



## SOUTH INDIA & ANDMANS REPORT

9<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Andaman Teal
- Jungle Bush Quail
- Painted Bush Quail
- Red Spurfowl
- Grey Junglefowl
- Andaman Serpent-Eagle
- White-eyed Buzzard
- Andaman Crake
- Watercock
- Great Stone-Curlew
- Andaman Cuckoo-Dove
- Violet Cuckoo
- Andaman Masked Owl
- Walden's Scops-Owl
- Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl
- Mottled Wood Owl
- Hume's Hawk-Owl
- Andaman Hawk-Owl
- Sri Lanka Frogmouth
- Malabar Barbet
- Andaman Woodpecker
- Indian Pitta
- Andaman Cuckooshrike
- White-bellied Minivet
- White-bellied Treepie
- Yellow-throated Bulbul
- Streak-throated Swallow colony
- Tytler's Leaf-Warbler
- Sykes's Warbler
- Black-chinned Laughingthrush
- Kerala Laughingthrush
- White-headed Starling
- Nilgiri Thrush
- Andaman Shama
- White-bellied Blue Flycatcher
- Nilgiri Flycatcher
- White-bellied Blue Robin
- Nilgiri Blue Robin
- Black-and-orange Flycatcher
- Crimson-backed Sunbird
- Nilgiri Pipit
- Asian Leopard

### SUMMARY:

Our endemic-laden journey around the Andaman Islands and into the impressively scenic hills of South India certainly proved to be action-packed, with a grand total of 344 species seen. 99 of these were endemic, with 19 Andaman endemics, 46 subcontinent endemics, 34 Indian endemics (mainland), plus 2 near endemics. It's always exciting birding on the Andamans and we enjoyed good views of the 5 endemic owls on the first couple of nights, out of a tour total of 13 owls! But the amazing views of Andaman Crake in a secluded forest were a personal highlight and left everyone speechless. Leaving this tropical paradise we flew to Cochin and spent a few days amidst the wonderful forests of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, before heading up into the splendid hills of Munnar and the spectacular Eravikulam National Park. Next up were more endemic-rich areas of Topslip and Ooty before we reached Mudumalai where an unexpected Nilgiri Thrush provided tantalising views. From here we reached Nagarhole National Park and some leisurely wildlife viewing from jeeps and a great afternoon boat ride based at the wonderful Kabini River Lodge, where an Asian Leopard sleeping in a tree was the highlight. A final boat ride near Mysore on our last afternoon brought us exceedingly close views of a nesting colony of Streak-throated Swallows to round off a fabulous tour.

## Days 1 - 2 Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Following an overnight flight via Dubai we arrived at Chennai around 8.15am and made our way to the delightful Hotel Pride. After meeting up with Pete & Margaret from Australia we had a little siesta followed by lunch before heading to Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, a little over 2 hours drive away. Arriving at 4pm we walked along the bund, shaded from the sun by large trees and thoroughly enjoyed our time watching the activity at the largest breeding rookery I've ever seen in Asia...! I mean there were 1000's of birds nesting on the bushes out in the lake and they are not too far away to get a sensory overload of sound and smell..! The majority of species are made up of **Painted Storks** and **Asian Openbills**, with slightly lesser numbers of **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, **Black-headed Ibis**, **Eurasian Spoonbills**, **Great**, **Little** and **Indian Cormorants**, whilst flocks of **Glossy Ibis** continually flew over. Masses of locals were also visiting today but it didn't hamper our short birding session and we also pulled out **Striated Heron**, a few **Oriental Darters**, **Indian Golden Oriole**, **Common Hawk Cuckoo** at close range, **Southern Coucal**, **Asian Koel**, a pair of **White-throated Kingfishers** positively glowing in the late afternoon sunshine, our first **Yellow-billed Babblers** and a nice close perched **Shikra**. In the rice fields were lots of **Indian Pond-herons**, as well as **Grey Francolin**, **Indian Spot-billed Duck**, **Indian Roller**, **White-browed Wagtail**, **Wood Sandpipers**, **Red-wattled Lapwings** and **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**. Returning to the coach an **Oriental Magpie Robin**, **Indian Robin** and an unobtrusive **Blyth's Reed Warbler** were seen. And that was our day so we returned to the hotel and enjoyed a delicious hot buffet dinner.

## Day 3 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January

After a long night's sleep we enjoyed a decent breakfast before driving to the airport for our 12.05pm flight to Port Blair in the Andaman Islands. It took just over two hours and upon arrival we found the permit formalities to be a relatively quick affair and we soon had our luggage and met up with our excellent local guide, Vikram. A short drive took us to our hotel in the town and we quickly unpacked and got our birding gear together before driving to Chidiyatapu Forest. Along the way we stopped along the coast to scope **Pacific Golden Plover**, both **Greater** and **Lesser Sandplovers**, **Pacific Reef Heron** and **Collared Kingfisher**. A flock of **Andaman Drongos** was our first endemic tick, quickly followed by several **Andaman Treepies** accompanying them. There was lots of activity and we followed this flock along the road, seeing **Common Emerald Dove**, **Asian Brown Flycatcher**, **Red-breasted Parakeet**, a few flyover **Common Hill-Mynas**, brief **Andaman Woodpecker**, and eventually a couple of us got on **Andaman Cuckoo-Dove**, possibly the hardest endemic to find. An **Andaman Coucal** also tried to get itself run over by one of our vehicles, and needless to say it didn't hang around for good views!



As the light began to fade we drove further, stopping to look at a **Stork-billed Kingfisher** perched above the road and some **Glossy Swiftlets** flying over, before continuing on to the Andaman Nightjar site. At dusk one began calling inside the forest and we got really excited, but only Stephen caught a glimpse of it before it disappeared for good, although a **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** was quite spectacular as it flew over our heads. A very frustrating experience but we soon put this to the back of our minds as a **Hume's Hawk Owl** began calling but it wasn't responsive at all. However, a calling **Walden's Scops-Owl** was a lot closer and we managed to track it down after a lengthy battle thanks to Vikram's expert spotting!

Well it was right over our heads and only about 10 feet away – but what a cracker! Whether you split this from Oriental Scops-Owl or not, to get such brilliant close views is a real privilege. So we drove a little further and my driver then spotted a **Hume's Hawk-Owl** perched on telegraph wires beside the road and we had cracking views of two birds in the spotlight. Wow! Further on it didn't take long to find an **Andaman Hawk-Owl**, and although it was a little shyer than his cousin we enjoyed repeated views of it perched in nearby trees as well as flying around us on several occasions. So we were very happy with this and returned to the hotel for dinner, but we couldn't understand

why the restaurant of the hotel wouldn't serve us beer with our meal, when there was a bar just a few floors below...?

#### Day 4 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Left the hotel at 5.30am and drove back to Chidiyatapu Forest, seeing **Pacific Golden Plover** and **Yellow Wagtail** along the way and followed the road for several kilometres. We had a great few hours with lots of bird activity, lovely light and a very pleasant temperature. More **Andaman Drongos** and **Andaman Treepies** were seen, although not as many as yesterday. Instead we enjoyed our first **Andaman Flowerpeckers**, followed by cracking views of a fine male **Andaman Woodpecker**, whilst nearby several **Andaman White-headed Starlings** were feeding close to



the road. The same spot also held **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker**, **Black-naped Oriole**, and an **Andaman Coucal**. A huge fruiting tree held lots of **Green Imperial-Pigeons** and as we watched them a few **Andaman Green-Pigeons** were seen. Further on the often tricky **Andaman Cuckoo-Dove** posed for a several minutes above the road and there was also several **Andaman Bulbuls**, another **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker** and more **Andaman Flowerpeckers** feeding in the same vicinity. And we followed this with superb views of a pair of **Andaman Shama** frolicking beside the road. Breakfast overlooking a patch of water was enlivened by a group of **Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters**, a female **Andaman Woodpecker** posing at the top of a dead tree and flyover **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** and **Brahminy Kite**. Other species seen this morning include a flock of **Brown-backed Needletails**, **Glossy Swiftlet**, **Olive-backed Sunbird**, **Asian Brown Flycatcher**, **Asian Fairy Bluebird**, **Red-breasted**, **Long-tailed** and **Alexandrine Parakeets**, **Small** and **Scarlet Minivets**, **Brown Shrike**, **Oriental White-eye**, and several **Asian Glossy Starlings**.

Then we drove to a further patch of forest close to the coast and a short walk failed to produce any crakes, but having a splendid **Violet Cuckoo** teed up in the scope was ample compensation. In fact it gave walk-away views and we ended up at a very nice beach area where we enjoyed a nice cup of coffee before returning to the hotel for lunch.

After lunch at the hotel we returned to the same forest and just as soon as we got out of the cars a pair of **Black Bazas** were spotted circling overhead and soon after a pair of **Black-naped Monarchs** showed well. We walked along the road a short distance but things were predictably quiet so drove on to another patch of forest. We walked around a park area and toyed with several calling **Andaman Crakes** – or were they toying with us? Anyway, we never saw one and left at dusk but did see our first **Orange-headed Thrush** feeding out on the open. We drove on to the nightjar spot but only heard it again, but the day finished off on a high with an **Andaman Scops-Owl** posing in the spotlight at our first attempt. Nice!

#### Day 5 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January

We caught the 5am ferry to the other side of South Andaman Island and drove to a superb stretch of roadside forest where we literally spent the next four hours trying to find Andaman Crake. Well we certainly heard several, even got quite close to one or two, had one individual sneak up behind us allowing only myself and Vikram views, and tried and tried again at various spots along our walk. It was getting tedious to say the least and I'm pretty sure everyone had had enough and would have been glad to give up but just before 10am we gave it one last try and followed a narrow trail inside the forest. This time after a few bursts of tape a stunning vision of bright chestnut with black & white barring walked sedately into view – **ANDAMAN CRAKE!** What a relief and this bird casually began to feed right in front of us and I daren't raise my camera to take a photo, it was that close. It was on view for a couple of minutes before slowly making its way into denser vegetation and

onto my group's life lists. So with that done we drove further and walked through another patch of forest, getting nice looks at more **White-headed Starlings**, **Andaman Drongos** and plenty of common species, although **Large Cuckooshrike** was a new bird for the trip. We kept on looking for new birds to no avail and finished the morning session with a large mixed feeding flock that we scanned for Andaman Cuckooshrike without any joy.



After lunch we were picked up at 3pm and drove back to Chidiyatapu Forest and were not surprised to see how quiet it was. But we walked a little along the road before staking out the nightjar and only hearing it call again. However, we finished the day off with a flourish when an **Andaman Masked Owl** flew right at us and landed just a couple of metres above our heads before flying off to a more reasonable perch to stare balefully at us. What a cracker and a great way to end a rather tough day's birding.

### Day 6 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Left at 5.30am and caught the ferry again, seeing **Edible-nest Swiftlet**, before heading to Mount Harriet in search of the missing endemics - but to no avail. In fact the forest was quiet with just a few **Large Cuckooshrikes**, **Black-naped Orioles** and some other common species, but nice looks at **Andaman Treepie** were much appreciated. So we drove to a different area, stopping along the way to scope the endemic *davisoni* local race of **Crested Serpent-Eagle** sat in a tree out in the rice fields. And then we spent the rest of the morning walking our socks off trying to find some feeding flocks but we were just plain out of luck, and frustratingly found several **Crested Serpent-Eagles** and not the endemic variety we wanted, along with numerous **Changeable Hawk-Eagles** and a **White-bellied Woodswallow**.

Driving back to Port Blair we stopped at a large pool and marshy area to scope a flock of **Andaman Teal** and found the area to be alive with birds. In pretty quick time we scored **Grey-headed Swamphen**, several **Long-toed Stints**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, **Slaty-breasted Rail**, **Black and Yellow Bitterns**, **Intermediate** and **Great Egrets**, **Watercock**, **Dusky**, **Black-browed** and **Oriental Reed Warblers**. A very brief **Lanceolated Warbler**, calling **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** and **Ruddy-breasted Crake** necessitate a return visit first thing tomorrow. Anyway we reached the hotel just after 3pm for a very late lunch and shortly after headed straight out for one last try of the nightjar. Along the way, and I still can't believe it, we finally found our **Andaman Serpent-Eagle** perched right over the road in Chidiyatapu Forest – a place we've visited numerous times already!

Anyway, the nightjar didn't show but did call at 5.30pm for a few minutes before going quiet as it has done the past 3 nights.

### Day 7 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January

So we headed back to the marsh again this morning, stopping at a pool where a **Yellow Bittern** was scoped and a nice **Watercock** was seen feeding in a patch of grass at the water's edge. At the marsh we enjoyed cracking views of **Ruddy-breasted Crake** and **Slaty-breasted Rail** walking along the muddy edge of a pool, which also held several **Grey-headed Swamphens**, **Pintail Snipe**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Common Kingfisher** and **Oriental Reed Warbler**. Out on the mudflats **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Temminck's Stint** and **Black-tailed Godwit** were new trip ticks, whilst **Lesser Sandplover**, several **Long-toed Stints**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Common Greenshank** were all nice to see again.



From here we had one final bash at Chidiyatapu and as luck would have it an **Andaman Cuckooshrike** was finally spotted and everyone managed decent scope views before it disappeared. Phew, what a relief! So with just the woodpigeon left we had an hour to find it, but alas it was not meant to be and we had to tear ourselves away and return to the hotel for lunch. Then we had to pack our bags in readiness for our flight to Chennai and onward connection to Cochin in the Indian state of Kerala. After a short delay we eventually reached the Soma Birds Lagoon Lodge just after 10pm.

### Day 8 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Left at 6am with a packed breakfast and drove for around 45 minutes to an area outside of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, seeing **Malabar Grey Hornbill, Shikra, Dollarbird, Brahminy Starling** and the endemic **White-cheeked Barbet** along the way. We followed a wide path into the forest, seeing our first **Plum-headed Parakeet, Grey-fronted Green-Pigeon** and scoping a **Malabar Barbet** perched in the treetops. A group of endemic **Rufous Babblers** came in to check us out, there was a **Nilgiri Flowerpecker**, and then we walked up to a nice viewpoint situated on a huge flat rocky area overlooking the surrounding forest. With scopes at the ready we enjoyed a great couple of hours here as numerous birds perched in the treetops in the early morning sunshine and we saw endemics such as **Malabar White-headed (Blyth's) Starling, Small (Crimson-backed) Sunbird, Malabar Barbet, Malabar Flameback, Malabar Parakeet, Flame-throated Bulbul** and **Orange Minivet**. Other species seen included **Crested Goshawk, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Indian Golden Oriole, Indian White-rumped Spinetail, Indian Swiftlet, Ashy Drongo, Greenish Warbler, Cinereous Tit, Common Hill Mynas** and **Purple Sunbird**.



Once things had quietened we walked back into the forest and tried to find a calling **White-bellied Woodpecker**, but all we had was a flyover appearance. Some calling **Indian Elephants** had me a little concerned so we walked in the opposite direction and came across a large feeding party. Amongst all the **Greater Racket-tailed** and **Bronzed Drongos** was a pair of **Malabar Woodshrikes, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Brown-cheeked Fulvettas, Dark-fronted Babbler**, a brief **Grey-headed Bulbul**, an even briefer **Rusty-tailed Flycatcher, Asian Paradise Flycatcher**, more **Malabar Starlings**, and another **Heart-**

**spotted Woodpecker** to add to the bird found by Maggie a little earlier. Amazingly, a pair of **Ceylon Frogmouths** were roosting right next to us as it turned out and looked very cute indeed huddled together. Then a female **Malabar Trogon** appeared and we followed her out onto the main path where the male showed fantastically well as he excavated a nest hole in a dead tree stump overhead. So by now it was 11am and getting rather warm so we walked back to the minibus, hearing an **Indian Pitta** on the way and returned to the lodge for lunch.

At 2.30pm we set out for our afternoon excursion beginning with a day roosting **Mottled Wood Owl** – wow! In the vicinity were also **Green Bee-eater** and **Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**. We then spent the next few hours walking along a trail through dry deciduous woodland seeing our first **White-bellied Treepie, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Green Bee-eater, Rufous Woodpecker, Black-hooded Oriole, Indian Blackbird**, as well as **Brown-backed Needletail, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Plum-headed Parakeet**, and scores of **Jungle Babblers**. So not a bad first day on the mainland.

## Day 9 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January



Purple Heron at a roadside marsh.

Headed to the same patch of forest as yesterday and a slow walk along the track was eventually rewarded when David spotted our main target bird – **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher** and we managed several views of it perched in a tree right in front of us. Although inevitably quieter than yesterday we did see **Malabar Woodshrike**, **White-cheeked Barbet**, **Indian Scops-Owl**, displaying **Crested Goshawk**, **Brown-breasted Flycatcher**, **Dark-fronted** and **Puff-throated Babblers**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, and several **Malabar Starlings**. A flock near the minibus was quite rewarding as we had much better views of **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** than before, and there was also **Yellow-browed Bulbul** as well. And on the journey back to the lodge we saw a

After lunch we hit the trails again and I think the views of **White-bellied Treepie** were the highlight, but there was also **Malabar Parakeet**, a pair of **Blue-bearded Bee-eaters**, **Black-naped Oriole**, and **Loten's Sunbird** amongst others. At dusk we waited for **Great Eared Nightjar** to appear but only heard it call, but did see our first **River Terns**, **Ashy Woodswallow**, **Little Swifts** and **Crested Treeswift** flying over the river, so returned to the lodge for dinner where a few of us managed to see a **Brown Hawk-Owl** in the spotlight.

## Day 10 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January

It was a nice treat to have a 'sit down' breakfast at 6.30am before one final fling into the bird-filled forests of Thattekkad. This morning was a little different as we walked along the forest edge and then patiently waited in a concealed position some 40 metres away from an open area that some grain had been placed to attract **Grey Junglefowl** and **Red Spurfowl**. Despite the unnecessary positioning of some bird photographers we had nice views through scopes of many **Grey Junglefowl** and a pair of **Red Spurfowl** feeding right out in the open. Nice!



Oh and a calling **Common Hawk Cuckoo** was spotted by John and a group of **Black-throated Munias** visited the feeding station as well. Following this excitement we drove back to the forest where a male **Indian Blue Robin** proved to be very obliging as it flew from perch to perch in front of us, a **Yellow-browed Bulbul** posed nicely, **Large-billed Leaf Warbler** came in to check us out and some **Dark-fronted Babblers** were seen well. We also saw **Malabar** and **Black-rumped Flamebacks**, **Vernal Hanging Parrot**, **Little Spiderhunter**, **Purple Sunbird**, **Brown-breasted Flycatcher**, **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, another **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher** and more **Nilgiri Flowerpeckers**.

After lunch back at the hotel we said our goodbyes to the wonderful Soma Birds Lagoon Lodge and headed up into the hills to Munnar. The scenery changed remarkably to forested hills and we took a little walk whilst our minibus took a detour to avoid a bridge and saw **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Pied Bushchat** and had a brief look at our first **Kerala Laughingthrush**. Once we had checked in and enjoyed some masala tea, drove a short distance to a drinking pool. Here despite the close proximity to passing traffic we enjoyed crippling views of some great birds coming to drink and bathe right in front of us. First up was a **White-bellied Blue Robin**, followed by a pair of **Nilgiri Flycatchers**, **Indian Blackbird**, our first **Black-and-orange Flycatcher**, a group of **Kerala Laughingthrushes** and **Malabar Whistling-Thrush**. So not a huge number of birds today but filled with quality. Once back at the hotel an **Indian Scimitar-Babbler** appeared in the garden and a **Crested Hawk-Eagle** was perched in a large tree.



## Day 11 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January

After the novelty of a sit down breakfast and seeing lots of feeding birds in the flowering trees surrounding the hotel such as **Square-tailed Black Bulbul**, **Indian Yellow Tit**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Blue-capped Rock-Thrush** and a **Nilgiri Woodpigeon**, we drove to Eravikalum National Park, seeing a **Streak-throated Woodpecker** and **Grey Junglefowl** along the way.



Once at the parking area we took the parks public bus 5kms up the hill and upon arrival found plenty of birds feeding below the road. In one area were lots of **Kerala Laughingthrushes**, **White-bellied Blue Robin**, **Indian Blackbirds**, and both **Blyth's Reed** and **Tickell's Leaf Warblers** feeding out in the open. Walking up the hill we made several attempts at calling in **Broad-tailed Grassbird**, but despite our efforts drew a blank apart from one distant call. There were a pair of **Nilgiri Pipits**, **Dusky Crag Martins**, **Hill Swallows** and **Plain Prinia** despite lots of people walking to the viewpoint. So we walked back down to the start of the trail and found a close feeding **Tytlar's Leaf Warbler**, something of a bonus bird.



In the afternoon we drove across the hills, seeing a soaring **Bonelli's Eagle**, **Indian Spot-billed Duck** and **Indian Scimitar-Babbler** amidst the huge tea plantations before walking along a side trail through some tall grassland. Overhead we saw **Himalayan Buzzard** and **Booted Eagle** soaring in the clear blue sky, whilst at the edge of a forest we enjoyed great views of a large flock of **Western Crowned Warblers**, with our first **Ashy Prinia** performing nearby. The undoubted highlight of the day was an incredible encounter with a **Painted Bush-Quail** feeding at the edge of the trail in front of us for some 10 minutes as we watched in awe. And that was our day...

## Day 11 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Left after breakfast and drove for a couple of hours to Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, seeing a **Crested Goshawk** perched at eye-level beside the road. Along the way we stopped in a good area for **Yellow-throated Bulbul** and after a short wait we enjoyed great views of a bird close to the road. This forest here was alive with birds and in

particular one large flock had **Brown-headed Barbet**, **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Jerdon's Leafbird**, **Orange Minivet** and **White-browed Bulbul**.

Driving along the road a pair of **Yellow-legged Buttonquails** scuttled across in front of us and we saw the male fly away. There was also a perched **Shaheen** and a soaring **Black Eagle** as well, plus a close **Blue-faced Malkoha**. Once at Chinnar we walked into the open forest and scrub to some tall trees where Sudeesh quickly



located a roosting **Spot-bellied (Forest) Eagle Owl** near the top of a huge tree and we spent quite some time admiring this huge beast through the scope. Just a few metres away was a roosting **Jerdon's Nightjar** as well. This forested area was also jumping with birds and a calling **Jungle Prinia** was a little bit of a surprise, but there was also a brief **Black-headed Cuckooshrike**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Green Warbler**, **Yellow-eyed Babbler**, **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Ashy Woodswallow**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Yellow-billed Babblers**, **Malabar Parakeet**, **Common Iora**, **White-bellied Drongo**, **Indian Robin** and **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**.

After a packed lunch at the HQ we drove through Anamalai Tiger Reserve and on up to Topslip, seeing **Indian Peafowl**, **Brown-backed Needletail**, **Coppersmith Barbets**, **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**, **Indian Roller** and **Malabar Whistling-Thrush**. But we didn't hang around and drove back down to our digs for the night, the wonderfully named Banyan Tree Lodge. By now it was almost 6pm so after dumping our gear in the rooms we had a quick walk in the grounds and saw a flyover **Green Sandpiper** and a **Spotted Owlet** being mobbed by an **Asian Paradise-Flycatcher**.

It had also been a good day for mammals with the cool-looking **Nilgiri Langur**, **Bonnet Macaque** and **Hanuman Langur** seen, with **Barking** and **Spotted Deer** and even a huge bull **Gaur** seen as well. But one hair-raising incident will linger with us for a while... As we waited at some roadworks in Anamalai Tiger Reserve, where a gang of labourers were resurfacing the road a huge bull **Indian Elephant** came out of the forest and walked towards us. It knocked flat a large sign and was clearly 'angry' as his ears were flaring and he was moving at a fair speed right towards us. We couldn't drive forward to escape as there was a large steam roller blocking our escape, and still the Elephant came on. Just in the nick of time the road was cleared and we sped off.....

### **Day 12 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Spent the morning at Topslip in a vain pursuit of **Wynaad Laughingthrush**, but we did see a number of good birds such as **Malabar Trogon**, **White-bellied Treepie**, **Grey Junglefowl**, **Rufous Babbler**, **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, **Oriental Honey Buzzard** and **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** etc. After lunch we drove for over 5 hours to the fabulous hill station of Ooty and a superb hotel in the town for a 2 night stay.

### **Day 13 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Birded the Doddabetta Road after a great breakfast at 7am and despite the foul weather with thick mist and drizzle we quickly found one of our main target species, a superb **Nilgiri (Black-chinned) Laughingthrush** (see over for photo) feeding beside the path. Well, to be honest they found us and were really rather bold as they foraged around the small shops & huts beside us! With poor visibility and the renowned skulking **Nilgiri Blue Robin** still to find, we knew a great deal of patience was required. In the meantime, as we staked out its favoured area, we were entertained by **Indian Blackbird**, **Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher**, **Oriental White-eye**, and both **Tickell's & Tytler's Leaf-Warblers** feeding right in front of us. After a while a robin began singing but soon stopped when a **Crested Goshawk** flew in and landed right over where we thought it was perched! But it



soon moved off and after a short wait, during which we saw a pair of **Nilgiri Flycatchers**, the **Nilgiri Blue Robin** appeared and eventually began feeding in an open area below the path where it remained for several minutes. Wow! After further views of the laughingthrushes we then headed down to a lake where we saw **Indian Spot-billed Ducks**, **Common Coot**, **Green Sandpiper** and a few **White-throated Fantails**.



After a lengthy lunchtime back at our swanky hotel we birded the botanical gardens and found it crowded with many people enjoying the improving weather. Despite the hustle and noise a stonking male **Kashmir Flycatcher** posed nicely in the Pine trees above us and was a real surprise as this species hasn't been reported here this winter so far. Then, a superb male **Black-and-orange Flycatcher** gave crippling views as it fed along a drainage channel just a metre away from us – the best views I've ever had actually. We also saw **Scaly-breasted Munia**, confiding **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, **Nilgiri Flowerpecker** and a brief **Olive-backed Pipit**. Not a bad little haul and we were back at the hotel at 5pm to enjoy the facilities and get ready for a full-on day tomorrow.

#### **Day 14 Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

Left Ooty early doors (well at 6.30am) and drove to Mudumalai and the rather uninspiringly named Jungle Huts Lodge – our base for the night. It took a good 3 hours to get to the first birding spot where we found a flyover **Indian Spotted Eagle**, a **Sykes's Warbler** feeding in some small weeds, and many **Brahminy Starlings**. After a while our local guide appeared and took us on a whirlwind birding day of the highest calibre. First up, after a bit of a hike, was a **Brown Fish Owl** that looked superb in the scope. The same area held **Lesser Yellowname**, **White-rumped Shama**, **Black-naped Monarch** and **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**. Then we walked on to see a roosting **Brown Wood Owl** in a different area, where we also had **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta**, **Indian Scimitar-Babbler**, **Puff-throated Babbler** and a surprising female **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher**. Continuing our trek into the late morning we then located a ridiculously confiding **Indian Pitta** that just sat preening for 20 minutes right in front of us. And then it was nearly 1pm and time for our picnic lunch during which we saw **Forest Wagtail**, **Indian Nuthatch**, **Taiga Flycatcher**, **Black-headed Cuckooshrike**, and a few **Tricoloured Munias**.

Then we drove to another scrubby area and quickly found **Malabar Lark**, along with several **Paddyfield Pipits**. Then our local guide took us to a **Jungle Nightjar** sat roosting on a tree, and then on to a **Savanna Nightjar** trying hard to be invisible in the grass underneath a bush. We also saw **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Brown-capped Pygmy** and **Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Small Minivet**, **Bay-backed Shrike**, **Crested Hawk-Eagle**, **Black Eagle**, **Common Iora**, **Common Woodshrike**, **White-browed Fantail**, and even our first **Common Kestrel**.

Then we drove back to Jungle Huts and looked for the previously reported **Nilgiri Thrush**, but drew a blank. So we drove out to look for the usually tricky **White-bellied Minivet**, seeing 4 **Woolly-necked Storks** in a bare tree along the way, and after a short search found 2 female minivets feeding low down in a dense bushy area. Meanwhile an **Indian Vulture** flying over was a surprise, there was also **Grey Francolin**, and we also saw another **Sykes's Warbler**. Driving back we saw a group of **Yellow-footed Green-Pigeons** and amazingly a covey

of **Jungle Bush-Quail** feeding beside the road that hung around for ages, totally unconcerned by our minibus and other passing traffic. Wow! What a day.

### **Day 15 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

The **Oriental Scops-Owl** I called in just before daybreak was our 14<sup>th</sup> species of owl on the tour so far and a pretty decent start to proceedings. However, the reported **Nilgiri Thrush** failed to show so we drove down the road and quickly found **Jerdon's Bushlark** and watched it song-flight in the cool early morning. Driving on we stopped to watch a roving group of **Tawny-bellied Babblers** feeding beside the road and ended up with a **White-eyed Buzzard** in the scope. But we were under a time constraint today as it was going to be a 4 hour driver to Kabini River Lodge at Nagarhole National Park, however the birding gods had other ideas. As a phone call revealed that Sudeesh had found the **Nilgiri Thrush** and we were 35 minutes away, so raced back to the lodge. Without any breakfast so far and it was nearly 10.30am we raced around and eventually had reasonable views at this shy & retiring bird, although not everyone managed to see it well enough. So we ate a quick breakfast, having been promised it at 7.30am but it had failed to materialise...!

Then we were off on a rally to get to Kabini and our afternoon jeep safari. We drove into Karnataka and through Bandipur Tiger Reserve before arriving at the wonderful Kabini River Lodge at 2.45pm and dashed into the dining room for a really late lunch after dumping our gear into our luxury tents. Then we were off on a jeep safari into the park and drove alongside the water where **Gaur**, herds of **Spotted Deer**, **Woolly-necked** and **Painted Storks**, **Red-naped Ibis**, **Osprey**, and a distant **Grey-headed Fish-Eagle** were seen. In the forest we drove along quiet tracks, stopping occasionally to listen for alarm calls.

Sure enough we heard a few alarms and drove in the general direction and unbelievably came across a stunning male **Leopard** dozing in a tree. Wow! So we stayed with him for over an hour and waited and waited for him to wake up and climb down. Several times he raised his head, twitched his tail and even turned around before waking up and staring balefully down at us, yawning a couple of times before suddenly climbing down to the ground, walking past us and crossing the track behind us and away into the forest. We were all speechless as it was an absolutely fabulous experience and by now it was past 6pm and we had to leave the park, elated.



### **Day 16 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Left at 6.30am on our second jeep safari into Nagarhole NP where we saw **Grey Junglefowl**, **Indian Roller**, **Yellow-crowned** and **Streak-throated Woodpeckers**, many **Indian Elephants**, **Gaur**, **Stripe-necked Mongoose**, but the highlight was a tiny **Mouse Deer** running across the track in front of us. Upon our return to the lodge we had breakfast and then took a walk around the gardens seeing **Crested Honey Buzzard**, **Indian Spotted Eagle**, **Ashy Prinia**, **Western Crowned Warbler**, **White-cheeked Barbet**, **Purple-rumped Sunbird** and a bunch of other common birds. Once it got too hot we retired to our luxury tents for a siesta before lunch.

At 3.30pm we went on a boat safari along the Kabini River and this turned out to be rather successful with several sightings of a family of **Smooth-coated Otters** hunting fish and on two occasions we spotted a large dog Otter running along the river bank. Excellent! A pair of **Grey-headed Fish-Eagles** were also a major highlight

and looked quite majestic perched in the riverside trees. A **Red-headed Vulture** flying over was also much appreciated and we also saw **Common Teal, Garganey, Greater Spotted Eagle, Northern House Martin, Lesser Pied Kingfisher, Black-headed and Red-naped Ibis, Painted and Woolly-necked Storks, Eurasian Spoonbill, Indian Cormorant, Western Osprey, Common Kingfisher, Little Ringed Plover**, lots of **River Terns, Brown-headed Gull**, and some impressive **Marsh Muggers**. Along the shore were numerous **Spotted Deer, Sambar** and **Wild Boar** feeding. As the light began to drop we arrived back at the lodge where a flock of 100+ **Small Pratincoles** were hawking for insects right over our heads and a good end to the day.

### Day 17 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January

One final jeep safari into the national park. I always feel like it is kind of like going into battle when you are tracking Tigers, as you have to out-think your 'enemy' and try to pre-empt where they will appear. Well, we heard a few alarm calls of Spotted Deer and on a couple of occasions we would race through the forest and quit the engine to listen, but nothing ever materialised. We even came across a jeep that had seen a Tiger crossing the track a couple of times so we waited and waited, but it seemed that this beast had gone into thick cover and had gone to sleep as we could drive around this big densely vegetated area but saw nothing, and there were no more alarm calls to give us an idea of what direction it had taken. So we were left with a few pug marks and that was it – it wasn't to be on this occasion. I think with a few more safaris you'd have a very good chance of seeing a Tiger as there are sightings daily here and I'd love to return here for a longer spell as there are just so many mammals here, plus some good birds too. The only new trip bird this morning were several **Bronze-winged Jacanas** and a **Grey-breasted Prinia**. So we returned to the lodge, had breakfast and then drove to Mysore seeing a few **Rosy Starlings, Garganey, Booted Eagles, Malabar Lark** and **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** along the way.



In the afternoon we drove to Ranginathittu Bird Sanctuary just outside the city and joined the masses for a boat ride around the breeding colony of pelicans, herons, storks and egrets. Must admit I didn't really 'feel it' here as there were so many people queuing to get on a boat, but we managed to secure a boat to ourselves and off we went, getting incredible close ups of nesting **Painted Storks, Asian Openbills, Spot-billed Pelicans, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Little Egrets** etc. We came across 5 **Greater Thick-Knees** here which was a very nice sighting indeed before reaching a colony of **Streak-throated Swallows**. This was a real treat as they just didn't mind us watching them from a close range and I think this was the best views I've ever had of this localised species – truly amazing. On the

walk back to the minibus we found an **Indian Grey Hornbill** bringing our endemic tally up to 101 species seen so far! And that was our day.

### Day 18 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

After breakfast we headed out on the long drive to Bangalore (Bengaluru) stopping along the way to view a mixed flock of **Scaly-breasted Munias** and **Red Avadavats**, with some more distant **Baya Weavers** perched on telegraph wires. Closer to Bangalore we took a side road to some impressive cliffs where we hoped to see Indian Vulture, but none were in attendance although there were several **Egyptian Vultures** to bring our tally up to a respectable 344 species seen during our time in South India and the Andamans.

Nick Bray.



## SYSTEMATIC LIST – SOUTH INDIA & ANDAMANS JANUARY 2016

### ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

Lesser Whistling Duck  
Cotton Pygmy Goose  
Mallard  
Indian Spot-billed Duck  
**Andaman Teal AE**  
Garganey  
Eurasian Teal

*Dendrocygna javanica*  
*Nettapus coromandelianus*  
*Anas platyrhynchos*  
*Anas poecilorhyncha*  
***Anas albogularis***  
*Anas querquedula*  
*Anas crecca*

### GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Grey Francolin  
**Jungle Bush Quail SE**  
**Painted Bush Quail E**  
**Red Spurfowl E**  
**Grey Junglefowl E**  
**Indian Peafowl SE**

*Francolinus pondicerianus*  
***Perdica asiatica***  
***Perdica erythrorhyncha***  
***Galloperdix spadicea***  
***Gallus sonneratii***  
***Pavo cristatus***

### PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

### CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Painted Stork  
Asian Openbill  
Woolly-necked Stork

*Mycteria leucocephala*  
*Anastomus oscitans*  
*Ciconia episcopus*

### PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Black-headed Ibis  
**Red-naped Ibis SE**  
Glossy Ibis  
Eurasian Spoonbill

*Threskiornis melanocephalus*  
***Pseudibis papillosa***  
*Plegadis falcinellus*  
*Platalea leucorodia*

### PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern  
Cinnamon Bittern  
Black Bittern  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Striated Heron  
Indian Pond Heron  
Eastern Cattle Egret  
Grey Heron  
Purple Heron  
Great Egret  
Intermediate Egret  
Little Egret  
Pacific Reef Heron

*Ixobrychus sinensis*  
*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
*Dupetor flavicollis*  
*Nycticorax nycticorax*  
*Butorides striata*  
*Ardeola grayii*  
*Bubulcus coromandus*  
*Ardea cinerea*  
*Ardea purpurea*  
*Ardea alba*  
*Egretta intermedia*  
*Egretta garzetta*  
*Egretta sacra*

### PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

Spot-billed Pelican

*Pelecanus philippensis*

### SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Little Cormorant  
Indian Cormorant  
Great Cormorant

*Microcarbo niger*  
*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*

**SULIFORMES: Anhingidae**

Oriental Darter

[Anhinga melanogaster](#)**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**

Western Osprey

[Pandion haliaetus](#)**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Black-winged Kite

[Elanus caeruleus](#)

Egyptian Vulture

[Neophron percnopterus](#)

Crested Honey Buzzard

[Pernis ptilorhynchus](#)

Black Baza

[Aviceda leuphotes](#)**Indian Vulture SE****[Gyps indicus](#)**

Red-headed Vulture

[Sarcogyps calvus](#)

Crested Serpent Eagle

[Spilornis cheela](#)**Andaman Serpent Eagle AE****[Spilornis elgini](#)**

Crested Hawk-Eagle

[Nisaetus cirrhatus](#)

Changeable Hawk-Eagle

[Nisaetus limnaetus](#)

Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle

[Lophotriorchis kienerii](#)

Black Eagle

[Ictinaetus malaiensis](#)

Indian Spotted Eagle

[Clanga hastata](#)

Greater Spotted Eagle

[Clanga clanga](#)

Booted Eagle

[Hieraaetus pennatus](#)

Bonelli's Eagle

[Aquila fasciata](#)

Crested Goshawk

[Accipiter trivirgatus](#)

Shikra

[Accipiter badius](#)

Montagu's Harrier

[Circus pygargus](#)

Black Kite

[Milvus migrans](#)

Brahminy Kite

[Haliastur indus](#)

White-bellied Sea Eagle

[Haliaeetus leucogaster](#)

Grey-headed Fish Eagle

[Haliaeetus ichhyaetus](#)

White-eyed Buzzard

[Butastur teesa](#)

Himalayan Buzzard

[Buteo burmanicus](#)**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae****Andaman Crake AE****[Rallina canningi](#)**

Slaty-breasted Rail

[Gallirallus striatus](#)

White-breasted Waterhen

[Amaurornis phoenicurus](#)

Ruddy-breasted Crake

[Porzana fusca](#)

Watercock

[Gallicrex cinerea](#)

Grey-headed Swamphen

[Porphyrio poliocephalus](#)

Common Moorhen

[Gallinula chloropus](#)

Eurasian Coot

[Fulica atra](#)**CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**

Yellow-legged Buttonquail

[Turnix tanki](#)**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Great Stone-curlew

[Esacus recurvirostris](#)**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt

[Himantopus himantopus](#)**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Red-wattled Lapwing

[Vanellus indicus](#)

Pacific Golden Plover

[Pluvialis fulva](#)

Little Ringed Plover

[Charadrius dubius](#)

Kentish Plover  
Lesser Sand Plover  
Greater Sand Plover

[Charadrius alexandrinus](#)  
[Charadrius mongolus](#)  
[Charadrius leschenaultii](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

Pheasant-tailed Jacana  
Bronze-winged Jacana

[Hydrophasianus chirurgus](#)  
[Metopidius indicus](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Pin-tailed Snipe  
Common Snipe  
Black-tailed Godwit  
Whimbrel  
Common Redshank  
Marsh Sandpiper  
Common Greenshank  
Green Sandpiper  
Wood Sandpiper  
Common Sandpiper  
Temminck's Stint  
Long-toed Stint  
Curlew Sandpiper

[Gallinago stenura](#)  
[Gallinago gallinago](#)  
[Limosa limosa](#)  
[Numenius phaeopus](#)  
[Tringa totanus](#)  
[Tringa stagnatilis](#)  
[Tringa nebularia](#)  
[Tringa ochropus](#)  
[Tringa glareola](#)  
[Actitis hypoleucos](#)  
[Calidris temminckii](#)  
[Calidris subminuta](#)  
[Calidris ferruginea](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

Small Pratincole

[Glareola lactea](#)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Brown-headed Gull  
River Tern  
Whiskered Tern

[Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus](#)  
[Sterna aurantia](#)  
[Chlidonias hybrida](#)

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Dove  
**Nilgiri Wood Pigeon E**  
Eurasian Collared Dove  
Red Turtle Dove  
Spotted Dove  
Laughing Dove  
**Andaman Cuckoo-Dove AE**  
Common Emerald Dove  
**Grey-fronted Green Pigeon E**  
**Andaman Green Pigeon AE**  
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon  
Green Imperial Pigeon

[Columba livia](#)  
**[Columba elphinstonii](#)**  
[Streptopelia decaocto](#)  
[Streptopelia tranquebarica](#)  
[Spilopelia chinensis](#)  
[Spilopelia senegalensis](#)  
**[Macropygia rufipennis](#)**  
[Chalcophaps indica](#)  
**[Treron affinis](#)**  
**[Treron chloropterus](#)**  
[Treron phoenicopterus](#)  
[Ducula aenea](#)

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

**Southern (Greater) Coucal SE**  
**Andaman Coucal AE**  
Blue-faced Malkoha  
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo  
Asian Koel  
Violet Cuckoo  
Banded Bay Cuckoo  
Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo (H)  
**Common Hawk-Cuckoo SE**  
Indian Cuckoo (H)

**[Centropus sinensis parroti](#)**  
**[Centropus andamanensis](#)**  
[Phaenicophaeus viridirostris](#)  
[Clamator coromandus](#)  
[Eudynamis scolopaceus](#)  
[Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus](#)  
[Cacomantis sonneratii](#)  
[Surniculus dicruroides](#)  
**[Hierococcyx varius](#)**  
[Cuculus micropterus](#)



**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**  
Andaman Masked Owl AE

[Tyto deroepstorffi](#)

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**  
Andaman Scops Owl AE  
Indian Scops Owl  
Oriental Scops Owl  
**Walden's (Oriental) Scops Owl AE**  
Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl  
Brown Fish Owl  
**Mottled Wood Owl SE**  
Brown Wood Owl  
Jungle Owlet  
Spotted Owlet  
Brown Hawk-Owl  
**Hume's Hawk-Owl AE**  
**Andaman Hawk-Owl AE**

[Otus balli](#)  
[Otus bakkamoena](#)  
[Otus sunia](#)  
**[Otus sunia modestus](#)**  
[Bubo nipalensis](#)  
[Ketupa zeylonensis](#)  
**[Strix ocellata](#)**  
[Strix leptogrammica](#)  
[Glaucidium radiatum](#)  
[Athene brama](#)  
[Ninox scutulata](#)  
**[Ninox obscura](#)**  
**[Ninox affinis](#)**

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Podargidae**  
Sri Lanka Frogmouth SE

[Batrachostomus moniliger](#)

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**  
Great Eared Nightjar (H)  
**Jungle Nightjar SE**  
**Jerdon's Nightjar SE**  
**Andaman Nightjar AE (H)**  
Savanna Nightjar

[Lyncornis macrotis](#)  
**[Caprimulgus asiaticus](#)**  
**[Caprimulgus atripennis](#)**  
**[Caprimulgus andamanicus](#)**  
[Caprimulgus affinis](#)

**APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae**  
Crested Treeswift

[Hemiprocne coronata](#)

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**  
Glossy (White-bellied) Swiftlet  
**Indian Swiftlet SE**  
Edible-nest Swiftlet  
**White-rumped Spinetail SE**  
Brown-backed Needletail  
Asian Palm Swift  
Alpine Swift  
Little Swift

[Collocalia esculenta](#)  
**[Aerodramus unicolor](#)**  
[Aerodramus fuciphagus](#)  
**[Zoonavena sylvatica](#)**  
[Hirundapus giganteus](#)  
[Cypsiurus balasiensis](#)  
[Tachymarptis melba](#)  
[Apus affinis](#)

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**  
Malabar Trogon SE

[Harpactes fasciatus](#)

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**  
Indian Roller  
Oriental Dollarbird

[Coracias benghalensis](#)  
[Eurystomus orientalis](#)

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**  
Stork-billed Kingfisher  
White-throated Kingfisher  
Collared Kingfisher  
Common Kingfisher  
Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher (H)  
Pied Kingfisher

[Pelargopsis capensis](#)  
[Halcyon smyrnensis](#)  
[Todiramphus chloris](#)  
[Alcedo atthis](#)  
[Ceyx erithaca](#)  
[Ceryle rudis](#)

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**  
Blue-bearded Bee-eater

[Nyctyornis athertoni](#)

Green Bee-eater  
Blue-tailed Bee-eater  
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

[Merops orientalis](#)  
[Merops philippinus](#)  
[Merops leschenaulti](#)

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae**

Eurasian Hoopoe

[Upupa epops](#)

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Great Hornbill  
Malabar Grey Hornbill E  
Indian Grey Hornbill SE

[Buceros bicornis](#)  
[Ocyrceros griseus](#)  
[Ocyrceros birostris](#)

**PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae**

Brown-headed Barbet SE  
White-cheeked Barbet E  
Malabar Barbet E  
Coppersmith Barbet

[Psilopogon zeylanicus](#)  
[Psilopogon viridis](#)  
[Psilopogon malabaricus](#)  
[Psilopogon haemacephalus](#)

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Heart-spotted Woodpecker  
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker SE  
Freckle-breasted Woodpecker  
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker  
White-bellied Woodpecker  
Andaman Woodpecker AE  
Lesser Yellownape  
Streak-throated Woodpecker  
Common Flameback  
Black-rumped Flameback SE  
Greater (Malabar) Flameback E  
Rufous Woodpecker

[Hemicircus canente](#)  
[Dendrocopos nanus](#)  
[Dendrocopos analis](#)  
[Dendrocopos mahrattensis](#)  
[Dryocopus javensis](#)  
[Dryocopus hodgei](#)  
[Picus chlorolophus](#)  
[Picus xanthopygus](#)  
[Dinopium javanense](#)  
[Dinopium benghalense](#)  
[Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus socialis](#)  
[Micropternus brachyurus](#)

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Common Kestrel  
Shaheen Falcon

[Falco tinnunculus](#)  
[Falco peregrinus peregrinator](#)

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae**

Plum-headed Parakeet SE  
Red-breasted Parakeet  
Long-tailed Parakeet  
Malabar (Blue-winged) Parakeet E  
Alexandrine Parakeet  
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
Vernal Hanging Parrot

[Psittacula cyanocephala](#)  
[Psittacula alexandri](#)  
[Psittacula longicauda](#)  
[Psittacula columboides](#)  
[Psittacula eupatria](#)  
[Psittacula krameri](#)  
[Loriculus vernalis](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae**

Indian Pitta SE

[Pitta brachyura](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Tephrodornithidae**

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike  
Malabar Woodshrike E  
Common Woodshrike

[Hemipus picatus](#)  
[Tephrodornis sylvicola](#)  
[Tephrodornis pondicerianus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**

Ashy Woodswallow  
White-breasted Woodswallow

[Artamus fuscus](#)  
[Artamus leucorhynchus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae**

Common Iora

[Aegithina tiphia](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**

Large Cuckooshrike

[Coracina macei](#)

**Andaman Cuckooshrike** AE

**[Coracina dobsoni](#)**

**Black-headed Cuckooshrike** NE

**[Coracina melanoptera](#)**

Ashy Minivet

[Pericrocotus divaricatus](#)

Small Minivet

[Pericrocotus cinnamomeus](#)

**White-bellied Minivet** NE

**[Pericrocotus erythropygius](#)**

**Orange Minivet** SE

**[Pericrocotus flammeus](#)**

Scarlet Minivet

[Pericrocotus speciosus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

Brown Shrike

[Lanius cristatus](#)

Bay-backed Shrike

[Lanius vittatus](#)

Long-tailed Shrike

[Lanius schach](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

Indian Golden Oriole

[Oriolus kundoo](#)

Black-naped Oriole

[Oriolus chinensis](#)

Black-hooded Oriole

[Oriolus xanthornus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

Black Drongo

[Dicrurus macrocercus](#)

Ashy Drongo

[Dicrurus leucophaeus](#)

**White-bellied Drongo** SE

**[Dicrurus caerulescens](#)**

Bronzed Drongo

[Dicrurus aeneus](#)

**Andaman Drongo** AE

**[Dicrurus andamanensis](#)**

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

[Dicrurus paradiseus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**

**White-spotted Fantail** E

**[Rhipidura albogularis](#)**

White-browed Fantail

[Rhipidura aureola](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

Black-naped Monarch

[Hypothymis azurea](#)

Asian Paradise Flycatcher

[Terpsiphone paradisi](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

Rufous Treepie

[Dendrocitta vagabunda](#)

**White-bellied Treepie** E

**[Dendrocitta leucogastra](#)**

**Andaman Treepie** AE

**[Dendrocitta bayleii](#)**

House Crow

[Corvus splendens](#)

Eastern Jungle Crow

[Corvus leuallantii](#)

**Indian Jungle Crow** SE

**[Corvus culminatus](#)**

**PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae**

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher

[Culicicapa ceylonensis](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Cinereous Tit

[Parus cinereus](#)

**Indian Yellow Tit** E

**[Machlolophus aplonotus](#)**

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Jerdon's Bush Lark SE

[Mirafra affinis](#)

**Malabar Lark** E

**[Galerida malabarica](#)**



**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Grey-headed Bulbul E  
Andaman Bulbul AE  
Flame-throated Bulbul E  
Red-whiskered Bulbul  
Red-vented Bulbul  
Yellow-throated Bulbul E  
White-browed Bulbul SE  
Yellow-browed Bulbul SE  
Square-tailed Black Bulbul SE

*Pycnonotus priocephalus*  
*Pycnonotus fuscoflavescens*  
*Pycnonotus gularis*  
*Pycnonotus jocosus*  
*Pycnonotus cafer*  
*Pycnonotus xantholaemus*  
*Pycnonotus luteolus*  
*Acritillas indica*  
*Hypsipetes ganeesa*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Sand Martin  
Barn Swallow  
Pacific Swallow  
**Hill Swallow SE**  
Wire-tailed Swallow  
Dusky Crag Martin  
Common House Martin  
Red-rumped Swallow  
**Streak-throated Swallow SE**

*Riparia riparia*  
*Hirundo rustica*  
*Hirundo tahitica*  
***Hirundo domicola***  
*Hirundo smithii*  
*Ptyonoprogne concolor*  
*Delichon urbicum*  
*Cecropis daurica*  
***Petrochelidon fluvicola***

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

Dusky Warbler  
Tickell's Leaf Warbler  
Yellow-browed Warbler (L)  
Green Warbler  
Greenish Warbler  
Two-barred Warbler  
Large-billed Leaf Warbler  
**Tytlar's Leaf Warbler SE**  
Western Crowned Warbler

*Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
*Phylloscopus affinis*  
*Phylloscopus inornatus*  
*Phylloscopus nitidus*  
*Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*  
*Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*  
*Phylloscopus magnirostris*  
***Phylloscopus tytlari***  
*Phylloscopus occipitalis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

Oriental Reed Warbler  
Black-browed Reed Warbler  
Blyth's Reed Warbler  
Sykes's Warbler

*Acrocephalus orientalis*  
*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*  
*Acrocephalus dumetorum*  
*Iduna rama*

**PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**

Lanceolated Warbler  
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (H)  
**Broad-tailed Grassbird E (H)**

*Locustella lanceolata*  
*Locustella certhiola*  
***Schoenicola platyurus***

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

Grey-breasted Prinia  
**Jungle Prinia SE**  
**Ashy Prinia SE**  
Plain Prinia  
Common Tailorbird

*Prinia hodgsonii*  
***Prinia sylvatica***  
***Prinia socialis***  
*Prinia inornata*  
*Orthotomus sutorius*

**PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae**

**Indian Scimitar Babbler E**  
**Tawny-bellied Babbler SE**  
**Dark-fronted Babbler SE**

***Pomatorhinus horsfieldii***  
***Dumetia hyperythra***  
***Rhopocichla atriceps***

**PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae**

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta

*Alcippe poioicephala*

Puff-throated Babbler

[Pellorneum ruficeps](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

Rufous Babbler E

Jungle Babbler SE

Yellow-billed Babbler SE

Wynaad Laughingthrush E (H)

Black-chinned Laughingthrush E

Kerala Laughingthrush E

[Turdoides subrufa](#)

[Turdoides striata](#)

[Turdoides affinis](#)

[Garrulax delesserti](#)

[Trochalopteron cachinnans](#)

[Trochalopteron fairbanki](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

Yellow-eyed Babbler

[Chrysomma sinense](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

Oriental White-eye

[Zosterops palpebrosus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae**

Asian Fairy-bluebird

[Irena puella](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**

Indian Nuthatch E

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

[Sitta castanea](#)

[Sitta frontalis](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

Asian Glossy Starling

Common Hill Myna

Southern (Lesser) Hill Myna SE

Jungle Myna

Common Myna

Chestnut-tailed Starling

White-headed Starling AE

Malabar (Blyth's) Starling E

Brahminy Starling

Rosy Starling

[Aplonis panayensis](#)

[Gracula religiosa](#)

[Gracula indica](#)

[Acridotheres fuscus](#)

[Acridotheres tristis](#)

[Sturnia malabarica](#)

[Sturnia erythropygia](#)

[Sturnia blythii](#)

[Sturnia pagodarum](#)

[Pastor roseus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

Orange-headed Thrush

Nilgiri Thrush E

Indian Blackbird SE

[Geokichla citrina](#)

[Zoothera neilgherriensis](#)

[Turdus simillimus](#)

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscipidae**

Indian Robin SE

Oriental Magpie-Robin

White-rumped Shama

Andaman Shama AE

Asian Brown Flycatcher

Brown-breasted Flycatcher

Rusty-tailed Flycatcher NE

White-bellied Blue Flycatcher E

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher

Verditer Flycatcher

Nilgiri Flycatcher E

Indian Blue Robin

Nilgiri Blue Robin E

White-bellied Blue Robin E

Malabar Whistling Thrush E

Taiga Flycatcher

Kashmir Flycatcher SE

[Copsychus fulicatus](#)

[Copsychus saularis](#)

[Copsychus malabaricus](#)

[Copsychus albiventris](#)

[Muscicapa dauurica](#)

[Muscicapa muttui](#)

[Muscicapa ruficauda](#)

[Cyornis pallipes](#)

[Cyornis tickelliae](#)

[Eumyias thalassinus](#)

[Eumyias albicaudatus](#)

[Larvivora brunnea](#)

[Myiomela major](#)

[Myiomela albiventris](#)

[Myophonus horsfieldii](#)

[Ficedula albicilla](#)

[Ficedula subrubra](#)

**Black-and-orange Flycatcher** E  
Blue Rock Thrush  
**Blue-capped Rock Thrush** SE  
Siberian Stonechat (L)  
Pied Bush Chat

**PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae**  
**Jerdon's Leafbird** SE  
Golden-fronted Leafbird

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**  
Thick-billed Flowerpecker  
**Pale-billed Flowerpecker** SE  
**Nilgiri Flowerpecker** E  
**Andaman Flowerpecker** AE

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**  
Purple-rumped Sunbird  
**Crimson-backed (Small) Sunbird** E  
Purple Sunbird  
Olive-backed Sunbird  
**Loten's Sunbird** SE  
Little Spiderhunter

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**  
House Sparrow  
Yellow-throated Sparrow

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**  
Baya Weaver

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**  
Red Avadavat  
White-rumped Munia  
Scaly-breasted Munia  
**Black-throated Munia** SE  
**Tricolored Munia** SE

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**  
Forest Wagtail  
Grey-headed Wagtail  
Grey Wagtail  
White Wagtail  
White-browed Wagtail  
Paddyfield Pipit  
Olive-backed Pipit  
**Nilgiri Pipit** E

**PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**  
Common Rosefinch

**Ficedula nigrorufa**  
Monticola solitarius  
**Monticola cinclorhynchus**  
Saxicola maurus  
Saxicola caprata

**Chloropsis jerdoni**  
Chloropsis aurifrons

Dicaeum agile  
**Dicaeum erythrorhynchus**  
**Dicaeum concolor**  
**Dicaeum virescens**

Leptocoma zeylonica  
**Leptocoma minima**  
Cinnyris asiaticus  
Cinnyris jugularis  
**Cinnyris lotenius**  
Arachnothera longirostra

Passer domesticus  
Gymnoris xanthocollis

Ploceus philippinus

Amandava amandava  
Lonchura striata  
Lonchura punctulata  
**Lonchura kelaarti**  
**Lonchura malacca**

Dendronanthus indicus  
Motacilla flava thunbergi  
Motacilla cinerea  
Motacilla alba dukhenensis  
Motacilla maderaspatensis  
Anthus rufulus  
Anthus hodgsoni  
**Anthus nilghiriensis**

Carpodacus erythrinus

## SYSTEMATIC LIST – OTHER ANIMALS

Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>
Barking (Indian Muntjac) Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>
Mouse Deer	<i>Moschiola indica</i>
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>
Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>
Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>
Indian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus indicus</i>
Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
Stripe-necked Mongoose	<i>Herpestes vitticollis</i>
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pterops giganteus</i>
Three-striped (Indian) Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
Dusky-striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus obscurus</i>
Layard's Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus layardi</i>
Malabar Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>
Grizzled Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
Nilgiri (Black-naped) Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
Hanuman Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>
Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macaca radiata</i>
Nilgiri Langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>
Marsh Mugger	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
Rat Snake	<i>Pantherophis obsoletus</i>
Bronzeback Snake	<i>Dendrelaphus tristis</i>
House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>





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