



**A Wildlife & Birding Tour of Central India
March 3rd - March 15th 2025**

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CENTRAL INDIA TOUR OVERVIEW

This tour took in three Central Indian National Parks. It was primarily based on seeing the apex mammals, but we also managed to see a good diversity of birds, with 211 species recorded. Mammals were a resounding success, with fantastic views of multiple Tigers with around 20 different sightings, 3 Leopards, 4 Sloth Bear, Indian Guar, Common Langur and Rhesus Macaque monkeys, Mugger Crocodile and plus many others.

Apart from travel days and a boat trip to Irai reservoir near Tadoba, most of the wildlife and birds were seen via jeep rides in the three parks.

The jeep rides typically were from 6.15am-1030-11am and 2.30pm to 5.30-6pm, with a break in the middle of the day when it tended to be quiet with temperatures reaching the mid 30's.

ACCOMMODATION

Raddison Blue Hotel, Nagpur – top quality Western style Hotel.

Kanha Jungle Camp – air-conditioned lodges with Western style bathrooms/toilets.

Pench Jungle Camp – air-onditioned luxury tents with Western style bathrooms/toilets.

Tadoba Jungle Camp - – air-conditioned lodges with Western style bathrooms/toilets.

FOOD

Food was off a good standard throughout with largely a mixture and large variety of curry-based dishes, though very few were what we would call 'hot'. Also, a range of soups and Indian style desserts. Breakfasts during jeep safaris, were Kati rolls with paneer or eggs and vegetables, bananas, oranges, rice, boiled eggs and coffee/tea from flasks.

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Monday 3rd March – Heathrow-Doha-Nagpur

Some of the group met up with me at Heathrow early morning around 6am in good time to get through the required security and baggage drop formalities. This all passed quickly without incident and the Qatar Airways flight got away on time and reached Doha where I met two other clients who had travelled from Edinburgh. Then four of us caught the connection flight to Nagpur, India and arrived around 2am on Tuesday 4th March, local time in Nagpur. Where we stayed overnight in the Blue Radisson Hotel, the other 5 clients, had all travelled independently to Nagpur, having been in India prior to the tour.

Tuesday 4th March – Nagpur - Kanha

At breakfast around 9am, I met up with the other 5 clients who had travelled independently to Nagpur, we had breakfast and then met our driver and Indian guide Yogi, who accompanied the group through the rest of the tour. After breakfast and a couple of stops in Nagpur to collect a few items for clients we got properly underway around 10.45am.

Our first birds were **Red-vented Bulbuls** and **House Sparrows**, and a lovely roadside **Black-winged Kite** and **Oriental Honey Buzzard**. Our first meaningful stop was at the Kanhan river bridge, not too far into our drive to Kanha. From the bridge there was a nice introduction of birds with **2 Indian Spot-billed Duck**, **Laughing Dove**, **2 Little Swift**, **4 Black-winged Stilt**, **7 Red-wattled Lapwing**

Several Little Cormorant Little, Intermediate and Eastern Cattle Egret, Indian Pond Heron, 5 Asian Green Bee-eater, 10 Wire-tailed Swallow, 100 Streak-throated Swallow and Barn Swallow. The standout birds here were without doubt were **2 Greater-painted Snipe**, including a smart female (role reversal in this species!) in breeding plumage!

As we continued our journey, there were a few more birds to be seen from the minibus, mainly perched or in flight – **Indian Roller, Black Drongo, Long-tailed Shrike, Asian Green Bee-eater, Greater Coucal, Pied Bushchat**, several White-throated Kingfisher the best, plus commoner species such as **Collared & Laughing Dove, Large Billed Crow** plus the ubiquitous **Ring-necked Parakeets**. A late afternoon roadside stop also gave us **3 Eastern Cattle egrets**, our first **Red-collared Dove, Pied Starlings** and **Yellow-throated Sparrows**.

We eventually arrived early evening at Kanha National Park, where after a lot of travelling we all settled into our rooms, before an evening meal of buffet style curries, rice and wonderful Indian breads! It was then off to bed early ready for the first of our early morning game safari drives.

Overnight at Kanha Jungle Camp

Wednesday 5th March – Kanha Tiger Reserve NP

It was a 5.15am alarm call ready to depart at 5.45am for the first of our game safari drives, with tea/coffee and biscuits prior to departure, a packed breakfast was provided for each of our 3 jeeps. We entered Kanha NP at the Mukki gate. Each jeep consisted of a local forest guide and driver, plus we ensured each jeep also had a birding guide. It was still pretty much dark as we entered the forest, each jeep was given a route (this is determined by the park authority) so we couldn't drive in convoy, and in fact this gave each jeep and group the opportunity to concentrate on the areas they most preferred. We were all surprised how cool it was first thing in the morning and took advantage of the blankets offered on the way to the gate.

Expectations were high as we got underway, and it wasn't too long before all 3 jeeps were back together, joining a small queue of jeeps – clearly something had been seen! Suddenly we were all moving forwards and we all suddenly realised there was a **Tiger**, a female moving parallel to the track, it was amazing to have seen one so quickly, albeit it was generally walking away from us!

Amazingly, we didn't have to wait too long though before another encounter, this time a male **Tiger** appeared in a slightly more open area and we all had good views as it walked parallel to the track passing by at around 25m. One of our jeeps managed to get to the head of the jeeps and got really great views as it walked towards them!

Once the light broke and the warm rays of the sun livened the forest birds into action! Over the next three hours we were treated to **3 Indian Peafowl, Red Spurfowl, Red Junglefowl, Grey Francolin** giving their distinctive repeated calls, **Rufous Turtle Dove, Collared Dove, Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon, Greater Coucal, 5 Common Hawk-Cuckoo** and **3 Shikra**.

Along with the larger apex mammals, we were also enjoying extensive views of hundreds of Spotted Deer, also a few Sambar deer, Common Langur and Rhesus Macaque Monkeys and some of the group also encountered Golden Jackal.

A stand out bird this morning was a perched **Brown Fish-Owl** and other Owls always great to encounter included **2 Jungle Owlet** and **2 Brown Hawk-Owl**, and we soon got use to the monotonous calls of **Coppersmith & Brown-headed Barbet!** Woodpeckers were well represented with **Brown-capped Pygmy, White-naped & Streak-throated Woodpecker**. Also **Common Kestrel, 8 Alexandrine Parakeet, 3 Ring-necked Parakeet, 2 Plum-headed Parakeet, 2 Scarlet Minivet, 1 Indian Cuckoo-shrike, 2 Black-hooded Oriole, 8 Black Drongo, 4 White-bellied Drongo, 2 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Black-naped Monarch, Indian Paradise-Flycatcher, Brown Shrike, Rufous Treepie, 4 House Crow, 5 Large-billed Crow (Indian Jungle), 1 Asian Tit, Common Tailorbird, 2 Plain Prinia, 20 Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, Red-vented Bulbul, Hume's Warbler, 10 Greenish Warbler, 5 Indian White-eye, 5 Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, 10 Jungle Babbler** and **2 Chestnut-tailed Starling**.

At 10.00am, we stopped off for our picnic breakfast, it was getting warm and activity quietening!

An open area grassland area with pools offered up more avian delights with **4 Little Swift, 10 Eurasian Teal 6 Red-wattled Lapwing, 3 Common Snipe, 3 Wood Sandpiper, 2 Little Cormorant, 2 Red-naped Ibis, 8 Indian Pond Heron, 2 Eastern Cattle-Egret, Great White Egret, Medium Egret, Stork-billed Kingfisher, White-throated Kingfisher, Indian Roller, Asian Green Bee-eater, plus circling White-rumped Vulture, Crested Serpent-Eagle and Rufous-bellied Eagle.** A wonderful first morning, with the delights of **2 Tigers** and many avian highlights.

We were back at the camp around 11.30am, and it was now getting hot, most of us took the chance for a break after two busy days of travel and an early start. Lunch was served around 12.30 and then we all met back up around 2.15pm to board the jeeps for the afternoon jeep safari. The afternoon rides in March are always quieter in terms of birding, as the activity subsides in the heat. This afternoon we headed to the buffer zone area of Khapa on the edge Kanha core area, the birding added some different species from the morning, with the standout bird being an obliging **Mottled Wood Owl**, which we had fine views as it sat sleeping in the split of a tree trunk.

Also, very close views of **2 Crested Serpent Eagles** that seemed unbothered by our point blank range! One of the jeeps scored well with **2 White-rumped Shama** and good views of **White-bellied** and **Hair-crested Drongo** and **Chestnut-tailed Starling**.

Mammals included **Indian Gaur, Swamp Deer, Muntjac, Indian Wild Boar**, both **Langur & Macaque monkeys** and **Ruddy Mongoose**. One of the jeeps also managed our first **Indian Flying foxes**, of course these bats, and perhaps a more accurate name is **Greater Indian Fruit bat**!

After a great first day, we reached the camp around 6.30pm, showered and then had dinner around 7.30pm, before heading off to the rooms around 9pm ready for another early morning start.

Overnight Kanha Jungle Camp



Oriental Honey Buzzard – this one from a roadside stop by the highway



Royal Bengal Tiger – our first one on our very first game drive at Kanha!



Common Langur – the real characters of the forest



The beautifully patterned Mottled Wood Owl

Thursday 6th March - Kanha Tiger Reserve NP

It was another 5am alarm call with tea/coffee and biscuits at 5.30am and departure in the jeeps at 5.45am. This was another visit into the core area of Kanha, and it turned into an excellent morning's birding. Firstly, two of the jeeps managed to get nice views of a **Blue-capped Rock Thrush** as it hopped around below the understorey of the forest floor, a beautiful small thrush!

Then we reached an area of more open forest with the first rays of sun on the trees. Fortunately, all three of our jeeps converged and we were fully entertained with the avian highlights here –

Red-jungle-fowl, Common Hawk-cuckoo, Brown-headed Barbet, Rufous Woodpecker, Black-rumped Flameback, Alexandrine Parakeet, Plum-headed Parakeet, Scarlet Minivet, Rosy Minivet, Indian Golden Oriole, 2 Black-hooded Oriole, Common Iora, 3 White-bellied Drongo, 5 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Indian Paradise-Flycatcher, Orange-headed Thrush, Oriental Magpie-Robin, 2 White-rumped Shama, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Taiga & Red-breasted Flycatcher, 2 Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Purple Sunbird and 2 Golden-fronted Leafbird.

After this area, the sun warmed and the thermals encouraged birds of prey and vultures up into the skies, we were treated to a nice group of birds over the next hour with **Black-winged Kite 3 Red-headed Vulture, 4 White-rumped Vulture, 2 Indian Vulture, 2 Crested Serpent-Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle** and a **Bonelli's Eagle**. Also, overhead were a small group of **White-rumped Spinetail (White-rumped Needletail)**, these were to be the only ones of the trip!

Another open area with pools also proved fruitful with a nice variety of wetland and grassland species, the best birds being **6 Cotton Pygmy-Goose, 4 Gadwall, Little Ringed Plover, 5 Yellow-wattled Lapwing, 2 Bronze-winged Jacana, 4 Common Snipe, Green Sandpiper, 3 Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Little Grebe, 4 Little Cormorant, 2 Little Egret, Indian Pond Heron, Eastern Cattle-Egret & 2 Great White Egret**. Plus other birds here included **Olive-backed Pipit, Black Redstart,**

One other highlight for one of the jeeps were nice views of a roosting **Savannah Nightjar**, though we were all fortunate to see this species extremely well later in the trip.

Through this area of forest, the calls of both **Humes** and **Greenish Warbler** could be heard regularly, though getting good views always proved a bit trickier! No big cats this morning, but a bumper count of 82 birds recorded!

The routine back at the camp at 11.30am was the same, with lunch served around 12.30 and then 2.15pm to board the jeeps for the afternoon jeep safari.

A short walk around the camp after lunch gave us views of **Hume's Warbler**, plus a **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Common Tailorbird** and **Brown-headed Barbet**.

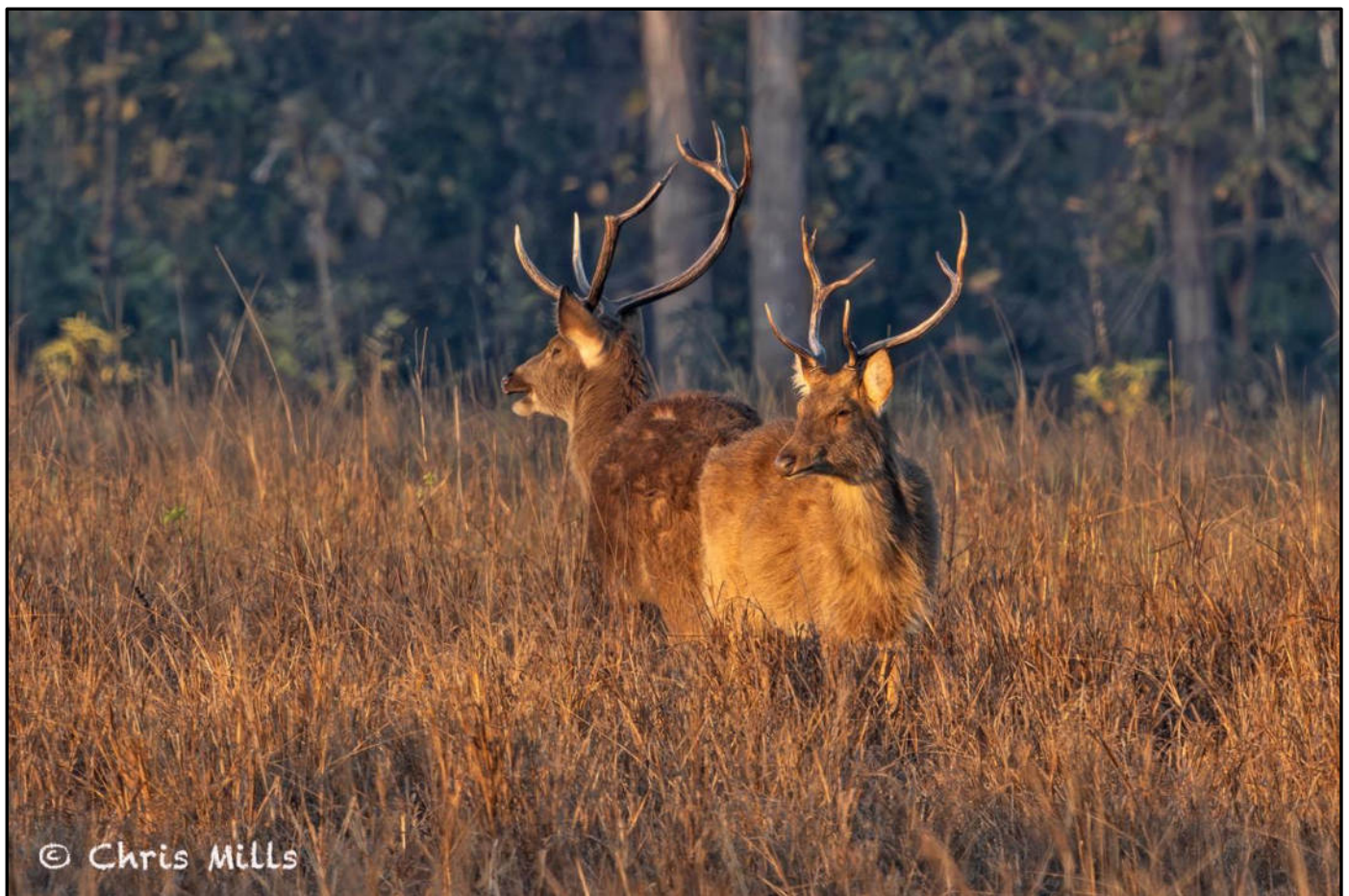
We entered the park gate around 2.30pm and were soon heading deep into the park. Our jeep was alerted initially to **Spotted Deer** alarm calls, soon to be followed by multiple **Langur** alarm calls. The local guides told us this was in response to a **Leopard** inside the trees, after 30 minutes of excitement, the alarms continued, but still no sign of the Leopard, presumably sat or asleep below amongst the trees. Whilst here we took in Plain prinia and Zitting Cisticola in the nearby grassland and also a couple of Siberian Stonechat.

A jeep passed us and told us of a Tiger that was bathing in a pool a few Kilometres further on, so we decided to press on. We arrived at a fair crowd of jeeps, our other two jeeps already in attendance! Apparently, the **Tiger** was now hidden from view, sitting in the water below the banks! It was now a game of patience and after a little while, her head and back appeared, with her occasionally glancing over to stare at us! Eventually she was ready to leave the pool and start heading into the forest, we all watched on with awe as this superb **Tiger** wandered through the trees, giving tantalising views and soon merging and gone into the forest.

It had been an absorbing hour watching and waiting for the Tigress to appear, we now headed back along the track and eventually reached a waterbody, with **30 Gadwall**, several **Pintail** the first of the trip, also **Common Snipe**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Bronze-winged Jacana** and a new bird for the trip a **Lesser Adjutant** amongst the commoner water species and a fine **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** perched. Overhead there was a good group of **Barn Swallow** and some very nice **Eastern Red-rumped Swallows**, with the last birds of the day being several **Indian Thick-knees** sat well camouflaged below trees amongst the shaded leaf litter.

Another cracking day, we reached the camp around 6.30pm, showered and then had dinner around 7.30pm, before heading off to the rooms around 9pm ready for another early morning start.

Overnight Kanha Jungle Camp



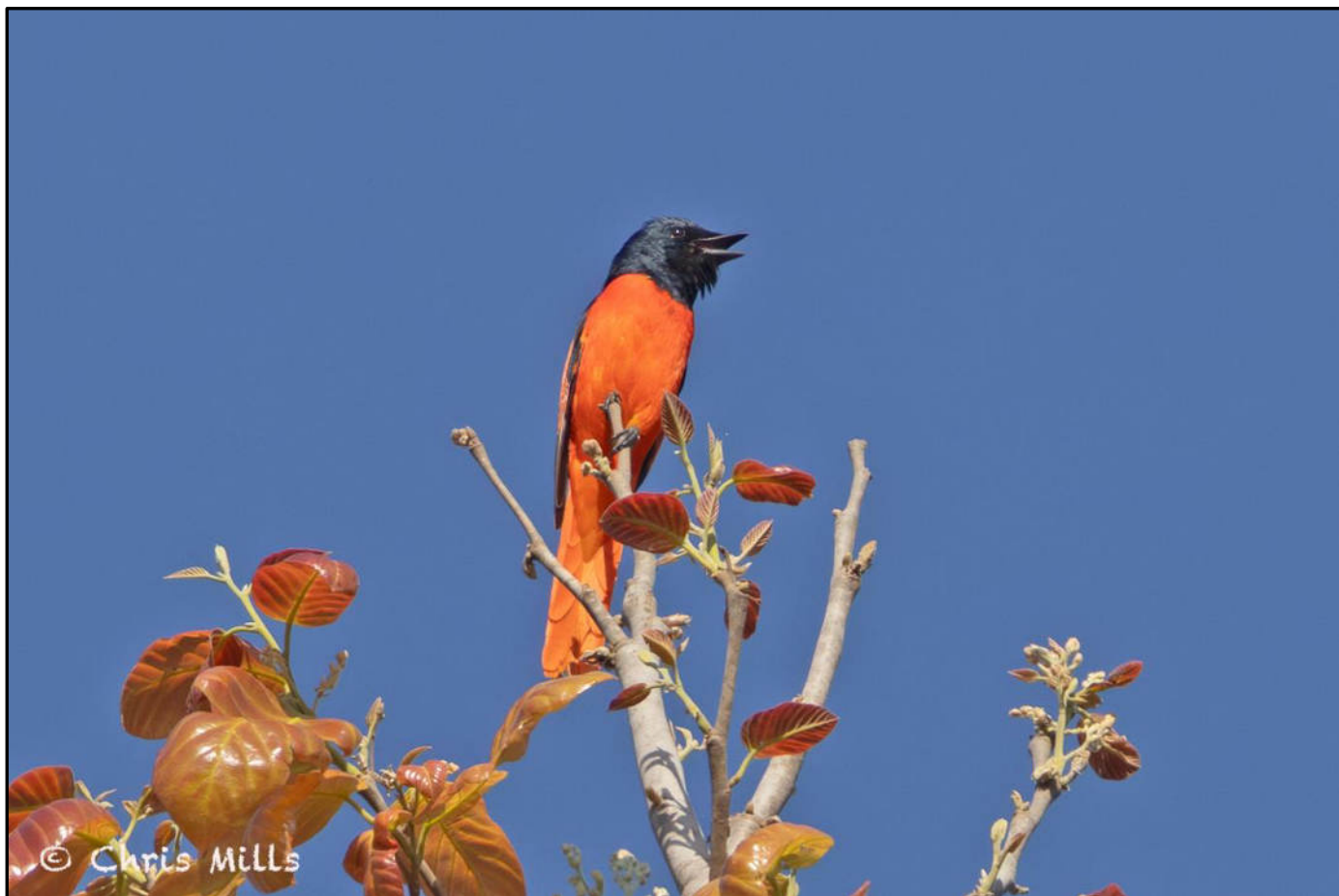
Sambar Deer young stags – Tiger's favoured prey!



Yellow-wattled Plover – a dry grassland species seen at Kanha



Indian Grey Hornbill – seen regularly in parties



Scarlet Minivet – stunning birds in the forest tops



Golden-fronted leafbird – in the same tree as the Minivet!



Jungle Owlet – seen and heard most days!



The charismatic Golden Jackal



Our game drive on the second day in the afternoon at Kanha gave lovely views of this Tiger

Friday 7th March - Kanha to Pench

Today was a transition day with the group moving from Kanha Jungle Camp and Tiger Reserve to Pench Tiger Reserve. So, everyone was treated to a slight lie in with a meet up at 7am before breakfast for a walk from the camp along the track and out into the nearby fields. (it's all relative!).

The walk was productive, and in the end, it was more a case of dragging everyone back to the camp in time for breakfast! We started in the grounds with a showy **Orange-headed Ground thrush** and **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**. Out on the road a **Blyth's Reed Warbler** was tacking but less than showy, as we entered the more open area we were greeted by a group of **Wire-tailed Swallow**, perched and overhead. The nearby bushes also gave us nice views of **2 Brown Shrikes**, then several **Common Rosefinches**, including a 'red' male, **Ashy** and **Plain Prinia** and there was **Rufous-tailed** Larks on the track, but these were all overshadowed by a superb pair of **White-naped woodpeckers** that gave great views.

The final open grassland and weedy bushes also offered up **Indian robin**, **Indian Magpie-robin**, **Brahminy** and **Pied Starling**, **Siberian Stonechat**, **Scaly-breasted** and **White-rumped Munia**.

We then headed back for a full hearty breakfast, before packing and boarding the minibus at around 10.15am. It was now a steady drive of around 4 hours to reach Pench, complete with a couple of stops for breaks.

We reached Pench mid-afternoon, we got unpacked and were shown to our lovely luxury tented camp accommodation, complete with fans and A/C. We then met up at reception around 4pm, the heat of the day was just starting to subside, so we headed into the adjacent forest area known as Pench Eco- Park on foot. Inside the trees, the birding started slow, though the butterflies were amazing as per Andrew's shot of the beautiful Indian Spot Swordtail demonstrates!

As we eventually reached the more open area, the birding started to improve and we were soon enjoying a nice mixture of birds, with standout birds being best views so far for all of **Pale-billed Flowerpecker**, **2 stunning Black-naped Monarch** **2 Common Wood-shrike**, several stunning **male Purple Sunbird**, a nice group of **Indian White-eyes** and **Grey-breasted prinia** and our first **Sulphur-breasted warbler** with their distinctive habit of climbing trunks of trees!

As we neared the end of our walk, we suddenly noted a 'big' raptor like bird move in the tops of the trees, it flew being pursued by a group of **Jungle Babblers**...an owl and a big Owl too! I was just able to see where it had landed and after a lot of pointing and directions everyone was getting distant and average views! However, it then flew again, and it was indeed a **Brown Wood Owl**!

We headed back, had tea and coffee with nibbles and managed to spot a stunning 'white' male **Asian Paradise Flycatcher**! We then showered and enjoyed an evening meal, we could hear both **Indian** and **Savannah Nightjar** calls, before all heading off to sleep!

Overnight Pench Jungle Camp

Saturday 8th March – Pench Tiger Reserve

It was a 5am alarm call ready to depart at 5.30am for the first of our Pench game safari drives, with tea/coffee and biscuits prior to departure, a packed breakfast was provide for each of our 3 jeeps. We entered Pench NP at the Turia main gate. Each jeep consisted of a local forest guide and driver, plus we ensured each jeep also had a birding guide.

The early birding was good in the woodland, with new and notable species being **Chestnut-tailed Starling**, several **Indian Grey Hornbill**, **Common** and **Indian Woodshrike**, **Alexandrine** and **Plum-headed Parakeet** flocks, **Jungle Owlet**, **White-bellied**, **Hair-crested** and **Greater racket-tailed Drongo**, **Taiga Flycatcher** and good for woodpeckers with **2 Rufous Woodpecker**, a **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**, and **5 Black-rumped Flameback**. Andy's jeep scored well with a **Painted Spurfowl** – a good bird and a species that eluded me again!

After a little while we double backed and we got the impression from a hurried conversation amongst the guides that there was some big cat activity! We arrived to join a few other jeeps, including one of ours watching a sleeping **Tiger**, close to a **Spotted Deer** kill!

The **Tiger** was asleep, clearly gorged on its prey and enjoying the warming rays of the early morning sunshine! It was a matter of patience and clearly many jeeps had left the scene, until we were just to jeeps and at last, he decided to open his eyes, and then back off snoozing again! Lovely to watch and nice light to grab some pictures! One of our other jeeps also scored with another **Tiger** as well, seeing a **Tigress with 2 cubs**.

After the Tiger we headed onwards and eventually we reached the huge Kohka Lake, this offered up an array of wildfowl and quite a lot of new birds for the trip – **20 Bar-headed Geese**, **15 Lesser Whistling-Duck**, **Great Cormorant**, **Great White Egret**, **Stork-billed & White-throated Kingfisher**, **River Tern**, **Asian Openbill**, **Asian Woolly-necked Stork**, **Black-headed Ibis**, **Striated Heron**, **Purple Heron**, **Osprey**, **Pied Kingfisher**, **Small Minivet**, **White-browed Fantail**, **Bar-headed Goose**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Little Tern**, **Painted Stork** and **Western Yellow Wagtail**. Also, here you could watch vast numbers of **Spotted Deer** feeding in the grassland and **Hanuman Langurs** coming down to take a drink.

We breakfasted nearby joining the other jeeps nearby we had **Tawny** and **Paddyfield Pipit** in the grassy field, and as the sun rose higher and the thermals started, we were treated to several **Crested Honey-buzzard**, **White-rumped Vulture**, **Indian Vulture** and **White-eyed Buzzard** circling. Another great morning, we headed back out of the park at around 11am, and back to the camp for a break and lunch.

After lunch we were heading back out around 2.30pm, it was pretty hot and the birding as to be expected a little slow to start. The birding picked up later in the afternoon and in some shady woodland we watched **Taiga**, **Tickell's Blue** and a mystery female flycatcher that turned eventually to be an **Ultramarine Flycatcher** in short succession.

We were then shown a lovely roosting **Savannah Nightjar** sat in possibly one of the least camouflaged positions I have seen, these birds are usually so well hidden, it was sat on the concrete arm of a bridge!

We again visited another area of the lake this afternoon and there was again a good spread of similar birds to in the morning, but with **20 + River Terns** and **Crested Treeswifts** overhead.

As the sun dropped, we headed back, with lots of **Spotted Deer**, several **Nilgai** and a nice group of **Indian Gaur**. Plus, good views of a **Ruddy Mongoose**.

Back at the camp with cold beers and nibbles, before a shower and enjoying another evening meal, then off to bed ready for another early morning game drive.

Overnight Pench Jungle Camp

Sunday 9th March – Pench Tiger Reserve

It was again a 5am alarm call ready to depart at 5.30am, with tea/coffee and biscuits prior to departure, a packed breakfast was provided for each of our 3 jeeps.

We entered Pench NP at a different gate and visited an area of the buffer zone near Malkundam. The birding was nice and new species recorded were **Black Stork, Oriental Darter, White-browed wagtail, Common Kingfisher** and **Ashy-crowned Sparrowlark**.

Other notable birds seen included, Ruddy Shelduck, Red Junglefowl, Jungle Nightjar, Crested Treeswift, Wood Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, Little Tern, River Tern, Asian Openbill, Oriental Darter, Black-headed Ibis, Great White Egret, Grey Heron, Crested Honey-buzzard, Red-headed Vulture, Indian Vulture, Shikra, Grey-headed Fish-Eagle, Jungle Owlet, Indian Grey Hornbill, Asian Green Bee-eater, Stork-billed Kingfisher, White-throated Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Indian Roller, Coppersmith Barbet, Brown-headed Barbet, White-naped Woodpecker, Indian Cuckooshrike, Black-hooded Oriole, Common Woodshrike, White-bellied Drongo, , Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Grey-breasted Prinia, Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Taiga Flycatcher, Siberian Stonechat, Pale-billed Flowerpecker, Purple Sunbird, Yellow-throated Sparrow, Grey Wagtail, Western Yellow Wagtail and Paddyfield Pipit

No big cats this morning, though we were told there was a family of Tigers active in this area and we did see their evidence, with pugmarks along the track and plenty of food available with Sambar, Spotted Deer, Muntjac all noted through the morning.

We headed back out of the park at around 11am, and back to the camp for a break and lunch. During a lunch as I wandered into the main garden area outside the restaurant there was unfamiliar song, though it sounded rather Bulbul like. A quick check on Merlin confirmed, it was indeed a **White-browed Bulbul**, a new bird for the trip. I managed to get the two Andy's on to it, before it disappeared, hopefully it would reappear the next morning when we had some more time.

We then met back up at 2.30pm for our afternoon safari, back into the core area of Pench via the Turia gate.

We hadn't been in the park very long, when news spread quickly that a **Tiger** was sitting near a lake edge, asleep. Indeed, we joined a throng of jeeps awaiting the movement of the **Tiger**, that was presently sitting sensibly in the shadows of a tree in the heat of the afternoon. Eventually, it moved adjusting its position, now visible, though still in the shadows but affording a full view of the beautiful animal! After some time and enjoyment, we decided to move on, as it wasn't showing any signs of moving!

In the forest, we were treated to **2 Mottled Wood Owls** staring down at us, and Junewani Lake offered up a superb soaring migrant flock of **35 Black Stork**.

Late afternoon at a smaller lake, there was a nice selection of ducks here and we added **Shoveler, Wigeon, Coot and Pochard** to the list.

Also, late afternoon there was a great roost of **300 Yellow-throated Sparrow**, before heading back to the camp.

Back at the camp, it was tea/coffee and nibbles, before a shower and enjoying another evening meal, then off to bed, with a slight lie in planned for the morning, just a 7am birding walk!

Overnight Pench Jungle Camp



Spotted Deer (Chital) the commonest deer with vast herds in grasslands



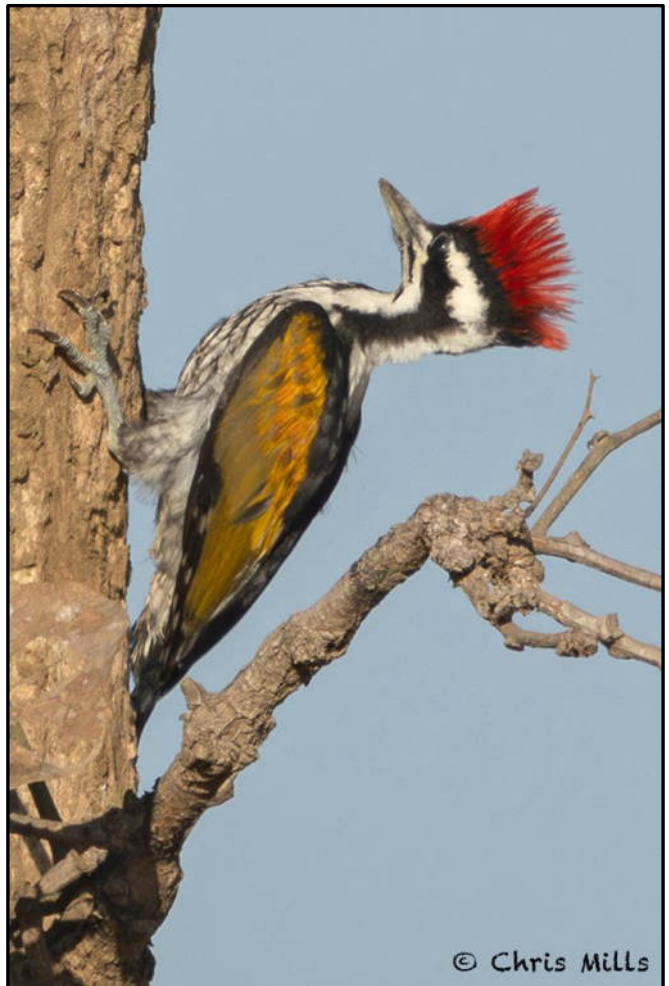
Swamp Deer (Basiranga) a scarcer deer and subject of conservation measures



Orange-headed Ground thrush – a beautiful ground dweller on the forest floor



Tickell's Blue Flycatcher – this one in the grounds at Pench Camp



Black-rumped Flameback and the much scarcer White-naped Woodpecker (left)



Lesser Fish Eagle – seen and heard regularly around the lakes at Kanha & Tadoba



This superb Tiger was next to a kill at Pench



Crested Serpent Eagle seen regularly through the tour

Monday 10th March – Pench to Tadoba

We met up outside the restaurant area around 7am, despite listening and searching we couldn't find the White-browed Bulbul from the previous day, though there were two showy **Tickell's Blue Flycatchers** and a **Pale Billed Flowerpecker** obliged for everyone too, a **Jungle Owlet** called and appeared just as we were leaving the camp.

Once out on to the road, there was a calling Asian Koel, and 3 Lesser Whitethroats, a Common Iora showed well in beautiful yellow and black breeding plumage along with several smart male Purple Sunbirds and briefly a **Purple-rumped Sunbird**. We left the wooded lane and walked into a more open grassy area with scattered bushes, and a small pool, there was 3 close **Painted Storks**, though they took flight as we appeared, also several **Indian Pond heron**.

The grassy area held some rather nice birds with **2 Yellow-wattled Lapwing**, a **Indian Hoopoe**, **Brahminy Starling**, **Oriental Magpie-robin**, **3 Black Redstart**, **2 Greater Coucal**, **10 Spotted dove**, **Red-naped Ibis**, **Eastern Cattle Egret**, **Indian Roller** and **White-throated Kingfisher**. Plus the nearby trees and hedgerows also gave us **3 Brown-headed barbet**, **Alexandrine**, **Rose-ringed and Plum-headed Parakeets**, **4 Black-hooded Oriole**, **5 Grey-breasted Prinia**, **Ashy Prinia**, **Sulphur-bellied Warbler**, **Indian White-eye** and **Golden-fronted Leafbird**.

After a nice 90 minutes of birding it was warming up and time to head back for breakfast, and the chance to pack up before the journey to our final destination of Tadoba. The minibus transport arrived around 10.15am, it was an uneventful journey with a couple of stops along the way, the usual roadside **Black-winged Kites** and **White-throated Kingfishers** were noted but nothing new appeared and we needed to reach Tadoba by 3.30pm, to hopefully take a late afternoon boat ride out on the superb Erai Reservoir near our camp.

We reached Tadoba around 3pm and were soon settled into our rooms and then we met up and got transported the short distance to the boating area. We chose to walk the last 500m as it offered up the chance to bird an open bushy area before boarding the boat. This proved worthwhile with the birds being **2 Bay-backed Shrikes**, **Rufous-tailed Lark** and **Paddyfield Pipits** quickly followed by a mystery warbler! The bird was showing reasonably well on and off and it gave off the feeling of a Blyth's Reed but with a longer squared off tail, and less long undertail coverts, with a definite Syke's feel to it. Careful examination of the pictures later did prove it to be a **Syke's Warbler**.

We eventually took two boats out and we were rewarded over the next couple of hours with a plethora of wetland birds, there was almost too much to take in!

Highlights included - 200 Lesser Whistling-Duck 15 Bar-headed Goose, 10 Knob-billed Duck, 50 Cotton Pygmy-Goose, 10 Garganey, 20 Indian Spot-billed Duck, 20 Northern Pintail, 100 Red-crested Pochard, 50 Grey-headed Swamphen, 10 White-breasted Waterhen, 30 Black-winged Stilt, 10 Red-wattled Lapwing, 2 Pheasant-tailed Jacana, 5 Bronze-winged Jacana, 2 Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, 3 River Tern, 2 Common Tern, 50 Asian Openbill, 50 Asian Woolly-necked Stork, 4 Oriental Darter, 10 Little Cormorant, 3 Great Cormorant, 25 Indian Cormorant, 15 Glossy Ibis, 15 Black-headed Ibis, Red-naped Ibis, 2 Little Egret, 10 Indian Pond Heron, 30 Eastern Cattle-Egret, 8 Great White Egret, 10 Medium Egret, 3 Grey Heron, 3 Purple Heron, 2 Osprey, 3 Common Kingfisher, 3 White-throated Kingfisher & 2 Pied Kingfisher. It had been a beautiful boat ride out on the water and just as the sun dropped several flocks of Rose-coloured Starlings passed overhead.

Once back at the lodge, we were soon all downing cold beers, it was now noticeably hotter as we had travelled further South, and everyone was grateful for air-conditioning and fans in the rooms! It was then time for another enjoyable evening meal of various curries, then off to bed ready for another for our first early morning game drive in Tadoba Park.

Overnight Tadoba Jungle Lodge



The outrageous Greater-racket-tailed Drongo & Asian Green Bee-eater



White-eyed Buzzard



Savannah Nightjar seen roosting on a few occasions alongside the forest tracks



The iconic Indian Peacock in full display at Tadoba

Tuesday 11th March – Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

It was a 5am alarm call ready to depart at 5.30am, with tea/coffee and biscuits prior to departure, a packed breakfast was provided for each of our 3 jeeps. Our first adventure at Tadoba was in the Moharli buffer zone. It proved to be quite exciting as not long after we entered, we could see fresh Tiger and Sloth bear tracks. Having not seen Sloth bear, we were all keen to follow the bears tracks! After a couple of U-turns we were waiting where the tracks disappeared off the track, and suddenly the **Sloth Bear** appeared, we slowly followed and eventually he slowed down and stopped and stood up against tree, providing us with superb views, before continuing on its way and eventually heading under a small bridge and right below the jeeps! We then spent a little while tracking the Tiger pugmarks and came across a very fresh (still steaming!) Tiger scat, but unfortunately probably a minute or two too late, as we didn't quite catch up with this one.

Along the forest edge we also had a nice group of **Common Rosefinch**, a male coming down to drink, adjacent to **2 White-throated Kingfisher** fishing. We then headed out into a more open area with a lake and marsh area, here there was a good selection of **Egrets, Herons** and **Ibis**, including a **Lesser Adjutant** only the second one of the trip.

The sandy tracks also gave us nice views of **Asian Green Bee-eaters, Indian Rollers, Pied Bushchat** plus a group of **5 Jungle bush-quail** and **3 Grey Junglefowl**, the latter two species new birds for the trip. Back in the forest we also connected with our first, **Ashy Drongo**, slightly surprising given this is a fairly common species. It had been a good first morning and we headed out the park and back to the lodge around 11am, a circling raptor overhead proved to be a **Short-toed Eagle**, a raptor we hadn't previously encountered. Back at the camp, we took up on the balcony area of the lodge, with soft cold drinks, overlooking the grassland and the distant shore of the lake, we were rewarded with distant but scope views of a group of around **20 Oriental Pratincole** hawking insects.

After lunch we headed back out and this afternoon we visited another area of the park, given it was now around 28c, we were pleasantly surprised to still record 74 species of bird, albeit this was assisted by working edges of the large water body of the Erai reservoir – **2 Grey-headed Fish-Eagle, 4 Lesser Whistling-Duck, 10 Cotton Pygmy-Goose, 4 Garganey, 8 Gadwall, 2 Indian Spot-billed Duck, 2 Eurasian Coot, 15 Grey-headed Swamphen, 2 White-breasted Waterhen, 5 Indian Thick-knee, 4 Red-wattled Lapwing, 10 Pheasant-tailed Jacana, 10 Bronze-winged Jacana, 2 Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, 5 Asian Openbill, 20 Little Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, 10 Black-headed Ibis, 2 Red-naped Ibis, 2 Little Egret, 2 Indian Pond Heron, 10 Eastern Cattle-Egret, 2 Great White Egret, 2 Medium Egret, Grey Heron, 8 Purple Heron** and a **Citrine Wagtail**.

The areas in the forest also gave some notable birds on the ground with **1 Grey Francolin, 7 Jungle Bush-Quail, 5 Indian Peafowl, 2 Red Spurfowl & 8 Grey Junglefowl**. In the grassland areas late afternoon – **100+ Barn Swallow, 15 Eastern Red-rumped Swallow & 2 Crested Treeswift** and up in the sky **Crested Honey-buzzard** and **Shikra**.

Late afternoon and we got news passed on that a Tigress with 2 cubs, was sat asleep on the edge of some pools, so we headed off to see if we could get views! We arrived at the expected group of jeeps all hoping for some movement. Patience was clearly the order of the day here, after about 45 minutes a light roar and the **2 cubs** appeared briefly on and off on the far side of the pool, the **Tigress** eventually headed off to join her cubs and we had distant views of all three Tigers together on the far side of the lake. Wow, what a wonderful way to round off our first day at Tadoba! We arrived back on the lodge to discover that our other jeeps as well as seeing the **Tigress** with cubs had also seen two other **Tigers**! Seeing **5 Tigers** in a day is just plain greedy!

Back at the lodge, we were soon enjoying cool showers, and downing cold beers, along with evening curries, it was then off to bed ready for another early morning game drive!

Overnight Tadoba Jungle Lodge

Wednesday 12th March – Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

It was another 5am alarm call ready to depart at 5.30am, with tea/coffee and biscuits prior to departure, and a packed breakfast was provided for each of our 3 jeeps. This morning, we entered from the Moharli gate, the woodland and the wetland areas were busy with plenty of birds, though it was now getting much more difficult to find new birds for the trip! A nice surprise and an addition to the list, was when I spied **12 Small Pratincoles** sitting on the edge of an island, as we passed along the shoreline of the Erai Reservoir. Plus, Lucy and Andy managed a **Tawny-bellied Babbler** to keep the list still. rolling along, we were well past the 200 species mark now!

Andy, Edna & I managed to find another **White-browed Bulbul**, though it was really some of the others that needed to see this species, having missed at Pench. We need not have worried in the end as you will see!

We had our closest and best views this morning of **Orange-headed ground thrush** and **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, both posing beautifully, along with **Greater Racket tailed Drongo**, a species we had seen daily on our jeep rides, but not very often they pose with those crazy tails in full view!

Also, super close views and photographs of **Savannah Nightjar**, allowing us to compare to the Indian Nightjar images we already had taken.

Other birds this morning of note **2 Indian Hawk-cuckoo**, **Crested tree-swift**, **Grey-headed Fish eagle**, **a super Indian Golden Oriole**, **4 Black-naped Monarch**, **Yellow-eyed Babbler** and **Indian Paradise Flycatcher**. No big cats for us this morning, but one of our jeeps scored with yet another **Sloth Bear**! We headed back around 10.30am, ready to cool down over cold drinks and showers.

Today was even hotter than the previous few days, with temps now reaching 35c, we all took it easy over lunch and were ready to head back out in the afternoon around 2.30pm.

This afternoon it was quite hot as we entered the park and the birds were fairly quiet, we heard the female Tigress we had seen yesterday was again showing near the lake, so we headed in that direction. We were soon waiting along with several other jeeps, but we weren't quite expecting what was about to happen as the **Tigress** appeared on the road and walked right towards us, superb views of her as she headed face on before passing to our right! We admired the **Tigress** for a while but knew it wasn't going to get any better than the moments we had witnessed her so close passing by!

We headed into an area to look for Leopard, as this was one species that had so far eluded us, we had pugmarks but no Leopard so far, we then found a rare mammal the **Four-horned antelope**!

As we were driving along the main track, our Indian Naturalist Nayan, eagle-eyed as ever suddenly pointed way ahead down the track, "**Leopard**" he announced, it must have been 800m away, and I wasn't sure! We headed towards where it had crossed and disappeared into the forest edge. A few quiet moments passed by as we all sat waiting in silence, suddenly the **Leopard** appeared on the side track, briefly it glanced at us before walking away. A stunning animal with its beautiful, patterned coat, we watched as it silently walked away and melted into the forest!

As we left, we stumbled on **4 Indian Thick-knee**, dozing in the late afternoon heat, followed by a stunning fully displaying **Indian Peacock**, quite something to see for real in the wild, as it cooled it seemed like **Orange-headed ground-thrush** were at each bend in the road, with at least 12 seen on the drive back to the gate. Back at the lodge, it was again time to enjoying cool beers or G&T's, with our evening curries, it was then off to bed ready for another early morning game drive!

Overnight Tadoba Jungle Lodge

Thursday 13th March – Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

Today was our last full day of safaris, so now well in the routine, we were all up bright and early and ready to depart at 5.30am. We passed along the shore of the lake again and were treated to a fair array of waterbirds **30 Lesser Whistling-Duck, 10 Grey-headed Swamphe, 4 White-breasted Waterhen, 7 Black-winged Stilt, 15 Red-wattled Lapwing, 3 Pheasant-tailed Jacana, 4 Bronze-winged Jacana, 2 Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, 5 Oriental Pratincole, 7 Asian Openbill Lesser Adjutant, Oriental Darter, 12 Little Cormorant, 4 Glossy Ibis, 6 Black-headed Ibis, 4 Red-naped Ibis, 10 Little Egret, 10 Indian Pond Heron, 40 Eastern Cattle-Egret, 3 Great White Egret, 6 Medium Egret, Pied, Stork-billed and White-throated Kingfisher plus Grey-headed Fish Eagle.**

The avian entertainment was then cut short as a **Tiger** appeared along the edge of the grassland adjacent to the lake. This male **Tiger** walked for some distance before briefly looking over his shoulder at us and then slipping away into the grassland, still another wonderful encounter and our 15th Tiger sighting of the trip! Plus an added bonus was the appearance of a **Brown Crake** appearing whilst we were waiting for the Tiger.

We then entered the forest along the tracks we noted **5 Grey & 10 Junglefowl, 2 Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon, 3 Greater Coucal** another perched **Savanna Nightjar**, other birds of note were **4 White-naped Woodpecker, 3 Black-naped Monarch, 3 Indian Paradise Flycatcher** and another addition **Green Imperial Pigeon** (would this be the last!?). Also, most noticeable this morning, were just how many **Oriental Magpie-robins** were singing from their song posts, almost every few 100 metres, with **Brown-headed Barbets** competing for airtime!

Over the grassland we watched a hovering **Black-winged Kite** as above a small group of **Little Swift, 2 Crested Treeswifts** were hawking insects. Whilst nearby we watched **Long-tailed** and **Bay-backed shrikes**.

We headed back for lunch and then back out for our last game drives, it was very hot today and the forest was quiet for birds, so we headed off out towards the lake where we were treated to views of **6 Oriental Pratincole**, plus a single **Small Pratincole**.

The forest birding improved late afternoon, when I also managed to see **Olive-backed Pipit** and then also hear a **Tree Pipit**, the latter a new bird for the trip.

Our jeep safaris were nearly over, but not quite, just time for another **Tiger** sighting! This final sighting near the lake, culminating in a combined total of 19 sightings of 14 individuals, the best we have ever managed on any India tours to date. I rounded the day off at the other end of the scale with a tiny Indian Tree Shrew, apparently a scarce sighting, but not one that the rest of the group would be envious over!

We all enjoyed our final evening at Tadoba over a few drinks and said farewell to the local guides, who had certainly offered up an amazing experience over the last three days.

Overnight Tadoba Jungle Lodge



This stunning Indian Roller – seen daily



A cracking Wire-tailed Swallow with full wires!



Common Hawk-cuckoo – seen regularly at all the Parks



Brown fish Owl – these are always special to see!



A big male Sambar stag stand proud on the track at Tadoba



A skulking White-rumped Shama, always in the shadows!



Another stunning Tadoba Tiger – this an old Tigress with 2 cubs



Brief views of this Leopard before it melted back into the forest at Tadoba



One of four Sloth Bears seen during the tour



Indian Scops Owl one of several noted roosting in tree holes

Friday 14th March – Tadoba Buffer Zone

We had a little bit of time this morning before it got too hot and we needed to depart around midday. So, we were all up and ready for some nearby birding at 6.30am, first bird was in the camp area, where at long last everyone got good views of **White-browed Bulbul**, that had eluded some of the party!

Next we headed to the grassland area near the boat moorings, a lovely **Bay-backed Shrike** popped up on arrival and flocks of **Rose-coloured**, **Brahminy** and **Pied Starling** perched in the nearby bushes. Plus our first proper views of Grey Francolin,

Over the water a group of **15 Oriental Pratincoles** were hawking and provided us with our best views of this species to date. A mass of hirundines were also just leaving their roost with at least **c200 Barn Swallow** and several **Eastern Red-rumped Swallow** amongst them, a sight to behold, beyond them the main reservoir held all the **Egrets, Ibis and duck** we had become accustomed to seeing over our stay, also a flock of c25 Bar-headed Geese the biggest group we had seen.

The last and a more familiar species that was added to our trip list this morning was a female **Marsh harrier** hunting along the shoreline, a winter visitor here this one was presumably a late migrant, a combined group total of 213 species.

We rounded the birding off by visiting the Erai Dam overlooking some areas of shallower water from the road – again lots of wildfowl, stand out birds were **c40 Cotton Pygmy-geese, 2 Greater Painted-snipe only the second sighting of the trip, 15 Bronze-winged and 8 Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, 12 wood sandpiper, Lesser adjutant plus Western Yellow and White-browed Wagtails.**

We now headed back for a lazy breakfast with plenty of time to shower and pack up gear ready for the long drive back to the airport hotel. We took a light lunch as well before boarding the minibus

The journey back to Nagpur was steady and unremarkable, we reached the Hotel late afternoon, rooms were booked for everyone to take showers and a nap, before heading to the airport around midnight and most people headed for a beer a bite and then a few hours' sleep. We said farewell to Lucy as she was heading to Thailand and left the Hotel early, plus Andy & Julie as they were staying overnight bound for further adventures in India the next day.

The flight from Nagpur to Doha all went smoothly and we said farewell to Andy & Edna at Doha as their connecting flight was on to Edinburgh. The rest of us Bill, Liz, Markus and I arrived back at Heathrow on time, said our goodbyes, collected bags and headed home!

An amazing trip, with wonderful Tiger sightings throughout, 19 in total! Thanks to the group that joined us. If you want to see Tigers and other large Indian Mammals this is undoubtedly one of the best tours!

Systematic list of birds recorded

1	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
2	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>
3	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
4	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
5	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
6	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
8	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
9	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
10	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
12	Eurasian/Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
13	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>
14	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
15	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
16	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>
17	Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>
18	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
19	Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>
20	Grey Francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>
21	Jungle Bush-Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>
22	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
23	Rufous Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
24	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
25	Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
26	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
27	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
28	Asian Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
29	Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>
30	Green Imperial Pigeon	
31	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
32	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>
33	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
34	Jungle Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>
35	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
36	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>
37	White-rumped Spinetail	<i>Zonotrichia sylvatica</i>
38	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
39	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
40	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
41	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
42	Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>
43	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
44	Brown Crake	<i>Zapornia akool</i>

45	Indian Thick-knee	Burhinus indicus
46	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus
47	Little Ringed Plover	Thinornis dubius
48	River Lapwing	Vanellus duvaucelii
49	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus malabaricus
50	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus
51	Greater Painted-Snipe	Rostratula benghalensis
52	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus
53	Bronze-winged Jacana	Metopidius indicus
54	Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago
55	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
56	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus
57	Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis
58	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
59	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
60	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii
61	Small Pratincole	Glareola lactea
62	Oriental Pratincole	Glareola maldivarum
63	Little Tern	Sternula albifrons
64	River Tern	Sterna aurantia
65	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo
66	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis
67	Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans
68	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra
69	Asian Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus
70	Lesser Adjutant	Leptoptilos javanicus
71	Painted Stork	Mycteria leucocephala
72	Oriental Darter	Anhinga melanogaster
73	Little Cormorant	Microcarbo niger
74	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo
75	Indian Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscicollis
76	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
77	Black-headed Ibis	Threskiornis melanocephalus
78	Red-naped Ibis	Pseudibis papillosa
79	Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia
80	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
81	Striated Heron	Butorides striata
82	Indian Pond Heron	Ardeola grayii
83	Eastern Cattle-Egret	Ardea coromanda
84	Great White Egret	Ardea alba
85	Medium Egret	Ardea intermedia
86	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
87	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
88	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus
89	Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
90	Crested Honey-buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus

91	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>
92	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
93	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>
94	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
95	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
96	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
97	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>
98	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
99	Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
100	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
101	Grey-headed Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>
102	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
103	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
104	Brown Fish-Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
105	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
106	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>
107	Mottled Wood-Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>
108	Brown Wood-Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
109	Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
110	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
111	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>
112	Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
113	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
114	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
115	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
116	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
117	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
118	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
119	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>
120	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus nanus</i>
121	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>
122	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>
123	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
124	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
125	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>
126	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
127	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
128	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
129	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
130	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
131	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>
132	Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>
133	Indian Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
134	Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>
135	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
136	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>

137	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
138	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
139	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
140	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
141	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
142	Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
143	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
144	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
145	Indian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
146	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
147	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
148	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
149	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
150	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
151	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
152	Asian Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
153	Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>
154	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>
155	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
156	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
157	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
158	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
159	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
160	Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>
161	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
162	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
163	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
164	Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
165	Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluviicola</i>
166	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
167	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
168	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
169	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>
170	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
171	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>
172	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
173	Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
174	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
175	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>
176	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poiocephala</i>
177	Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>
178	Indian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>
179	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
180	Indian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
181	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
182	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>

183	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
184	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>
185	Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
186	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
187	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
188	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
189	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>
190	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
191	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
192	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
193	Blue-capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhyncha</i>
194	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
195	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
196	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
197	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Pachyglossa agilis</i>
198	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
199	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
200	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
201	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
202	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
203	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
204	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
205	Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>
206	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
207	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
208	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
209	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
210	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
211	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
212	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
213	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>

Systematic List of mammals and others recorded

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	19 of 15 Ind's
2	Leopard	2 individuals seen at Tadoba
3	Sloth Bear	4 seen during the tour
4	Rhesus Macaque	Numerous daily
5	Common Langur	Seen on most safaris
6	Ruddy Mongoose	6+ seen occasionally
7	Golden Jackal	10+ seen mainly at Kanha and Pench
8	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	Seen at Kanha and Tadoba in small no's
9	Gaur (Indian Bison)	Common
10	Four-horned Antelope	Seen regularly in small groups
11	Sambar	Seen 2x at Tadoba
12	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	Seen regularly in small groups
13	Chital (Spotted Deer)	Seen at Kanha and Tadoba
14	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	Seen regularly in large groups
15	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	Seen regularly
16	Indian Wild Boar	Seen regularly in small groups
17	Common Palm Civet	Heard and seen briefly
18	Grey Mongoose	Several seen Pecnh and Tadoba
19	Indian Tree Shrew	4+ seen occasionally
20	Indian Flying Fox	Small groups at Kanha and Tadoba
21	Indian Pipestrelle sp.	Seen at Tadoba at the camp
21	Soft-shelled Turtle	Several at Tadoba by the lake
22	Mugger Crocodile	5+Tadoba lake