billed Warbler		<i>Iduna aedon</i>
286.	Tickell's Leaf-warbler		<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
287.	<b>Tytler's Leaf-warbler</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i></b>

288.	Greenish Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus t. viridanus</i>
289.	Two-barred Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus</i>
290.	Siberian Chiffchaff		<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>
291.	Bright-green Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>
292.	Large-billed Leaf-warbler		<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>
293.	Dusky Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
294.	Grey (Cinereous) Tit		<i>Parus cinereus</i>
295.	<b>Indian Yellow Tit</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Parus aplonotus</i></b>
296.	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch		<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
297.	<b>Indian Nuthatch</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Sitta castanea</i></b>
298.	<b>Pale-billed Flowerpecker</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i></b>
299.	<b>Nilgiri Flowerpecker</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Dicaeum concolor</i></b>
300.	<b>Andaman Flowerpecker</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Dicaeum virescens</i></b>
301.	Thick-billed Flowerpecker		<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
302.	Oriental White-eye		<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
303.	Olive-backed Sunbird		<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
304.	Purple-rumped Sunbird		<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
305.	<b>Small Sunbird</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Leptocoma minima</i></b>
306.	Purple Sunbird		<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
307.	<b>Loten's Sunbird</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Cinnyris lotenius</i></b>
308.	Little Spiderhunter		<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
309.	Common Rosefinch		<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
310.	Red Avadavat		<i>Amandava amandava</i>
311.	<b>Tricoloured Munia</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Lonchura malacca</i></b>
312.	White-rumped Munia		<i>Lonchura s. striata</i>
313.	Scaly-breasted Munia		<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
314.	<b>Black-throated Munia</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Lonchura kelaarti</i></b>
315.	House Sparrow		<i>Passer domesticus</i>
316.	Yellow-throated Sparrow		<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>
317.	Indian Baya Weaver		<i>Ploceus p. philippinus</i>
318.	Indian Golden Oriole		<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>
319.	Black-naped Oriole		<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
320.	Black-hooded Oriole		<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
321.	Black Drongo		<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
322.	Ashy Drongo		<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
323.	<b>White-bellied Drongo</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i></b>
324.	Bronzed Drongo		<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
325.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo		<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
326.	<b>Andaman Drongo</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Dicrurus andamanensis</i></b>
327.	Brahminy Starling		<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>
328.	Rosy Starling		<i>Sternus roseus</i>
329.	Grey-headed Starling		<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
330.	<b>Malabar White-headed Starling</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Sturnia blythii</i></b>
331.	<b>Andaman White-headed Starling</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Sturnia erythropygia</i></b>
332.	Jungle Myna		<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
333.	Common Myna		<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
334.	Common Hill-myna		<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
335.	<b>Lesser Hill-myna</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Gracula indica</i></b>
336.	House Crow		<i>Corvus splendens</i>

337.	<b>Indian Jungle Crow</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b><i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i></b>
338.	Eastern Jungle Crow		<i>Corvus levaillantii</i>
339.	<b>Andaman Treepie</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b><i>Dendrocitta bayleii</i></b>
340.	Rufous Treepie		<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
341.	<b>White-bellied Treepie</b>	<b>E</b>	<b><i>Dendrocitta leucogastra</i></b>

	<b>Other Animals</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
1.	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
2.	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
3.	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
4.	Asiatic Wild Dog (Dhole)	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>
5.	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
6.	Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>
7.	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
8.	Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>
9.	Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
10.	Stripe-necked Mongoose	<i>Herpestes vitticollis</i>
11.	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pterops giganteus</i>
12.	Three-Stripped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
13.	Five-Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>
14.	Layard's Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus layardi</i>
15.	Malabar Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>
16.	Grizzled Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
17.	Dusky Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>
18.	Nilgiri Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
19.	Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>
20.	Hanuman Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>
21.	Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macaca radiata</i>
22.	Nilgiri Langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>
23.	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
24.	Marsh Mugger	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
25.	Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
26.	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
27.	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>
28.	Nilgiri Sooty Mouse	<i>Vandeleuria nilagirica</i>
29.	Green Pit Viper	<i>Trimeresurus albolabris</i>
30.	Skink sp	





**ZOOTHERA BIRDING,**  
**184 Penwill Way, Paignton, Devon. TQ4 5JP**  
**Tel: 01803 390721**  
**e-mail: [info@zotherabirding.com](mailto:info@zotherabirding.com)**  
**[www.zotherabirding.com](http://www.zotherabirding.com)**

