



This is an excellent tour to see the handsome Demoiselle Crane in good numbers (Hannu Jännes).

WESTERN INDIA

2 – 18 FEBRUARY 2018

LEADER: HANNU JÄNNES

This was yet another very successful Birdquest tour to the north western of India with an epic journey through the states of Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat plus a short visit to the state of Maharashtra to conclude. We recorded no fewer than 330 bird species and 17 mammals, and, more importantly, we found almost every bird specialty of the dry western and central regions of the subcontinent including a number of increasingly scarce species with highly restricted ranges like the impressive Great Indian Bustard (with a world population of only 150 or so), the beautifully patterned White-naped Tit, White-browed (or Stoliczka's) Bush Chat and the Critically Endangered Indian Vulture. Many Indian subcontinent endemics were seen including Rock Bush Quail, Red Spurfowl, Red-naped (or Black) Ibis, Indian Courser, Painted Sandgrouse, the highly-localised Forest Owlet, Mottled Wood and Indian Eagle Owls, the elusive Sirkeer Malkoha, White-naped Woodpecker, Malabar Trogon, Plum-headed Parakeet, Rufous-tailed and Sykes's Larks, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Indian Bush Lark, the lovely White-bellied Minivet, Marshall's Iora, Indian Black-lored Tit, Brahminy Starling, Streak-throated Swallow, Rufous-fronted and Rufous-vented Prinias, Green Avadavat, Indian Scimitar Babbler, Indian Spotted Creeper, Vigors's and Purple-rumped Sunbirds, Sind Sparrow and the range restricted western form of the Jerdon's Babbler. Amongst many other highlights were the much sought-after Grey Hypocottus, highly-threatened Macqueen's Bustard, the amazing Demoiselle Crane spectacle at Zainabad, Red-necked and Laggar Falcons, Crab-plover, Yellow-eyed Doves, Sykes's Nightjar and Pallid (or Striated) and Eurasian Scops Owls, Sand and Desert Larks, Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks, all three forms of Variable Wheatear, Red-tailed Wheatear, White-tailed Stonechat, White-crowned Penduline Tit, Desert Whitethroat, Mountain Chiffchaff, Sulphur-bellied Warbler and Crested, Grey-necked, White-capped and Striolated Buntings.



Rufous-vented Prinia (or Grass Babbler), one of the avian star attractions of Harike (Phil Tizzard).

Our Western Indian adventure began officially well before sun rise in the lobby of our hotel in Amritsar from where we drove to Harike, a large wetland area surrounded by vast reed beds and agricultural land. Based on my two day recce in the area, I decided to change our birding routine here, and we headed straight to a large stand of Elephant Grass, where we soon had great views of one of the avian star attractions of Harike, the Rufous-vented Prinia, which is actually not a prinia at all, but a babbler and will probably be known by the name Grass Babbler in the future. After a search we found another major target, a pair of the "Sind" Jerdon's Babbler. This western taxa *scindicum* of Jerdon's Babbler was earlier believed to occur only in the Indus Valley of Pakistan, but it was discovered here in Harike as recently as October 2012 by Indian birders. A supporting cast of commoner species in this very bird rich area included Yellow-bellied, Graceful and Plain Prinias, a pair of White-tailed Stonechats, Striated Grassbird, Striated Babbler, Paddyfield Warbler, several Bluethroats, Rosy and Water Pipits, many Citrine Wagtails, three Black Francolins, Hen Harrier, White-tailed Plovers, and amongst the big mass of wildfowl, a flock of Bar-headed Geese. After a lunch in a local dhaba, we headed to an area, where our main target was the restricted range Sind Sparrow. As it was still rather early in the afternoon, and the sparrows seemed to be hiding somewhere enjoying a siesta, we had time to walk through a marsh and scan the lakeside for anything interesting. As we wandered Little and Great Cormorants, Oriental Darters and the uncommon and localized Indian Cormorant were perched in the waterside vegetation or fishing on the lake, while noisy River Terns flew around. Wildfowl were present in large numbers, and amongst the many commoner species were handsome Indian Spot-billed and Red-crested Pochards. It was also good to see a female Long-tailed Minivet, a winter visitor from the Himalayas.



Yellow-bellied Prinia was common in the Harike area (Hannu Jännes).

Later, back at the sparrow site, we located a good group of 13 Sind Sparrows eating seed heads and providing us with really great views. As we now had most of our main targets in the bag, we decided to head back to Amritsar, and pay a visit to the famous Golden Temple during the less crowded late afternoon/early evening hours instead of the scheduled post-dinner visit, when the temple area can be very crowded. The Golden Temple itself sits like a glowing golden barge on the still waters of a large artificial lake, surrounded by a white marble-clad precinct complete with numerous subsidiary buildings and minaret-like towers. Pilgrims come from all over the Sikh world to visit the shrine, which contains the original copy of the Sikh holy book, the Granth Sahib. As our visit coincided with sun set we saw the temple lit-up for the night, a magnificent sight!



We located a good group of Sind Sparrows eating seed heads and providing us with really great views (Hannu Jännes).



Our 'modest' accommodation in Bikaner (Angie Hamberg).

The next day was for travel, but we had time for a short stop near Harike, where we visited a compact patch of road-side marsh, which quickly yielded us with the species we still needed including White-crowned Penduline Tit, Moustached and Cetti's Warblers, and, best of all, a calling Mountain Chiffchaff, before we continued our 500 kilometre long journey south to Bikaner in Rajasthan. As we headed south the landscape became more and more arid, until we were surrounded entirely by the desert. We made a few stops along the way adding Red-naped (or Indian Black) Ibis, four Crested Honey Buzzards, 400 Demoiselle and three Common Cranes, Laughing Dove, Indian Roller, Crested Lark, White-eared Bulbul, Isabelline Shrike, Variable and Isabelline Wheatears, Brown Rock Chat and Common Babbler to our fast-growing list of birds. We also managed to find a nest of Laggar Falcon, which was cleverly hid in the structures of a traffic sign erected above the road. There were interesting mammals as well including Indian Gazelles and Nilgai plus Indian Desert Gerbil. We arrived at our rather upmarket accommodation, which was once the palace of the king of the former Bikaner state, Maharaja Ganga Singh, in the early evening.



Laggar Falcon nest was cleverly hid in the structures of a traffic sign (Hannu Jännes).



Finding the enigmatic Indian Spotted Creeper at Tal Chappar took quite some time (Hannu Jännes).

Early the next morning we headed about 160 kms east to the Tal Chappar area for a full day outing. On the way our car's thermometer dropped down to +3 degrees celsius, which was the coldest temperature measured on the tour. At Tal Chappar we birded an area of old thorn forest, where our main target was Indian Spotted Creeper. Finding this enigmatic bird took quite some time (five hours no less!), but in the end we enjoyed really great views of this rare bird. Other good birds found during the search included a surprise in the form of a flock of five White-bellied Minivets, and showy Yellow-crowned Woodpecker. In the late afternoon we paid a short visit to Tal Chappar WLS, a beautiful area of flat grassland which reminded me of the African savanna. Blackbuck, which must be one of the handsomest antelopes in the world, was very common here, and we also managed to locate the first White-browed Bush Chat of the trip.

We spent the next morning at the carcass dump on the outskirts of Bikaner, which now seems to be run by the Forest Department as a kind of reserve for wintering raptors. Raptors, however, were not the main reason for our visit, but rather the Yellow-eyed Dove, a species that spends the winter on the plains of north western India. During our stay we managed to obtain good views of this enigmatic species estimating around 250 birds in the area. Other good birds included hundreds of Steppe Eagles and Egyptian Vultures. Most of the Egyptian Vultures belonged to the northern nominate subspecies, which occurs in lowland India during the winter months, but we also managed to find a representative of the resident subspecies *ginginianus*. According to preliminary results of an on-going research project this form is a potential split from the nominate subspecies. Other birds noted included Griffon and Cinereous Vultures, Eastern Imperial Eagles, Desert Wheatear, and Brahminy and Rosy Starlings. From Bikaner we drove across the Thar Desert to the little village of Khichan of Demoiselle Crane fame. To our surprise the pool where the cranes usually congregate in thousands around noon to drink, had no birds except a lone Bonelli's Eagle, which had chased all the cranes away just moments before our arrival! With the aid of a local crane expert, we managed to locate a flock of 500 Demoiselle Cranes at another pool, and also saw Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse in the area. Later we headed to Jaisalmer, and reached our accommodation, another rather spectacular hotel, in the evening.



Southern Grey Shrike at Tal Chappar (Hannu Jännes).

Next morning saw us at the Desert National Park. We headed first for the Sudasari Enclosure, where there were no cattle and consequently good grasslands stretching for 2-3 miles in each direction. Very soon after reaching the point from which we scan, Bob spotted our main target, the Great Indian Bustard, walking in the tall grass a couple of kilometres away. After more scanning we realised that we were really watching not one, but a group of three bustards! Later in the morning walking back to the visitor centre we got closer to these majestic birds and enjoyed decent scope views of this Critically Endangered species that sadly seems destined to become extinct within the next decade as almost no breeding has been reported for many years, so the surviving population of about 150 birds is mainly of aging adults. Continuing our morning walk we saw three different individuals of the rare and endangered White-browed Bush Chat, a few Tawny Eagles, many Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Black-crowned Sparrow-larks and a few Long-billed Pipits. After a lunch we checked bushes for Desert Whitethroat, but only managed to find a confiding Asian Desert Warbler. The late afternoon was spent birding rocky habitat with small stands of trees, where our main finds were Desert Whitethroat, Desert Lark, Red-tailed Wheatear and Striolated Bunting.



The handsome Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark was common at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer (Hannu Jännes).



A total of nine White-browed Bush Chats were seen on this tour (Hannu Jännes).



Variable Wheatear of the morph picata at Desert National Park (Hannu Jännes).



Greater Short-toed Lark was common at many sites visited (Hannu Jännes).



We obtained great views of White-bellied Minivet at Siana (Hannu Jännes).

Our second day in Jaisalmer area began in a different part of the Desert National Park, where we checked a waterhole with thousands of House Sparrows visiting it in nervous, flighty groups. These 'wild' House Sparrows, which belong to the subspecies *bactrianus/parkini* (showing some yellow on the bill) are winter visitors in the area and live quite a different life from their more urban cousins of the subspecies *indicus* (showing entirely black bill), which occupy the towns and cities of India. Other birds encountered included Laggar Falcon, Eurasian Griffon and Cinereous Vultures, yet another White-browed Bush Chat, very photogenic Black-crowned Sparrow-larks, Variable Wheatear, flocks of Bimaculated Larks and, after protracted scanning a group of four Great Indian Bustards! After lunch we drove to Wood Fossil Park before going on for our traditional tourist walk in Jaisalmer, where we had a couple of afternoon hours sightseeing in the old part of the town with its narrow alleys, old houses, and merchant homes.

Next day we left Jaisalmer behind and headed south to the remote village of Siana. We spent quite some time on route trying to find birds, suffered a puncture and negotiated a number of road works and narrow village roads, so it was late afternoon before we reached our lovely lodge run by an aristocratic Rajput family of hereditary landowners. Siana has now become a regular place for bird tour groups to spend a couple of days because it offers an opportunity to see some difficult species in the relatively remote and sparsely inhabited area of dry hills and plains that surround the village. The highlights of our action packed time here with local guides were the only Red-necked Falcon of the trip, several Indian Thick-knees, great views of Grey-necked, Striolated, Black-headed and White-capped Buntings, Syke's Warbler, a loose flock of four(!) White-browed Bush Chats, two encounters with a confiding self-found pair of White-bellied Minivets, the critically endangered Indian Vulture and a magnificent performance by a hooting Indian Eagle Owl. As our encounters with Rock Bush Quail and Painted Sandgrouse were unsatisfactory and we completely missed the Sirkeer Malkoha, it was obvious that we would need to work on these species later in the tour.

After Siana the next stop was Mount Abu, the best known site for the rare and range restricted Green Avadavat. We began our birding at the stake-out for the avadavat after lunch, and soon located a flock of these lovely little birds. Other birds noted around this area included Common Buzzard, White-bellied Drongo, Indian Black-lored Tit, Yellow-eyed Babbler, White-spotted Fantail, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Crested Bunting, Oriental Turtle Dove, and many Yellow-throated Sparrows and Indian Silverbills. Next morning we spent a couple of hours to birding the mid-elevations of the mountain, where we saw several Indian Scimitar Babblers, and had brief views of Red Spurfowls and an Indian Pygmy Woodpecker.



Green Avadavat on Mount Abu (Hannu Jännes).

It was time to leave Rajasthan behind as we dropped down into the low-lying state of Gujarat, bordering the Arabian Sea. After arriving at our remote lodge at Zainabad, on the edge of the Little Rann of Kutch, again run by local aristocratic traditional landowners, we had tea and a look at a cute, and very obliging, Eurasian Scops Owl (a rare visitor to India and a new bird for the leader's India list) and a shyer Pallid Scops Owl, both wintering in the camp grounds, before heading out to the Khari area for an evening excursion. Here our team, split into different vehicles, and our local guides had to work exceptionally long and hard before our main target, the little known Syke's Nightjar gave excellent views down to few meters. In addition our long night drive produced very good views of an Indian Nightjar, Short-eared Owl, Onagers (Indian Wild Ass), and Bengal Fox and even Indian Hedgehog for one vehicle.



Eurasian Scops Owl and Pallid Scops Owl at the Desert Courser's camp in Zainabad (Phil Tizzard).



Syke's Nightjar at Little Rann of Kutch (Phil Tizzard).

As the sun rose next morning we headed out into the saline wastelands of the Little Rann of Kutch. The main target bird in this habitat was Macqueen's Bustard, a winter visitor from Central Asia, which has become rare owing to both persecution and habitat change. Luck was not with us this time, and we had to retreat back to our camp for lunch defeated. During the lunch break Brian found a male Purple-rumped Sunbird in the camp, and we all managed to see a pair of these cute little birds just as we were leaving our camp in the afternoon. A great addition to our birdlist! In the afternoon the group was split. Those who had seen the bustard elsewhere opted for a more relaxed afternoon around Navra Talav Lake, which was thronged with birds, whereas those who still needed the bustard, headed back to Khari area, where they were successful in locating two Macqueen's Bustards and also seeing the first Sand Larks of the trip.

On our last morning at Zainabad we located a Sirkeer Malkoha near the camp, and admired thousands of wintering Demoiselle Cranes as they left their roost to fill the sky and spread out over the plains. Then we paid a short visit to Navra Talav Lake, where amongst thousands of wildfowl, we located Great Stone-curlew, Garganey, Woolly-necked Stork, Greater Spotted Eagle, Temminck's Stint, Collared and Small Pratincoles, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Sand Martins as new birds for the trip. Then it was time to head for the Bhuj region of western Gujarat, where yet another set of good birds awaited us. We reached Nakhatrana, or actually the village of Modi Virani, our base for the next three nights, late in the afternoon, and after refreshing tea and coffee, followed by a good dinner we were all more than ready for our beds.



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse is the commonest sandgrouse in the arid west of India (Hannu Jännes).



Male Grey Hypocolius, one of the main target birds in the Bhuj region (Phil Tizzard).

Our host Jugal and his team had everything planned for us, and early the next morning we found ourselves walking along the Khawda road, lined with many berry-bearing bushes, waiting for the enigmatic Grey Hypocolius to appear, which it did pretty quickly and gave really great views for everyone. The first 4 or 5 individuals we found were all dull females, and we had to work a bit, before we managed brilliant views of a male. We also had our first encounter with Marshall's lora here. After a picnic breakfast we discovered Yellow-wattled Lapwings and an Indian Bush Lark, both new for our list. In the afternoon we searched for Painted Sandgrouse, a species we needed better views of, and found several obliging individuals right on the road side. Then then we visited a traditional site for Syke's Lark, an Indian endemic, which performed well for us, before a brief visit to a thorn forest, where we admired a pair of handsome black and white White-naped Tits. The busy, bird filled day was rounded up nicely with two groups of Barred Buttonquails close to the narrow track, and we then enjoyed a cup of tea and snacks whilst watching the sun set behind the distant hills.



Painted Sandgrouse was seen well near Nakhatrana (Hannu Jännes).



Spotted Sandgrouse at Eastern Banni (Phil Tizzard).

Next day we headed for the eastern Banni grasslands, a new birding area I had never visited before, for more target birds stopping on route at a small marsh, where new birds included Streaked Weaver, Brown Shrike and Clamorous Reed Warbler, and we also obtained brilliant views of Paddyfield Warblers and Bluethroats. As soon as we reached our destination in eastern Banni, we saw our target bird, Spotted Sandgrouse, approaching a waterhole with extreme caution. We counted around 60 individuals of this handsome sandgrouse and had great views. Later, after a picnic breakfast, we visited an area for Cream-coloured Courser and soon located a flock of five individuals which showed well. After a very successful morning we headed for the coast arriving at the Modhva coast near Mandvi after couple of hours drive just as the tide had started to recede. After a quick snack we headed straight to the beach where the new habitat meant many new birds, and we quickly added a number of species to our bird list including Brown-headed, Pallas's, Slender-billed and two forms of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Caspian, Lesser Crested and Little Tern, Terek Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sanderling, Lesser and Greater Sand Plover and Grey Plover. The main object of our visit to the beach was the amazing Crab-plover, badly needed by some. We counted 13 individuals of these strange looking creatures amongst the gulls loafing on the beach. The original idea was to spend more time on the beach enjoying the gulls and waders, but as we had been very successful in seeing our main objectives leaving us plenty of time, we decided to move on to try and locate couple of species we still needed to see. The first target, Sand Lark, of the prominently streaked *krishnakumarsinhji* subspecies, which only half of our group had seen in the Little Rann of Kutch, was located even before we reached our vehicles! The second target, Indian Courser, involved rather more searching, but after driving and scanning we managed to locate a single bird on a fallow field! With all the day's target birds in the bag, it was time to drive back to CEDO (Centre for Desert and Ocean) for food and rest.

For the last morning in the Bhuj region we had two requests for our guides: Sirkeer Malkoha and Rock Bush Quail, both species only glimpsed or completely missed by some earlier on the tour. Naturally Jugal, our guide, knew exactly where to take us, and it didn't take long before we all had pretty good looks at the Malkoha, and we also saw White-naped Tits and Syke's and Eastern Orphean Warbler during our short walk in the thorn forest. Next on the agenda was the bush-quail, which we found easily and had amazing views of a family party consisting of a showy male, female and two juveniles. Later we located two more groups of Rock Bush Quails in the same area bringing the total to 11 individuals, and also had an encounter with a singing Jungle Prinia, which was also a new bird for us.



Forest Owlet the main reason for our visit to Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary (Phil Tuzzard).

In the afternoon we flew to Mumbai and drove through the massive traffic jams to our posh hotel in Nasik arriving there after midnight. Unfortunately our hotel was situated quite a way from Tansa WLS, our birding destination in the area, which created some logistical problems. However, we still did extremely well and managed to see all the main target species and a host of other interesting birds during our two nights visit. It was rather late on the first morning when we reached the territory for Forest Owlet, the main reason for our visit to Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary, but thanks to Yvon's spotting skills, we soon found this amazing owlet hiding amongst the large leaves in the mid canopy, and we spent quite some time admiring this very rare bird. Rediscovered by Pamela Rasmussen and others in northwest Maharashtra as recently as 1997, there had been a gap of over 100 years since a few specimens were taken in the late 19th century from various points along the Satpura range. Later in the day we found our other target bird, the restricted range Vigors's Sunbird, plus a supporting cast of other interesting species including Striated Heron, White-eyed Buzzard, Crested Treeswift, Asian Palm Swift, Alpine Swift, Brown-capped Pygmy and White-naped Woodpeckers, Common Iora, Large Cuckooshrike, Black-hooded Oriole of the vocally distinct Peninsular Indian form *maderaspatanus*, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Black-naped Monarch, the recently split Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Cinereous Tit, Eurasian Crag Martin, Western Crowned Leaf Warbler, Taiga Flycatcher, Blue Rock and Blue-capped Rock Thrush, and Thick-billed and Pale-billed Flowerpeckers. After sunset we spent quite a time searching for Mottled Wood Owl, but only managed to hear the distant calls of three different birds and see a brief Savanna Nightjar. As it was getting late we had to leave the area, but on the way back to the hotel we decided to check one more owl territory and struck lucky with a magnificent pair of Mottled Wood Owls, which performed amazingly well for us. Next morning we had a couple of hours to spare before heading back to Mumbai, and used these to find a great Malabar Trogon, a write-in. After lunch and freshen-up in a roadside motel and good dinner in a swish hotel in Mumbai, 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.



We had amazing views of Rock Bush Quail near Nakhatrana (Phil Tizzard).

BIRDS OF THE TRIP' WINNERS 2018:

- 1st: Great Indian Bustard
- 2nd: Rock Bush Quail
- 3rd: Indian Spotted Creeper & Grey Hypocolius
- 4th: Mottled Wood Owl
- 5th: White-naped Tit



Scanning for the Great Indian Bustard in Desert National Park (Angie Hamberg).

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).

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* Small numbers at Harike, Khichan and Zainabad.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* [*rubrirostris*].

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Only noted at Navra Talav near Zainabad.

Cotton Pygmy Goose (Cotton Teal) *Nettapus coromandelianus* A few near Zainabad.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* Small numbers at Navra Talav near Zainabad.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Indian Spot-billed Duck (Burmese S-b D) *Anas poecilorhyncha* Widespread in small numbers.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* Hundred or so at Harike.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* Numerous at Harike and Navra Talav, Zainabad.

Ferruginous Duck (F Pochard) *Aythya nyroca* Up to 15 at Harike and singleton at Navra Talav.



Grey Francolin is common and widespread in Western India (Hannu Jännes).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Scattered sightings of small numbers.
Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* Three in Harike.
Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* Noted almost daily.
Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* Two were noted.
Rock Bush Quail ♦ *Perdica argoondah* Encountered in Siana and near Nakhatrana [*interpositus*].
Red Spurfowl ♦ *Galloperdix spadicea* Small numbers on Mt Abu.
Indian Peafowl (Common P) *Pavo cristatus* Common and widespread. The national bird of India.
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Widespread [*albescens*].
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* One at Harike and eight at Navra Talav.
Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* 50 at Navra Talav.
Painted Stork ♦ *Mycteria leucocephala* Scattered records of small number.
Asian Openbill ♦ *Anastomus oscitans* Only noted at a large reservoir in the Bhuj area.
Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* Two sightings.
Black-necked Stork ♦ *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* Two at a large reservoir in the Bhuj area.
Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Red-naped Ibis ♦ (Indian Black Ibis) *Pseudibis papillosa* Widespread.
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Common at suitable wetlands.
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Common at suitable wetlands.
Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* Two at Harike.
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Small numbers at Siana and near Tansa WLS.
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* One at Tansa WLS.
Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*
Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Small numbers at the best wetlands.
Great Egret *Ardea alba*



Egyptian Vulture at the carcass dump near Bikaner (Hannu Jännes).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Small numbers in Gujarat.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Western Reef Heron (W R-Egret) *Egretta gularis* Locally common in coastal Gujarat.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Small numbers at Navra Talav near Zainabad.

Dalmatian Pelican ♦ *Pelecanus crispus* Up to 50 at Navra Talav near Zainabad.

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger* Widespread.

Indian Cormorant ♦ (I Shag) *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* Good numbers in Harike and Navra Talav.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Abundant in Harike and smaller numbers in Gujarat.

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* Abundant in Harike.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* One at a large reservoir in the Bhuj area.

Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus* Widespread [*vociferus*].

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* Only noted in the dry west with 430 at Bikaner.

Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental H B) *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Ten noted [*ruficollis*].

White-rumped Vulture (Indian White-b V) *Gyps bengalensis* Four at DNP, Jaisalmer.

Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus* Two at Siana.

Griffon Vulture (Eurasian G V) *Gyps fulvus* 20 at Bikaner and 40 around Jaisalmer.

Cinereous Vulture (Eurasian Black V) *Aegypius monachus* Three at Bikaner and four around Jaisalmer.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (H) Only heard at Tansa WLS.

Short-toed Snake Eagle (S-t Eagle) *Circaetus gallicus* A total of six were noted.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* Four at Navra Talav near Zainabad.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* A total of five were noted.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* Eight in the Bikaner-Jaisalmer area, and one near Zainabad.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* 300 at Bikaner dump, only a few were noted elsewhere.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* One at Khichan and another one in the Bhuj area.

Eastern Imperial Eagle (Imperial E) *Aquila heliaca* A total of five

Shikra *Accipiter badius* Widespread [*dussumieri*].

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* A few scattered records.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Small numbers were noted on six days.



Great Stone-curlew (Hannu Jännes).

- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* One female at Harike.
- Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* A total of eleven were noted.
- Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* A total of four seen.
- Black Kite (Black-eared K) *Milvus [migrans] lineatus* (NL) Only one at Bikaner dump.
- Black Kite (Pariah K) *Milvus [migrans] govinda*
- White-eyed Buzzard ♦ *Butastur teesa* One near Zainabad and around 12 at Tansa WLS.
- Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* Small numbers in the arid west.
- Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Three on Mt Abu.
- Great Indian Bustard ♦ (Indian B) *Ardeotis nigriceps* A total of seven at DNP near Jaisalmer.
- Macqueen's Bustard ♦ *Chlamydotis macqueenii* Two near Zainabad.
- White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* Small numbers at suitable wetlands.
- Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* Small numbers at suitable wetlands.
- Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
- Eurasian Coot (Common C) *Fulica atra*
- Sarus Crane ♦ *Antigone antigone* One road side bird on route to Zainabad.
- Demoiselle Crane ♦ *Grus virgo* 5000 at Zainabad, smaller numbers at Khichan and on route to Bikaner.
- Common Crane *Grus grus* Small numbers in Gujarat.
- Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* Six near Nakhatrana.
- Indian Stone-curlew (I Thick-knee) *Burhinus indicus* Six at Siana, and several heard only birds at Zainabad.
- Great Stone-curlew ♦ (G Thick-knee) *Esacus recurvirostris* One at Zainabad and two in the Bhuj area.
- Crab-plover ♦ *Dromas ardeola* 14 on the beach at Mandvi.
- Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
- Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* A few were noted in the north.
- Yellow-wattled Lapwing ♦ (Y-w Plover) *Vanellus malabaricus* 30 or so in the Bhuj region and one near Tansa WLS.
- Red-wattled Lapwing (R-w Plover) *Vanellus indicus* Common and widespread.
- White-tailed Lapwing ♦ (W-t Plover) *Vanellus leucurus* Two at Harike and 10 at Navra Talav.
- Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* One at Navra Talav, and three near Bikaner seen by Brian.
- Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Five on the beach at Mandvi.
- Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* Small numbers were noted.
- Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* Small numbers in Gujarat.
- Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* 30 on the beach near Mandvi.
- Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* Six on the beach near Mandvi.



Spotted Redshank (Hannu Jännes).

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* Three at Navra Talav.
Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* Small numbers in Gujarat.
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Fairly common in Gujarat and one at Harike.
Ruff *Calidris pugnax* Reasonably common in Gujarat and small numbers at Harike.
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (NL) Two at Navra Talav.
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Four in total, all in Gujarat.
Sanderling *Calidris alba* 100 on the beach near Mandvi.
Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 20 on the beach near Mandvi.
Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Hundreds at Navra Talav near Zainabad.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Small numbers were encountered.
Terek Sandpiper ♦ *Xenus cinereus* Two on the beach near Mandvi.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Widespread in small numbers.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Widespread in small numbers.
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Noted in Harike and in Gujarat.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Small numbers in Gujarat.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Small numbers were encountered.
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Small numbers were encountered.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Small numbers were seen.
Cream-colored Courser ♦ *Cursorius cursor* Five in eastern Banni in the Bhuj region.
Indian Courser ♦ *Cursorius coromandelicus* One near Mandvi.
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Two at Navra Talav near Zainabad.
Small Pratincole ♦ *Glareola lactea* Three at Navra Talav near Zainabad.
Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* 40 on the beach near Mandvi.
Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* One at Harike, 40 at Mandvi beach and one in Mumbai.
Black-headed Gull (Common B-h G) *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* Noted in Harike, Gujarat and Mumbai.
Pallas's Gull (Great Black-headed G) *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* Nine on the beach near Mandvi.
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Heuglin's G) *Larus [fuscus] heuglini* Fairly common on the beach near Mandvi.
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Steppe G) *Larus [fuscus] barabensis* Noted in Harike and Mandvi beach.
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Two at Navra Talav and 50 at Mandvi beach.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* One at Mandvi beach.
Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* A few at Mandvi beach.
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* Handful of birds at Mandvi beach.
River Tern *Sterna aurantia* Common in Harike, and handful of birds elsewhere.
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Ten in Harike and three near Nakhatrana.



Indian Courser and Cream-coloured Courser (Hannu Jännes).

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* Reasonably common in the arid areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* 60 at a water hole in the eastern Banni grasslands.

Painted Sandgrouse ♦ *Pterocles indicus* Three at Siana and 14 with giving brilliant views near Nakhatrana.

Rock Dove (R Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Yellow-eyed Pigeon ♦ (Y-e Dove) *Columba eversmanni* 250 at the carcass dump near Bikaner.

Oriental Turtle Dove (Rufous T-D) *Streptopelia orientalis* Small numbers were noted on four days.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Red Turtle Dove (R Collared Dove) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* Handful of birds on Mt Abu and Tansa WLS.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron phoenicopterus* Only a few sightings.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* Widespread in small numbers.

Sirkeer Malkoha ♦ *Taccocua leschenaultii* Singletons at Zainabad and near Nakhatrana.

Asian Koel (Common K) *Eudynamys scolopaceus* Widespread in small numbers.

Indian Scops Owl ♦ *Otus bakkamoena* (H) Two at our resort in Siana.

Pallid Scops Owl ♦ (Striated S-O) *Otus brucei* Two birds at our camp in Zainabad.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* One bird at our camp in Zainabad. A rare winter visitor to India.

Indian Eagle-Owl ♦ (Rock E-O) *Bubo bengalensis* A total of three, with a brilliant hooting bird, at Siana.

Mottled Wood Owl ♦ *Strix ocellata* A pair seen extremely well and three more were heard at Tansa WLS.

Jungle Owlet ♦ *Glaucidium radiatum* (H) A few distant birds were heard at Tansa WLS.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* Widespread in small numbers.

Forest Owlet ♦ *Heteroglaux blewitti* Excellent sighting of this rarity at Tansa WLS.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Two sightings near Zainabad.

Sykes's Nightjar ♦ *Caprimulgus mahrattensis* Two, with brilliant views, near Zainabad.

Indian Nightjar ♦ (Indian Little N) *Caprimulgus asiaticus* A total of five with excellent views.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* One at Tansa WLS.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* Small numbers at Tansa WLS.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* Small numbers at Tansa WLS.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* Small numbers at Tansa WLS.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Widespread.

Malabar Trogon ♦ *Harpactes fasciatus* A fine male at Tansa WLS was a nice surprise.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* Widespread and rather common, noted almost daily.

White-throated Kingfisher (W-breasted K) *Halcyon smyrnensis* Widespread, noted almost daily.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Noted in Gujarat on two days.

Pied Kingfisher (Lesser Pied K) *Ceryle rudis* A few scattered records.

Green Bee-eater (Little Green B-e) *Merops orientalis* Widespread and locally very common.

Eurasian Hoopoe (Common H) *Upupa epops* Small numbers were noted on nine days.



Marshall's lora was seen well near Nakhatrana (Hannu Jännes).

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyeros birostris* Only one, at Harike.

Brown-headed Barbet *Psilopogon zeylanicus* Rather common in Tansa, and one on Mt Abu.

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus* Noted in all well wooded areas.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* One was seen

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker ♦ (Indian P W) *Yungipicus nanus* One on Mt Abu and two in Tansa.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker ♦ *Leiopicus mahrattensis* A total of five birds were seen.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense* One in Harike and two in Siana.

White-naped Woodpecker ♦ (W-n Flameback) *Chrysocolaptes festivus* Four at Tansa WLS.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* (H) Two birds were heard at Tansa WLS.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Widespread with up to 20 in a day in the Zainabad area.

Red-necked Falcon ♦ *Falco chicquera* Good views of one at Siana.

Laggar Falcon ♦ *Falco jugger* A total of seven including a pair at nest. Great views!

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* One in Siana [*pelegrinoides*].

Plum-headed Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula cyanocephala* Mainly seen at Tansa WLS.

Alexandrine Parakeet ♦ *Psittacula eupatria* Noted in Punjab, and again at Tansa WLS [nominat].

Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri* Everywhere [manillensis].

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* Common at Tansa WLS, small numbers elsewhere.

Common lora *Aegithina tiphia* Two at Tansa WLS.

Marshall's lora ♦ *Aegithina nigrolutea* Two sightings of a total of five birds in the Bhuj region.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei* Four at Tansa WLS.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* Small numbers were noted on six days.

White-bellied Minivet ♦ *Pericrocotus erythropygius* A flock of five at Tal Chappar, and a showy pair in Siana.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* One female at Harike.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* Two birds were noted in the Bhuj area. Apparently rather scarce bird here.

Isabelline Shrike ♦ *Lanius isabellinus* Rather common in Gujarat and one in Siana [*arenarius*].

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus* A total of 11 of these very handsome shrikes. [nominat].

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* Widespread [*erythronotus*].

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* Rather common in the drier parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat [*lahtora*].

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* Several birds at Tansa [*maderaspatanus*].

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Noted daily.

White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens* Two on Mt Abu.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* Two at Tansa WLS.

White-spotted Fantail ♦ (Spot-breasted F) *Rhipidura albogularis* Ten on Mt Abu.



White-naped Tit near Nakhatrana (Phil Tizzard).

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola* Small numbers in Rajasthan.

Black-naped Monarch (B-n Blue Monarch) *Hypothymis azurea* A few at Tansa WLS.

Indian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* Two at Tansa WLS.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* Widespread in small numbers in suitable wooded habitats.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* Noted daily in good numbers.

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus* Fairly common on Mt Abu, and again in Tansa WLS.

Northern Raven (Common Raven) *Corvus corax* Small numbers in the Jaisalmer area [*subcorax*].

Grey Hypoclious ♦ *Hypoclious ampelinus* Eight, with brilliant views, near Nakhatrana.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher (G-h Flycatcher) *Culicicapa ceylonensis* One on Mt Abu.

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus* Two in Siana and rather common at Tansa WLS.

White-naped Tit ♦ *Machlolophus nuchalis* A total of four near Nakhatrana. Amazing bird!

Indian Black-lored Tit ♦ (I Yellow Tit) *Machlolophus aplonotus* Small numbers on Mt Abu.

White-crowned Penduline Tit ♦ *Remiz coronatus* Good views in Harike.

Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* A total of four in the Jaisalmer area.

Rufous-tailed Lark ♦ *Ammomanes phoenicurus* Noted in small numbers in Gujarat and near Tansa WLS.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark ♦ (B-c Finch-L) *Eremopterix nigriceps* Fairly common at DNP, Jaisalmer.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark ♦ (A-c Finch-L) *Eremopterix griseus* Noted daily from Siana to Tansa WLS.

Indian Bush Lark *Mirafra erythroptera* Five in Gujarat, and one was heard at Bikaner [*nominate*].

Sykes's Lark ♦ *Galerida deva* Small numbers near Nakhatrana.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* Small numbers were noted on seven days.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* Noted almost daily, sometimes in big flocks.

Bimaculated Lark ♦ *Melanocorypha bimaculata* Common at DNP, Jaisalmer and six at Zainabad.

Sand Lark ♦ *Alaudala raytal* Small numbers at Zainabad and at Mandvi [*krishnakumarsinhji*].

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* Only noted on Mt Abu.

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* Common and widespread in Rajasthan and Gujarat [*humayuni*].

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* Everywhere.

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis* Quite a few seen at wetlands at the beginning of the tour

Sand Martin (Common S M) *Riparia riparia* Six at Navra Talav near Zainabad.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Rather common at Tansa WLS.

Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor*

Common House Martin (Northern H-M) *Delichon urbicum* Two in Siana.

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



Rufous-fronted Prinia and Graceful Prinia (Hannu Jännes).

Streak-throated Swallow ♦ (Indian Cliff S) *Petrochelidon fluvicola* Seen on four days.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* One bird was heard and then seen rather briefly at Harike.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Common in Harike, with a scattered few elsewhere [*tristis*].

Mountain Chiffchaff ♦ *Phylloscopus sindianus* One calling bird was seen in Harike.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus griseolus* Two on Mt Abu, and one at Tansa WLS.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Widespread in mostly small numbers.

Green Warbler (Bright-green W) *Phylloscopus nitidus* (H) One was heard at Tansa WLS.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Only small numbers were encountered.

Western Crowned Leaf Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus occipitalis* Four at Tansa WLS:

Clamorous Reed Warbler ♦ *Acrocephalus stentoreus* One in the Bhuj area.

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon* One was seen well in Harike.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* Two in Harike and three in the Bhuj area.

Sykes's Warbler ♦ *Iduna rama* One in Siana, and two in the Bhuj area.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* Two at Harike.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* (NL) Two for Brian near Tansa on our last morning.

Rufous-fronted Prinia ♦ *Prinia buchanani* Widespread and fairly common in all arid areas.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii* Rather common from Mt Abu to Tansa WLS.

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis* Reasonably common in Harike, and noted again at DNP in Jaisalmer [*lepida*].

Jungle Prinia ♦ *Prinia sylvatica* One near Nakhatrana.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Fairly common in Harike [*sindiana*].

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* Only a handful of birds were noted.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* Widespread in small numbers.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* Widespread.

Indian Scimitar Babbler ♦ *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* Brilliant views on Mt Abu.

Rufous-vented Prinia ♦ *Laticilla burnesii* Handful of birds with brilliant views in Harike.

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala* (H) A few birds were heard in Tansa WLS:

Common Babbler ♦ *Turdoides caudata* Common in all arid areas.

Striated Babbler ♦ *Turdoides earlei* Rather common in reed beds around Harike.

Large Grey Babbler ♦ *Turdoides malcolmi* Reasonably common in the arid west.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* Noted on six days.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Seen almost daily.

Desert Whitethroat ♦ (D Lesser W) *Sylvia minula* Small numbers in Jaisalmer, and one in Zainabad.

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris* Two near Nakhatrana.

Asian Desert Warbler ♦ *Sylvia nana* A total of four with some good views.

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* A total of three well scattered sightings.

Jerdon's Babbler ♦ *Chrysomma altirostre* Two in Harike [*scindicum*].

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* Rather common on Mt Abu.



Asian Desert Warbler (Hannu Jännes).

Indian Spotted Creeper ♦ *Salpornis spilonota* One brilliant individual at Tal Chappar.
Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* Two near Tansa WLS on our last morning.
Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* Common and widespread.
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Common and widespread.
Pied Myna (Asian P Starling) *Gracupica contra* Noted only in Harike.
Brahminy Starling ♦ *Sturnia pagodarum* A few scattered records
Rosy Starling ♦ (Rose-coloured S) *Pastor roseus* Noted on eight days, sometimes in big numbers.
Common Starling (European S) *Sturnus vulgaris*
Indian Robin ♦ (Indian Black R) *Copsychus fulicatus* Widespread and common.
Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis* Handful of birds were seen
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Several noted, first in Harike and then in Gujarat.
Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* Seen on nine days.
Taiga Flycatcher (Taiga F) *Ficedula albicilla* Three in Tansa WLS.
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Small numbers were noted on most days.
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* One near Tansa WLS.
Blue-capped Rock Thrush ♦ *Monticola cinclorhyncha* One splendid male at Tansa WLS.
White-browed Bush Chat ♦ (Stoliczka's B C) *Saxicola macrorhynchus* A total of nine were noted!
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* Widespread in small numbers.
White-tailed Stonechat ♦ *Saxicola leucurus* Two, a pair, in Harike.
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Widespread in small numbers.
Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* Singletons were noted on six days.
Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* Reasonably common in the arid areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
Brown Rock Chat ♦ *Oenanthe fusca* Rather common from Harike to Zainabad.
Variable Wheatear ♦ (Eastern Pied W) *Oenanthe picata* Fairly common in Rajasthan and also noted in Gujarat.
Red-tailed Wheatear ♦ *Oenanthe chrysopygia* Only one, near Jaisalmer.
Golden-fronted Leafbird (Gold-f L) *Chloropsis aurifrons* (NL) One in Tansa WLS.
Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* Rather common in Tansa WLS.
Pale-billed Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos* Fairly common in Tansa WLS.



Jerdon's Babbler of the western subspecies scindicum (Hannu Jännes) and Indian Bush Lark (Phil Tizzard).

- Purple-rumped Sunbird** ♦ *Leptocoma zeylonica* Two, a pair, at Desert Courser's camp in Zainabad was a nice surprise.
- Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus* Widespread and common.
- Vigors's Sunbird** ♦ *Aethopyga vigorsii* Four at Tansa WLS.
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* [*bactrianus/parkini*] and [*indicus*]
- Sind Sparrow** ♦ *Passer pyrrhonotus* In Harike a flock of 13 eating seed heads.
- Yellow-throated Sparrow** ♦ (Chestnut-shouldered Petronia) *Gymnoris xanthocollis*
- Streaked Weaver** ♦ *Ploceus manyar* Five in the Bhuj region.
- Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus* Small numbers in Gujarat.
- Red Avadavat (R Munia)** *Amandava amandava* A flock of eight in Harike.
- Green Avadavat** ♦ (G Munia) *Amandava formosa* A total of 35 giving brilliant views on Mt Abu.
- Indian Silverbill** *Euodice malabarica* Widespread.
- Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Unidentified Yellow Wagtails were common in Zainabad.
- Western Yellow Wagtail (Sykes's W)** *Motacilla [flava] beema* Three in Zainabad.
- Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed W)** *Motacilla [flava] feldegg* One in Zainabad.
- Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* Numerous in Harike and again at Zainabad.
- Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* Only two were noted.
- White Wagtail** *Motacilla [alba] alba* Seen on most days.
- White Wagtail** ♦ (Masked W) *Motacilla [alba] personata* Small numbers were noted on eight days.
- Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus* Only few a birds were noted.
- Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* Widespread in small numbers in the arid west.
- Long-billed Pipit** ♦ *Anthus similis* Five at DNP in Jaisalmer.
- Tree Pipit (Brown Tree P)** *Anthus trivialis* Rather common at Tansa and four on Mt Abu.
- Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseatus* Reasonably common in Harike.
- Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* Three in Harike.
- Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus* (NL) One for Brian at Wood Fossil Park near Jaisalmer.
- Crested Bunting** ♦ *Emberiza lathami* 15 on Mt Abu.
- White-capped Bunting** ♦ *Emberiza stewarti* Fairly common in Siana and on Mt Abu.
- Grey-necked Bunting** ♦ *Emberiza buchanani* A total of 17 from Jaisalmer to Bhuj.
- Striolated Bunting** ♦ *Emberiza striolata* Small numbers in Jaisalmer, and one in Siana.
- Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* One in Siana and another one near Nakhatrana.



Asiatic Wild Ass at Little Rann of Kutch (Hannu Jännes).

MAMMALS

- Rhesus Monkey** *Macaca mulatta* A few were seen at the beginning of the tour.
- Northern Plains Gray Langur (Hanuman L)** *Semnopithecus entellus* Locally common.
- Indian Hare** *Lepus nigricollis* Widespread in small numbers.
- Indian Hedgehog** *Paraechinus micropus* (NL) One near Zainabad.
- Indian Desert Gerbil** *Meriones hurrianae* Noted on four days.
- Common Palm Squirrel (Southern P S)** *Funambulus palmarum* A few were noted in Tansa WLS.
- Five-striped Palm Squirrel** *Funambulus pennantii* Common from Punjab to Gujarat.
- Jungle Cat** *Felis chaus*/Wild Cat *Felis silvestris* An unidentified cat was seen in DNP, Jaisalmer.
- Indian Grey Mongoose (Common M)** *Herpestes edwardsii* Scattered sightings.
- Common Palm Civet** *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* Two at our hotel on Mt Abu.
- Bengal Fox (Indian F)** *Vulpes bengalensis* This cute little fox was noted on three occasions.
- Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes* Desert Fox, a form of Red Fox, was noted on two days.
- Asiatic Wild Ass (Indian W A)** *Equus hemionus* Good sightings around Zainabad.
- Wild Boar (Indian W B)** *Sus scrofa* Widespread.
- Blackbuck** *Antelope cervicapra* Two hundred at Tal Chappar.
- Nilgai (Blue Bull)** *Boselaphus tragocamelus* Widespread in decent numbers.
- Chinkara (Chinkara)** *Gazella bennettii* Rather common in the arid west.
- Indian Flying Fox** *Pteropus giganteus* A few in Harike and 10 at Tansa WLS.

REPTILES

- Marsh Mugger** *Crocodylus palustris* One near Nakhatrana.
- Flame-throated Lizard** *Sitana ponticeriana* Two near Nakhatrana.
- Bengal Monitor (Indian M)** *Varanus bengalensis* Three near Mandvi.
- Common House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* Several were noted.