

BIRDS & TIGERS OF NORTHERN INDIA

TOUR REPORT 2023

1 - 17 March 2023

by Hannu Jännes

This year's 'Birds and Tigers of Northern India' tour again proved a great success with a feast of avian and mammalian delights. We followed the classic itinerary taking us from bird filled wetlands to semi-desert scrub, from dry savanna woodland and arable farmland to the verdant forested slopes and rushing torrents of the Himalayan foothills. The tour has many regional specialties and Indian subcontinent endemics, and, among the many highlights, we saw the magnificent Cheer Pheasant, the shy Koklass Pheasant, many Kalij Pheasants, Jungle and Rock Bush Quails, Painted Spurfowl, majestic Sarus Cranes, the endemic Indian Spotted Eagle amongst the commoner Greater Spotted Eagles, Pallas's and Lesser Fish Eagles, the splendid Ibisbill at the Kosi River, Indian Courser, the endangered Black-bellied Tern, the bizarre Indian Skimmer, a pair of showy Painted Sandgrouse, two Spot-bellied Eagle-Owls that showed brilliantly, two different Dusky Eagle Owls, three Brown Fish-Owls, three Tawny Fish Owls, Nepal Cupwing (or Wren-babbler), Sind Sparrow and Pink-browed Rosefinch, plus a supporting cast which included Black-necked Stork, Red-naped Ibis, Indian and Great Stone-curlews, Yellow-wattled and White-tailed Lapwings, Greater Painted Snipe, River Tern, White-crested, Chestnut-crowned, Rufous-chinned and Striated Laughingthrushes, Himalayan Rubythroat, Golden Bush Robin, Slaty-backed and Spotted Forktails, Black-headed Jay and a wealth of the more widespread Asiatic species. Mammals included five brilliant encounters with Tiger, a magnificent male Leopard, and good views of the normally nocturnal mama Sloth Bear with its two tiny cubs. There was an excellent array of other mammals, great scenery, the opportunity to observe the fascinating rural and urban everyday life of the Indian people and a visit to the incomparable Taj Mahal. An extra bonus on this occasion was the opportunity to use hides/blinds at two different sites which added a new dimension to the already very good photo opportunities.

We began the tour with a morning visit to the Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary in the state of Haryana less than an hour's drive from our hotel. In wintertime Sultanpur is teeming with birds, including a couple of NW Indian specialties, and is a great place to commence a birding tour. We made a quick visit to a small wetland near the park for Striated Babbler and Yellow-bellied Prinia, both difficult species to get on this itinerary. In the park itself the main target was Sind Sparrow, a NW Indian and Pakistan specialty, which in recent years has found its way to the outskirts of Delhi. We found it relatively easily and had great views of a pair, but unfortunately, the other special bird of the area, Brooks's Leaf Warbler, that winters here, was nowhere to be found, and I suspect that they had already begun their northward spring migration. Other birds found hiding in the bushes and acacia woods included Greater Coucal, Common Hawk-Cuckoo, ten Spotted Owlets, many Asian Green Bee-eaters, Yellow-footed Green Pigeons, Black-rumped Flameback,

Alexandrine and Rose-ringed Parakeets, Common Woodshrike, Small Minivet, White-browed Fantail, Long-tailed and Bay-backed Shrikes, Rufous Treepie, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, Common Chiffchaff, Hume's Leaf Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Ashy Prinia, Common Tailorbird, Large Grey and Jungle Babblers, Lesser Whitethroat, Eastern Orphean Warbler (an unexpected find), Indian White-eye, Common, Bank and Indian Pied Mynas, Indian and Oriental Magpie Robins, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Black Redstart and Purple Sunbird. In and around the wetland itself we found Knob-billed Duck, Bar-headed Goose, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Northern Pintail, Eurasian Teal, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, a single Greater Flamingo, Painted Stork, Black-headed Ibis, Glossy Ibis, three species of egret, Purple and Grey Heron, Little Cormorant, Oriental Darter, Grey-headed Swamphen, Common Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Black-winged Stilt, White-tailed Lapwing, Small Pratincole and Citrine and White-browed Wagtails. After the busy morning's birding we boarded our bus and commenced the long journey north reaching our comfortable lodge in Kumeria for dinner.

The next morning, we boarded our open-topped Gypsy jeeps and birded the Kumeria area before heading to our accommodation in Dhikala camp, deep within Corbett National Park. As this was our first day in a completely new area, the number of new species was almost overwhelming. Outside the park our knowledgeable Gypsy drivers drove us to the territory of a magnificent Spotted-bellied Eagle-Owl, and we were able to see it exceptionally well. Next on the agenda was the obligatory visit to the regular wintering site for the iconic Ibisbill at the Kosi River. The story was that the Ibisbills had already left their wintering grounds here, but this time luck was with us, and we managed to find a lingering bird feeding out in the open! On the way to Dhikala camp through the magnificent Sal forests of Corbett NP, we stopped for a Tawny Fish Owl that was sitting at its nest giving us great views and we were fortunate to encounter large flock of showy Long-tailed Broadbills, always a good find on this tour. Other great birds encountered during the day included Red Junglefowls, Kalij Pheasants, Pallas's Fish and Lesser Fish Eagles, Spotted and Common Emerald Doves, Brown Boobook, Asian Barred Owllet, Stork-billed and Crested Kingfishers, White-rumped Spinetail, Great Stone-curlew, River Lapwing, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Grey-capped Pygmy and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, large numbers of Plum-headed and Red-breasted Parakeets, colourful Scarlet and Long-tailed Minivets, Hair-crested Drongo, Himalayan Black-lored Tit, Himalayan and Ashy Bulbuls, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Whistler's Warbler, Black-chinned Babbler, White-crested Laughingthrush, Chestnut-bellied and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, Blue Whistling Thrush, Plumbeous Water and White-capped Redstarts, Thick-billed Flowerpecker and Golden-fronted Leafbird.

The following morning began with a good breakfast followed by a game drive that took us to the grasslands near Lake Ramganga, where we saw Black-necked, Woolly-necked and Black Storks, many River Terns, Red-headed Vulture, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Streak-throated Woodpecker, many Oriental Skylarks, a few Zitting and Golden-headed Cisticolas, Dark-throated Thrush and a brief Chestnut-eared Bunting. The warning calls of Spotted and Sambar Deer told us that there was a Tiger on the move, and, after a patient wait, a young male Tiger emerged from the long grass allowing us great views before it disappeared into the woods! Other mammals seen during our time here included troops of excellent Asian Elephants, Golden Jackal, Northern Red Muntjac and large numbers of Spotted and Hog Deer. After lunch we headed back to our lodge in Kumeria stopping on route for three Tawny Fish Owls and a flock of the lovely Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters. Once outside the park we headed for a forest road that has been a reliable site for some key species we still needed, but unfortunately, due to two man-eating tigers roaming in the area,

it was now strictly forbidden to get out of the vehicles, which made birding difficult. Despite the restrictions, we managed, thanks to our sharp-eyed driver, to find a Long-billed Thrush along the river, an important species, which we had already searched for at various stakeouts.

The next day began at dusk with a search for Brown Fish Owl close to our accommodation, but unfortunately the bird was not present. After breakfast and check-out, we headed off for pastures new. One of the main targets of the morning was the restricted range Nepal Cupwing (or Wren-babbler), which was seen very well. The rest of the day was spent driving the roads up into the Himalayas to the hill station of Nainital at 2080m asl, our base for the next five nights. We made numerous stops at various altitudes and in different habitats and saw several new birds including the only Alpine Swifts of the tour, Himalayan Vulture, Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Red-rumped Swallow, an excellent Puff-throated Babbler, Crimson Sunbird, Lemon-rumped Warbler, Spotted Forktail, Grey-hooded Warbler, Himalayan Prinia, Slaty-blue Flycatcher, Blue-capped Redstart, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Streaked Laughingthrush and Red-billed Blue Magpie.

Many great birds awaited us in the higher mountains north of Nainital, and we spent two full days exploring the cool montane forests, grassy slopes, terraced fields and edges of small villages above and around 2000 meters enjoying not only the birds but also the vistas with the awesome spectacle of snow-covered Himalayan peaks laid row after row, the biggest, Trisul and Nanda Devi, some 120km to our north-west. One of the key birds here is the scarce Cheer Pheasant, which we failed to find on the first day, but had better luck the next day when we spotlighted a pair very early in the morning and later had good scope views of a male that fed in the open. Another much hoped for gamebird was the Koklass Pheasant, which we saw reasonably well. Other birds seen included Grey Nightjar, Common Wood Pigeon, which was surprisingly common this year, Oriental Turtle Dove, Black Eagle, Himalayan Buzzard, Rufous-bellied, Himalayan and Scaly-bellied Woodpeckers, White-browed Shrike-babbler, Eurasian (of the distinct subspecies *bispecularis*) and gorgeous Black-headed Jays, Yellow-browed Tit, Coal Tit, Black Bulbul, Black-faced Warbler, Black-throated Bushtit, Blue-winged Minla, Buff-barred Warbler, Whiskered Yuhina, Striated, Chestnut-crowned and White-throated Laughingthrushes, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Rufous Sibia, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, White-tailed Nuthatch, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Grey-winged Blackbird, Himalayan Bluetail, Blue-fronted Redstart, Green-tailed Sunbird, two Black-throated and a restless flock of Altai Accentors, singing Upland Pipit that performed well, Rock Bunting, several Himalayan Gorals and many handsome Nepal Grey Langurs to complete the trio of langurs available on this tour. All told a pretty good haul!

Next in the agenda was a visit to Sattal area at around 1300m asl, where our first stop was a session in a popular bird hide/blind. This was really great fun as during the next couple of hours we had a good selection of birds visiting the feeder giving us excellent views and photo opportunities. These included Kalij Pheasant, Black Francolin, Greater Yellownappe, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Oriental Turtle Doves, many gorgeous Plum-headed and a single Slaty-headed Parakeet, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, many Red-billed Leiothrix, stunning Red-billed Blue Magpies, plus good numbers of White-throated Laughingthrushes and Grey-winged Blackbirds. Later we birded various sites in the Sattal area with our local guide seeing a showy Grey-sided Bush Warbler, Himalayan Rubythroat, Slaty-backed and Spotted Forktails, Black-throated and Crimson Sunbirds, Ashy Woodswallow, an unexpected find here, a pair of Brown Fish Owls, a roosting Brown Wood Owl, Banded Bay Cuckoo, a new bird for the itinerary, Speckled Piculet, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Blue-throated and Great Barbets, Lesser Yellownappe, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Mountain Bulbul and Rufous-breasted Accentor.

On our last morning at Nainital we birded the outskirts of the town, where one of the first birds we spotted was a gorgeous Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl that gave us amazing close-up views. This was apparently one of the few, if not the first, records of the species in the Nainital area! Soon afterwards we had great views of a pair Common Hill Partridge, a flock of 20 Brown Bullfinches, a species only rarely encountered on this tour, the badly needed Pink-browed Rosefinch, Vinaceous Rosefinch (a scarce bird on this itinerary) and Golden Bush Robin. In the afternoon we drove down to Kathgodam and took a very comfortable train back to Delhi, where we arrived late in the evening.

Next morning, after breakfast, we drove to Agra, where we visited the Taj Mahal and had a good lunch of delicious skewers and more ice cream than you could eat! After our busy day in the hustle and bustle of Agra we headed back into the dusty, colourful Indian countryside, and the charming Chambal Safari Lodge, arriving in time for late afternoon birding around the lodge grounds. A short spot lightning session later in the evening produced decent views of a Common Palm Civet for us.

We headed for the famous Chambal River early next morning with high hopes. A couple of short walks 'in the bandit country' close to the river produced, among other things, several Jungle, Grey-breasted and Ashy Prinias, a flock of Jungle Bush Quails, a very showy Sulphur-bellied Warbler, our first, and much awaited Common Babblers and Brahminy Starlings, Blue Rock Thrush and White-eared Bulbul. Once at the river, we boarded our boat and began a peaceful, thoroughly enjoyable, cruise on a perfect sunny morning, enjoying good, relaxed birding, and seeing Lesser Whistling Ducks, Bar-headed Geese, Knob-billed Ducks, Ruddy Shelducks, several Great Stone-curlews, River Lapwings, Little Ringed Plovers, Temminck's Stints, a single Long-legged Buzzard, two Pallas's Gulls, a single of the scarce and declining Black-bellied Tern, our first Striated Heron, a pair of Sand Larks, a breeding colony of Streak-throated Swallow, plus, of course, we also had marvellous views of 30 bizarre, but still elegant Indian Skimmers, that are the main reason for visiting the site. In addition to these avian delights, we had great views of Golden Jackal, Indian Tent Turtle, Indian Soft Shell Turtle, many Gharials (narrow snouted fish-eating crocodile) and Mugger Crocodiles, plus typically brief view of two Ganges River Dolphin. Back at the lodge we enjoyed a good lunch before heading for Bharatpur and our luxury heritage hotel.

Bharatpur, officially known as Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a former hunting ground for the maharajas of Bharatpur and their guests, consists of 28 square kilometres of managed wetlands and drier, savanna type habitats and is a true birdwatcher's paradise. We spent two days with our local guide in this world-famous birding hot spot either on foot or bicycle rickshaw checking a number of sites. Due to the rather late date of our visit, the number of wintering ducks had already decreased and some of the scarcer wintering birds had begun their journey further north. Nevertheless we enjoyed a lot of brilliant birding and, in addition to many ducks, herons, egrets and waders, we had already seen earlier on the trip, we saw a number of other interesting species including several Sarus Cranes, two Grey-headed Lapwings (a very scarce bird here), Greater Painted-snipe, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas, Indian Shag, Black Bittern, many Greater Spotted Eagles and one Indian Spotted Eagle, a first-winter Pallas's Fish Eagle (a rarity here) and, after a lot of searching, a Dusky Eagle-Owl, Eurasian Wryneck, several Clamorous Reed, Blyth's Reed and Syke's Warblers, a splendid Siberian Rubythroat, a few Bluethroats, Yellow-throated Sparrows and Indian Silverbills. During our last morning in Bharatpur, we visited an area of wasteland, not far from the town, for dry country species seeing Indian Courser, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Indian Bush Lark and Tawny Pipit. From Bharatpur we continued by bus, partly along the brand new, virtually empty, 8-lane Delhi-Mumbai highway to Sawai Madhopur, arriving in the early evening. On the way we stopped at a roadside wetland,

which was thronged with birds, including our first Great Crested Grebe and 200 Greater Flamingos.

We spent the next four nights at our comfortable resort close to Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, which is dubbed as the Tiger capital of the world as it is one of the most reliable places in India to see Tiger. During our stay we did a total of six game drives in the park, and we were very successful in achieving our main objective of seeing the magnificent Tiger. All and all we had four encounters of a total of five individuals. Other great mammal sightings included a magnificent Leopard, a mama Sloth Bear with two very small cubs, and Indian Grey and Ruddy Mongoose. Naturally the park is also packed with food for the big cats, including hundreds of Chital (Spotted Deer), and smaller numbers of Wild Boar, Sambar, Nilgai and Chinkara (Indian Gazelle). We also encountered Indian Hares, many Five-striped Palm Squirrels, hundreds of Northern Plains Grey Langurs, Rhesus Monkeys, and Indian Flying Foxes. Birding is also surprisingly productive in this rather arid area and included species like Painted Spurfowl, several Brown Crakes, Barred Buttonquail, Indian and Great Stone-curlews, Greater Painted-snipe, Painted Sandgrouse, Black Stork, Indian Scops Owl, Dusky Eagle and Brown Fish Owl, Jungle Nightjar, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Brown-capped Pygmy and Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers, Large Cuckooshrike, White-bellied Drongo, White-browed Fantail, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Indian Bush Lark, Dusky Crag Martin, Rufous-fronted Prinia, Tickell's Blue and Taiga Flycatchers and Crested, and White-capped Buntings. Our birding forays outside the park included a productive morning visit to lake Soorwal, where we encountered a number of interesting birds including good numbers of Bar-headed Geese, Knob-billed Ducks, Ruffs, Little Ringed Plovers and Western Yellow Wagtails of the morph beema (a.k.a. Syke's Wagtail). In addition, Kentish Plover, Dunlin, Rock Bush Quail, Eurasian Curlew and Eurasian Whimbrel were new species for the tour, and we also enjoyed great views of Indian Courser, which afforded good photo opportunities. Back at the lodge we had an early lunch before heading back to Delhi and a hotel for a freshen-up and another good meal, after which 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.

BIRDS OF THE TRIP' WINNERS 2023:

1st: Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl

2nd: Tiger

3rd: Plum-headed Parakeet & Ibisbill

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

Bar-headed Goose ♦ *Anser indicus*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Hill Partridge (Common H P) *Arborophila torqueola* Two pairs with great views in Nainital.

Koklass Pheasant ♦ *Pucrasia macrolopha* A pair along the Vinayak road.

Cheer Pheasant ♦ *Catreus wallichii* A pair plus a single male along the Vinayak road.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* Rather common in the north.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Painted Spurfowl ♦ *Galloperdix lunulata* Endemic. Seen well in Ranthambhore.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* Common in Corbett NP.

Grey Francolin *Ortygornis pondicerianus*

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*

Jungle Bush Quail ♦ *Perdica asiatica* A flock of six at the Chambal River.

Rock Bush Quail ♦ *Perdica argoondah* Endemic. A pair at Soor Sarovar near Ranthambhore.

Jungle Nightjar ♦ (Indian J N) *Caprimulgus indicus*

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* Heard-only at the Dhikala camp.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*

White-rumped Spinetail ♦ (W-r Needletail) *Zoonavena sylvatica*

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

Asian Koel (Common K) *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* A new species for this itinerary.

Common Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococyx varius*

Painted Sandgrouse ♦ *Pterocles indicus* A confiding pair in the outskirts of Sawai Madhpur.

Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral P) *Columba [livia] domestica*

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Oriental Turtle Dove (Rufous T D) *Streptopelia orientalis*

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

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

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon ♦ (Y-legged G P) *Treron phoenicopterus*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus*

Brown Crake ♦ *Zapornia akool*

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Sarus Crane ♦ *Antigone antigone*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

Indian Stone-curlew ♦ (I Thick-knee) *Burhinus indicus*

Great Stone-curlew ♦ (G Thick-knee) *Esacus recurvirostris*

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* A singleton at the Kosi River was a nice surprise.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Yellow-wattled Lapwing ◊ *Vanellus malabaricus*

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

White-tailed Lapwing ◊ (W-t Plover) *Vanellus leucurus*

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* A new bird for this itinerary.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Indian Courser ◊ *Cursorius coromandelicus*

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*

Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* A flock of 30 at the Chambal River. Brilliant!

Pallas's Gull (Great Black-headed G) *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*

Lesser Black-backed Gull ♦ (Steppe G) *Larus [fuscus] barabensis*

River Tern ♦ *Sterna aurantia*

Black-bellied Tern ♦ *Sterna acuticauda* A singleton at the Chambal River.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Woolly-necked Stork (Asian Woollyneck) *Ciconia [episcopus] episcopus*

Black-necked Stork ♦ *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*

Indian Cormorant ♦ (I Shag) *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Red-naped Ibis ♦ (Indian Black I) *Pseudibis papillosa*

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

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*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* Resident *ginginianus* and wintering nominate.

Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental H B) *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Himalayan Vulture ◊ (H Griffon V) *Gyps himalayensis*

Red-headed Vulture ◊ *Sarcogyps calvus* Only one sighting, in Corbett NP.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*

Indian Spotted Eagle ◊ *Clanga hastata*

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Black Kite (Black-eared K) *Milvus [migrans] lineatus*

Black Kite (Pariah K) *Milvus [migrans] govinda*

Pallas's Fish Eagle ◊ *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* Several birds in Corbett NP. In addition, a first-winter bird in Bharatpur, which was a pleasant surprise.

Lesser Fish Eagle ◊ *Haliaeetus humilis*

Himalayan Buzzard ◊ *Buteo refectus*

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Brown Boobook (B Hawk Owl) *Ninox scutulata*

Collared Owlet *Taenioptynx brodiei* Heard-only.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Jungle Owlet ♦ *Glaucidium radiatum* Heard-only.

Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* Heard-only.

Indian Scops Owl ♦ *Otus bakkamoena*

Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl ♦ (Forest E-O) *Bubo nipalensis* We enjoyed brilliant views of two birds.

Dusky Eagle-Owl ♦ *Bubo coromandus* One in Bharatpur and a second one at Ranthambhore for some of the group.

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* Two encounters, first a pair near Sattal and then one in Ranthambhore.

Tawny Fish Owl ♦ *Ketupa flavipes* A total of three in Corbett NP.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* One roosting bird in Sattal.

Eurasian Hoopoe (Common H) *Upupa epops*

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* Heard-only.

Indian Grey Hornbill ♦ *Ocyrceros birostris*

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

White-throated Kingfisher (W-breasted K) *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Asian Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*

Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens*

Brown-headed Barbet ♦ *Psilopogon zeylanicus*

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus*

Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiaticus*

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker ♦ (Indian P W) *Yungipicus nanus*

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (G-c W) *Yungipicus canicapillus*
Brown-fronted Woodpecker ◊ (B-f Pied W) *Dendrocoptes auriceps*
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker ◊ (Y-fronted Pied W) *Leiopicus mahrattensis*
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
Himalayan Woodpecker ◊ (H Pied W) *Dendrocopos himalayensis*
Greater Yellownappe *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*
Lesser Yellownappe *Picus chlorolophus*
Streak-throated Woodpecker ◊ *Picus xanthopygaeus*
Scaly-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus*
Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*
Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*
Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* Heard-only.
Common Kestrel (Eurasian Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
Slaty-headed Parakeet ◊ (Himalayan P) *Psittacula himalayana*
Plum-headed Parakeet ◊ *Psittacula cyanocephala*
Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
Alexandrine Parakeet ◊ *Psittacula eupatria*
Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri*
Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (Pied F-S) *Hemipus picatus*
Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*
Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*
Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

White-browed Shrike-babbler ◊ *Pteruthius aeralatus* Himalayan Shrike-babbler (*Pteruthius riplei*) is now lumped back with *Pteruthius aeralatus* under the name White-browed Shrike-babbler.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* Heard only.

Indian Golden Oriole ◊ *Oriolus kundoo*

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

White-bellied Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus caerulescens*

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*

Indian Paradise Flycatcher ◊ *Terpsiphone paradisi*

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Black-headed Jay ◊ (Lanceolated J) *Garrulus lanceolatus*

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha*

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Indian Jungle Crow ◊ *Corvus culminatus*

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus*

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*

Coal Tit ◊ (Spot-winged T) *Periparus [ater] melanolophus*

Cinereous Tit (Grey T) *Parus cinereus*
Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
Himalayan Black-lored Tit ◊ (B-l Tit) *Machlolophus xanthogenys*
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark ◊ (A-c Finch-L) *Eremopterix griseus*
Indian Bush Lark ◊ *Mirafra erythroptera*
Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
Sand Lark ◊ *Alaudala raytal*
Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*
Mountain Bulbul *Ixos maclellandii*
Black Bulbul ◊ (Himalayan B B) *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*
Himalayan Bulbul (White-cheeked B) *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
Grey-throated Martin (G-t Sand M) *Riparia chinensis*
Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor*
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
Streak-throated Swallow ◊ (Indian Cliff S) *Petrochelidon fluvicola*
Nepal Cupwing ◊ *Pnoepyga immaculata* Brilliant views of one in the Kumeria area.
Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*
Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus*
Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*
Black-throated Bushtit (Red-headed Tit, B-t Tit) *Aegithalos concinnus*
Buff-barred Warbler (Orange-b Leaf W) *Phylloscopus pulcher*
Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Lemon-rumped Warbler (L-r Leaf W) *Phylloscopus chloronotus*

Sulphur-bellied Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus griseolus*

Common Chiffchaff (Siberian C) *Phylloscopus [collybita] tristis*

Whistler's Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus whistleri*

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*

Clamorous Reed Warbler ◊ (Indian R W) *Acrocephalus [stentoreus] brunnescens*

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Sykes's Warbler ◊ *Iduna rama*

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

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

Himalayan Prinia *Prinia crinigera*

Rufous-fronted Prinia ◊ *Prinia buchanani*

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Delicate Prinia ◊ *Prinia lepida* Heard-only.

Jungle Prinia ◊ *Prinia sylvatica*

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* A new bird for this itinerary.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Eastern Orphee Warbler *Curruca crassirostris*

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

Indian White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Black-chinned Babbler ◊ *Cyanoderma pyrrhops*

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Erythrogenys erythrogenys*
Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*
Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata*
Streaked Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron lineatum*
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (Red-headed L) *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*
Rufous Sibia ◊ *Heterophasia capistrata*
Blue-winged Minla *Actinodura cyanouroptera*
Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*
Large Grey Babbler ◊ *Argya malcolmi*
Jungle Babbler *Argya striata*
Common Babbler ◊ *Argya caudata*
Striated Babbler ◊ *Argya earlei*
White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush ◊ *Ianthocincla rufogularis*
White-throated Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus albogularis*
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*
White-tailed Nuthatch ◊ *Sitta himalayensis*
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris*
Bar-tailed Treecreeper ◊ *Certhia himalayana*
Bank Myna ◊ *Acridotheres ginginianus*
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Indian Pied Myna *Gracupica contra*
Brahminy Starling ◊ *Sturnia pagodarum*
Rosy Starling (Rose-coloured S) *Pastor roseus*
Long-billed Thrush ◊ (L-b Ground-T) *Zoothera monticola*
Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul*
Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*
Indian Robin ◊ *Copsychus fulicatus*

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*
Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*
Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*
Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Himalayan Rubythroat ♢ *Calliope pectoralis*
Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*
Himalayan Bluetail (H Red-flanked Bush Robin) *Tarsiger rufilatus*
Golden Bush Robin ♢ *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*
Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*
Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
Ultramarine Flycatcher ♢ *Ficedula superciliaris*
Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*
Taiga Flycatcher (Red-throated F) *Ficedula albicilla*
Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Blue-capped Redstart ♢ *Phoenicurus coeruleocephala*
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*
Plumbeous Water Redstart (Plumbeous R) *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
White-capped Redstart (River Chat, W-c Water R) *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*
Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus*
Brown Rock Chat ♢ *Oenanthe fusca*

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Buff-bellied F) *Dicaeum ignipectus*
Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*
Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*
Black-throated Sunbird (B-breasted S) *Aethopyga saturata*
Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*
Yellow-throated Sparrow (Chestnut-shouldered Petronia) *Gymnoris xanthocollis*
Sind Sparrow ◊ *Passer pyrrhonotus*
Russet Sparrow (Cinnamon S) *Passer cinnamomeus*
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Indian Silverbill ◊ *Euodice malabarica*
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*
Altai Accentor ◊ *Prunella himalayana*
Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiatea*
Black-throated Accentor ◊ *Prunella atrogularis*
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Western Yellow Wagtail (Sykes's W) *Motacilla [flava] beema*
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
White Wagtail (White W) *Motacilla [alba] alba*
White Wagtail ◊ (Masked W) *Motacilla [alba] personata*
White Wagtail (Amur W) *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis*
White Wagtail (Himalayan W) *Motacilla [alba] alboides*
White-browed Wagtail ◊ *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Upland Pipit ◊ *Anthus sylvanus*

Brown Bullfinch ◊ *Pyrrhula nipalensis*

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet R) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Pink-browed Rosefinch ◊ *Carpodacus rodochroa*

Vinaceous Rosefinch ◊ *Carpodacus vinaceus*

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch ◊ (Himalayan G) *Chloris spinoides*

Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami*

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

White-capped Bunting ◊ *Emberiza stewarti*

Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata*

MAMMALS

Leopard *Panthera pardus* We had an excellent male in Ranthambhore NP.

Tiger *Panthera tigris* Five encounters with great views!

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

Indian Grey Mongoose (Common M) *Urva edwardsii*

Ruddy Mongoose *Urva smithii*

Golden Jackal (Common J) *Canis aureus*

Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus* A mama bear with two small cubs in Ranthambhore.

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*

Spotted Deer (Chital) *Axis axis*

Hog Deer *Axis porcinus*

Northern Red Muntjac (Indian M) *Muntiacus vaginalis*

Sambar Deer *Rusa unicorn*

Nilgai (Blue Bull) *Boselaphus tragocamelus*

Chinkara (Indian Gazelle) *Gazella bennettii*

Himalayan Goral (Goral) *Naemorhedus goral*

Ganges River Dolphin* (Ganges D) *Platanista gangetica*

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

Northern Plains Gray Langur *Semnopithecus entellus*

Tarai Gray Langur (Terai G L) *Semnopithecus hector*

Nepal Gray Langur *Semnopithecus schistaceus*

Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis*

Indian Hedgehog *Paraechinus micropus* New mammal for this tour.

Five-striped Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii*

REPTILES

Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*

Marsh Mugger *Crocodylus palustris*

Indian Tent Turtle *Pangshura tentoria*

Indian Soft Shell Turtle *Nilssonina gangetica*

BUTTERFLIES (compiled by John Kern)

Common Mormon *Papilio polytes*

Old World Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Lime Swallowtail *Papilio demoleus*

Glassy Bluebottle *Graphium cloanthus*

Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae*

Indian Cabbage White *Pieris canidia*

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*

Lined Grass Yellow *Eurema laeta*

Lemon Migrant *Catopsilia pomona*

White Migrant *Catopsilia pyranthe*

Hill Jezebel *Delias belladonna*

Dark Clouded Yellow *Colias fieldii*
Pioneer White *Belenois aurota*
White Arab *Colotis phisadia*
Small Salmon Arab *Colotis amata*
Little Orange-Tip *Colotis etrida*
Common Gull *Cepora nerissa*
White Orange-Tip *Ixias marianne*
Yellow Orange-Tip *Ixias pyrene*
Striped Albatross *Appias libythea*
Common Crow *Euploea core*
Blue-spotted Crow *Euploea midamus*
Glassy Tiger *Parantica aglea*
Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*
Blue Tiger *Tirumala limniace*
Common Glider *Neptis Sappho*
Chocolate Pansy *Junonia iphita*
Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*
Lemon Pansy *Junonia lemonias*
Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana*
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
Indian Red Admiral *Vanessa indica*
Dark Blue Tiger *Tirumala septentrionis*
Indian Tortoiseshell *Aglais caschmirensis*
Mountain Tortoiseshell *Aglais rizana*
Common Castor *Ariadne merione*
Tawny Caster *Acraea terpsicore*
Common Three-Ring *Ypthima asterope*
Common Four-Ring *Ypthima huebneri*

Common Five-Ring *Ypthima baldus*
Pale Grass Blue *Pseudozizeeria maha*
Dark Grass Blue *Zizeeria karsandra*
Tiny Grass Blue *Zizula hylax*
Common Quaker *Neopithecops zalmora*
Tailless Lineblue *Prosotas dubiosa*
Sorrel Sapphire *Heliophorus sena*
White-bordered Copper *Lycaena panava*
Common Copper *Lycaena phlaes*
Tailed Cupid *Everes agriades*
Brown Argus *Arcia agestis*
Pale Hedge Blue *Udara dilectus*
Pointed Pierrot *Tarucus indica*
Striped Pierrot *Tarucus nara*
Punchinello *Zemeros flegyas*
Rice Swift *Borbo cinnara*
Indian Palm Bob *Suastus gremius*