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### NORTHERN INDIA TOUR REPORT

A Wildlife & Birding Tour of Northern India November 27th - December 11th 2017

**Participants:-** David Broadhead, Alan & Caroline Crockard, Patrick Hogston, Jan Thompson, Francois Trudel & Vera Weilburg.

**Tour Guides for Norfolk Birding –** Chris Mills & Prasanna Gautam

#### OVERVIEW OF THE TOUR

This tour took in the amazing sights and sounds of Northern India's wildlife and birds and included an optional extension visit to the amazing Taj Mahal.

The tour included a wide and varied cross section of habitat. Our first location was Bharatpur with a vast array of wetland species, plus a good introduction to raptors and passerines. We then headed for 2 full days in the beautiful surroundings of the Vangat camp in the buffer zone forest near Corbett NP. Vangat is set in a secluded river valley alongside the Ramganga river, in a wonderful diverse area of primary and secondary forest. We then spent 3 full days in the primary forest and wetland areas in the famous Corbett National Park and finally we finished the trip with the forest and mountain areas of Pangot and Nainital in the foothills of the Himalaya's.

*One of three different Tigers seen during our visit this a Tigress – Corbett NP*



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## IMAGES FROM THE TOUR

A whole sequence of images taken during the tour by Norfolk Birding and clients can be viewed online by going to the following link. You do not need to be registered with facebook to use this link.

Please click the link or copy and paste the following:-

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10155961154681684.1073741866.693691683&type=1&l=8b20e27de9>

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### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

The 5 members travelling from the UK, Alan, Caroline, David, Patrick & Jan met up at Heathrow airport to board our British Airways direct flight to Delhi. Whilst Francois travelling from Canada and Vera from Germany had made their own travel plans and we would meet them at the Hotel in Delhi.

Everyone was soon through security and boarding our flight. The flight departed at around 11.40am, the flight was comfortable with good food and drink and the economy seats were relatively comfortable.

Flight time is around 8 hours and we arrived in Delhi at a local time of 1.30am.

We got our money changed into Indian rupees in the airport and headed out into the sight, sounds and smells of Delhi! We met Prsanna our local guide, just outside the airport he escorted us to our minibus and driver. The luggage was loaded into the 12-seater minibus & we were soon tasting the hustle and bustle of Delhi. We were soon at the Hotel Ashok Country Resort, everyone was shown to their appointed rooms. The Hotel Ashok Country resort had good rooms with a mix of Indian & English breakfast.

Overnight at Hotel Ashok Country Resort.

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Before a late breakfast at 9.00am we had time for a quick bit of casual birding around the hotel and nearby gardens before departing for Agra and the Taj mahal.

The well attended and mature gardens yielded a mix of commoner birds, highlights were – **Indian House Crow, Black Kite, 20+ Rose-ringed Parakeet, Oriental White-eye, Jungle Babbler, Purple Sunbird, Common Tailorbird** a lovely group of **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, Indian Magpie-robin** and **Indian Peafowl** a superb male was on the lawn as was a lovely **Red-wattled Lapwing**– a nice little introduction!

We then loaded up the minibus and starting heading for Agra and the Taj Mahal, though we made steady progress this was interrupted by couple of stops for birding!

We were treated to several stunning **Black-winged Kites, Indian Peafowl** and hundreds of **Black Kite** from the moving minibus. A quick stop for a perched **Black-winged Kite** also gave us **Egyptian Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle**, lots of **Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Black Drongo, Indian Mynah & Bank Mynah**.

We made a roadside stop for lunch and then in the afternoon we came across a nice set of pools, we pulled over and had a lovely selection of birds -

**Painted Stork, several White-throated Kingfisher, Purple Swamphen, Red-Wattled Lapwing, Black-winged Stilt, 5+ Snipe, 2+ Wood Sandpiper, 2 Marsh Sandpiper, 3**

**Temminck's Stint, Spotted Redshank, Ruff, Long-tailed Shrike, Pied Bushchat, Asian Pied Starling, Scaly-breasted Munia and Citrine Wagtail.**

Probably the highlight was great views of three superb **Sarus Cranes**, at 1.5m high these are truly wonderful enigmatic birds.

We then made another fantastic stop by the Yamuna river bridge. We risked the busy traffic as there was a mass of birds below us in the shallow waters. **100+ Bar-headed Goose, 40+ Ruddy Shelduck**, lots of **Shoveler, Pintail, Teal**, masses of **Egrets, Little, Cattle, Great White and Intermediate**. Lots of waders too **Marsh, Common, Green and Marsh Sandpiper, Little and Temmincks Stint, Ruff, Spotted and Common Redshank** and more sort after **River Lapwing**.

We stopped again for late afternoon cup of tea and eventually arrived in Bharatpur. We were soon comfortably settled into our rooms at the Birders Inn. Evening meals were a buffet style mixture of Soup & various curries, with good choice of rice & Indian breads. Puddings were a largely a variation on rice puddings and semolina, with some very nice natural yoghurt!

Birders Inn has large comfortable en-suite rooms with hot showers set in nice lawned grounds and is just a short distance of 200m to the Park entrance. Overnight at Birders Inn, Bharatpur.

### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

We all arrived for an early breakfast served at 6.30am. Immediately after breakfast we met up with our guide Brijendra and our rickshaw drivers whom would accompany us over the next two and half days whilst visiting the park.

Brijendra Singh is very knowledgeable on all the flora and fauna. He has excellent knowledge of the parks' birds and wildlife and I highly recommend him. The park is a haven for storks, egrets ducks and waders, also raptors and owls.

The birding in the park was immediate, intense and very exciting!! It was slow progress as the birds came thick and fast. Over the next few hours we saw an amazing array of birds, exploring the main and side track and then off to the right in the nursery area.

The highlights in the morning along the side track were as follows – **Grey Francolin, Red Avadavat, Chestnut-shouldered petronia, Indian Robin**, lots of **Brahminy Starling, Long-tailed Shrikes, Indian Grey Hornbills, Oriental Honey Buzzards**, a perched **Shikra, Greater Coucal, Common Woodshrike**, stunning views of **Little Bee-eaters** hawking insects, **Purple Sunbirds** and **White-eared Bulbuls** everywhere.

We then headed on to the main track and on to the nursery area, there were two lovely **Spotted Owlets** just out sunning themselves. In the canopy there was lots to keep eager eyes occupied, **Red-breasted Flycatcher, Eastern Black Redstart, 4+ Greenish Warblers, 5+ Humes Warbler, Siberian Chiff-chaffs, Rufous Treepies, Brown-headed Barbets** eventually gave themselves up, **Coppersmith Barbets**. Out on the nearby pools **Green Sandpiper, White-breasted Waterhen**, plus beautiful **Spot-billed Ducks** and several **Indian Pond-herons**

By midday it was getting hot and we had enjoyed a wonderful morning's introduction to the birds, we headed back for a break and lunch. We then headed back out into another area of the park in the afternoon, heading towards the main Egret and heronry area for dusk. A lot more wetland birds this afternoon.

The highlights in the afternoon were as follows:- hundreds of Lesser Whistling Duck, 200+ Bar-headed Goose, 2 Comb Duck, 2 Asian Openbill, 4+ Black-headed Ibis, 10+ Spoonbill, 2 Purple heron, Indian Darter, Indian Cormorant, 6 Sarus Crane, Bronze-winged Jacana 5 Glossy Ibis, also great opportunities for White-throated and Common Kingfisher photography! Brijendra stopped off and had us all looking upwards at an incredibly camouflaged Oriental Scops Owl.

Raptors were also noted overhead with 2 Egyptian Vulture, 1 Greater Spotted eagle, Booted eagle, plus beautifully perched Shikra, Black-winged Kite and Marsh Harrier.

There were Great White, Little, and Intermediate Egrets, Purple & Grey Herons, Indian Darter, Little and Indian Cormorants, Painted Stork, Asian Openbill, Spoonbill, Black-headed Ibis and Glossy Ibis an amazing spectacle across the water and complimented by overhead activity of Plain Martins and Barn Swallows.

As well as the avifauna we also saw Spotted Deer, Sambar, Nilgai, Rhesus Macaque and Golden Jackal. We headed back after a fantastic first full day on the reserve.

After an early dinner and log call, everyone was tired and off to bed for rest.

Overnight at Birders Inn, Bharatpur. The Birders Inn is a very comfortable, well appointed lodge used by many companies heading into the national park.

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

After breakfast at 6.30am we departed aboard the rickshaws for the park again, again the visit was split into two visits, morning and afternoon. We arrived back at Birders Inn for lunch at around 12.30pm and then headed back out into the park at 2pm till dusk. We saw many species again and started to gain some familiarity with the regular wetland birds, but also added many new species today as well! , fantastic views of a perched

Avian highlights and new birds in the morning on the central and west areas as follows:- Ferruginous Duck, Black Bittern, Black-crowned Night-heron, 2 Steppe Eagle, Indian Spotted Eagle, 2 Pheasant-tailed Jacana, 5 White-tailed lapwing, 50+ Little Swift, Indian Hoopoe, Coppersmith Barbet showing extremely well at a nesthole, 2 Blyth's Reed Warbler, Siberian Stonechat, Pied Bushchat Crested Serpent eagle, also stunning views of a Dusky Eagle owl at a nest site, Pied Kingfisher, Brown Shrike, Common Babbler and Bluethroat

After lunch we searched the South & East tracks to the grassland area, new species and highlights were:- Much closer and great views of White-tailed Plover, Black-necked Stork was seen, the only pair in the park, 3 Comb Duck, 4 Wigeon, 25 Spoonbill, Striated Heron, Booted eagle, 100 Black-tailed Godwit, plus good views of Black-rumped Flameback, Yellow Wagtail and Taiga Flycatcher.

We got back had tea and biscuits, showered and finished with dinner and the log call.

The group total already topped 120+ species!

Overnight at Birders Inn, Bharatpur.

**Bharatpur images** – *Brahminy Starling*, *Cotton Pygmy Goose*, *Indian Darter*, *Bar-headed Goose*, *Purple Sunbird*, *Giant Flying fox*, *Long-tailed shrike* and *Black-winged Kite*.



### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November

After 6.30am breakfast we departed for a different habitat, an area of farmland, this proved well worthwhile and provided quite a few new species. Firstly, we located a small group of **Yellow-wattled Lapwing**, an attractive addition to our list. We then drove further on and parked, we then explored the fields on foot. One of the first birds were a superlative group of **8+ Indian Coursers**, these are beautiful, charismatic birds and we got really nice views. We came across several **Hoopoes**, a foraging group of **Large Grey Babblers**, a group of Larks flew up and landed, another target species – **20+ Ashy crowned Sparrow-larks**, several **Tawny Pipit** were located, then **2 Desert Wheatear** and **3+ Isabelline Wheatear**. Then, next up a **Southern Grey Shrike**, race "*lahtora*", and also a **Long-tailed Shrike**. We moved on a bit further and headed out into another set of fields, almost the first bird we stumbled on, was unlikely, some distance from any trees a **Wryneck** feeding in the open fields! Also in this area a big flock of **Greater Short-toed lark**, **Crested lark** plus several **Tawny Pipit** and an **Indian Bushlark**.

After a great morning's birding, we headed back to the Birders Inn for lunch. Back at the Hotel we were all soon pointing our cameras again after I discovered a nice close **Indian Scops Owl** roosting in the garden trees!

After lunch we headed back out for our final visit into the park, we explored the far south eastern tracks, we saw many of the wetland species already experienced but still added new birds for the trip – a **Cotton Pygmy Goose**, gave lovely close views, a **Black Bittern** was located, an **Osprey** was fishing, **5 female Red-crested Pochard** and a **Clamorous Reed Warbler** were all new. A real treat to finish were standing and watching around **120 Greater Indian Fruit Bat (Indian Giant Flying Fox)** flying to and from their roost areas. We bid farewell to our wonderful rickshaw drivers and head for tea and biscuits.

After a filling curry, rice pudding and a beer and an epic systematic list roll call we were off to bed. Bharatpur had served up 150+ mind-boggling species in our 3 day visit!

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

After a slightly later breakfast we packed cases and said farewell to the Birders Inn staff and our guide, Brijendra. We loaded the minibus with our gear and then headed for a local area on the outskirts of Bharatpur where we visited a village with a sequence of small pools.

Incredibly the “organic” looking pools complete with locals hosted the following:-

**Wood Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, White-throated Kingfisher, Cattle Egret, Red-wattled lapwing, Bank Mynah, Also Citrine Wagtail, and the main target species – 2+ Painted Snipe!**

Nearby one other small pool also hosted **2 Temminck's Stint.**

We then took the four hour journey in the minibus to Delhi, to catch the train up to Ramnagar. The train journey proved rather arduous as always it ran late! We eventually arrived at Tiger Camp, Corbett NP area around 1030pm we had a late dinner and headed for bed.

Overnight at Tiger Camp, Corbett NP

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

After the long journey yesterday we had a slightly later breakfast at 7.45am.

Though, several of us met at 7am and we had a quick look at the area below the camp and down to the river. There were several **Ruddy Shelduck, plus River Lapwing, 3 Greenshank, Red-rumped & Barn Swallow, Common Sandpiper, White-capped Water Redstart, Plumbeous Redstart, Hoopoe, Greater Coucal, our first Grey Bushchat and 2 Brown Rockchats.**

After a great filling breakfast, we then departed for Vangat taking the winding road to this wonderful remote camp alongside the Ramganga river at Vangat.

There was first the very enjoyable enjoyable 2km walk to the camp, we were soon watching many new birds – **Pallas's Fish Eagle, Kalij Pheasant, Great barbet, Bronzed Drongos, White-throated fantail, Himalayan Bulbul, Black-crested Bulbul, Grey-hooded Warbler, Oriental Honey Buzzard and Great Tit** all seen during the walk to the camp.

Next, we all had fun crossing the river on the wooden raft. We were all fitted up with life-jackets & hard hats! There was also plenty of birds around the river **10+ White-capped Water Redstart, 10+ Plumbeous Water Redstart, Long-tailed Shrike, c20 Bronzed Drongo** and several **Blue Whistling Thrush.**

We arrived at the camp mid afternoon, had a cup of tea and then took a short walk through the camp and along the river, in the bushes around the camp there was **Great, Lineated and Blue-throated Barbets** all showed extremely well. We also found **Buff-barred Warblers, Grey-hooded Warbler and Red-billed Leiothrix.**

Down by the river the birds kept coming **2 Pallas's Fish eagle** were constantly up and down the river fishing, a **Mountain Hawk-eagle** soared higher above the ridge, across the river several flocks of **Bronzed Drongo** were hawking insects over the trees. Probably the most watched birds were two lovely **Wallcreepers.** Other noteworthy birds were **Common Kingfisher, Crested Kingfisher, plus both Water Redstarts**

We had a lovely meal and a beer by the camp fire before retiring for our thatched cottages.

Overnight Vangat River Camp. It's just a beautiful, wonderful remote place!



### Sunday 3rd December

We took a breakfast walk just as it was getting light.

This proved a good decision as Anil our local guide pointed to two fantastic, huge silhouettes appeared from the hillside woodland, 2 **Great Hornbills**, they passed right overhead, wonderful! A few minutes later another target species, a **Brown Dipper** whizzed by flying up stream, perching briefly before disappearing. Other highlights during the walk were 10+ **White-capped Water Redstart**, 10+ **Plumbeous Water Redstart**, **Grey & White-browed wagtail**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, **Grey Treepie**, **Striated & Grey breasted Prinia**, several **Blue Whistling Thrush**. Plus great scope views perched and then in flight of the majestic **Wallcreeper**!

We then headed back for a late breakfast. Once we were fully refuelled, we took another river raft ride across to the other hillside and we then explored this area until early afternoon. The birding in the forest ebbed and flowed, with quiet spells, suddenly broken up by intense periods of birds quickly appearing in the trees.

Best birds included **Black-lored Tit**, **Buff-barred warbler**, **Grey-hooded Warbler**, **Whistlers Warbler**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **White-tailed Nuthatch**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, **Lineated and Blue-throated Barbets**, **Pallas's & 2 Lesser Fish eagle**, **Long-tailed Minivet**, **Red Junglefowl**, 1 **Mountain Hawk eagle**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike**, **Yellow-bellied & White-browed Fantail**.

As we crossed back over the river we also saw a **Blue Rock Thrush**. After a break, some of the group headed off to finish the day with some bird photography by the river, whilst others had a couple more hours birding near the camp and hit another nice flock with **White-crested Laughing Thrush**, **Slaty-blue Flycatcher**, **Black-crested Bulbul**, **Blue-winged Minla**, **White-throated Laughing thrush**, **White-crested Laughing-thrush**, **female Crimson Sunbird**, **Blue-fronted Redstart** and a lovely **Rufous-bellied Niltava**.

We finished the day with an evening meal, a camp fire and a glass of wine, whisky or beer!

### **Overnight Vangat River Camp**

### Monday 4th December

After a 6.30 breakfast, our cases were packed and it was time to leave the beautiful camp of Vangat. We crossed the river for our final time, we heard the **Great Hornbills** bidding us farewell, their deep croaks carrying across the valley. The **Brown Dipper** decided to provide us with our best views just as we were leaving, the **Mountain Hawk Eagle** soared overhead and a stunning male **Crimson Sunbird** was seen by a lucky few.

We were met at the river bridge and we now transferred the group into three open back 4-wheel drive jeeps and were introduced to our new drivers. Corbett NP is a mixture of dense deciduous forest, riverine forest, grassland and presence of large water body has endowed this region with extremely rich avifauna, we weren't to be disappointed!

On entering the park we were soon ran into several roving flocks, the birds were coming thick and fast often in large parties, it was difficult to know which bird to look at first!

The only frustration was a **Tawny Fish owl** that was seen by 2 of the 3 jeeps, but disappeared. Highlights were many!

**Red Junglefowl, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Streak-throated Woodpecker, 2 Lesser Yellownape, 10 Lineated Barbet, 1 Blue-throated Barbet, Emerald Dove, Indian Grey Hornbill, 2 Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Emerald Dove, a stunning pair of Great hornbill, 2 Oriental Pied Hornbill, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Plum-headed parakeet, Red-breasted parakeet, 20 Pin-tailed Green Pigeon Lesser Fish Eagle, 2 Pallas's Fish eagle, Indian Spotted eagle, Steppe Eagle, Mountain hawk-eagle, Collared Falconet, Black Stork, Black-hooded Oriole, Maroon oriole, Large cuckooshrike, Small Minivet, Scarlet Minivet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, White-throated fantail, Bronzed Drongo, Common Woodshrike, Common Iora, Chestnut-bellied Rock thrush, Small Niltava, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Black-crested Bulbul, Ashy Bulbul, White-crested laughing thrush, Red-billed Leiothrix,**

The highlights weren't limited to birds either, good views of **3 Indian Elephant, Spotted & Samba Deer, Mugger & Garial crocodiles and Wild Boar** were all seen! Plus good views of some large Golden Mahseer, a beautiful freshwater fish, below us in the river.

We eventually reached Dhikala camp, we settled into our rooms, admired the fantastic view from the restaurant area, stretching across the grasslands to the large water body.

Overnight at Dhikala Forest Lodge. The most basic of the accommodation we use. Though the food is very good and the location in the middle of the Corbett National Park, wonderful.

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

We headed out at 6.30 for a pre-breakfast drive arriving back at 9.30 for breakfast. We then breakfasted and headed back out aboard the three jeeps at 10.30 and then back for lunch at around 12.30PM. We then headed out again from 2-5.30pm for the afternoon safari.

We saw quite a few new bird species again compared the previous day, but today will undoubtedly be remembered for two outstanding moments! One in the morning and one late afternoon. Highlights and new birds were - **4 Tufted Duck, Pochard, Black-necked Stork, Woolly-necked Stork, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier, 3+ Changeable Hawk-eagle, Brown Crake, Plum-headed Parakeet, 2 Brown Fish owl, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Rufous Woodpecker, Himalayan Woodpecker, 10+ Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, 20+ Long tailed Minivet, Common Green Magpie, Rusty-cheeked scimitar babbler, Long-billed Pipit.**

The two outstanding moments, involved two predators a feline and a mustelid!

The first occurred as we rounded a bend on the Sambar road, in full view and at only 15-20m we watched on for nearly 30 minutes. The event we then watched unfold involving, the human-like **Rhesus Macaque** being killed by **2 Yellow-throated Martens** was for me unsurpassed in stirring emotion. The pictures, taken in very poor light (ISO 25600) don't really do justice to the tense, stirring and adrenalin fueled feelings as we watched at very close range (eventually less than 10m) as the Martens stalked, incapacitated and finally killed the poor Monkey. Of course nature takes its course, it's an every day event in the forest, but not one many people see involving a large primate and a predator.

Overnight at Dhikala Forest Lodge



The second event was wonderful but possibly a little more expected than the former. Even so for clients on the tour seeing their first Tiger, it is always a special and cherished moment. A Tigress was on and off view, in the grasslands for around an hour late afternoon and we were able to get some pictures as well.

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

We headed out at 6.30 for a pre-breakfast drive arriving back at 9.30 for breakfast. We then breakfasted and headed back out aboard the three jeeps at 10.30 and then back for lunch at around 12.30PM. We then headed out again from 2-5.30pm for the afternoon safari.

The day started with more great views of the same **Tigress**, she was still in the area of grassland we had seen her in late the previous afternoon, she moved a little closer and everyone managed to get some better images!

After breakfast we searched a new area on the other side of the river – we had several new birds and some great views of others. Highlights were **Osprey**, **2 Black-necked Stork** overhead and close, **Red-headed (King) Vulture**, a very close **Crested Kingfisher**, also close, **River lapwing**, a **Common Hawk-cuckoo** in flight, a **Lesser coucal** frustrating 3 times flight views, **Himalayan Goldenback** and a heard only **Chestnut-headed Tesia**. Near the river we also had lovely views of **2 Golden Jackal** and a **Stork-billed Kingfisher**. In the grassland area we had our first **Crested Bunting** and **6 Common Rosefinch**.

During the lunch period there are always a few birds to be seen around the camp or out on the large lake, and a few new birds were found and much improved views of several others a very showy **Jungle Owlet** was on view, **2 Blue-bearded Bee-eaters** were showing very well, and both a female **Pied Flycatcher** and a adult male **Red-breasted Flycatcher** were seen well and photographed.

In the afternoon we explored the large area of grasslands to the north of the lodge, and had some excellent birds, **20+ River Terns** gracefully up and down the shoreline fishing, a beautiful group of **70+ Plum-headed Parakeets** perched acrobatically atop weedy dead heads suddenly exploding into the sky, stunning views of a male **Black-hooded Oriole**, we also watched a **Southern Grey Shrike** devouring a small snake. Near the river we watched a family of **9 Indian Elephants** cross. Probably the bird highlight was a **Scaly Thrush** feeding at the side of the track. Late afternoon we heard alarm calls and we sat quietly with 3 other jeeps, as the repeated alarm calls continued, there was a Tiger not faraway. We sat in perfect silence, another jeep arrived and were persuaded to sit tight, a good decision! We waited and waited, then without any warning a male **Tiger** walked out of the scrub and across the track, he looked at us briefly and as suddenly he was there the beautiful orange, black and white stripes were gone. But just a few seconds later, another **Tiger, a Tigress**, the mate of the male appeared. This **Tiger** decided to oblige and took 10 paces towards us, before melting into the vegetation. It was much closer than our previous experience and just so fantastic to witness this rare apex predator so well at close range. We headed up to a vantage point just in case we got any further views, but they had disappeared, but we did see a lovely family of **9 Indian Elephants** crossing the river.

There was a lot of smiles and chatting over dinner that evening, it had been an amazing couple of days!

Overnight at Dhikala Forest Lodge

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Our last morning in the park and we headed out again early for a pre-breakfast jeep safari. Birds came thick and fast again, in concentrated flocks, a definite highlight was a male **White-tailed Rubythroat** it gave tantalising views to start with, but eventually it gave itself up performing well on the edge of the vegetation, a real stunner! Other highlights, new birds – **10+ White-rumped Needletail**, a lovely group of these aerial acrobats, also mixed in with several **Crested Treeswifts**. A **Rufous** and a **Himalayan Woodpecker** also showed very well, plus a roving flock of **20+ Large Woodshrikes**, **Scarlet** and **Long-tailed Minivets** were like red and yellow jewels in the trees!

After breakfast we took a steady drive out of the park, we had good views of **Red Junglefowl**, **Kalij Pheasant**, **Himalayan flameback**, **White-crested Laughing Thrush**, **Lesser Yellownape**, **3 Pin-tailed Green Pigeon**.

But there was still two more real highlights, first a **Brown Fish Owl** sat roosting in dead trees along the river edge. Then a little further on **2 Great Hornbills** were quietly, but majestically sat in the top of a fruiting fig tree. It was amazing watching such large birds with huge bills, so deftly picking and swallowing the fruit! At the Park gate, we said farewells to our drivers and guides of the last few days, switched vehicles and left the wonderful Corbett NP behind us.

We had lunch at Tiger Camp and then boarded the minibus for the drive up into the foothills of the Himalayas to the Pangot area. En-route we stopped and the second stop was rewarded with fantastic views of **10+ Red-billed Blue Magpies**, stunning birds! We also saw our first **Steppe Eagles** of the trip. It was dark by the time we arrived at Pangot and we had dinner and headed off to bed early ready for an early 5.30am start.

Overnight at Jungle Lore, Pangot. Jungle Lore features a group of rustic bungalows set in the foothills of the Himalayas, food is good and the restaurant area is lovely. The rooms are comfortable, with western hot showers, toilets etc.

Corbett NP images – *Tigress in the grassland*



**Corbett NP images – Tiger, Gharial, Lineated barbet, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Little Pied flycatcher, Black-necked Stork, Crested Kingfisher & Southern Grey Shrike**



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

After tea and biscuits at 5.45am we headed up to visit the highest part of the valley the Vinayak area at 1800m with Pheasants on our minds. As we headed upwards along the a **Large-tailed Nightjar** flew up but it was a brief glimpse.

We arrived on the higher tracks as the sun was rising, after a couple of brief stops to listen, we heard a very distant **Koklass Pheasant** calling. Despite several stops and searching we were still out of luck with the Koklass. With no further pheasant calls we headed higher into the forest, a **Plain-backed Thrush** perched out.

Scanning higher up produced **Himalayan Griffon Vulture** and **Cinereous Vulture**, good views of **Steppe eagle** and **Raven**. Just below us on the hillside a flock of **c70 Altai Accentor** plus a few **Crag Martin** but despite extensive searching we were unable to locate any Cheer Pheasants. The open areas produced a few more birds with and **Grey-breasted prinia**.

The higher elevation forest birding was quite tough, with small parties we managed to locate **Striated Laughing Thrushes**, **Brown-fronted Woodpecker**, **Spot-winged Tit**, **Black-lored Tit**, **Bar-tailed Treecreeper** and **White-tailed Nuthatch**.

As we headed down through the forest along the narrow lanes, the canopy opened out and a huge vista stretched in front of us, right to the wonderful distant snow-capped mountains. We stopped off to admire and photograph the 7000m plus mountains of the Himalaya's – an awe inspiring sight! The lower forest produced good views of **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** and improved views of some of the tits and warblers seen the previous day.

After a leisurely lunch we split into two groups, with four people photographing birds at the feeding area and water pool just below the lodge. Years ago you would have searched the forest floor for many of these species, but here were **White-throated**, **Streaked and Chestnut-crowned Laughing Thrushes**, **Rufous Sibia**, **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler**, **Black-headed Jay** just feeding on rice, brazenly at times on the lodges paths and borders! A real highlight was a **Black Francolin**. The rest of the group explored the area round the camp and the nearby woodland. Close to the lodge an **Aberrant Bush-warbler** posed well, a **Blyths Reed warbler** and a **Blue-fronted Redstart** were also close by. A group of **10 Yellow-breasted Greenfinch** were amongst the weedy fields. We then walked to a nearby woodland street, and were rewarded with lovely views of a very sought after Himalayan speciality – **Spotted Forktail**!

It had been a great day, and we thought we had finished birding for the day. That was until the local Jungle Lore guide came in and announced that he a **Mountain Scops Owl** just outside the restaurant. We all headed out and at very close range we had amazing torchlit views of this tricky, nocturnal species!

Overnight at Jungle Lore, Pangot.

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

After a discussion amongst the group, we decided to have another attempt at the pheasants, so it was a repeat performance of yesterday morning with tea and biscuits at 5.45am. We searched the lower half without success, but as we headed higher up JP our guide was sure he heard a Koklass calling, his sharp eyes detected movement and a male **Koklass Pheasant** was on the ridge amongst the trees. It wasn't easy to see and some of the group could see it, whilst it eluded others. There was a few stressful minutes, but eventually a pair of **Koklass Pheasant** emerged and I managed to get a scope on them, everyone got good views and Alan even managing a record picture! We all felt very satisfied, our decision to make a return visit had proven a good one. We saw several of the same species as yesterday, but scored with some nice additions too! We stopped off again to admire the amazing view towards the snow topped Himalaya. Lower down we had a nice flock with **6+ Black-faced Warbler**, **5 Himalayan Woodpecker** plus a flock of **20+ Black Bulbul** and two real highlights – a **Long-billed Thrush** and **Spotted Forktail** in the same mountain stream.

We headed down for brunch, and the two groups did a swap, with half the group using the hide and the others walking the camp and the mountain stream.

The hide produced a similar mix of great birds, also **Black-chinned Babbler**, **Eurasian Jay** and **Chestnut Crowned Laughing-thrush** showing very well.

The others also saw the **Spotted Forktail** at the mountain stream, but also had a **Grey-backed Shrike** another addition to the list.

We had another lovely evening, our last up in the foothills of the Himalayas.

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Our last morning! Several of us headed out for a pre-breakfast walk whilst others decided to relax and have a lie in! We took a walk up the road from the camp and hit a nice flock of birds, **15+ Black-faced Warblers**, **Black-throated Tits**, **Black-lored tits**, **Spot-winged Tits**, **Buff-barred** and **Grey-hooded Warbler**, **Himalayan Woodpecker** and still managed to add a couple of additional species **Scaly-breasted Woodpecker** & amazingly point blank views of **White-browed Shrike-babbler** (no camera to hand this time!)

After breakfast we said farewell and headed down to the lower area of Sattal. We had just enough time for a bit of lunch here and a quick hour of birding. Lots of nice birds, with another last moment addition to our list - a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher!**

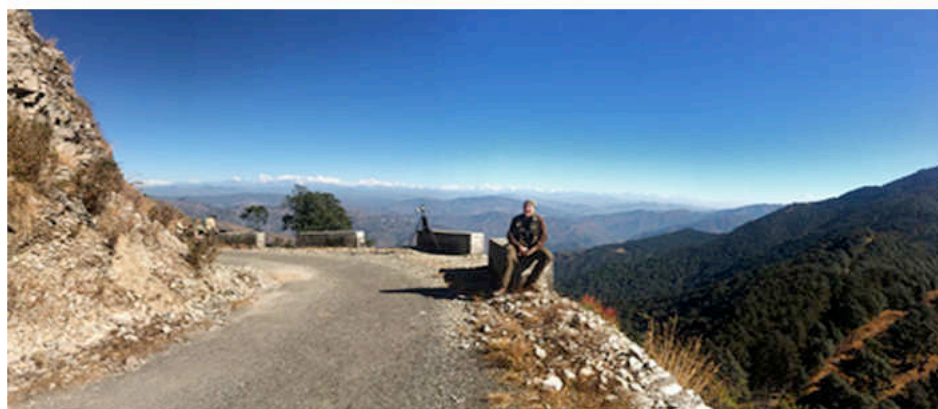
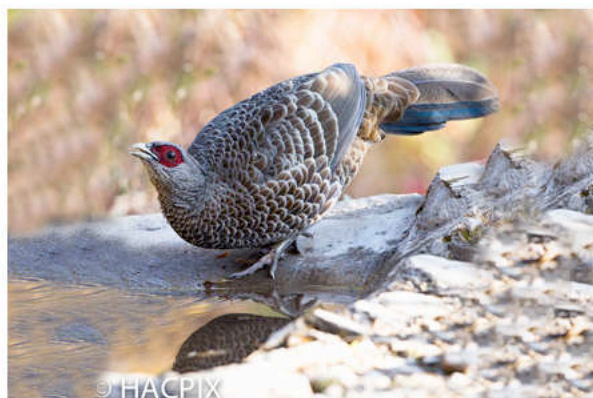
We then took the train back to Delhi on a largely uneventful journey. Where eventually everyone was dropped off at the airport or Hotels.

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Most of the group departed from Delhi for Heathrow in the early hours of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Francois enjoyed a 3 day extension visiting the Taj Mahal & Agra Fort. Before leaving Delhi for Toronto later in the week.

**Pangot area images** – Chestnut-crowned Laughing thrush, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler, Kalij pheasant, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Rufous Sibia, Black-headed Jay & The Himalayas



## Systematic list of birds recorded on the Tour

1	<b>Grey Francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
2	<b>Black Francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
3	<b>Red Junglefowl</b>	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
4	<b>Kalij Pheasant</b>	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
5	<b>Koklass Pheasant</b>	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>
6	<b>Indian Peafowl</b>	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
7	<b>Lesser Whistling Duck</b>	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
8	<b>Greylag Goose</b>	<i>Anser anser</i>
9	<b>Bar-headed Goose</b>	<i>Anser indicus</i>
10	<b>Comb Duck</b>	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
11	<b>Ruddy Shelduck</b>	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
12	<b>Cotton Pygmy-goose</b>	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
13	<b>Gadwall</b>	<i>Anas strepera</i>
14	<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
15	<b>Spot-billed Duck</b>	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
16	<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
17	<b>Wigeon</b>	<i>Anas penelope</i>
18	<b>Northern Pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i>
19	<b>Common Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>
20	<b>Ferruginous Duck</b>	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
21	<b>Tufted Duck</b>	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
22	<b>Common Pochard</b>	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
23	<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	<i>Netta rufina</i>
24	<b>Goosander</b>	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
25	<b>Little Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
26	<b>Painted Stork</b>	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
27	<b>Asian Openbill</b>	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
28	<b>Black Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
29	<b>Black-necked Stork</b>	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
30	<b>Woolly-necked Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
31	<b>Black-headed Ibis</b>	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
32	<b>Red-necked Ibis</b>	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
33	<b>Glossy Ibis</b>	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
34	<b>Spoonbill</b>	<i>Platalea alba</i>
35	<b>Black Bittern</b>	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>
36	<b>Little/Striated Heron</b>	<i>Butorides striata</i>
37	<b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b>	<i>Nycitorax nycitorax</i>
38	<b>Indian Pond Heron</b>	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
39	<b>Grey Heron</b>	<i>Ardea Cinerea</i>
40	<b>Purple Heron</b>	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>

41	<b>Cattle Egret</b>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
42	<b>Great Egret</b>	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
43	<b>Intermediate Egret</b>	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>
44	<b>Little Egret</b>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
45	<b>Indian Darter</b>	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
46	<b>Little Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
47	<b>Indian Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
48	<b>Great Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
49	<b>Collared Falconet</b>	<i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>
50	<b>Common Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
51	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
52	<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b>	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
53	<b>Black Kite</b>	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
54	<b>Osprey</b>	<i>Pandion halietus</i>
55	<b>Pallas's Fish Eagle</b>	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>
56	<b>Lesser Fish Eagle</b>	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>
57	<b>Oriental Honey-Buzzard</b>	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
58	<b>Himalayan Buzzard</b>	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
59	<b>Egyptian Vulture</b>	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
60	<b>Himalayan Griffon Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps himalayanesis</i>
61	<b>Eurasian Griffon Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
62	<b>Cinereous Vulture</b>	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
63	<b>Red-headed Vulture</b>	<i>Sargogyps calvus</i>
64	<b>Crested Serpent Eagle</b>	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
65	<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
66	<b>Hen Harrier</b>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
67	<b>Shikra</b>	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
68	<b>Eurasian Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
69	<b>Indian Spotted Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila hastata</i>
70	<b>Greater Spotted Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila clanga</i>
71	<b>Steppe Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
72	<b>Booted Eagle</b>	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
73	<b>Changeable Hawk Eagle</b>	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>
74	<b>Mountain Hawk Eagle</b>	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>
75	<b>White-breasted Waterhen</b>	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
76	<b>Brown Crake</b>	<i>Amauornis akool</i>
77	<b>Purple Swamphe</b>	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
78	<b>Common Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
79	<b>Common Coot</b>	<i>Fulica atar</i>
80	<b>Sarus Crane</b>	<i>Grus antigone</i>
81	<b>Indian Stone Curlew</b>	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>
82	<b>Pheasant-tailed Jacana</b>	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
83	<b>Bronze-winged Jacana</b>	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>
84	<b>Avocet</b>	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>

85	<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
86	<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
87	<b>Great Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
88	<b>River Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>
89	<b>Yellow-wattled Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus malarbaricus</i>
90	<b>Red-wattled Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
91	<b>White-tailed Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>
92	<b>Greater Painted-snipe</b>	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
93	<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
94	<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
95	<b>Spotted Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
96	<b>Common Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
97	<b>Common Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebulria</i>
98	<b>Marsh Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
99	<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
100	<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
101	<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
102	<b>Little Stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
103	<b>Temminck's Stint</b>	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
104	<b>Indian Courser</b>	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>
105	<b>Pallas's Gull</b>	<i>Ichthyætus ichthyætus</i>
106	<b>Brown-headed Gull</b>	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>
107	<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
108	<b>River Tern</b>	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>
109	<b>Rock Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>
110	<b>Eurasian Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
111	<b>Spotted Dove</b>	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
112	<b>Laughing Dove</b>	<i>Stigmatopelia senegalensis</i>
113	<b>Yellow-footed Green pigeon</b>	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>
114	<b>Pin-tailed green Pigeon</b>	<i>Treron apicauda</i>
115	<b>Spotted Dove</b>	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
116	<b>Rose-ringed Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
117	<b>Slaty-headed Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula himalayana</i>
118	<b>Plum-headed Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
119	<b>Red-breasted Parakeet</b>	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
120	<b>Common Hawk Cuckoo</b>	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
121	<b>Large Hawk-cuckoo</b>	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
122	<b>Greater Coucal</b>	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
123	<b>Lesser Coucal</b>	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>
124	<b>Mountain Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>
125	<b>Indian Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
126	<b>Oriental Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus sunia</i>
127	<b>Jungle Owlet</b>	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
128	<b>Spotted Owlet</b>	<i>Athene brama</i>

129	<b>Dusky Eagle Owl</b>	<i>Bubo coromandus</i>
130	<b>Brown Fish Owl</b>	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
131	<b>Tawny Fish Owl</b>	<i>Ketupa flavipes</i>
132	<b>Alpine Swift</b>	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
133	<b>White-rumped Needletail</b>	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>
134	<b>Crested Tree Swift</b>	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
135	<b>Little Swift</b>	<i>Apus affinis</i>
136	<b>Indian Hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa epops</i>
137	<b>Indian Roller</b>	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
138	<b>Stork-billed Kingfisher</b>	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
139	<b>White-throated Kingfisher</b>	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
140	<b>Common Kingfisher</b>	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
141	<b>Crested Kingfisher</b>	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
142	<b>Pied Kingfisher</b>	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
143	<b>Blue Bearded Bee-eater</b>	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>
144	<b>Little Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
145	<b>Indian Grey Hornbill</b>	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>
146	<b>Great Hornbill</b>	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
147	<b>Great Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima virens</i>
148	<b>Brown-headed Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>
149	<b>Lineated Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>
150	<b>Blue-throated Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>
151	<b>Coppersmith Barbet</b>	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
152	<b>Wryneck</b>	<i>Jynx Torquilla</i>
153	<b>Rufous Woodpecker</b>	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
154	<b>Great Slaty Woodpecker</b>	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>
155	<b>Rufous-bellied Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopus hiperythrus</i>
156	<b>Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>
157	<b>Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopus canicapillus</i>
158	<b>Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopus macei</i>
159	<b>Brown-fronted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocoptes auriceps</i>
160	<b>Himalayan Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopus himalayensis</i>
161	<b>Lesser Yellownape</b>	<i>Picus chlorophus</i>
162	<b>Greater Yellownape</b>	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>
163	<b>Scaly-breasted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Picus</i>
164	<b>Grey-headed Woodpecker</b>	<i>Picus canus</i>
165	<b>Himalayan Goldenback</b>	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>
166	<b>Lesser Goldenback</b>	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
167	<b>Greater Flameback</b>	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>
168	<b>Speckled Piculet</b>	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
169	<b>Large Woodshrike</b>	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>
170	<b>Common Woodshrike</b>	<i>Tephrodornis pondiceranius</i>
171	<b>Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike</b>	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
172	<b>Common Iora</b>	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>

173	<b>Long-tailed Minivet</b>	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
174	<b>Scarlet Minivet</b>	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
175	<b>Southern Grey Shrike (<i>lahtora</i>)</b>	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
176	<b>Brown Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
177	<b>Long-tailed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius schach</i>
178	<b>Grey-backed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>
179	<b>Black Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>
180	<b>Ashy Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
181	<b>Bronzed Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
182	<b>Indian Golden Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>
183	<b>Black-hooded Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
184	<b>Maroon Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>
185	<b>White-throated Fantail</b>	<i>Rhipdura albicollis</i>
186	<b>Yellow-bellied Fantail</b>	<i>Chelidorhynch hypozantha</i>
187	<b>Eurasian Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
188	<b>Black-headed Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i>
189	<b>Red-billed Blue Magpie</b>	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>
190	<b>Common Green Magpie</b>	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>
191	<b>Rufous Treepie</b>	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
192	<b>Eastern Jungle Crow</b>	<i>Corvus (macrorhynchos) levaillantii</i>
193	<b>Large-billed Crow</b>	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
194	<b>Northern Raven</b>	<i>Corvus corax</i>
195	<b>House Crow</b>	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
196	<b>Great Tit</b>	<i>Parus major</i>
197	<b>Green-backed Tit</b>	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
198	<b>Yellow-browed Tit</b>	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
199	<b>Black-throated Tit</b>	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
200	<b>Black-lored Tit</b>	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>
201	<b>Spot-winged Tit (Coal Tit)</b>	<i>Periparus ater</i>
202	<b>Black-throated Tit</b>	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
203	<b>Plain Martin</b>	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
204	<b>Crag Martin</b>	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>
205	<b>Barn Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
206	<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
207	<b>Wire-tailed Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
208	<b>Indian Bush-lark</b>	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
209	<b>Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark</b>	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>
210	<b>Greater Short-toed Lark</b>	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
211	<b>Crested Lark</b>	<i>Galerida cristatus</i>
212	<b>Oriental Skylark</b>	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
213	<b>Himalayan Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
214	<b>White-eared Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>
215	<b>Black-crested Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>

216	<b>Red-whiskered Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
217	<b>Red-vented Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
218	<b>Ashy Bulbul</b>	<i>Hemixos flava</i>
219	<b>Black Bulbul</b>	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
220	<b>Striated Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia criniger</i>
221	<b>Grey-breasted Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
222	<b>Jungle Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>
223	<b>Plain Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
224	<b>Ashy Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
225	<b>Zitting Cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
226	<b>Common Tailorbird</b>	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
227	<b>Blyth's Reed warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
228	<b>Clamorous Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
229	<b>Aberrant Bush-warbler</b>	<i>Horornis flavolivaceus</i>
230	<b>Chestnut-headed Tesia</b>	<i>Tesia castaneocoronata</i>
231	<b>Siberian Chiffchaff</b>	<i>Phylloscopus (tristis)</i>
232	<b>Dusky Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
233	<b>Buff-barred Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>
234	<b>Lemon-rumped Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>
235	<b>Hume's Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
236	<b>Greenish Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
237	<b>Grey-hooded Warbler</b>	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>
238	<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
239	<b>Whistlers Warbler</b>	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>
240	<b>Black-faced Warbler</b>	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>
241	<b>Puff-throated Babbler</b>	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>
242	<b>Black-chinned Babbler</b>	<i>Stachyris pyrrhops</i>
243	<b>Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler</b>	<i>Pomatorhinus erythrogenys</i>
244	<b>Common Babbler</b>	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>
245	<b>Large Grey Babbler</b>	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>
246	<b>Jungle Babbler</b>	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
247	<b>White-throated Laughing-thrush</b>	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>
248	<b>White-crested Laughing-thrush</b>	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>
249	<b>Striated Laughing-thrush</b>	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>
250	<b>Streaked Laughing-thrush</b>	<i>Garrulax lineatus</i>
251	<b>Chestnut-crowned L. Thrush</b>	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>
252	<b>Blue-winged Siva</b>	<i>Siva strigula</i>
253	<b>Red-billed Leiothrix</b>	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
254	<b>White-browed Shrike-babbler</b>	<i>Pteruthius aeralatus (now Blyth's Shrike-babbler)</i>
255	<b>Rufous Sibia</b>	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>
256	<b>Yellow-eyed Babbler</b>	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
257	<b>Oriental White-eye</b>	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>
258	<b>Brown Dipper</b>	<i>Cinclus pallasi</i>

259	<b>Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta castanea</i>
260	<b>White-tailed Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>
261	<b>Velvet-fronted Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
262	<b>Bar-tailed Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>
263	<b>Wallcreeper</b>	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>
264	<b>Common Myna</b>	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
265	<b>Bank Myna</b>	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>
266	<b>Asian Pied Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus contra</i>
267	<b>Brahminy Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>
268	<b>Blue Whistling Thrush</b>	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
269	<b>Long-billed Thrush</b>	<i>Zoothera monticola</i>
270	<b>Plain-backed Thrush</b>	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>
271	<b>Scaly Thrush</b>	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>
272	<b>Grey-winged Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>
273	<b>Bluethroat</b>	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
274	<b>White-tailed Rubythroat</b>	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>
275	<b>Himalayan Bluetail</b>	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
276	<b>Oriental Magpie Robin</b>	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
277	<b>White-rumped Shama</b>	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
278	<b>Indian Robin</b>	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
279	<b>Plumbeous Water Redstart</b>	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>
280	<b>White-capped Water Redstart</b>	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>
281	<b>Blue-fronted Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
282	<b>Eastern Black Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>
283	<b>Little Forktail</b>	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>
284	<b>Spotted Forktail</b>	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>
285	<b>Siberian Stonechat</b>	<i>Saxicola (torquata) maura</i>
286	<b>Pied Bushchat</b>	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
287	<b>Grey Bushchat</b>	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>
288	<b>Isabelline Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>
289	<b>Desert Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
290	<b>Brown Rock chat</b>	<i>Oenanthe fusca</i>
291	<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola solatarius</i>
292	<b>Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula strophiate</i>
293	<b>Red-breasted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
294	<b>Taiga Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
295	<b>Little Pied Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>
296	<b>Slaty-blue Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>
297	<b>Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher</b>	<i>Culicicapa ceylonsis</i>
298	<b>Rufous-bellied Niltava</b>	<i>Niltava sundara</i>
299	<b>Golden-fronted Leafbird</b>	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
300	<b>Purple Sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
301	<b>Crimson Sunbird</b>	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
302	<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

303	<b>Chestnut-shouldered Petronia</b>	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>
304	<b>Yellow-breasted Greenfinch</b>	<i>Chloris spinoides</i>
305	<b>Common Rosefinch</b>	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
306	<b>Red Avadavat</b>	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
307	<b>Indian Silverbill</b>	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>
308	<b>Scaly-breasted Munia</b>	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
309	<b>Black-headed Munia</b>	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>
310	<b>Altai Accentor</b>	<i>Prunella himalayana</i>
311	<b>Yellow Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
312	<b>Citrine Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
313	<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
314	<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
315	<b>White-browed Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla maderspatensis</i>
316	<b>Paddyfield Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
317	<b>Long-billed Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus similis</i>
318	<b>Tawny Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
319	<b>Common Rosefinch</b>	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
320	<b>Crested Bunting</b>	<i>Melophus lathamii</i>

## **Systematic list of mammals and “others” recorded on the Tour**

<b>MAMMALS</b>
Greater Indian Fruit Bat
Rhesus Macaque
Hanuman Langur
Golden Jackal
Indian Grey Mongoose
Tiger
Indian Elephant
Wild Boar
Ghoral
Indian Muntjac
Sambar
Spotted Deer or Chital
Nilgai
Five-striped Ground Squirrel
<b>OTHERS</b>
Mugger Crocodile
Gharial (crocodile)
Soft-shelled Ganges Turtle
Golden Mahseer (fish)
Catfish (Goonch)
Indian Python

### **Future Tours**

If you are interested in joining us in India then we have a tour in **December 2018** please contact us for details.

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