



We had wonderful views of Tiger on this tour (Louis Bevier).

BIRDS AND TIGERS OF NORTHERN INDIA

2 – 20 MARCH 2018

LEADER: HANNU JÄNNES

This year's 'Birds and Tigers of Northern India' tour was again a great success providing a feast of avian and mammalian delights. We followed the classic itinerary that took us to a wide variety of habitats, from bird-filled wetlands to semi-desert scrub, from dry savanna woodland and arable farmland to the verdant forested slopes and rushing torrents of the Himalayan foothills. This tour has many regional specialities and Indian subcontinent endemics, and among the many highlights were a magnificent pair of Cheer Pheasants, many Kalij Pheasants, Jungle Bush Quails and Painted Spurfowls both of which showed well, Black-necked Stork, Red-naped Ibis, majestic Sarus Cranes, the critically endangered Indian plus Himalayan, Griffon, Cinereous, and a superb Red-headed, Vultures, the endemic Indian Spotted Eagle amongst commoner Greater Spotted and Eastern Imperial Eagles, Pallas's and Lesser Fish Eagles, the splendid Indian Courser, Indian and Great



Small Pratincole, one of the favourite birds on this tour (Antonio Cortizo Amaro).

Stone-curlews, Yellow-wattled and White-tailed Lapwings, Painted Snipe, Black-bellied and River Terns, Indian Skimmer, Painted and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, a family of Dusky Eagle Owls, two Brown Fish Owls, 16 species of Woodpeckers, the handsome Collared Falconet, Rufous-tailed Lark, Nepal Wren-babbler, Grey-bellied and Chestnut-headed Tesias, bird waves of many colourful Himalayan passerines, White-crested, Chestnut-crowned, Rufous-chinned and Striated Laughingthrushes, Wallcreeper, Himalayan Rubythroat, Golden Bush Robin, Slaty-backed and Spotted Forktails, many flycatchers and redstarts, Black-headed Jay and subtle Sind Sparrows plus a wealth of more widespread Asiatic species. In addition to the birds we had four brilliant encounters with Tiger, good views of a Sloth Bear for half of the group, and enjoyed an excellent array of other mammals, great scenery, delicious food and a visit to the incomparable Taj Mahal.

We began the tour with a half day visit to the Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary in the state of Haryana less than an hour's drive from our hotel. In winter time Sultanpur is teeming with birds, including couple of NW Indian bird specialities, and is a great place to start any birding tour. Due to the Holi festival, and contrary to the information received the previous day, the sanctuary seemed to be closed from visitors when we arrived there, but our resourceful guide Bablu climbed a fence or two and persuaded (read bribed) the staff and we were in! Our first target was Sind Sparrow, a NW Indian and Pakistan specialty, which has in recent years found its way to the outskirts of Delhi. It took time and effort to find this little gem, but eventually we had great views of a pair and then a nest building male showed very well. Other good birds found hiding in the bushes and acacia woods included Grey Francolin, Greater Coucal, Common Hawk-Cuckoo, a total of five Spotted Owlets, Eurasian Hoopoe, Brown-headed and Coppersmith Barbets, Eurasian Wryneck, Black-rumped Flameback, Common Woodshrike, Long-tailed Shrike, Rufous Treepie, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Common Chiffchaff, Hume's Leaf Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Ashy and Plain Prinia, Common Tailorbird, Large Grey and Jungle Babblers, Lesser Whitethroat, Bank, Common and Pied Mynas, Indian and Oriental Magpie Robins, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Black Redstart, Purple Sunbird and finally, just as we were leaving the park, an obliging Brooks's Leaf Warbler another winter visitor to NW India, currently difficult to see anywhere else in the world.



Grey Francolin and Bank Myna are both commonly encountered on this tour (Hannu Jännes).

In and around the wetland we found Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Northern Pintail, Eurasian Teal, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Painted Stork, a family of five Black-necked Storks, Black-headed Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black Bittern, three species of egret, Purple and Grey Heron, Little and Great Cormorants, Oriental Darter, Grey-headed Swamphen, Common Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, a handsome pair of Sarus Cranes, Black-winged Stilt, White-tailed Lapwing, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Spotted Redshank, while overhead we saw soaring Crested Honey Buzzard, Black-winged Kite, Booted and Bonelli's Eagles, Western Marsh Harrier, Black Kites and Shikra.



The colourful Red Junglefowl was common in Corbett NP (Hannu Jännes).

At noon we drove to the Old Delhi railway station, a potentially time-consuming task in the Delhi traffic, which we managed in record time thanks to the festival, which had emptied the streets. After a wait in the 'luxurious' a/c waiting room we finally boarded our train to Ramnagar, where we arrived late in the evening. From Ramnagar we were taken by the local crew to our accommodation in Kumeria, where it took quite a time to allocate our rooms!

Next morning began with a visit to the regular site for the iconic Ibisbill at the Kosi River. However, the single bird that had wintered this year had already left the area some 10 days previously, but we still enjoyed a couple of hours of great birding along the river. The star birds of the morning were, without a doubt, two Wallcreepers feeding out on the shingle islands, but we also found many other good birds including Crested Serpent Eagle and Changeable Hawk-Eagle, River Lapwing, our first Crested Kingfisher, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, many Hair-crested Drongos, our first Himalayan and Black Bulbuls, really good views of Black-chinned Babbler, Blue-whistling Thrush, Plumbeous Water and White-capped Redstarts, Blue Rock Thrush, White-browed Wagtails, Isabelline Wheatear and Rosy Pipits. Later we drove to Dhikala, deep within Corbett National Park, arriving early afternoon, after spending a couple of hours birding along the way on the forested track, enjoying the comfort that birding from our open-topped jeeps afforded. After lunch and check in we took our first official game drive in Corbett, which took us to the other side of the river Ramganga and the wide grasslands surrounding it. We encountered many Red Junglefowls, a Kalij Pheasant, a flock of Black Storks, our first Himalayan Vultures, Pallas's Fish and noisy pairs of Lesser Fish Eagles, Red Turtle, Spotted and Common Emerald Doves, Brown Fish Owl at its day roost, Crested Treeswifts, White-rumped Spinetails, two Oriental Pied Hornbills, Fulvous-breasted and Streak-throated Woodpeckers, my closest ever Collared Falconet, which was checking a nest hole right next to the track, flocks of colourful Scarlet and Long-tailed Minivets, Black-hooded and Maroon Orioles, Bronzed Drongo, Blue-winged Minla, Chestnut-bellied and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches and our first Crimson Sunbird. On the mammalian side the highlight was seeing real Asian Elephants grazing the grassy plains.



Grey-winged Blackbird (Louis Bevier), Red Turtle Dove and a pair of Streak-throated Woodpeckers (Hannu Jännes).

Next day we continued birding in the park following in part the same route as the previous day, but also checked new areas including a vast grassland area near Lake Ramganga. We had yet another bird filled day including many new birds with Ruddy Shelduck, Woolly-necked Stork, Cinereous Vulture, two Hen Harriers, Brown Crake, Small Pratincole, River Tern, Jungle Owlet, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Great Hornbill, Greater and Lesser Yellownapes, Large Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-crowned and Grey-sided Bush Warblers, Golden-headed Cisticola, Yellow-eyed Babbler, a very confiding male Grey-winged Blackbird, Long-billed Pipit, two White-capped Buntings and Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler. A short nightbirding session in the Dhikala camp gave us reasonable views of a pair of Brown Hawk Owls.



Verditer Flycatcher (Antonio Cortizo Amaro), Maroon Oriole and Orange-bellied Leafbird (Louis Bevier).

During our last morning in Corbett NP we spent quite a time chasing a Tiger, which we eventually managed to see, albeit rather briefly, walking along the road. Additional sightings of the morning included Large-tailed Nightjar and Jungle Owlet during a short pre-dawn birding session, and a brief Blue-bearded Bee-eater and Himalayan and Greater Flamebacks on the way out of the park. After lunch at our hotel in Kumeria, we spent the afternoon chasing target birds like Nepal Wren-babbler and Long-billed Thrush, which both played hide and seek with us, but eventually showed well for everyone. We also saw a flock of splendid White-crested Laughingthrushes, the diminutive Little Pied Flycatcher and two Oriental Pied Hornbills.

On our last morning at Kumeria we walked a track down to the Kosi River, where we spent quite a time scanning the river for Brown Dipper and forktails, which are often seen, but failed miserably on this occasion. Luckily there were many other birds around including a magnificent Mountain Hawk-Eagle, male Small Niltava, an obliging group of Puff-throated Babblers, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrikes, a family party of Asian



Terraced fields near Nainital (Louis Bevier).

Barred Owlets, and, in a flowering bottlebrush tree at our hotel, Crimson Sunbirds and Orange-bellied Leafbirds. The rest of the day was spent climbing the roads into the Himalayas to the hill station of Naini Tal at 2080m asl, our base for the next five nights. During the journey we made numerous stops at various altitudes and in different habitats and saw several new birds including Himalayan Black-lored Tit, Ashy Bulbul, Black-crested Bulbul, Streak-throated and Red-rumped Swallow, Red-billed Leiothrix, an attractive pair of Himalayan Shrike-Babblers, and as we gained altitude, our first Black-headed Jay, Streaked Laughingthrushes, Russet Sparrows and Large-billed Crows.



Streaked Laughingthrush (Louis Bevier).



The awesome spectacle of snow covered Himalayan peaks (Louis Bevier).

Many great birds awaited us in the higher mountains north of Nainital, and we boarded our jeeps at 5 am the first morning and headed out through the montane forests on a winding mountain road in great anticipation. Our first new bird appeared well before sun rise as we first heard, and then spotlighted, a pair of Grey Nightjars close to the road. Then, as the light started to appear, we witnessed the awesome spectacle of snow covered Himalayan peaks all in rows with the biggest, Trisul and Nanda Devi, some 120km to our north-west. We spent the first couple of hours on a forested road hoping to see Koklass Pheasant or Common Hill Partridge. Both were heard calling from the surrounding slopes before moving to an area of grassy slopes that fell steeply away below us. After a period of intense scanning, we were able to make out a ghostly shape that resolved itself into the form of a male Cheer Pheasant, his long, boldly barred, tail acting as a marker. After watching it for a while, we noticed that it had a cryptically marked female alongside it! The main target in the bag it was time to relax a little and enjoy the other birds around us, which included Eurasian Crag Martins, several Himalayan Vultures, a couple of Mountain Hawk-Eagles, Steppe Eagles, a restless flock of Altai Accentor, a brief Striated Prinia, female Blue-capped Redstart, and a singing Upland Pipit that performed well as we watched. We spent a lot of time birding along the forested roads, and saw a good number of birds including Himalayan Woodpeckers, Slaty-headed Parakeets, Long-tailed Minivets, Himalayan Shrike-Babblers, Eurasian and Black-headed Jays, Yellow-browed, Green-backed and Coal (Spot-winged) Tits, Black-faced Warbler, Buff-barred, Lemon-rumped and many Grey-hooded Warblers, Blue-winged Minla, Rufous Sibia, Whiskered Yuhina, White-tailed Nuthatch, several Bar-tailed Treecreepers, one Orange-headed Thrush, male Himalayan Bluetail, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush and several Green-tailed Sunbirds. We also visited some terraced fields, a water hole and a small stream near a temple, seeing good numbers of Rock Buntings and a few Yellow-breasted Greenfinches plus a male Slaty-blue Flycatcher, a species we had heard several times previously, as new birds to conclude another splendid day's birding!



A pair of Cheer Pheasant, perhaps the most wanted bird on this tour (Louis Bevier).



Black-throated Bushtit must be one the cutest birds in the Himalayas (Antonio Cortizo Amaro).

Next day we drove downhill to bird lower elevations on the south facing hillsides in the bright morning sunshine along a cool river valley. Here we found Black-throated Sunbird, several Common Rosefinches, a very showy male Small Niltava, two Spotted and one Slaty-backed Forktail calmly feeding along the water's edge, a Besra landing briefly close to us, a Speckled Piculet digging a nest hole, Greater Flameback, noisy flocks of Slaty-headed and Plum-headed Parakeets, a couple of Yellow-bellied Fantails, many Whistler's Warblers, a Chestnut-crowned Warbler and two Himalayan Rubythroats. After a brief visit to another river valley with yet another view of a male Himalayan Rubythroat and a very confiding Striated Prinia, we drove



Spotted Forktail (Antonio Cortizo Amaro), Golden Bush Robin & Ultramarine Flycatcher (Louis Bevier).

to the Sattal area for a picnic lunch, after which we headed to one of the small lakes at Sattal, where we spent most of the afternoon birding along a quiet trail. Birding was pretty slow and we really had to work hard for nearly every species, but in the end we came out with a pretty impressive bird list, which included Aberrant and Grey-sided Bush Warblers, Grey-bellied and two Chestnut-headed Tesias, a pair of Rufous-chinned and a flock of White-throated Laughingthrushes, many confiding Red-billed Leiothrix, a Golden Bush Robin and a confiding Spotted Forktail. The last new bird of the day was a fine Brown-fronted Woodpecker, which we found in exactly in the same place as on my previous visit.



Brown-fronted Woodpecker (Antonio Cortizo Amaro).

On our third full day in the Nainital area we headed back to the northern slopes along the Vinayak road to look for additional higher altitude forest species we still needed and birded there till early afternoon. In addition to many of the birds we had seen here on our first visit, we saw a number of new ones including a few smart Rufous-bellied, and one Scaly-bellied, Woodpeckers, a flock of lovely Striated Laughingthrushes, three Alpine Thrushes with good views, brief sightings of White-collared Blackbird and Chestnut Thrush and a pair of Dark-breasted Rosefinches. In the late afternoon we drove across Nainital town and birded the more open areas on the outskirts of a small village, where the best birds were Grey Treepie, Chestnut-crowned and Streaked Laughingthrushes, Grey-winged Blackbird, Red-billed Leiothrix and Rufous Sibia, which all showed extremely well.

On our last morning at Nainital we returned to the Sattal area visiting some untidy, field edges where we had great views of several Rufous-breasted Accentors and really showy Black-headed Jays. Then we made another visit to Sattal lakes, where a small stream was visited by a good array of thirsty birds including Mountain and Ashy Bulbuls and gorgeous Ultramarine, Slaty-blue and Verditer Flycatchers. We also found the same pair of Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes we had seen earlier, this time with great views, and several Blyth's Leaf Warblers in a mixed flock of *Phylloscopus* warblers. In the afternoon we drove down to Kathgodam and took the very comfortable train back to Delhi, where we arrived late in the evening.

Back in the lowlands our first destination was the famous Taj Mahal in Agra, which was, as always, very impressive and even, as a bonus, provided us with some decent birds including Black-eared Kites soaring over the area with Black Kites and Egyptian Vultures. After the busy day in the hustle and bustle of Agra we headed back to the dusty, colourful Indian countryside, and the charming Chambal Safari Lodge, where we arrived in time for late afternoon birding around the lodge grounds. A short spot lightning session later in the evening produced a fine Indian Scops Owl and a well concealed Common Palm Civet.



Indian Skimmer (Antonio Cortizo Amaro) and Small Pratincole (Louis Bevier) were the star birds of the Chambal River.

We headed for the famous Chambal River early next morning with high hopes. We had couple of short walks 'in the bandit country' close to the river, which produced a brief Black Francolin (three others were heard), several Grey Francolins, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Crested Larks, White-eared Bulbuls, Pale Martins and Wire-tailed Swallows, Rufous-fronted and Jungle Prinias, and later, from the boat, two Graceful Prinias, Common and Yellow-eyed Babblers and two White-capped Buntings. We boarded our boat and began a peaceful, thoroughly enjoyable, cruise on a perfect sunny morning, enjoying really good, relaxed birding, seeing handsome Red-crested Pochards, a large flock of Lesser Whistling Ducks, Bar-headed Geese, Knob-billed and Indian Spot-billed Ducks, Ruddy Shelducks, our first Asian Openbills, a breeding pair of Bonelli's Eagles, two Long-legged Buzzards, two Western Ospreys, a few Pallas's Gulls, several Great Stone-curlews, Kentish Plovers and Little and Temminck's Stints, a good flock of very obliging Small Pratincoles, a single Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse on the river bank, a handful of River Terns and good views of the scarce, and declining, Black-bellied Tern, plus, of course, we also had marvellous views of a small group of



Black-necked Storks in Bharatpur (Louis Bevier).

the bizarre , but still elegant, Indian Skimmers, the main reason for our visit to the site. In addition to these avian delights, we had great views of many Gharials (a long and narrow snouted fish-eating crocodile) and Mugger Crocodiles and a typically brief view of the Ganges River Dolphin. Then back to our lodge for late lunch before moving to our next destination Bharatpur, where we arrived at sunset and settled in our luxury heritage hotel, The Bagh, which would be our home for the next three nights.

Next day we began our exploration of Bharatpur, officially known as Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a former hunting ground for the maharajas of Bharatpur and their guests, consisting of 28 square kilometres of managed wetlands and drier, savanna type habitats. This year access was limited to some of the main tracks through the park's wetlands, as many of the more remote areas were closed to visitors because of the presence of one or two Leopards! We spent the entire day with our local guide Bablu in this famous birding hot spot travelling by bicycle rickshaw checking a number of sites during the day. Due to the rather late date of our visit, the number of wintering ducks had already decreased and some of the scarcer wintering birds, such as some thrush species, had continued their journey further north. Nevertheless we enjoyed a brilliant day's birding and, in addition to many ducks, herons, egrets and waders, we had already seen earlier on the trip, we saw a number of interesting species including Black Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Striated Heron, Indian Cormorant, Griffon Vulture, many Greater Spotted Eagles, Eastern Imperial Eagles, two pairs of Sarus Crane, Bronze-winged Jacanas, a few Black-tailed Godwits, a family party of two young and one adult Dusky Eagle-Owls, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, several Clamorous Reed Warblers, Blyth's Reed Warbler, a couple of Bluethroats, a brief Orange-headed Thrush for some, Indian Silverbills and an Oriental Pratincole well spotted by Louis.

Next day we tried a different approach and headed for the vast agricultural areas outside the park looking for dry country birds. Our first stop at an unassuming looking roadside field yielded our main target, the handsome Indian Courser, and at the same spot we also found Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Larks, Yellow-wattled Lapwings and a singing Indian Bush Lark, all new birds for us. Back at the bus we noticed a flock of Rosy Starlings visiting trees nearby and later a walk to a dry hillside yielded 19 Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, a very distant Southern Grey Shrike and a pair of Sarus Cranes. Then we visited the breeding cliffs of the critically endangered Indian Vulture near Bayana. While watching the vultures, eight in total and including a chick, sitting on the cliffs and flying around, there was a constant stream of Hindu pilgrims on their way to



The critically endangered Indian Vulture was first seen near Bayana and later again in Ranthambhor (Louis Bevier).

Mata Temple walking along the road next to us. In the afternoon we returned to the park and went to a new area, where the main finds were a male Pallid Harrier, two Bay-backed Shrikes, White-browed Fantail, a total of three Sulphur-bellied Warblers with excellent views and a Sykes's Warbler.

This next day we had time for a short visit to Keoladeo Ghana, which produced a few excellent birds including a pair of Painted Snipe, Indian Spotted Eagle and Indian Paradise Flycatcher (a recent split from Asian Paradise Flycatcher). After lunch we were supposed to take the train to our next destination, but it turned out the train was going to be seriously delayed, so we commandeered our bus, which was supposed to go straight back to Delhi after dropping us at the railway station, in which we drove the 200 kilometres to our comfortable hotel at Sawai Madhpur.

We spent the next five nights in Sawai Madhpur close to Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve, which is one of the most reliable places in India to see Tiger. During our stay we did a total of six game drives in the park, with two visits each to routes three and four, and doing routes two and five once. We were fortunately successful in achieving our main objective, which was seeing the magnificent Tiger. In total we had four sightings of this magnificent animal during our stay with some very close encounters, and we also heard the powerful roar of male and female Tigers! One of our vehicles also saw a Sloth Bear, and Northern Plains Grey Langurs, Wild Boar, Chital (Spotted Deer), Sambar and Nilgai were seen in good numbers. We also encountered Indian Hares and Ruddy Mongoose. From a birding standpoint our visit was also very satisfying, as we scored a number of interesting birds including Painted Spurfowl, which was sighted daily, very obliging Jungle Bush Quails, a pair of Short-toed Snake Eagles, a mighty Red-headed Vulture, several Brown Crakes, Indian and Great Stone-curlews, Indian Scops Owl, Brown Fish Owl, Stork-billed Kingfishers, Brown-capped Pygmy and a pair of White-naped Woodpeckers, which we hadn't seen earlier on the tour, Tickell's Blue and Taiga Flycatchers, and Crested and White-capped Buntings. Our birding forays outside the park included two visits to the dry wastelands in the outskirts of Sawai Madhpur, where we encountered, among other birds, several



Painted Spurfowl is easy to see in Ranthambhor (Louis Bevier).

Painted Sandgrouse, a brief Savanna Nightjar, a Variable Wheatear and saw close Southern Grey Shrikes. Our afternoon stop at the Banas River produced great views of Black-bellied, River and Whiskered Terns, Western Yellow Wagtails of the forms *beema* and *feldegg*, several Citrine Wagtails, including some gorgeous males, and two Rufous-tailed Larks. After a last morning's birding in the dry country near Sawai Madhpur it was time to leave the picturesque area and catch the 'Golden Temple Mail' bound for Delhi. The train arrived on time, and around an hour later we reached our hotel. After a freshen-up followed by a good dinner, it was time to say our goodbyes, and to thank everyone for their great company, which, together with all the excellent birds and exciting places, made this such a memorable trip.



Painted Sandgrouse near Ranthambhor (Louis Bevier).



A nice Jungle Bush Quail at Ranthambhor (Louis Bevier).

BIRDS OF THE TRIP' WINNERS 2018:

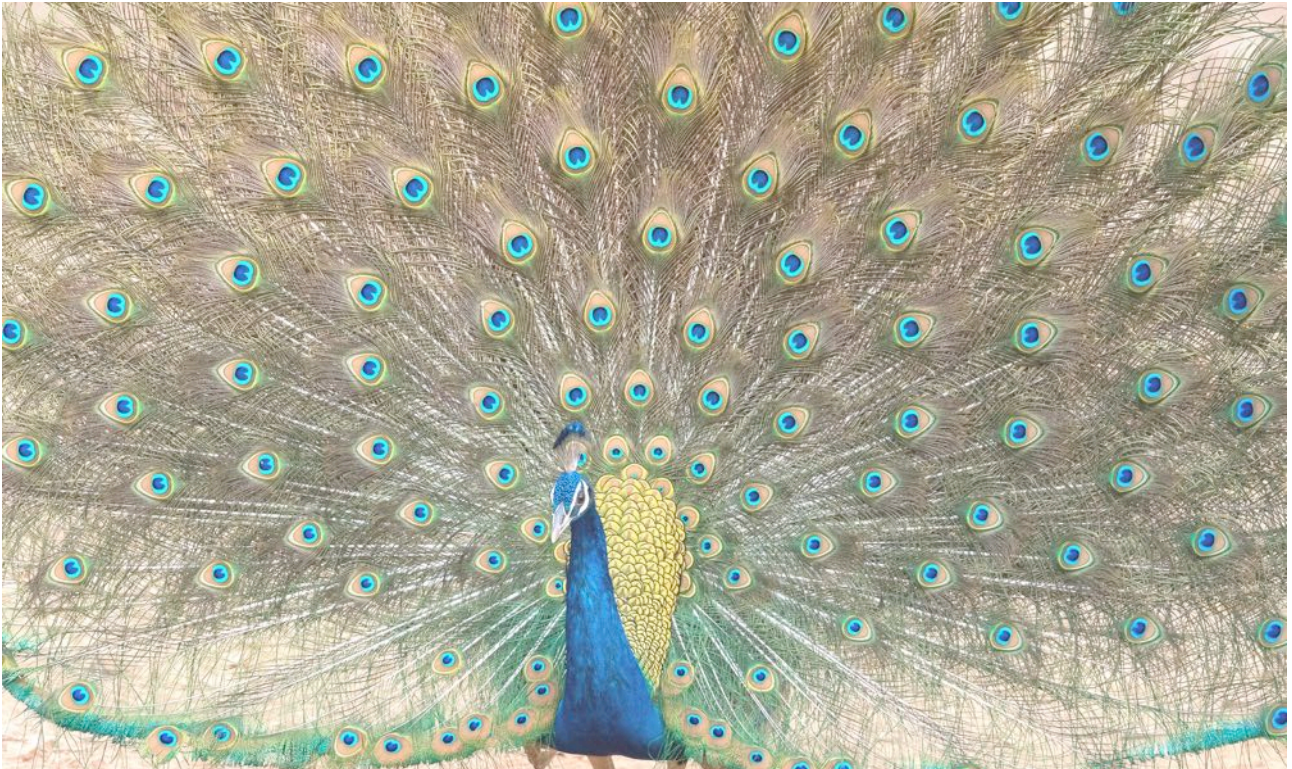
1st: Cheer Pheasant

2nd: Small Pratincole

3rd: Tiger

4th: Painted Spurfowl, Sarus Crane & Indian Courser

5th: Black-headed Jay



Indian Peafowl, the national bird on India (Louis Bevier).

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRD SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* Good numbers noted at the Chambal River and at Keoladeo.

Bar-headed Goose ◊ *Anser indicus* Fairly common in suitable wetlands in the lowlands.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* A few at handful at Keoladeo.

Knob-billed Duck (Comb D) *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Small numbers in suitable wetlands in the lowlands.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Widespread, highest counts at the Kosi River (300) and Yamuna (100).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* Small numbers at all major wetlands visited.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* Noted at all major wetlands, and especially abundant in Keoladeo.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* Noted at all major wetlands, and especially abundant in Keoladeo.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* Noted in fair numbers in Sultanpur and Keoladeo.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* Small numbers at all major wetlands visited.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Noted in fair numbers in Sultanpur and Keoladeo.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* Noted at all major wetlands, and especially abundant in Keoladeo.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* Six at the Yamuna River behind Taj Mahal.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* One at Sultanpur.



Black Bittern at Sultanpur (Louis Bevier).

Ferruginous Duck (F Pochard) *Aythya nyroca* Four at Sultanpur.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Six at Sultanpur.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* One male was seen and three others were heard at Chambal.

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* Small numbers noted daily in the lowlands.

Jungle Bush Quail ♦ *Perdica asiatica* Small groups noted on two days in Ranthambhor. Brilliant views!

Hill Partridge (Common H P) *Arborophila torqueola* (H) A few birds were heard in the Nainital region.

Painted Spurrow ♦ *Galloperdix lunulata* Noted daily, with many exceptional views, at Ranthambhor.

Koklass Pheasant ♦ *Pucrasia macrolopha* (H) A few heard in the Nainital region.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* Amazingly common and tame in Corbett NP.

Kalij Pheasant (Kaleej P) *Lophura leucomelanos* Small numbers noted daily in the north.

Cheer Pheasant ♦ *Catreus wallichii* A brilliant pair along the Vinayak road at Nainital.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* Widespread in good numbers. National bird of India.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Noted at all major wetlands.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* Small numbers on all major wetlands.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* Small numbers at the Chambal, Keoladeo and Ranthambhor.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* Up to 12 in Corbett, and four in Ranthambhor.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* Small numbers seen on six days.

Black-necked Stork ♦ *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* A family of five at Sultanpur, and three in Keoladeo.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* Widespread in the lowlands.

Red-naped Ibis ♦ (Indian Black I) *Pseudibis papillosa* Noted on four days in the lowlands.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Small numbers on all major wetlands.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Small numbers on all major wetlands.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* One in Sultanpur and up to four in Keoladeo.

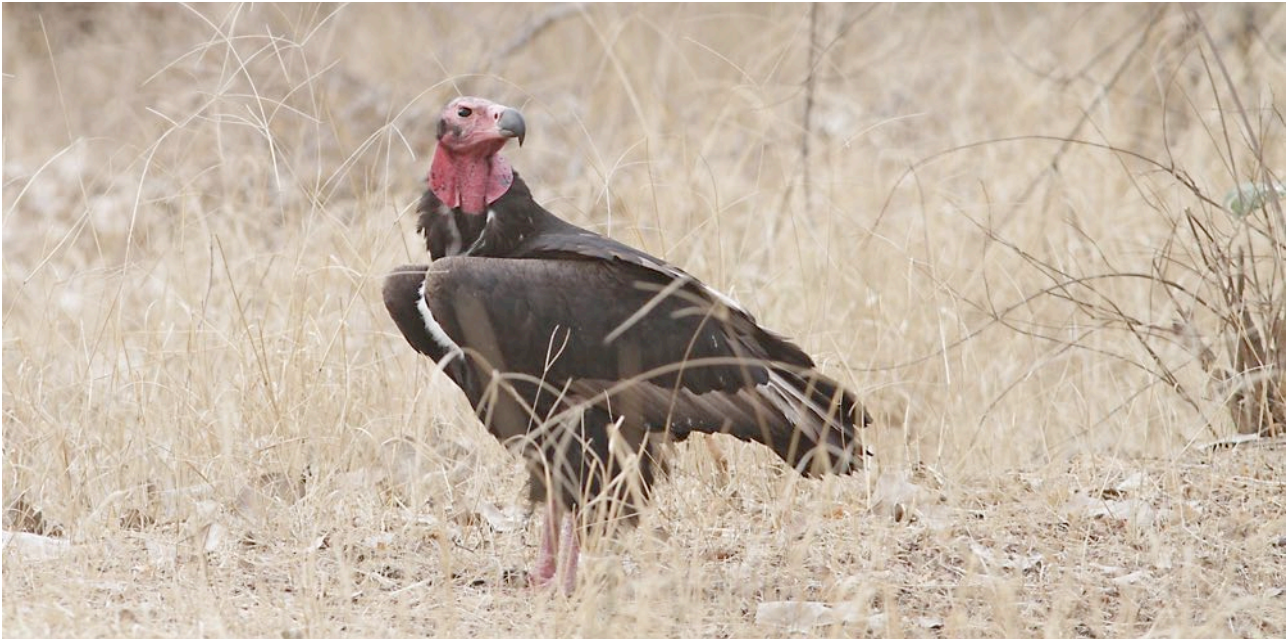
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Small numbers at Bharatpur and Ranthambhor.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* A total of six in Keoladeo and Ranthambhor.

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* Widespread in the lowlands.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* Widespread and locally common in the lowlands.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Noted on all major wetlands.



Red-headed Vulture in Ranthambhor (Hannu Jännes).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Small numbers in Sultanpur, Keoladeo and Ranthambhor.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Widespread and locally common in the lowlands.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Noted in Sultanpur, Keoladeo and Ranthambhor.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Widespread.

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger* Widespread.

Indian Cormorant ♦ (I Shag) *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* Up to 30 in Keoladeo.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Widespread. Highest numbers in Corbett and along the Kosi River.

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* Small numbers on all major wetlands.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Two at the Chambal River and three in Ranthambhor.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Widespread in small numbers.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* Fairly common from Agra to Bharatpur, a few elsewhere.

Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental H B) *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Small numbers noted on ten days.

Indian Vulture ♦ *Gyps indicus* A total of nine including a chick in the Bharatpur area and six in Ranthambhor.

Himalayan Vulture ♦ (H Griffon) *Gyps himalayensis* Noted almost daily from Corbett to Sattal.

Griffon Vulture (Eurasian Griffon) *Gyps fulvus* One in Bharatpur.

Red-headed Vulture ♦ *Sarcogyps calvus* A stunning adult bird in Ranthambhor.

Cinereous Vulture (Eurasian Black V) *Aegypius monachus* One in Corbett.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* Widespread in small numbers.

Short-toed Snake Eagle (S-t Eagle) *Circaetus gallicus* Two, a pair, in Ranthambhor.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* Up to five daily in the Corbett area.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* A total of six, with some really good views, noted in the north

Indian Spotted Eagle ♦ *Clanga hastata* One in Keoladeo on our last morning was a welcome find.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* Up to 15 a day in Keoladeo including the very pale *fulvescens* morph.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* A total of four birds noted.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* Small numbers noted on six days.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* A total of three birds in Keoladeo.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* A total of eight birds, including a breeding pair, at the Chambal River.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* Widespread in the lowlands.

Besra (B Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter virgatus* One in the Sattal area.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Three birds noted in the north.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* One in Sultanpur and a handful of birds in Keoladeo.



Juvenile Crested Honey Buzzard in Keoladeo Ghana NP (Hannu Jännes).

- Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* A total of four in the grasslands of Dhikala in Corbett NP.
- Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* One male in Keoladeo.
- Black Kite (Black-eared K)** *Milvus [migrans] lineatus* Good numbers Agra and two the next day.
- Black Kite (Pariah K)** *Milvus [migrans] govinda* Widespread, but not seen in Ranthambhor.
- Pallas's Fish Eagle** ♦ *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* One along the Kosi River and three in Corbett NP.
- Lesser Fish Eagle** ♦ *Haliaeetus humilis* Fairly common and noisy in Corbett NP.
- Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* One at the Kosi River and two at the Chambal River.
- Brown Crake** ♦ *Amaurornis akool* Noted in Corbett and Ranthambhor.
- White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* Small numbers noted daily in the lowlands.
- Grey-headed Swampphen (G-breasted S)** *Porphyrio poliocephalus* Noted on all major wetlands.
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Noted on all major wetlands.
- Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* Abundant in Sultanpur and Keoladeo, and two at the Banas River near Ranthambhor.
- Sarus Crane** ♦ *Antigone antigone* Two at Sultanpur, and up to four a day in Keoladeo.
- Indian Stone-curlew** ♦ (I Thick-knee) *Burhinus indicus* Three were seen and several more were heard.
- Great Stone-curlew** ♦ (G Thick-knee) *Esacus recurvirostris* Eight at the Chambal and up to 12 in Ranthambhor.
- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Common in the lowlands.
- River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii* Noted on eight days along many of the larger rivers.
- Yellow-wattled Lapwing** ♦ *Vanellus malabaricus* Four at the Chambal Lodge and four near Bharatpur.
- Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus* Noted almost daily.
- White-tailed Lapwing** ♦ *Vanellus leucurus* Noted at Sultanpur and Keoladeo.
- Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* Noted on seven days.
- Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* Four at the Chambal River and three in the Ranthambhor area.
- Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* Two, a fine pair, at Keoladeo.
- Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* A total of ten in Keoladeo.
- Bronze-winged Jacana** *Metopidius indicus* Small numbers in Keoladeo.
- Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* Fairly common in Ranthambhor, and three in Keoladeo.
- Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* Noted on five days from Agra to Ranthambhor.
- Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* Small numbers noted on four days.



Sarus Cranes at Sultanpur (Hannu Jännes).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Two at the Chambal River and ten in Ranthambhor.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Noted on six days in the lowlands.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Small numbers noted on seven days.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Small numbers noted almost daily.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Small numbers noted from Agra to Ranthambhor.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Small numbers noted from Agra to Ranthambhor.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Hundreds in Keoladeo, and smaller numbers on other lowland wetlands.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Small numbers noted.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Widespread in small numbers.

Indian Courser ♦ *Cursorius coromandelicus* A total of eight in the dry country near Bharatpur.



Indian Courser and Yellow-wattled Lapwing (Louis Bevier).



Black-bellied Tern at the Chambal River (Hannu Jännes).

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* One in Keoladeo.

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea* 30, with stunning views, at the Chambal, and five in Corbett NP.

Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* A total of eight with good views at the Chambal River.

Pallas's Gull (Great Black-headed G) *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* Two at the Chambal River.

River Tern ♦ *Sterna aurantia* Small numbers in Corbett, at the Chambal and in Ranthambhor.

Black-bellied Tern ♦ *Sterna acuticauda* Six at the Chambal River and two at the Banas River near Ranthambhor.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* One at the Chambal River.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* One at the Chambal, 19 near Bharatpur and three in Ranthambhor.

Painted Sandgrouse ♦ *Pterocles indicus* Noted on two days (six and ten birds) on the outskirts of Sawai Madhpur.

Rock Dove (R Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Oriental Turtle Dove (Rufous T D) *Streptopelia orientalis* Small numbers in the north.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Widespread.

Red Turtle Dove (R Collared D) *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Small numbers in Corbett and again in Rajasthan.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* Widespread.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Widespread and common.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* Small numbers were noted daily in Corbett.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon ♦ (Y-legged G P) *Treron phoenicopterus* Rather common in the lowlands.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* Widespread in small numbers in the lowlands.

Asian Koel (Common K) *Eudynamis scolopaceus* Small numbers (mostly heard) in the lowlands.

Common Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococcyx varius* Two seen and two more heard at Sultanpur.

Indian Scops Owl ♦ *Otus bakkamoena* One at the Chambal Lodge, and three observations in Ranthambhor.

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (H) One was calling along the Kumeria-Mohan road in the middle of the day.

Dusky Eagle-Owl ♦ *Bubo coromandus* A family with one adult and two fledged chicks in Keoladeo.

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* We had magnificent views of roosting birds in Corbett and Ranthambhor.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* (H) Three birds heard in the north

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* Three in Kumeria.

Jungle Owlet ♦ *Glaucidium radiatum* One bird was seen on two mornings at Dhikala camp in Corbett NP.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* Widespread in the lowlands.

Brown Hawk-Owl (B Boobook) *Ninox scutulata* Two, a pair, at Dhikala camp in Corbett NP.

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* Two birds seen and heard twice along the Vinayak road. A write-in!

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* One was seen in Dhikala, and another one was heard at Kumeria.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* One seen near Sawai Madhpur, and several were heard in Dhikala.



Brown Fish Owl, Indian Scops Owl and Spotted Owlet (Louis Bevier).

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* Ten in Corbett NP.

White-rumped Spinetail ♦ (W-r Needletail) *Zoonavena sylvatica* Small numbers daily in Corbett.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* Six from the train between Kathgodam and Delhi.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Widespread.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* Widespread.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* One in Corbett and three in Ranthambhor.

White-throated Kingfisher (W-breasted K) *Halcyon smyrnensis* Widespread in the lowlands.



Great Hornbill in flight in Corbett NP (Antonio Cortizo Amaro).

- Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* Small numbers noted on seven days.
- Crested Kingfisher (Himalayan Pied K)** *Megaceryle lugubris* HA few birds in the north.
- Pied Kingfisher (Lesser P K)** *Ceryle rudis* Widespread in small numbers.
- Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctyornis athertoni* One in Corbett NP.
- Green Bee-eater (Little G B-e, Oriental G B-e)** *Merops orientalis* Noted almost daily, sometimes in good numbers.
- Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merops leschenaulti* 20 in Corbett NP.
- Eurasian Hoopoe (Common H)** *Upupa epops* Widespread in small numbers.
- Great Hornbill (G Pied H)** *Buceros bicornis* Two in flight in Corbett NP.
- Oriental Pied Hornbill** *Anthraceroceros albirostris* Four in the Corbett-Kumeria area.
- Indian Grey Hornbill** ♦ *Ocyroceros birostris* Widespread in small numbers.
- Great Barbet** *Psilopogon virens* Fairly common in the hills in the north, more often heard than seen.
- Brown-headed Barbet** ♦ *Psilopogon zeylanicus* Rather common lowland bird.
- Lineated Barbet** *Psilopogon lineatus* Common in the Corbett-Kumeria area.
- Blue-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon asiaticus* Rather scarce this time, but we still managed great views.
- Coppersmith Barbet** *Psilopogon haemacephalus* Widespread in the lowlands.
- Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* Two in Sultanpur.
- Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus* One nest building individual in the Sattal area.
- Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** ♦ (Indian P W) *Yungipicus nanus* One in Ranthambhor.
- Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (G-c W)** *Yungipicus canicapillus* A total of six in the north.
- Brown-fronted Woodpecker** ♦ (B-f Pied W) *Dendrocoptes auriceps* A total of six in the northern hills.
- Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** ♦ (Y-fronted Pied W) *Leipicus mahrattensis* One in Keoladeo.
- Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* A total of six along the Vinayak road in the north.
- Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** ♦ (F-b Pied W) *Dendrocopos macei* A few seen in the north.
- Himalayan Woodpecker** ♦ (H Pied W) *Dendrocopos himalayensis* A total of six along the Vinayak road in the north.
- Greater Yellownape** *Chrysophlegma flavinucha* A few birds in the north.
- Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus* Two in Corbett NP.
- Streak-throated Woodpecker** ♦ *Picus xanthopygaeus* Fairly common in Corbett NP.
- Scaly-bellied Woodpecker** *Picus squamatus* Two seen and one more heard in the Nainital area.
- Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus* Noted daily in the north.
- Himalayan Flameback** ♦ *Dinopium shorii* Two in Corbett NP.
- Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense* Small numbers noted daily in the lowlands.



Collared Falconet (Louis Bevier).

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* Three birds seen in the north.

White-naped Woodpecker ♦ (White-naped Flameback) *Chrysocolaptes festivus* Two, a pair, in Ranthambhor.

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens* A total of six with great views in Corbett NP.

Common Kestrel (Eurasian Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus* Noted on seven days.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* One on the way to Sattal.

Slaty-headed Parakeet ♦ (Himalayan P) *Psittacula himalayana* Locally common in the north.

Plum-headed Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula cyanocephala* Widespread in good numbers.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* Common in the Kumeria-Corbett NP area.

Alexandrine Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula eupatria* Small numbers were noted in the lowlands.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri* Common in the lowlands.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (Pied F-S) *Hemipus picatus* Small numbers in the Kumeria-Corbett NP area.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* Noted almost daily in Corbett and in the lowlands.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* Noted almost daily in the lowlands.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei* Handful of birds in Corbett and again in Ranthambhor.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* Small numbers daily in Ranthambhor.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* Fairly common in the north.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* Fairly common in the north.

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus* Small numbers in Keoladeo and Ranthambhor.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* Widespread in small numbers.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* A total of seven from Bharatpur to Ranthambhor.

Himalayan Shrike-Babbler ♦ *Pteruthius ripleyi* Noted daily in small numbers in the northern hills.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* Fairly common in Corbett NP.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* Rather common in the north.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Widespread and common.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* Only a few birds noted.



Rufous Treepie (Hannu Jännes) and Black-headed Jay (Louis Bevier).

- White-bellied Drongo** ♦ *Dicrurus caeruleus* Common in Ranthambhor.
- Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus* Noted on three days in the north.
- Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus* Rather common around flowering trees in the north.
- White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis* Common in the north.
- White-browed Fantail** *Rhipidura aureola* Common in Ranthambhor, and one in Keoladeo.
- Indian Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi* One in Keoladeo.
- Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* Noted on two days along the Vinayak road in the northern hills.
- Black-headed Jay** ♦ (Lanceolated J) *Garrulus lanceolatus* Noted daily, with great views, in the northern hills.
- Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythroryncha* Fairly common in the north.
- Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis* Only one bird was noted.
- Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda* Widespread in the lowlands, and especially common in Ranthambhor.
- Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae* Only few birds noted in the north.
- House Crow** *Corvus splendens* Common in the lowlands.
- Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos* Common in the hills around Nainital.
- Indian Jungle Crow** ♦ *Corvus culminatus* Common in the lowlands.
- Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus* Only a few were seen.
- Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis* Rather common in the north, and two in Sultanpur.
- Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus* Small numbers in the north.
- Coal Tit** ♦ (Spot-winged T) *Periparus [ater] melanolophus* Fairly common along the Vinayak road in the north.
- Cinereous Tit** (Grey T) *Parus cinereus* Noted in the Corbett-Kumeria area and again in Ranthambhor.
- Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus* Small numbers in the northern hills.
- Himalayan Black-lored Tit** ♦ (B-l Tit) *Machlolophus xanthogenys* Small numbers in the northern hills.
- Rufous-tailed Lark** ♦ *Ammomanes phoenicurea* Three at the Banas River near Rathambhore.
- Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark** ♦ (A-c Finch-L) *Eremopterix griseus* Small numbers noted in the dry country.
- Indian Bush Lark** ♦ *Mirafra erythroptera* Small numbers noted in the dry country from Bharatpur to Ranthambhor.
- Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula* Small numbers in Corbett NP and at the Chambal River.
- Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata* Small numbers noted in the dry country from Chambal to Ranthambhor.
- Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* Only seen on three days with 100 near Bharatpur.
- Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris* Two along the Kumeria-Mohan road.
- Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus* Fairly common in the Corbett-Kumeria area.
- Himalayan Bulbul** (White-cheeked B) *Pycnonotus leucogenys* Common in the north.
- White-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucotis* Rather common in Chambal and Bharatpur.
- Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer* Everywhere.
- Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mcclellandii* One showy bird at Sattal.
- Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flava* Only couple of sightings.
- Black Bulbul** ♦ (Himalayan B B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* Common in the north.
- Grey-throated Martin** (G-t Sand M) *Riparia chinensis* Widespread in the lowlands.



Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler and Black-chinned Babbler (Louis Bevier).

Pale Martin ♦ (P Sand M) *Riparia diluta* Few birds at the Chambal River.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Widespread.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Noted on two days only.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Five along the Vinayak road.

Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor* Noted almost daily from Agra to Ranthambhor.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Small numbers noted on most days.

Streak-throated Swallow ♦ (Indian Cliff S) *Petrochelidon fluvicola* Good numbers at breeding sites on two days.

Nepal Wren-babbler ♦ *Pnoepyga immaculata* One was seen well, and another one was heard in the north.

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* Small numbers noted along the Vinayak road.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* Great views of one at Sattal.

Grey-bellied Tesia (Yellow-browed T) *Tesia cyaniventer* One at Sattal.

Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler ♦ (Large B W) *Cettia major* One was seen and another one was heard in Corbett.

Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnilfrons* Good views of one at Sattal, and another one in Corbett.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata* Two birds with good views at Sattal.

Black-throated Bushtit (Red-headed Tit, B-t Tit) *Aegithalos concinnus* This cute bird noted in six days in the north.

Common Chiffchaff (Siberian C) *Phylloscopus [collybita] tristis* Widespread, mainly in the lowlands.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus griseolus* Four in Bharatpur and one in Ranthambhor.

Buff-barred Warbler (Orange-b Leaf W) *Phylloscopus pulcher* Rather common along the Vinayak road.

Lemon-rumped Warbler (L-r Leaf W) *Phylloscopus chloronotus* Fairly common in the north.

Brooks's Leaf Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus subviridis* One in Sultanpur.

Hume's Leaf Warbler (H's W) *Phylloscopus humei* Widespread, noted almost daily.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Small numbers noted mainly in the lowlands.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* Three at Sattal with some good views.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* Good numbers in the north.

Whistler's Warbler ♦ *Seicercus whistleri* Relatively common in the Corbett-Kumeria area and in Sattal.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* One near Sattal.

Clamorous Reed Warbler ♦ (Indian R W) *Acrocephalus [stentoreus] brunescens* Several in Keoladeo.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* Only one in Keoladeo.

Sykes's Warbler ♦ *Iduna rama* One in Keoladeo.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* (H) A few heard in Corbett.

Golden-headed Cisticola (Bright-capped C) *Cisticola exilis* Two in the grasslands in Corbett NP.

Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera* Noted on three days in the north.

Rufous-fronted Prinia ♦ *Prinia buchanani* Small numbers at the Chambal, and again near Sawai Madhpur.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii* Widespread.



White-throated Laughingthrush and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (Louis Bevier).

- Graceful Prinia** ♦ *Prinia gracilis* Two at the Chambal River.
- Jungle Prinia** ♦ *Prinia sylvatica* Two near the Chambal River.
- Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis* Widespread.
- Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata* Small numbers noted on six days.
- Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius* Widespread.
- Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys* Small numbers with excellent views in the north.
- Black-chinned Babbler** ♦ *Stachyridopsis pyrrhops* Small numbers with excellent views in the north.
- Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps* Great encounter with a group of three near our hotel in Kumeria.
- Common Babbler** ♦ *Turdoides caudata* Rather common from Chambal to Ranthambhor.
- Large Grey Babbler** ♦ *Turdoides malcolmi* Fairly common in the lowlands.
- Jungle Babbler** *Turdoides striata* Widespread in good numbers.
- White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus* This amazing bird was seen well in Kumeria.
- Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** ♦ *Garrulax rufogularis* Good views of the pair in Sattal.
- White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis* Big flocks were encountered on three days in the hills.
- Striated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax striatus* This good looking bird was seen in the hills on two days.
- Streaked Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron lineatum* Rather common in the hills.
- Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (Red-headed L)** *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* Brilliant views at Nainital.
- Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera* Small numbers of this handsome bird noted on three days.
- Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea* We had great views of this beauty in the north.
- Rufous Sibia** ♦ *Heterophasia capistrata* Common in the highest hills.
- Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* Widespread in small numbers.
- Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense* Small numbers noted on five days in the lowlands.
- Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis* Small numbers along the Vinayak road in the Nainital area.
- Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus* Widespread, sometimes in good numbers.
- Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamoventris* Small numbers at the lower elevations in the north.
- White-tailed Nuthatch** ♦ *Sitta himalayensis* Common in higher areas in the north.
- Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis* Small numbers noted daily in the Corbett-Kumeria area.
- Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* Two along the Kosi River.
- Bar-tailed Treecreeper** ♦ *Certhia himalayana* Noted on four days in the higher hills in the north.
- Jungle Myna** ♦ *Acridotheres fuscus* Small numbers in Corbett NP.
- Bank Myna** ♦ *Acridotheres ginginianus* Scattered records in the lowlands.
- Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* Everywhere.



Blue Whistling Thrush (Louis Bevier).

Pied Myna (Asian P Starling) *Gracupica contra* Widespread in the lowlands.

Brahminy Starling ♦ *Sturnia pagodarum* Rather common from the Chambal to Ranthambhor.

Rosy Starling (Rose-coloured S) *Pastor roseus* One flock near Bharatpur.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* (NL) One in the north and another one at Keoladeo.

Alpine Thrush ♦ *Zoothra mollissima* Three sightings along the Vinayak road.

Long-billed Thrush ♦ (L-b Ground-T) *Zoothra monticola* This monster was seen well in Kumeria.

White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* (NL) One was seen by Neal along the Vinayak road.

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul* Rather common, seen on five days in the north.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus* (LO) One along the Vinayak road.

Indian Robin ♦ (I Black R) *Copsychus fulicatus* Common in the lowlands.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis* aFairly common in the lowlands.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae* A total of three in Ranthambhor.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* A few, with stunning views, seen in the north.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus* Small numbers noted almost daily in the north.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Four seen.

Himalayan Rubythroat ♦ (Himalayan R) *Calliope pectoralis* Four seen and few more were heard in the north.

Himalayan Bluetail (H Red-flanked Bush Robin) *Tarsiger rufilatus* A total of three were seen in the north.

Golden Bush Robin ♦ *Tarsiger chrysaeus* Great views of one at Sattal.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* Great views of two in the north.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* Two, with really brilliant views, in the north.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* Common in the north.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (Orange-g F) *Ficedula strophiate* Only one was seen.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* Small numbers noted daily in the lowlands.

Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla* A total of three seen

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* Two in the north.

Ultramarine Flycatcher ♦ *Ficedula superciliaris* Four, with amazing views of bathing males, in the north.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* Small numbers, with some good views, in the north.



Grey Bush Chat in Corbett NP (Louis Bevier).

Blue-capped Redstart ♦ *Phoenicurus coeruleocephala* (LO) One brief female for the leader only.
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Widespread in small numbers in the lowlands.
Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* Only one female.
Plumbeous Water Redstart (Plumbeous R) *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* Rather common in the north.
White-capped Redstart (River Chat, W-c Water R) *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* Fairly common in the north.
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* Two along the Kosi River.
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* Three in the hills in the north.
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* Widespread in small numbers.
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Daily encounters in Corbett and in the Agra-Bharatpur region.
Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus* Fairly common in the north.
Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* One at the Kosi River and another few the Banas River near Ranthambhor.
Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* One at the Banas River near Ranthambhor.
Brown Rock Chat ♦ *Oenanthe fusca* Scattered records in the lowlands.
Variable Wheatear ♦ (Eastern Pied W) *Oenanthe picata* Two in the Ranthambhor region.
Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* A few in the garden of our hotel in Kumeria.
Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* Three at Dhikala in Corbett NP.
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Buff-bellied F) *Dicaeum ignipectus* Ten or so in the north.
Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus* Common and widespread.
Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* A total of seven along the Vinayak road.
Black-throated Sunbird (B-breasted S) *Aethopyga saturata* One in the Sattal area.
Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* A few in the Corbett-Kumeria area.
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Sind Sparrow ♦ *Passer pyrrhonota* A few in Sultanpur. A write-in.
Russet Sparrow (Cinnamon S) *Passer rutilans* Common in the hills in the north.
Yellow-throated Sparrow (Chestnut-shouldered Petronia) *Gymnoris xanthocollis*
Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* A flock was seen on two days in Corbett NP.
Indian Silverbill ♦ *Euodice malabarica* Small numbers from Bharatpur to Ranthambhor.
Altai Accentor ♦ *Prunella himalayana* 100 or so at the Cheer Pheasant site along the Vinayak road.
Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophia* Ten near Sattal.
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* A few unidentified Yellow Wagtails were seen.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Sykes's W) *Motacilla [flava] beema* One at the Chambal, another one at the Banas River.



Rufous Sibia (Louis Bevier).

Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] feldegg* One at the Banas River.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* Ten or so at the Banas River and a few elsewhere.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Widespread in ones and twos.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* A few unidentified White Wagtails were seen.

White Wagtail (White W) *Motacilla [alba] alba* A handful of birds in the lowlands.

White Wagtail (Masked W) *Motacilla [alba] personata* Only one, at the Chambal River.

White Wagtail (Amur W) *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis* Scattered records of five.

White Wagtail (Himalayan W) *Motacilla [alba] alboides* A total of five in the north.

White-browed Wagtail (Masked W) *Motacilla maderaspatensis* Widespread.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* Widespread in small numbers.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* Only one, near Ranthambhor.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* One in Corbett NP.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Ten or so in Ranthambhor.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* 20 or so at Sattal. A few elsewhere.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* Ten along the Kosi River.

Upland Pipit (Masked W) *Anthus sylvanus* Four birds on the grassy slopes in the north.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch (Masked W) *Procarduelis nipalensis* A pair along the Vinayak road.

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet R) *Carpodacus erythrurus* Ten, including attractive males, near Sattal.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch (Himalayan G) *Chloris spinoides* Two along the Vinayak road.

Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami* In Ranthambhor a few seen on three days.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* 15 along the Vinayak road.

White-capped Bunting (Masked W) *Emberiza stewarti* Noted in Corbett, at the Chambal and in Ranthambhor.



Ranthambhor is great place to see Tigers. Here a mother with her well-crown male cub (Louis Bevier).

MAMMALS

Asian Elephant (Indian E) *Elephas maximus* 10 or so in Corbett NP.

Rhesus Monkey *Macaca mulatta* Widespread and common.

Northern Plains Gray Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* Common in Ranthambhor.

Tarai Gray Langur (Terai G L) *Semnopithecus hector* Common in the Kumeria-Corbett region.

Nepal Gray Langur *Semnopithecus schistaceus* Rather common in the Nainital region.

Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis* Three were noted.

Five-striped Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii* Common in the lowlands.

Tiger *Panthera tigris* One in Corbett and four (plus a roaring couple) in Ranthambhor. Brilliant encounters!

Indian Grey Mongoose (Common M) *Herpestes edwardsii* Two in the Chambal and one in Keoladeo.

Ruddy Mongoose *Herpestes smithii* A total of five in Ranthambhor.

Common Palm Civet (Common P C) *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* One at the Chambal Safari Lodge.

Golden Jackal (Common J) *Canis aureus* Noted on six days in the lowlands.

Bengal Fox *Vulpes bengalensis* Two in the outskirts of Sawai Madhpur.

Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus* One for half of the group in Ranthambhor.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* Two in the outskirts of Nainital.

Wild Boar (Wild B) *Sus scrofa* Widespread in the lowlands.

Ganges River Dolphin (Ganges D) *Platanista gangetica* One at the Chambal River.

Chital (Axis Deer, Spotted Deer) *Axis axis* Common in Sultanpur, Corbett, Bharatpur and Ranthambhor.

Hog Deer *Axis porcinus* Small numbers in Corbett NP.

Northern Red Muntjac (Indian M) *Muntiacus vaginalis* Small numbers in the north.

Sambar *Rusa unicolor* Common in Corbett and Ranthambhor.

Nilgai (Blue Bull) *Boselaphus tragocamelus* Widespread in the lowlands.

Chinkara (Chinkara) *Gazella bennettii* One in Ranthambhor.

Himalayan Goral (Goral) *Naemorhedus goral* Six in the north.

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus* 50 at the Chambal Safari Lodge and 10 in Keoladeo.



Asian Elephant in Corbett National Park (Louis Bevier).



Rhesus Monkey (Hannu Jännes).



Gharial at the Chambal River (Hannu Jännes).

REPTILES

Indian Softshell Turtle *Nilssonia gangetica* 10 at Sultanpur and two huge beasts at the Kosi River.

Marsh Mugger *Crocodylus palustris* Noted at the Chambal River, in Ranthambhor and at the Banas Rivers.

Gharial *Gavialis gangetica* Noted at the Chambal River, and at the Banas Rivers near Ranthambhor..