



A stunning Gould's Shortwing (Craig Robson)

ULTIMATE NORTHEAST INDIA

2/4 – 25/30 APRIL 2018

LEADERS CRAIG ROBSON

2018 saw a completely new Birdquest itinerary for this remote northeast corner of the Indian subcontinent. Our epic journey lasted nearly a month, and saw us amass a huge total of 530 species. The pre-tour extension to the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya started us off well, with Dark-rumped Swift and Tawny-breasted Wren-Babbler. The grasslands and semi-deciduous forests of Orang National Park produced Slender-billed Babbler. From the Himalayan midlands to the snowy heights in the Dirang Region, we enjoyed the likes of Snow Partridge, Blood Pheasant, Himalayan Monal, Black-tailed Crake, Ibisbill, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, and Bar-winged Wren-Babbler. The mighty Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary could hardly disappoint with such gems as Ward's Trogon, Beautiful Nuthatch, Rufous-throated and Long-billed Wren-Babblers, Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, Bugun Liocichla, Green Cochoa, and Alpine Thrush. Our first trip to Nagaland was rewarded with Naga Wren-Babbler, whilst at World-famous Kaziranga National Park Swamp Francolin, Greater Adjutant, and Red-headed Vulture impressed. The Assam Plains close to Dibru Saikhowa National Park and floodplain mosaics en route to Roing brought us Fulvous Whistling Duck, White-rumped and Slender-billed Vultures, Bristled Grassbird, and Black-breasted Parrotbill. The weather held out for us in the remote Mishmi Hills, where we tracked down Blyth's Tragopan, Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler, and Gould's and Rusty-bellied Shortwings. On the post-tour extension to the

enormous Namdapha Tiger Reserve, we finished-off with White-cheeked Partridge, Grey Peacock-Pheasant, Hodgson's Frogmouth, Collared Treepie, White-hooded Babbler, and Rufous-headed and Pale-billed Parrotbills.

Mammals were also a big deal on this tour of course, and we had some great encounters with Hoolock Gibbon, Asian Elephant, Indian Rhinoceros, Swamp Deer, Asian (or wild Water) Buffalo, Red Goral, and Bharal (or Blue Sheep) amongst many others. The butterfly enthusiasts in the group (including the leader) helped produce a list of 92 species.

The journey began with a pre-tour extension to the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, where we based ourselves close to Cherrapunjee. During our afternoon and full day in the area, we visited several key sites that were not too far from our accommodation. The impressive Nohkallikai Falls were the best site for the very local Dark-rumped Swift, while our other main target, Tawny-breasted Wren-Babbler was found in scrub and ferns at the forest edge in several places, and gave some great close-up views. A string of other regional specialties included Crested Finchbill, Brown Bush Warbler, Grey Sibia and Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker.



Tawny-breasted Wren-Babbler (Craig Robson)

We drove back down to Guwahati Airport and picked up the rest of the group for the main tour, and then we were swiftly on our way to Orang National Park, close to the Brahmaputra River in the Assam plains. A miniature version of the more well-known Kaziranga, the site is dominated by open and semi-open grasslands that are managed primarily for the protection of the endangered Indian Rhinoceros. We had a single afternoon to explore various habitats in the national park, and of course we concentrated on the grasslands. Our best bird this year was the scarce and highly-localized Slender-billed Babbler, a pair of which showed themselves well in tall grasses mixed with wild gingers. The best of the rest included Spot-billed Pelican,

Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Grey-headed Lapwing, and Striated and Jungle Babblers. Large mammals were also easy to observe, with our first Indian Rhinos, three wild Asian Elephants, and lots of Hog Deer.

After an overnight stay at a hotel in Tezpur, we headed into Arunachal Pradesh, and continued on our way to Dirang, with a few brief birding stops along the way. After passing the AP border at Bhalukpong we paused briefly for some roadside birding, and soon found a very vocal Yellow-vented Warbler.



Yellow-vented Warbler (Craig Robson)

Apart from a break for lunch at Tenga, we continued directly to Dirang, and then paid a visit to nearby Sangti Valley. Black-tailed Crake only showed rather distantly and briefly in its usual area; we had better luck with Long-billed Plover and a singing male Tickell's Thrush.

Our next site in the Dirang region, which we visited on a number of occasions, was the Mandala and Phudung Roads, with their wide-ranging elevations and associated habitats. The cool upper levels with

mixed oak, rhododendron and coniferous forests brought us the likes of Spotted Nutcracker, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Grey-sided Bush Warbler, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Ludlow's Fulvetta, Bar-winged Wren-Babbler, Spotted Laughingthrush, Brown Parrotbill, Rufous-fronted Bushtit, Golden Bush Robin, Green-tailed Sunbird, Red-headed Bullfinch, and Crimson-browed Finch to name but a few. The cream-of-the-crop included a totally unexpected Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, a nice pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis, and a pair of Blanford's Rosefinches. Towards the bottom of the Mandala Road, there were several singing Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes, and a nearby site brought us great views of a pair of Black-tailed Crakes wandering around in the open.



Rufous-vented Yuhina (Craig Robson)

Our third and perhaps most exciting destination in the Dirang region was the lofty Se La Pass. The elevation and weather conditions combine here to give us a real challenge but fortunately, during our visit this year, we succeeded in finding almost all of our target birds. Snow Partridge, Blood Pheasant and Himalayan Monal were all seen brilliantly well. Unfortunately however, Grandals were scarce, and only seen by the lucky few. A great selection of other goodies included Himalayan Vulture, Snow Pigeon, Tibetan Blackbird, breeding-plumaged Rosy Pipits, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch, and White-winged Grosbeak. Further down the slope near Senge, we got our first looks at Bhutan Laughingthrush amongst a nice selection of other species. On the way back to Dirang we jammed-in on a late Ibisbill, forging right below us at the river's-edge.

From Dirang we drove to Lamacamp in Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary. Arriving in the early afternoon. With an afternoon and a morning at our disposal, we set about finding our main target, the recently discovered and endemic Bugun Liocichla. It was hard work this year, although this often seems to be the case with this retiring skulker. How nice it was to eventually get to grips with three birds that were working a scrubby ravine-

edge right by the road. The slopes below the camp, and also along the Alubari Road were typically birdy, despite the silence of the *Ictochlas*, and we enjoyed a good variety of species such as Blyth's Shrike-babbler, Spotted Elachura, Russet Bush Warbler, Grey sided and Striated Laughingthrushes, our first Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler, Rusty-fronted Barwing, White-breasted Parrotbill, Maroon-backed Accentor, and Gold-naped Finch.



Alpine Thrush at Lamacamp (Craig Robson)

We continued onwards into the heart of the wildlife sanctuary. Along the way to Eaglenest Pass, we enjoyed another pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis, whilst a walk along the road from Chakoo brought close views of Streak-throated Barwing and Broad-billed Warbler, and then an exciting encounter with a lovely female Ward's Trogon. After settling-in at Bompou Camp, we began our exploration of the area. Over the next couple of days we explored the forests all the way down to Khellong and beyond, eventually exiting from the south side on our return to Tezpur. Extensive bamboo, gullies and the zig-zagging downhill road from Bompou held numerous specialities: Chestnut-breasted and Rufous-throated Partridges, Kalij Pheasant, a flock of Beautiful Nuthatches, White-spectacled Warbler, Scaly Thrushes, a responsive Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, another Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler, unexpectedly obliging Rufous-vented Laughingthrushes, our first Himalayan Cutias, and a singing Green Cochoa.

The Sesni gullies brought a fruitful encounter with Long-billed Wren-Babbler, as well as Asian Emerald Cuckoo and Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, while the bamboo area above Khellong was typically productive, with singing Large Blue Flycatchers, Rufous-faced Warblers, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, and Grey-headed Parrotbill. At Khellong itself, we were surprised to see a flock of 15 Scarlet Finches in one tree.

After another night at a hotel in Tezpur, we embarked on a lengthy drive to Nagaland. A problem with one of the vehicles occurred right by the Rhino Viewpoint at Kaziranga National Park. This was a great place to spend an hour and just at the right time of day. Swirling vultures included a pair of rare Red-headed's, and there were good numbers of Great Adjutants and Spot-billed Pelicans. We arrived at our cozy homestay's in Khonoma in the early evening. This was Birdquest's first visit to this eastern hill state, and we had two full days to explore the area known as Khonoma Dzöku. A surprising amount of good quality broadleaved ever-green forest still hugs the rugged hills, and there was a typically Himalayan feel to the birding. Top of our list was the endemic Naga Wren-Babbler, a new species for Birdquest as well as all of us of course! The first sightings were along a very steep and tricky trail but fortunately, we later found confiding individuals at several easily accessible roadside locations. Other specialities included the very localized Striped Laughingthrush, Assam Laughingthrush, Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler, and Grey Sibia. A Blyth's Tragopan was calling from a difficult-to-access location and was unfortunately only seen by Craig. Mountain Bamboo Partridges were easily seen by the roadsides, and other good birds included Nepal House Martin, Brown Bush Warbler, Black-headed Shrike-babbler, the subcontinent-scarce Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Red-faced Liocichla, Black-breasted Thrush, and Pygmy Flycatcher.



Scaly Thrush (Craig Robson)

From Nagaland, we returned to Kaziranga National Park for a two-night stay. Traveling through the Central and Western Ranges in our open-topped vehicles, we had great views of the 'big four' mammals, Asian Elephant, Indian Rhinoceros, Barasingha (or Swamp Deer), and Asian Buffalo.

There was the usual array of storks in good numbers, including at least 19 rare Black-necked, and 28 hulking Greater Adjutants, while raptors included Pallas's and Grey-headed Fish Eagles, and plenty of Himalayan Vultures. A nice pair of Swamp Francolins foraged in an open grassy area close to 'safer' tall stands of vegetation. Fields at the entrance to the Central Range brought us Eastern Marsh and Pied Harriers, and Bengal Bush Lark, along with an array of migrants, whilst near our accommodation, we managed to see both Colared and Oriental Scops Owls, as well as Great Hornbill and Yellow-vented Flowerpecker.

We continued east by road to our hotel in Tinsukia. Early the next morning we were at the now road-accessible Maguri Grasslands, in the Assam Plains. Jerdon's Babbler soon popped-up for some close views and there were more Striated Babblers, but other grassland specialities were hard to come by, save for wintering Chinese Rubythroat and Spotted Bush Warblers, an unexpected Streaked Weaver, and a fleeting Black-faced Bunting.



Black-breasted Parrotbill (Craig Robson)

In the afternoon we took a boat out onto Maguri Bheel. A most interesting experience, resulting in us logging 34 Fulvous Whistling Ducks, 58 Glossy Ibises, and several singing Blunt-winged Warblers, which clearly breed there.

Leaving civilization behind once more, we headed off for the Mishmi Hills, crossing the river at the recently constructed Lohit River (or Dhola-Sadiya) Bridge. A quick stop was enough to add Sand Lark to our tally, while a lengthier stop was made after entering Arunachal Pradesh, this time in the floodplain mosaic near Jia village. Making the effort to ford a small shallow back-water, we were soon rewarded with superb views of the much-wanted Black-breasted Parrotbill, a classic Assam Plains endemic. Rosy Minivet was also good here.



Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler in the Mishmi Hills (Craig Robson)

After buying supplies in Roing, we drove up to the guesthouse at Mayodia. Although the guesthouse needs some work, it is ideally situated at almost 2500m, next to the remote Roing to Hunli road, a few kilometres before Mayodia Pass. From such a convenient base, it was easy to explore the seemingly endless forests between 600 and 3000m elevation. As usual, rain stopped play on a number of occasions, but just held off for most of our stay. We found many of the best birds of the area by exploring the higher stretches up to, and beyond Mayodia Pass. This is where we connected with two very rare shortwings, Gould's and Rusty-bellied, thanks in no small part to tip-offs from our local guide Sudesh. The sighting of two "Vulnerable" Red Goral, perhaps a new mammal for Birdquest, was also noteworthy. Other skulkers like White-browed (or Himalayan) Shortwing, and the sultry Blue-fronted Robin also showed surprisingly well, the usual small bird-waves held Manipur and Ludlow's Fulvettas, and the weedy road-edges held a few other nice surprises like Hume's Bush Warbler, Gold-naped Finch and Dark-breasted and Dark-rumped Rosefinches. We also found Blyth's Swift, the *interstinctus* form of Eurasian (or Plain-crowned) Jay, and the nominate form of Streak-throated (or Rufous-breasted) Barwing (quite different to Eaglenest birds, that BirdLife/IBW split as monotypic Grey-

breasted Barwing). One of the biggest draws at Mishmi is Blyth's Tragopan of course. This year we had multiple views, some fleeting and some very satisfying for the lucky ones. Further down-slope the enigmatic Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler came right out into the open for us at the first attempt, while the super-local Rusty-throated (or Mishmi) Wren-Babbler took considerably more effort before we all had good looks.

We left the Mishmi Hills behind and headed back down into the plains. Another spell at the Jia Grassland Mosaic brought great views of Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, as well as Oriental Hobby, Buff-chested Babbler (actually conspecific with Rufous-fronted), Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, and more nice views of stunning Chinese Rubythroats. Nearing the Lohit River, we happened across an impressive vulture flock feeding on a dead horse. What luck, and what a joy to see so many vultures together - at least 60 birds. We counted at least 12 each of White-rumped and Slender-billed (encouragingly including eight and two juveniles respectively), and at least 25 Himalayan.

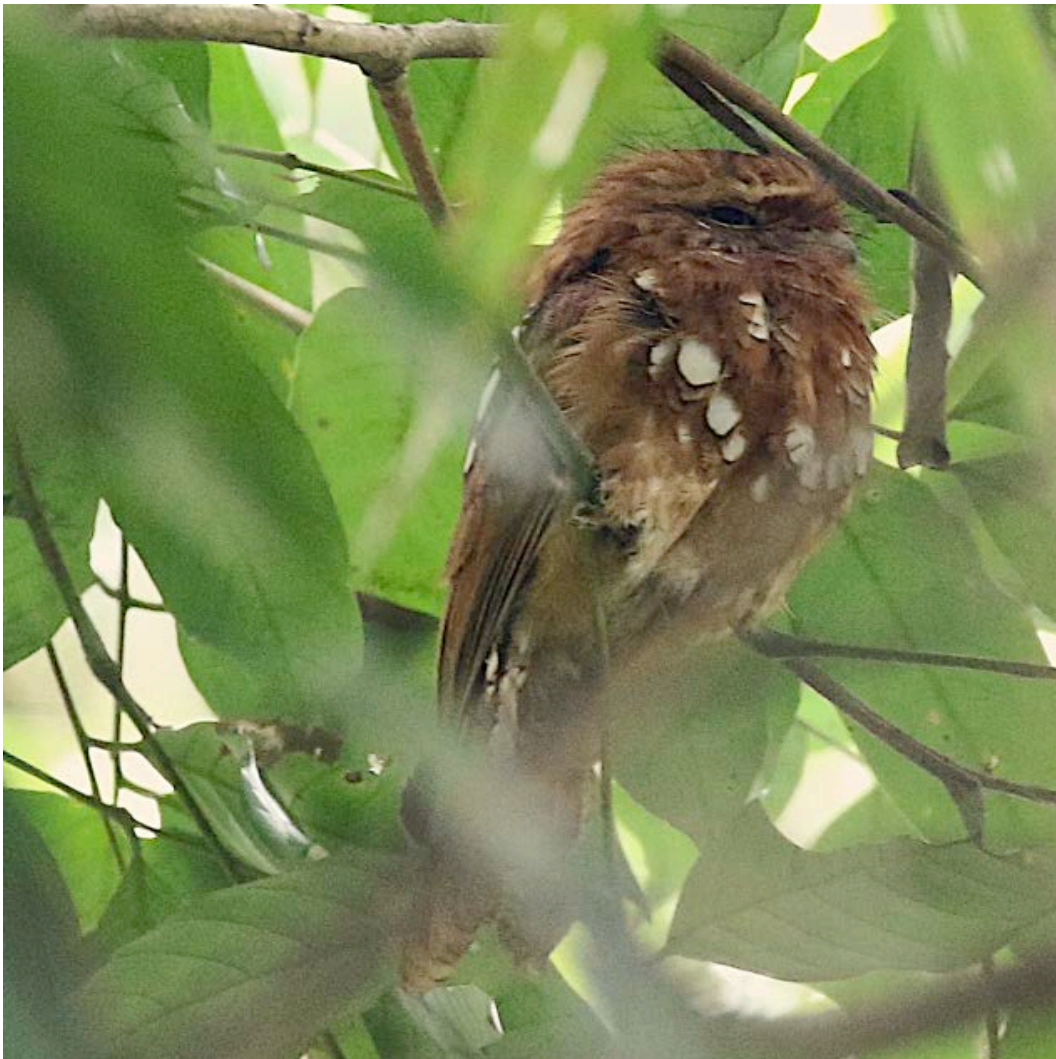


Vultures near the Lohit River: Himalayan [1 imm.], Slender-billed [4 ad], White-rumped [2 ad., 1 imm] (Craig Robson)

Another stop at the Lohit River Bridge brought another five White-rumped Vultures, a single Black Stork, and an unexpected Short-eared Owl resting on a distant sandbank. Sand Larks gave better views. We continued onward to our hotel in Tinsukia, for some relative luxury!!

After saying goodbye to those not taking part in the post-tour extension, we headed off for Namdapha Tiger Reserve, tucked-away in south-east Arunachal Pradesh. Once back across the state border, and through the entrance to the tiger reserve, we continued to the beautifully situated but rather shabby Deban resthouse. Early the following day, we embarked on our mini expedition into the forested depths of the park proper. We first crossed the fast-flowing Noa Dihing River by small narrow boat - rather exciting with the strong current - and then joined the main track to Haldibari via some steps up the steep riverbank escarpment. On the way to Haldibari (475m), where we had lunch, we passed through lush forest, large areas of bamboo and clearings, and on through undisturbed broadleaved evergreen forest to Hornbill (610m), where we camped for two nights, before a further night at Haldibari on our way back to Deban. On one day we explored a forested

ridge beyond Hornbill, that took us to the most productive area of bamboo. With so much intact forest, it was hardly any surprise that we saw four species of Hornbill at Namdapha: Great, Austen's Brown (including one in its nest-cavity), Rufous-necked and Wreathed. Down on the forest floor, we lured-out White-cheeked Partridge and Grey Peacock-Pheasant, while denizens of the understorey included a smart Hooded Pitta, as well as the more expected Large Scimitar Babbler and Rufous-throated Fulvetta. A whole range of interesting specialities were attracted to the bamboo dominated areas. Pale-headed Woodpecker showed surprisingly well and mixed-species feeding flocks contained White-hooded Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, and both Pale-billed and Rufous-headed Parrotbills. The near-endemic Snowy-throated Babbler evaded most of us, being particularly skulking this year. We had more success with Collared Treepie, and were also extremely fortunate to stumble across a day-roosting Hodgson's Frogmouth. Kingfishers were very much a feature. Ruddy could be heard calling every day, while the stream at Hornbill held both Blue-eared and Oriental Dwarf. Back at Deban, the stony-banked river turned-up our only Crested Kingfisher of the tour, as well as Small Pratincole and another Black Stork.



Day-roosting Hodgson's Frogmouth (Craig Robson)

Once at Deban we made our way directly back to Tinsukia for another night of relative comfort. On our last morning, before heading to the airport in Dibrugarh, we had time for a return visit to Maguri Grasslands. This time we succeeded in getting some great views of a singing and displaying Bristled Grassbird - a tough-to-see monsoon breeder in these extensive grasslands.

Making our way to the airport our epic journey came to an end, and we had time to reflect back on some wonderful experiences.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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

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

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* At least 34 at Maguri Bheel.

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Cotton Pygmy Goose (C Teal) *Nettapus coromandelianus* 20 at Maguri.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Snow Partridge *Lerwa lerwa* Great views of a covey of six at Sela Pass.

Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis* Just a pair showing well at Kaziranga. Heard at Maguri Grasslands.

Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* (H)

Rufous-throated Partridge (R-t Hill-P) *Arborophila rufogularis* 4 seen Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, near Bompu.

White-cheeked Partridge (W-c Hill-P) *Arborophila atrogularis* Three seen at Namdapha TR, and a number heard.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge (C-b Hill-P) *Arborophila mandellii* One seen near Bompu; others heard.

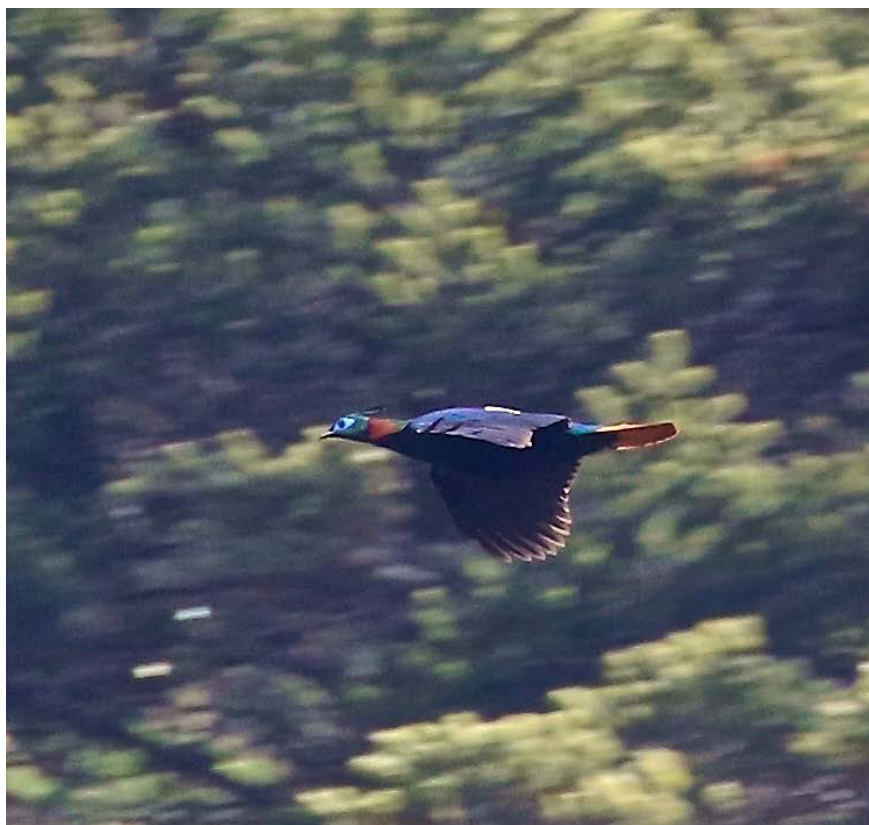
Mountain Bamboo Partridge *Bambusicola fytchii* Not uncommon and easily seen around Khonoma, Nagaland.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* Fine views of two males and a female at Sela.

Blyth's Tragopan *Tragopan blythii* See note.

Temminck's Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii* (H) Vocalized several times along the Phudung Road, but no joy.

Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* Two superb males at Sela.



Male Himalayan Monal (Craig Robson)

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Kalij Pheasant (Kaleej P) *Lophura leucomelanos* Multiple good sightings at Eaglenest.

Grey Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* Two individuals showed at Namdapha TR. Heard at Eaglenest.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* One at the Lohit River Bridge.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* One at the Lohit River Bridge, and one at Deban, Namdapha TR.
Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* A total of 19 logged for Kaziranga NP, one of our highest counts.
Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*
Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* At least 28 at Kaziranga NP; also a healthy count.
Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* 11 en route from Kaziranga to Tinsukia, and 58+ at Maguri Bheel.
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*
Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*
Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*
Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* Two at Orang National Park; 100 Kaziranga NP; one Lohit River Bridge.
Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* One Orang NP; three Dibru Saikhowa; one Lohit River Bridge.
Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus*
Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental H B) *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* 5 at Lohit River Bridge; 12 at a nearby carcass (where 8 juveniles noted).
Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* 12 at the carcass near the Lohit River Bridge, including 2 juveniles.
Himalayan Vulture (H Griffon) *G. himalayensis* 3 Baisaki (Sela); 19 Kaziranga NP; 25 at carcass mentioned above.
Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* Two at Rhino Viewpoint, Kaziranga NP.
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*
Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis*
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
Shikra *Accipiter badius*
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* Singles at Kaziranga NP and Dibru Saikhowa.
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* One briefly along the road to Devil's Rock, near Cherrapunjee.
Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* A female at Kohora, Kaziranga NP.
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Black Kite *Milvus [migrans] lineatus*
Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* Four at Kaziranga NP.
Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaeus*
(Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*) 3 at Sela, with large whitish patches on upperwing, were more likely Himalayan.
Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* Small numbers at medium elevations in the Dirang area.
Brown Crake *Amauornis akool* (H) Called a couple of times at Orang NP.
White-breasted Waterhen *Amauornis phoenicurus*
Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor* One briefly in the Sangti Valley, and good views of a pair off the Mandala Road.
Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* One at Maguri.
Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Eurasian Coot (Common C) *Fulica atra* Five at Maguri Bheel.
Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* Nice views looking down on one north-west of Dirang. An unexpected late record.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* Seven at Kaziranga NP.
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Singles at Orang and Kaziranga NP's.
River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*
Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* Three at Orang NP.
Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus* A single bird was scoped at Sangti Valley,
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* The biggest concentration was at Kaziranga NP, with at least 150 noted.
Little Stint *Calidris minuta* At least two at Kaziranga NP.
Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea* Two at Deban showed well.
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
Rock Dove (R Pigeon) *Columba livia*
Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* 36 around Sela Pass.
Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* Scattered sightings.
Oriental Turtle Dove (Rufous T D) *Streptopelia orientalis*
Red Turtle Dove (Red-collared D) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*
Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*
Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus*
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda*
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*
Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* 1 performed at Jia Floodplain Mosaic, Roing; heard at Namdapha.
Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*
Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* One at Eaglenest (Bompu-Sessni).
Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* (H)
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*
Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides*
Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*
Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo (Whistling H-c) *Hierococcyx nisicolor* A couple seen at Namdapha TR.
Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*
Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*
Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C) *Cuculus canorus*
Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* (H)
Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia*
Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* Singles of this and the last species were seen at our accommodation at Kaziranga.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* (H)
Himalayan Owl (H Wood Owl) *Strix nivicolium* (H)
Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* Three individuals were seen at Eaglenest WS.
Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*
Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* Two at the Western Range entrance, Kaziranga NP.
Brown Hawk-Owl (B Boobook) *Ninox scutulata*
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* A distant migrant was scoped on a sandbank in the Lohit River.
Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* Miraculously found in daytime near Hornbill Camp, Namdapha.
Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* One seen at Lamacamp. Heard quite a bit.
Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* (H)
Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*
White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* One in the Mandala area.
Brown-backed Needletail (Brown-throated N, Brown N) *Hirundapus giganteus*
Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasienis*
Blyth's Swift *Apus leuconyx* A few at Mishmi.
Dark-rumped Swift *Apus acuticauda* Around 35 not Nohkallikai Falls, Cherrapunjee.
House Swift *Apus nipalensis*
Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardi* A female was seen very well at Eaglenest WS. Two others heard.
Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*
Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* Commonly heard at Namdapha TR, and several seen.
White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting* One seen and another heard at Hornbill Camp, Namdapha TR.
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher (Black-backed K) *Ceyx erithaca* One at Hornbill Camp, Namdapha.
Crested Kingfisher (Himalayan Pied K) *Megaceryle lugubris* One at Deban, Namdapha was most welcome.
Pied Kingfisher (Lesser Pied K) *Ceryle rudis*
Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*
Green Bee-eater (Little Green B-e) *Merops orientalis*
Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*
Eurasian Hoopoe (Eurasian H) *Upupa epops*
Great Hornbill (Great Pied H) *Buceros bicornis* One or two at Kaziranga, and small numbers at Namdapha TR.
Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthraceroceros albirostris*
Austen's Brown Hornbill (White-throated B H) *Anorrhinus austeni* Nine logged for Namdapha (one in nest-hole).
Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis* Heard at Eaglenest, then eight seen at Namdapha TR.
Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus* A nice pair at Deban, Namdapha.
Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens*
Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus*
Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii*
Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiaticus*
Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon duvaucelii*
Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* Good views of one near Mandala Village, but rather brief.
Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*
White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea* A couple at Namdapha.
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus*
Crimson-breasted Woodpecker (C-b Pied W) *Dryobates cathpharius*
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (F-b Pied Woodpecker) *Dendrocopos macei*
Darjeeling Woodpecker (Darjeeling Pied W) *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
Greater Yellownappe *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*
 Grey-headed Woodpecker (G-faced W) *Picus canus*
 Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense* (H)
 Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*
 Pale-headed Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia* A single bird and a pair at Namdapha TR.
 Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
 Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus*



Speckled Piculet (Craig Robson)

Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucos* (H) Namdapha.
 Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
 Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* Singles at Jia Floodplain Mosaic, and Namdapha TR.
 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* A pair were apparently resident at Deban, Namdapha.
 Blossom-headed Parakeet (Rosy-headed P) *Psittacula roseata* Just three at Orang NP.
 Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
 Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*
 Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri*
 Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
 Blue-naped Pitta *Hydrornis nipalensis* (H) Three distantly at Namdapha TR.
 Hooded Pitta (Western H P) *Pitta sordida* Excellent views of one at Namdapha.
 Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (Pied F-s) *Hemipus picatus*
 Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*
 Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
 Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
 Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
 Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*
 Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*
 Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus* Three at Jia Floodplain Mosaic.
 Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
 Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*
 Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*
 Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*
 Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
 Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
 Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*
 White-bellied Erpornis (W-b Yuhina) *Erpornis zantholeuca*
 Black-headed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* Seen in Nagaland and at Mishmi.
 Blyth's Shrike-babbler (White-browed S-b) *Pteruthius aeralatus*
 Green Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*
 Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*
 Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
 Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*
 Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
 Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
 Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
 Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*
 Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
 White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
 Black-naped Monarch (B-n Blue Monarch) *Hypothymis azurea*
 Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis*
 Eurasian Jay (Plain-crowned J) *Garrulus [glandarius] bispecularis* Singles Mishmi & Jia Floodplain (*interstinctus*).
 Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris*
 Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* (H)
 Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
 Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*
 Collared Treepie *Dendrocitta frontalis* Two singles at Namdapha TR, eventually showing very well.
 Spotted Nutcracker (Southern N) *Nucifraga [caryocatactes] hemispila* Frequent Eaglenest-Dirang (*macella*).
 Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
 House Crow *Corvus splendens*
 Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* Only recorded at higher levels in the Dirang region.
 Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus leuillantii*



Rufous-vented Tit (Craig Robson)

Yellow-bellied Fantail (Y-b Fairy Flycatcher) *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus*
 Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
 Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*
 Sultan Tit *Melanochloa sultanea*
 Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris*
 Coal Tit (Himalayan C T) *Periparus [ater] aemodius*
 Grey Crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous*
 Cinereous Tit (Grey Tit) *Parus cinereus*
 Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
 Yellow-cheeked Tit (Black-spotted Y Tit) *Machlolophus spilonotus*
 Bengal Bush Lark (B Bushlark) *Mirafra assamica* Scattered sightings in the Assam plains.
 Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
 Sand Lark *Aldada raytal* At least six at the Lohit River crossing.
 Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons* Not uncommon in the Khasi Hills and in Nagaland.
 Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*
 Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris*
 Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
 Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
 Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescent*
 White-throated Bulbul *Alophoxus flaveolus* Common Namdapha TR; also lower levels at Eaglenest WS.
 Mountain Bulbul (Northern M B) *Ixos mcclllandii*
 Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flava*
 Black Bulbul (Himalayan B B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
 Grey-throated Martin (Plain Martin, G-t Sand-martin, Brown-throated Sand M) *Riparia chinensis*
 Sand Martin (Common Sand-martin) *Riparia riparia* A handful at Kaziranga NP (*ijimae*).
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
 Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* 10 at Sela Pass.
 Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalense* 100 Khonoma; 80 Mishmi Hills.
 Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*
 Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler (S-b Cupwing) *Pnoepyga albiventer*
 Pygmy Wren-babbler (P Cupwing) *Pnoepyga pusilla*
 Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*
 Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* Just a few at Namdapha TR and Khellong, Eaglenest WS.
 Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*
 Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus*
 Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni* One seen well at Eaglenest, and another heard.
 Brown-flanked Bush Warbler (Strong-footed B-w, Brownish-flanked B-w) *Horornis fortipes*
 Hume's Bush Warbler *Horornis brunneus* Singles along Phudung Road and at Mishmi.
 Grey-bellied Tesia (Yellow-browed T) *Tesia cyaniventer*
 Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*
 Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*
 Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata*
 Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus*
 Rufous-fronted Bushtit *Aegithalos iouschistos* Just one along the Mandala Road.
 Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
 Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*
 Buff-barred Warbler (Orange-b Warbler) *Phylloscopus pulcher*
 Ashy-throated Warbler (A-t Leaf-Warbler, Grey-faced L-w) *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
 Lemon-rumped Warbler (L-r Leaf-w) *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
 Yellow-browed Warbler (Y-b Leaf-warbler, Inornate W) *Phylloscopus inornatus*
 Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* (NL)
 Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
 Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* (H)
 Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Yellow-vented Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* Many heard in lower foothill forests; one seen Bhalukpong-Sessa.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*

White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* Two seen and two heard near Bompou, Eaglenest WS.

Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus* Small numbers at Khonoma Dzöku.

Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentini* Two at Khonoma Dzöku.

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*

Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*

Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens* Several at Maguri Bheel (breeding *stevensi*).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (H)

Thick-billed Warbler *Iduna aedon* A couple at Kaziranga NP.

Russet Bush Warbler *Locustella mandelli* Western Arunachal Pradesh and also in Khasi Hills; seen at Eaglenest.

Spotted Bush Warbler *Locustella thoracica* Showed well at Maguri Grasslands.

Brown Bush Warbler *Locustella luteoventris* Showed well in the Khasi Hills and at Khonoma Dzöku.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (Rusty-rumped W) *Locustella certhiola* (H)

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*

Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata* Excellent views of display-fighting bird at Maguri Grasslands. Another heard.



Displaying Bristled Grassbird (Craig Robson)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Golden-headed Cisticola (Bright-capped C, B-headed C) *Cisticola exilis*

Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera* Common in Khasi Hills.

Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis* One at Jia Floodplain Mosaic (*stevensi*).

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Dark-necked Tailorbird (Black-n T) *Orthotomus atrogularis*

Large Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* A pair showed at Namdapha TR.

Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus maclellandi* Two seen at Khonoma Dzöku; heard in Khasi Hills.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Red-billed Scimitar Babbler (Orange-b S-b, Long-billed S-b) *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps* 4 seen at Namdapha.

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* Three at Eaglenest WS.

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (Sickle-b S-b) *Pomatorhinus superciliaris* 2 seen Phudung Rd, and 2 at Mishmi.



Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (Craig Robson)

Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaornis caudatus* Showed well near Lamacamp and Bompü, Eaglenest WS.

Rusty-throated Wren-Babbler (Mishmi W-b) *Spelaornis badeigularis* Two seen Mishmi; one showing very well.

Bar-winged Wren-Babbler *Spelaornis troglodytoides* One seen quite nicely along the Phudung Road (*sherriffi*).

Naga Wren-Babbler *S. chokolatinus* 5 seen. After a retrospectively pointless slog, showed well at Khonoma Dzöku.

Tawny-breasted Wren-Babbler *Spelaornis longicaudatus* Fantastic close-ups in the Khasi Hills. Four seen.

Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler (Blackish-breasted B) *Sphenocichla humei* One performed well near Bompü.

Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler (Chevron-breasted B) *Sphenocichla roberti* Brilliant views of a pair at Mishmi.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* (H)

Snowy-throated Babbler *Stachyris oglei* Unfortunately only fleeting views of a couple at Namdapha TR.

Buff-chested Babbler *Stachyridopsis ambigua* 1 seen Jia Grassland. Dubious split from Rufous-fronted *S. rufifrons*.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps*

Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea*

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler (Striped Tit-babbler) *Macronus gularis*

Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*

Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe cinerea*

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*

Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis* Several at Namdapha (*collaris*).

Rusty-capped Fulvetta *Alcippe dubia* Two seen Khonoma Dzöku, and a nest with 4 eggs.

Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis*

Streaked Wren-Babbler (Burmese S W-B) *Napothera brevicaudata* Two at Namdapha (*striatus*).

White-hooded Babbler (Indian W-h B) *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* Good numbers in bamboo at Namdapha TR.

Long-billed Wren-Babbler *Rimator malacoptilus* Excellent views of a pair at Eaglenest WS.

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* (H)

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli* One seen at Namdapha (*garoense*).

Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei* Multiple observations in the plains grasslands.

Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris* A pair seen very well at Orang NP.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* 12 at Orang NP (nominate).



Naga Wren-Babbler (Paul Reed)

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *G. rufogularis* 5 at the lower part of the Mandala Rd, with one perched right up!

Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus* Four performed at Mandala.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis*

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax ruficollis* Two at Jia Grassland Mosaic.

Rufous-vented Laughingthrush *Garrulax gularis* A pair lower down at Eaglenest WS, and a single at Namdapha.

Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Garrulax caerulatus*

Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*

Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum* Not uncommon in Dirang region and at Eaglenest WS.

Striped Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron virgatum* 13 logged at Khonoma Dzöku.

Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatum* Mainly heard, but 2 seen at Eaglenest and 1 at Mishmi.

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affine*

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*

Assam Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron chrysopterum* 1 seen Khasi Hills (*chrysopterum*), 6 Khonoma (*godwini*).

Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* Multiple sightings at Eaglenest and Mishmi.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*

Bar-throated Minla *Minla strigula*

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*

Red-faced Liocichla (Crimson-f Liocichla) *Liocichla phoenicea* 1 Eaglenest (nominate), 1 Khonoma (*bakeri*).

Bugun Liocichla *Liocichla bugunorum* Three showed quite nicely at Lamacamp, after a lengthy search.

Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* Widespread; nominate in main range, *khasiana* in southern ranges.

Streak-throated Barwing (Rufous-breasted B) *Actinodura waldeni* 11 noted in the Mishmi Hills (nominate).

Streak-throated Barwing (Grey-breasted B *Actinodura [waldeni] daflaensis* Two noted at Eaglenest WS.
Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris*
Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*
Rufous-backed Sibia *Heterophasia annectans*
Grey Sibia *Heterophasia gracilis* A couple in the Khasi Hills, and good number at Khonoma Dzöku.
Beautiful Sibia *Heterophasia pulchella*
Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides*
Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhura* A pair at Mandala and a pair at Eaglenest; both showing well.
Golden-breasted Fulvetta (Himalayan G-b F) *Lioparus chrysotis* A little cracker, at Eaglenest (2) & Mishmi (7).
Brown-throated Fulvetta (Ludlow's F) *Fulvetta ludlowi* Throughout Arunachal Pradesh at higher levels.
Manipur Fulvetta (Streak-throated F) *Fulvetta manipurensis* Good numbers high up at the Mishmi Hills.



Bhutan Laughingthrush near Sela (Craig Robson)

Jerdon's Babbler *Chrysomma altirostre* Two seen well and another heard at Maguri Grasslands.
Brown Parrotbill *Cholornis unicolor* A pair along the Phudung Road.
Black-throated Parrotbill (Grey-breasted P) *Suthora [nipalensis] poliotis* Multiple sightings; Khonoma & Mishmi.
Pale-billed Parrotbill *Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris* A handful showed well in a big bird flock at Namdapha.
White-breasted Parrotbill *Psittiparus ruficeps* Small numbers seen well at Eaglenest WS.
Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus bakeri* Four in a mixed-species feeding flock at Namdapha.



A subtle-plumaged Beautiful Sibia (Craig Robson)



Manipur Fulvetta at Mayodia Pass, Mishmi Hills (Craig Robson)

Grey-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus gularis*

Black-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis flavirostris* This superb endemic performed well at Jia Grassland Mosaic.

Spot-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis guttaticollis* A pair eventually showed well at Khonoma Dzöku.

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps*

White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri*

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Just one, along the Phudung Road (*sikkimensis*).

Spotted Elachura (Spotted W-b) *Elachura formosa* Ac singing bird was seen very nicely at Lamacamp. Many heard.



A skulking Spotted Elachura singing from the shadows (Craig Robson)

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (H)

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris*

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*

Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* Prolonged good views of about six near Bompu, Eaglenest WS.

Sikkim Treecreeper (Brown-throated) *Certhia discolor*

Common Hill Myna (Hill Myna) *Gracula religiosa* A handful at Namdapha TR.

Great Myna (White-vented M) *Acridotheres grandis*

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Pied Myna (Asian Pied Starling) *Gracupica contra*

Chestnut-tailed Starling (Grey-headed S) *Sturnia malabarica*

Alpine Thrush *Zoothera mollissima* A very tame individual was found foraging close to Lamacamp.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* Small numbers at Eaglenest WS, and one at Khonoma Dzöku.

Grandala *Grandala coelicolor* Only rather fleeting views for some of us at Sela this year; a flock of 18.

Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* A singing male in the Sangti Valley.

Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* A pair at Khonoma Dzöku.

White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus*

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul*

Tibetan Blackbird *Turdus maximus* A pair these high altitude ouzels at Sela.

Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis* Two seen at Eaglenest WS; heard at Khonoma Dzöku.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*

White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Anthipes monileger* One gave itself up at Mishmi.

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* Singles seen at Eaglenest WS and Namdapha TR.

Large Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis magnirostris* Three seen in bamboo near Khellong, Eaglenest WS.

Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher (B-t Flycatcher) *Cyornis rubeculoides* Common at Namdapha.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*



A perky White-tailed Nuthatch (Craig Robson)

Gould's Shortwing *Heteroxenicus stellatus* One of the highlights of the tour - a single confiding bird at Mayodia.

Rusty-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx hypertyra* More than 10 singing in a relatively small area at Mishmi; 3 seen.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris* (H)

White-browed Shortwing (Himalayan S) *Brachypteryx [montana] cruralis* A male seen and six heard at Mishmi.
 Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea*
 Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
 Chinese Rubythroat *Calliope tschebhaiwei* Split from Himalayan *C. pectoralis*. Several seen well Maguri & Jia.
 Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* (H)
 White-tailed Robin (W-t Blue Robin) *Myiomela leucura*
 Rufous-breasted Bush Robin *Tarsiger hyperythrus* (H) One heard near Sela.
 Himalayan Bluetail (Orange-flanked Bush-robin) *Tarsiger rufilatus*
 Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
 Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus* One at Eaglenest WS.
 Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* Seen several times at Namdapha.
 White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* One at Namdapha.
 Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
 Blue-fronted Robin *Cinclidium frontale* A male was lured into view at Mayodia. Many heard Mishmi; also Eaglenest.
 Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (Orange-g F) *Ficedula strophia*
 Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla*
 Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*
 Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
 Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* A male en route from Phudung to Tenga.
 Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*
 Pygmy Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* Three seen well at Khonoma Dzöku.
 Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*
 Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
 White-capped Redstart (River Chat) *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
 Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
 Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*
 Blue-capped Rock Thrush (B-headed R-t) *Monticola cinclorhyncha*
 Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* Pair Sangti Valley; also pair plus one Khasi Hills - presumed resident *indicus*.
 Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* Not uncommon wintering in plains habitats.
 Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus*
 Golden-fronted Leafbird (Gold-f L) *Chloropsis aurifrons*
 Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*
 Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* One at Kaziranga.
 Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* A male scoped in the Khasi Hills.
 Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum*
 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*
 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*
 Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*
 Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* Frequently seen; nominate in W Arunachal Pradesh, *isolata* at Khonoma.
 Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*
 Black-throated Sunbird (B-breasted S) *Aethopyga saturata*
 Crimson Sunbird (Greater C S) *Aethopyga siparaja*
 Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*
 Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra* (H)
 Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*
 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
 Russet Sparrow (Cinnamon S) *Passer rutilans*
 Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
 Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar* One at Maguri Grasslands was a tour write-in.
 Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*
 Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*
 Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*
 Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* (NL)
 Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophia*

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata* Three at Lamacamp, Eaglenest WS.
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] beema*
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis*
White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] alboides*
Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (H)
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*
Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* (H)
White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* Just one at Sela.
Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* Four along the Phudung Road.
Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca*
Blanford's Rosefinch *Agraphospiza rubescens* A nice pair at Mandala.
Golden-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptes epauletta*
Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Procarduelis nipalensis* A male along the Phudung Road, three females at Mishmi.
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Scarlet Finch *Carpodacus sipahi* 17 at Eaglenest, including 15 together at Khellong!!
Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii* Seven at Mishmi, mostly females; another at Mandala-Phudung.



Female Dark-rumped Rosefinch (Craig Robson)

Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura*
Crimson-browed Finch *Carpodacus subhimachalus* Seven at Mandala-Phudung Road.
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch (Himalayan G) *Chloris spinoides*
Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* One briefly at Maguri Grasslands.



Two scenes in the Mishmi Hills (Craig Robson)

MAMMALS

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus* Three at Orang NP and 12 at Kaziranga NP.

Assam Macaque *Macaca assamensis* Just a few at Namdapha NP.

Rhesus Monkey *Macaca mulatta*

Capped Langur (C Leaf Monkey) *Trachypithecus pileatus* (NL) One was seen well at Namdapha.

Western Hoolock Gibbon *Hoolock hoolock* A male seen at Namdapha NP; many heard. Also heard at Kaziranga.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel (Irrawaddy S) *Callosciurus pygerythrus*

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*

Common Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista* Singles at Khonoma and Namdapha.

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclellandii*

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus* (NL) One was seen trotting off from the vulture-fest near the Lohit River crossing.

Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii* One at Orang NP.

Smooth-coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata* 10 at Kaziranga; great value.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* One at Bompou, and four at Mishmi.

Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* 18 at Orang NP, and an estimated 100 at Kaziranga. Doing well!

Wild Boar (Wild Pig, Indian W P) *Sus scrofa*

Hog Deer *Axis porcinus* 25 at Orang NP, and over 300 at Kaziranga.

Northern Red Muntjac (Indian M) *Muntiacus vaginalis* One seen Kaziranga; heard at Namdapha TR.

Barasingha (Swamp Deer) *Rucervus duvaucelii* 150 at Kaziranga.

Asian Buffalo (Wild Water B) *Bubalus arnee* Around 50 at Kaziranga. 1 very close at Maguri Grasslands !!

Red Goral *Naemorhedus baileyi* Two near Mayodia Pass; an excellent tour write-in.

Bharal (Blue Sheep) *Pseudois nayaur* four on crags above the Himalayan Monals at Sela.

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*



Indian Rhinoceros (Craig Robson)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Blyth's Tragopan *Tragopan blythii*

A calling male at Khonoma Dzöku was unfortunately only seen by the leader. At Mishmi, we glimpsed 3 birds and some of us had good views of a further male. Three more birds were heard at Mishmi, and we also heard one at Bompü, Eaglenest WS

Eurasian Jay (Plain-crowned J) *Garrulus [glandarius] bispecularis*

Plain-crowned Jay *G. bispecularis* is split from Eurasian Jay *G. glandarius* by BirdLife/HBW.

Spotted Nutcracker (Southern N) *Nucifraga [caryocatactes] hemispila*

Southern Nutcracker *N. hemispila* is split from Spotted (or Northern) Nutcracker *N. caryocatactes* by BirdLife/HBW.

Coal Tit (Himalayan C T) *Periparus [ater] aemodius*

Himalayan Coal Tit *P. aemodius* is a potential split from Eurasian Coal Tit *P. ater*. See BirdLife/HBW.

Streak-throated Barwing (Rufous-breasted B) *Actinodura waldeni*

Streak-throated Barwing (Grey-breasted B) *Actinodura [waldeni] daflaensis*

A potential split according to BirdLife/HBW; the division of Streak-throated Barwing *A. waldeni* into Rufous-breasted Barwing *A. waldeni*, and the monotypic Grey-breasted Barwing *A. daflaensis*.

White-browed Shortwing (Himalayan S) *Brachypteryx [montana] cruralis*

The former White-browed Shortwing *B. montana* is split-up into a number of species by BirdLife/HBW, including Himalayan Shortwing *B. cruralis*, and Javan Shortwing *B. montana*.

APPENDIX 2 - Other fauna & flora recorded

REPTILES

Common Indian Monitor *Varanus bengalensis* One or two at Kaziranga NP.

Assam Roofed Terrapin *Kachuga sylhetensis* At least 10 in the Central Range of Kaziranga.

BUTTERFLIES

Dark Yellow-banded Flat *Celaenorrhinus aurivittata* Namdapha TR.

Water Snow Flat *Tagiades litigiosa* Namdapha.

Dark Palm Dart *Telicota ancilla* Probably this in the hotel garden at Cherra.

Spotted Demon *Notocrypta feisthameli* Namdapha.

Common Bluebottle *Graphium sarpedon* Namdapha.

Common Mormon *Papilio polytes* Dibru Saikhowa.

Red Helen *Princeps helenus* Khonoma.

Spangle *Papilio protenor* Hotspring, near Hornbill Camp.

Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus*

Common Birdwing *Troides helena* Widespread.

Common Emigrant *Catopsila pomona*

Dark Clouded Yellow *Colias fieldii* Meghalaya.

Yellow Orange Tip *Irene pyrene* Eaglenest, Namdapha etc.

Great Orange Tip *Hebomoia glaucippe* Namdapha.

Common Wanderer *Pereronia valeria* Namdapha.

Chocolate Albatross *Appias lyncida* Namdapha.

Orange Albatross *Appias nerro* Namdapha.

Spot Puffin *Appias lalage* Dibru Saikhowa.

Large Cabbage White *Pieris brassicae* Widespread.

Indian Cabbage White *Pieris canidia* Widespread.

Lesser Gull *Cepora nadina* Widespread.

Spotted Sawtooth *Prioneris thestylis* Photographed by Kristine at Namdapha (resembles Hill Jezebel).

Red-spot Jezebel *Delias descombesi*

Psyche *Leptosia nina* One at Kaziranga NP. Related to the European wood whites.

Bright Sunbeam *Curetis bulis* One at Namdapha.

Branded Yamfly *Yasoda tripunctata* Seen at Namdapha by Tom.

Common Imperial *Cheritra freja* Namdapha.

Bi-spot Royal *Ancema ctesia* Haldibari, Namdapha.

Common Tit *Hypolycaena erylus* Haldibari, Namdapha.

Fluffy Tit *Zeltus amasa* Namdapha.

Blue Tit *Chliaria kina* Namdapha.

Orchid Tit *Chliaria othona* Namdapha.

Indian Red Flash *Rapala iarbus* Kaziranga.

Long-banded Silverline *Spindasis elima* At the stream by Haldibari camp, Namdapha.

Scarce Shot Silverline *Spindasis lohita* At the stream by Haldibari camp, Namdapha - well done Kristine!

Purple Sapphire *Heliophorus epicles* Frequent at Namdapha.

Powdery Green Sapphire *Heliophorus tamu* Khonoma.

Common Ciliate Blue *Anthene emolus* Namdapha.

Elbowed Pierrot *Caleta elna* Namdapha.

Burmese Straight-wing Blue *Orthomiella pontis* Khonoma.

Pea Blue (Long-tailed B) *Lampides boeticus* Kaziranga etc.

Pale Grass Blue *Pseudozizeeria maha* Namdapha.

Forest Quaker *Pithecopus corvus* Namdapha.

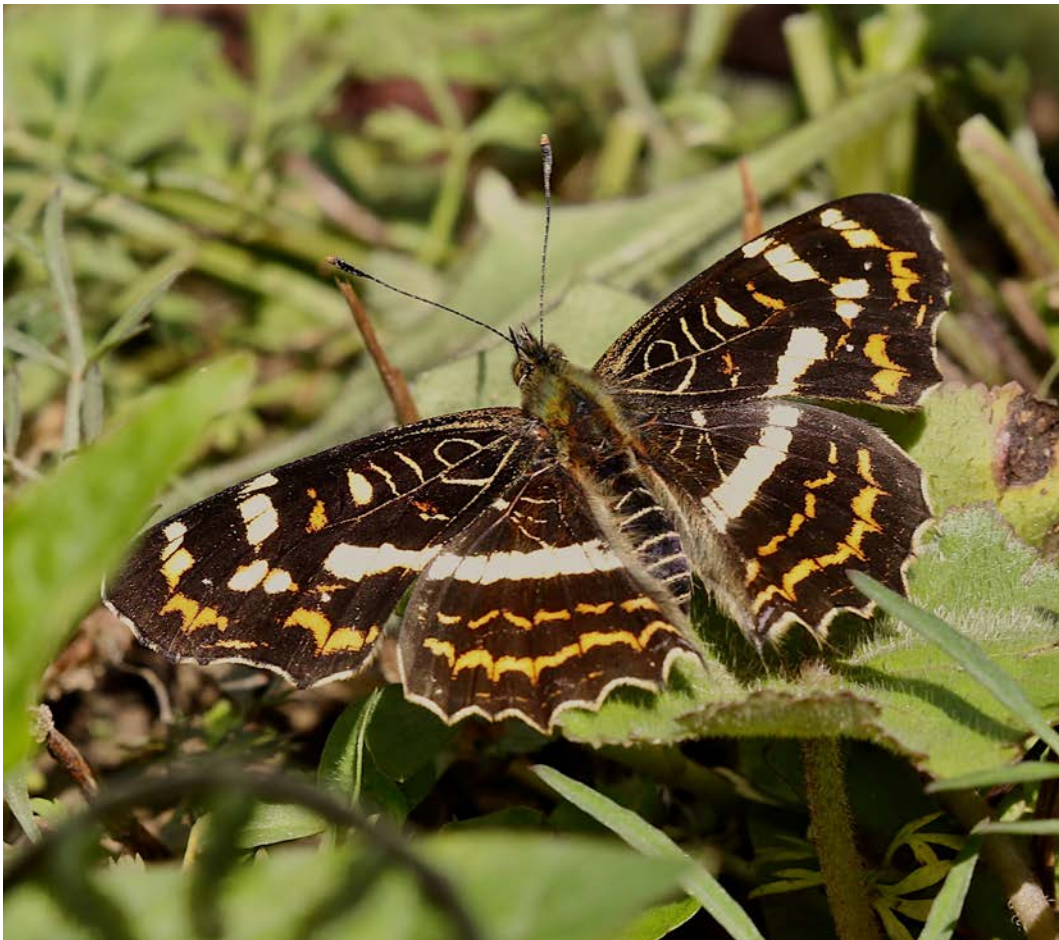
Manipur Map *Araschnia dohertyi* Khonoma.

Dark Judy *Abisara fylla* Sessni.

Tailed Judy *Abisara neophron* Namdapha.

Punchinello *Zemeros flegyas* Eaglenest, Namdapha etc.

Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia* Widespread.
Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus* Meghalaya, Dibru Saikhowa etc.
Glassy Tiger *Parantica aglea* Dibru Saikhowa etc.
Chestnut Tiger *Parantica sita* Sessni.
Chocolate Tiger *Parantica melaneus* One at Namdapha.
Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber* Widespread.
Maggie Crow *Euploea radmanthus* Dibru Saikhowa, Namdapha etc.
Tawny Rajah *Charaxes bernardus* Namdapha.
Common Faun *Faunis canens* Namdapha.
Red Caliph *Enispe euthymius* Seen at Namdapha by Tom.
Jungle Glory *Thaumantis diores* A few of these scintillating blue butterflies at Namdapha.
Common Evening Brown *Melanitis leda* Widespread.
Dark Evening Brown *Melanitis phedima* Namdapha.
Great Evening Brown *Melanitis zitenius* Namdapha.
Angled Red Forester *Lethe chandica* Namdapha.
Common Forester *Lethe insana* Meghalaya.
Straight-banded Treebrown *Lethe verma* Namdapha.
Veined Labyrinth *Neope pulaha* Bompou.
Tailed Labyrinth *Neope bhadra* Namdapha.
Lilacine Bushbrown *Mycalesis francisca* Bamboo areas at Namdapha.
Common Bushbrown *Mycalesis perseus* Namdapha.
Striped Ringlet *Ragdia crisilda* One of the most striking butterflies at Namdapha.
Dark Catseye *Zipaetis scylax* Namdapha.
Common Fivering *Ypthima baldus* Widespread.
Red Lacewing *Cethosia biblis* Khonoma. A real stunner.
Cruiser *Vindula erota* Namdapha.
Large Yeoman *Cirrochroa aoris* Namdapha.
Staff Sergeant *Athyma selenophora* Namdapha.
Common Lascar *Pantoporia hordonia* Namdapha.
Common Sailer *Neptis hylas* Widespread.
Clear Sailer *Neptis clinia* Namdapha.
Common Baron *Euthalia aconthea* Namdapha.
Grey Count *Tanaecia lepidea* Dibru Saikhowa.
Panther *Neurosigma siva* Namdapha.
Dark Archduke *Lexias dirtea* Namdapha.
Common Maplet *Chersonesia risa* Seen at Namdapha by Tom.
Popinjay *Stibochiona nicea* Sessni
Common Castor *Ariadne merione* Dibru Saikhowa.
Common Jester *Symbrenthia hippoclus* Jia Grassland Mosaic etc.
Blue Pansy *Junonia orithiya* Khonoma.
Chocolate Pansy *Precis ipita* Khellong, Dibru Saikhowa etc.
Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites* Kaziranga, Dibru Saikhowa etc.
Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana* Kaziranga, Dibru Saikhowa etc.
Great Eggfly *Hypolimnys bolina* Dibru Saikhowa.
Orange Oakleaf *Kallima inachus* Several of these stunners at Namdapha.



Long-banded Silverline (top) & Manipur Map (Craig Robson)

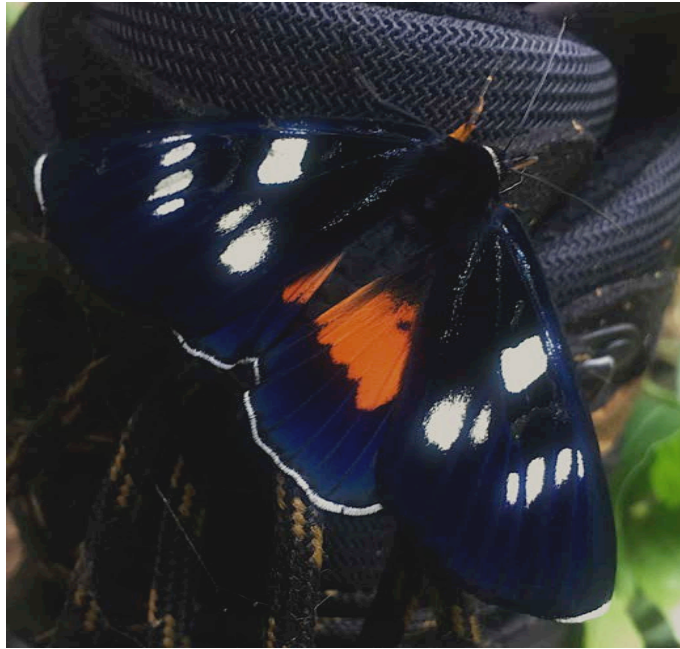


Purple Sapphire (top) & Striped Ringlet (Craig Robson)

MOTHS

False Tiger Moth *Dysphania militaris* Namdapha at least. A widespread black and yellow species.

Tiger moth *Agaristidae cf. adalatrix* Namdapha.



Tiger moth Agaristidae cf. adalatrix (Craig Robson)

DRAGONFLIES

Clear-winged Forest Glory *Vestalis gracilis* Namdapha.

Stream Sapphire *Heliocypha perforata* Namdapha.

Coromandel Marsh Dart *Ceriagrion coromandelianum* Dibru Saikhowa.

Ornate Coraltail *Ceriagrion cerinorubellum* Dibru Saikhowa.

Common Blue Skimmer *Orthetrum glaucum* Namdapha etc.

Crimson Marsh Hawk *Orthetrum pruinum* Namdapha etc.

Variegated Green Skimmer *Orthetrum sabina*

Globe Skimmer *Pantala flavescens*

Common Picturewing *Rythemis variegata* Dibru Saikhowa.

Dancing Dropwing *Trithemis palidinervis* Dibru Saikhowa etc.



Common Picturewing (Craig Robson)