

# BIRDSEEKERS

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ATOL 6156

## EASTERN HIMALAYAS – Feb - 2006

353 Bird Species recorded

Checklist starts on Page

12

Leaders Nick Bray & Peter Lobo

### Day 1 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February

After an overnight journey from London's Heathrow Airport, our delayed Gulf Air flight eventually arrived in Oman some 6 hours later than scheduled, at 4.30am. This meant that we had missed our connecting flight to Kolkata, and would have to spend the rest of the day around Muscat, so losing the first day of the tour to the Eastern Himalayas. A hotel was quickly arranged, and as luck would have it there was a small wadi right next door, so in true British style we just got on with things and spent a couple of hours birding before breakfast, and managed to turn up a few goodies. The wadi was sparsely dotted with Acacia trees, and searching of these proved worthwhile with **Humes's Lesser Whitethroat** preceding a **Desert Lesser Whitethroat** which showed extremely well. Noisy **Graceful Prinias** sang all around, and were accompanied by the distinctive call of **Grey Francolins**, several of which were seen. The telegraph wires running through the wadi were adorned with **Little Green Bee-eaters** of the *Cleopatra* race, their distinctive blue throats literally glowing in the morning's sunshine. Meanwhile, a noisy gang of about 12 **Arabian Babblers** moved around what appeared to be a leaky pipe situated under a bush, and we watched them for a while acting much in the fashion of the avian equivalent of a bunch of hooligans! With numerous **Laughing Doves**, several **Rock Martins**, **Indian House Crow**, **Common Mynas** and **Purple Sunbirds** to look at we were soon running late for breakfast.

As you can imagine we were pretty shattered by now, so spent the rest of the morning and early afternoon catching up with some sleep, before jumping into a couple of taxis and heading down to the beach. The tide was way out, and this seemed to encourage numerous gull species to descend and loaf around the shallows. There was a constant movement of birds along the coast, and much to everyone's delight **Sooty Gulls** seemed to be quite common, as were **Slender-billed Gulls**, and after we had finished watching these turned our attention to a flock of large gulls roosting nearby. At least two species were present, and they seemed pretty confident allowing us to approach quite closely, with **Steppe** and **Heuglin's Gulls** being confidently identified. A partially submerged rocky outcrop held an **Osprey**, and there were also both **Greater** and **Lesser Crested Terns** roosting side by side, with some close individuals along the tide line. As we walked along the sandy beach a flock of waders flew in and landed in front of us, and they turned out mainly to be **Lesser Sand Plovers**, with a few **Kentish Plovers** as well. Leaving here we drove to a small park bordering a huge

harbour and took a leisurely walk, finding **Egyptian Vulture**, **Alexandrine Parakeet**, **Indian Roller**, **Yellow-vented** and **Red-vented Bulbuls**, and both a brief **Steppe Grey** and much more obliging **Isabelline Shrike**. With the light beginning to fade we headed over to the harbour, seeing **Indian Pond-heron**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Common Kingfisher**, as well as 10+ non-breeding **Sooty Gulls** perched on the rocks below us. So we returned to the hotel, for dinner and a nap before transferring the short distance to Muscat Airport, and the next stage of our incredible and crazy re-routed journey.

### **Day 2 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

We were booked on an early flight to Bangalore (which was also late taking off!) before we could finally say goodbye to Gulf Air and hitch up with Jet Airways. On arrival at Bangalore, 3 of our cases did not arrive, and then our flight to Kolkatta was 2 hours late taking off, which put our connecting flight in jeopardy to Guwahati. As it turned out the same plane would eventually take us to Guwahati where our guide, Peter Lobo was waiting to greet us. After a little less than 3 hours drive, a very tired bunch of birders arrived at a nice hotel in the former hill station of Shillong, in the state of Meghalaya. Hooray!

### **Day 3 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

So after all the disasters of the preceding days, everyone was up early and looking forward to finally getting out and birding in North-east India. A short drive took us to the start of the old Shillong-Guwahati road, at just over 4,000 feet, where the road winds its way down 8 kilometres to a large reservoir, passing through some dense stands of primary forest, surprisingly Pine woodland, as well as mixed forest. So plenty of good habitat to work, and having already clocked up the very common **Eastern Jungle Crow** (now split from **Large-billed Crow**) from our hotel, we got into some really good birds, such as **Pied Flycatcher-shrike** (formerly called **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike**) and **Verditer Flycatcher** before getting our first glimpses of **Yellow-browed** and **Grey-faced** (formerly called **Ashy-throated**) **Leaf-warblers**. In fact over the course of the day we had many encounters with these warblers, often at very close quarters, with one flock comprising both species, plus several **Lemon-rumped** and **Orange-barred** (formerly called **Buff-barred**) **Warblers** and probably totalled 60+ birds. It's quite a challenge identifying these little sprites whizzing around in front of you! Walking slowly downhill, it became apparent that **Himalayan Black Bulbul** (split now with **Square-tailed Black Bulbul**) was exceedingly common, and that every flowering Bombax tree was positively dripping with these raucous birds. Having not walked more than a couple of hundred metres we came across a flock of absolutely superb **Silver-eared Mesias** foraging below us and giving wonderful views – the field guides definitely don't do this bird justice. As we watched this flock, a couple of **Nepal Fulvettas** joined them briefly, meanwhile from the dense forest below a **Long-tailed Broadbill** called repeatedly without showing itself. Probably one of the best birds of the day turned out to be **Grey Sibia**, with our first ones watched feeding amongst the red flowers of a Bombax tree. In all we probably saw over 25 individuals today and this key species was not to be recorded anywhere else on the trip. We also passed a rubbish tip that had dozens of **Black Kites** flying over, with several **Black-eared Kites** (race *Lineatus*) also seen.

Further on, an eclipse male **Fire-tailed Sunbird** showed in a leafless tree, as did a flock of **Oriental White-eyes**, and the decision was taken to have our packed breakfast here. A good move as it turned out, because a flock of **Striated Yuhinas** flew in and gave very close views for several minutes before departing rapidly. Continuing downhill, **Blue-throated Barbet**, the first of several **Blue-winged Minlas**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Grey-hooded**

**Warbler** and **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** were all seen well. As we walked through a section of pine forest, we finally nailed **Black-spotted Yellow Tit** (formerly called **Yellow-cheeked Tit**), and also had several **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches** at the same spot. The lower section of the road is criss-crossed by several narrow ravines, all of which held good and often skulky birds but at the first one of these we found a male **White-browed Shrike-babbler**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**, brief **White-bellied Yuhina** and a pair of **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrushes**, before a pair of **Blue-bearded Bee-eaters** appeared just around the corner. Unfortunately a **Streaked Wren-babbler** only showed briefly at the next ravine and a **Puff-throated Babbler** remained a distant sound in the forest above us. A few hundred metres down at the next ravine, a **Chestnut-headed Tesia** remained typically elusive, giving just the briefest of glimpses, but a **Spotted Forktail** at the same spot was much more obliging.

So by now it was lunchtime, and we drove down to Unimani Reservoir and had a picnic, after which a quick perusal of the area gave us **Great Crested**, **Black-necked** and **Little Grebes**, **Great Cormorant**, **Black Stork**, **Osprey**, **Common Stonechat**, **White-browed** and **White Wagtail** of the race *Dukhenensis*, and a nice little **Rosy Pipit**. The journey back up the hill turned out to be pretty quiet in the afternoon sunshine, but by walking certain sections and jumping in the 4 wheel drives to get to the best spots, we still enjoyed nice views of many of the same species as this morning before returning to the hotel by 5pm for an early shower and time to relax.

#### **Day 4 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

Left at 5.30am and drove the 50 kilometres to Cherrapunjee across barren moorland, stopping at a viewpoint where a thick mist had descended, and which would hamper our birding until late afternoon. Peter led us down a narrow and decidedly tricky path to the valley floor where we tried in vain for the mystical **Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler**, and in fact only heard **Common Hill** and **Rufous-throated Partridges**, and both **Himalayan Aberrant** and **Strong-footed** (formerly called **Brownish-flanked**) **Bush-warblers**. The hour or so spent here was decidedly frustrating, especially when we got caught in a heavy downpour that led to us leaving a close female **Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush** and retreating to the vehicles where we consumed our packed breakfast. With just a couple of **Oriental Turtle Doves** to show for our hard work we decided to drive on through the rain, which fortunately cleared for a brief time, allowing the sun to come out which enticed **Orange-barred** and **Grey-faced Leaf-warblers**, and several **Grey-hooded Warblers** into a burst of activity next to us, before a little further along the same road we came across an unusual small flock containing 3 **Grey Bushchats**, **Common Stonechat**, **Grey-hooded Warbler** and a **Eurasian Wryneck**. They were moving quite quickly along the hillside, and as we followed them a **Little Bunting** flew in to join them briefly, as did a few **Olive-backed Pipits**. Moving on, the surrounding scenery of steep sided valley, moorland and dense scrub covered slopes again became shrouded in an impenetrable mist, but we still managed to glimpse a **Mountain Bulbul**, lots of **Rosy Pipits**, and a **White-wagtail** of the race *leucopsis*.

Eventually we reached Cherrapunjee, home of **Dark-rumped Swift** – but not today, as apart from a few exceedingly brief interludes the entire area was covered in mist. So we ate our packed lunch, and waited and waited, but to no avail and by mid-afternoon we decided to call it quits and find some sunnier spots. After a day of frustrating glimpses and little bird activity I think we had earned a lucky break, so when a **Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler** started calling 200 metres downhill from us it was only fair that it should zoom to within 6 metres of us after a little enticing. This very range-restricted endemic soon made its way onto everyone's life lists with a string of close-up views that made the previous hours hard work

consigned to the history books! What a bird it was, and I think we all felt privileged to be able to watch such a rarity in a totally new area and also in the supposedly wrong habitat. As if that wasn't enough, another bird began calling from the other side of the road just as we were about to leave. Wow! So one target species down, just one more to go and we returned to the viewpoint where within minutes we were watching a flock of around 40 **Crested Finchbills** feeding directly below us on some fruiting trees. Now after spending so many hours around Cherrapunjee searching for this bird, and more or less feeling we had dipped, our elation at getting to grips with it was understandable. The flock moved across the narrow sided valley and back again, allowing us superb views and a great photographic opportunity as well. As we were watching these, several **Eurasian Crag-martins** were seen, as well as a **Blue Whistling-thrush** and a **White-capped River-chat** (formerly called **White-capped Water-redstart**); but no matter what you call it, it's still a stunning bird! So now we could relax and stood at the overlook sipping some most welcome tea before heading back to the hotel, but not before a male **Blue Rock-thrush** flew in and landed nearby to round the day's events off nicely.

### **Day 5 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

We said goodbye to Shillong and drove into Assam, stopping along the way for a cup of tea at a roadside restaurant. With clear blue skies and an insatiable thirst for new birds, we scanned the trees around the car park seeing **Brown Shrike**, **Black-crested Bulbul** and **Coppersmith Barbet**. So we set off along winding roads and by the time we entered Assam the hills of Meghalaya were a distant memory, and we passed flat agricultural land seeing common Indian birds such as **Indian Pond-Heron**, **Little** and **Eastern Cattle Egrets**, and lots of **Black Drongos**. A stop in the bustling town of Nagawm saw us watching two well grown juvenile **Greater Adjutants** on a nest, with a pair of awesome adults circling overhead. A pair of **Lesser Adjutants** perched on a roadside nest a couple of kilometres out of the town, enabled us to make a useful comparison in size and structure.

Eventually in mid-afternoon we reached the wonderful Nameri Eco Camp, where the mature trees surrounding the large safari tents were positively alive with birds. It was too great a temptation to just sit inside and eat our lunch with flocks of **Red-breasted Parakeets** flying around, and **Yellow-footed Green-pigeons** being chased by an **Oriental Hobby**! So we set off on a walk down to the river, seeing **Lesser Hill-myna** and **Lineated Barbet** quite quickly, but a **Long-tailed Broadbill** was just a distant sound once again. The trail that led down to the river was surrounded on either side by low bushes and scattered trees enabling easy viewing, but the **Thick-billed** and **Dusky Warblers** that 'tacked' from inside dense cover didn't really appreciate this fact, and knowing we would get them later didn't give it a really hard try. A troop of **Capped Langurs** nearby made a noisy exit from our vicinity, before we set our scopes up at the river where a **Great Pied Hornbill** and 3 **Wreathed Hornbills** were all perched in a large, leafless tree on the opposite shore. Wow! Apart from the nice view, we saw a pair of **Ruddy Shelducks** on the wide river, with a flock of **Grey-throated Sand-martins** (now split from **Plain Martin**), a few **Small Pratincoles**, a **River Tern** flying over, and a pair of **Pallas's Fish-eagles** distantly on a huge nest. Just as the light began to fade a **Taiga Flycatcher** began calling and was scoped on a bare branch before we began walking back to camp. However, there was still sufficient light to watch a **Small-billed Scaly Thrush** on the path in front of us and a small party of **White-throated Laughingthrushes** nearby, both of which do not usually winter this low down.

### **Day 6 Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

After a night of amazing sounds from the jungle surrounding the camp, including **Brown Hawk**, **Oriental Scops** and **Himalayan Wood Owls**, as well as the alarm calls of **Barking Deer** that were apparently startled by a **Leopard**, we got the day off to a cracking start with a pair of **Great Pied Hornbills** and an **Oriental Hobby** perched in the large tree at the entrance to the camp. Walking along the track towards the river gave us **Mountain Imperial-pigeon** and **Barred Cuckoo-dove** flying over, as well as **Spangled** and **Greater Racket-tailed Drongos**, and a small party of **Common Woodshrikes**. We crossed the snow-fed Jai-Bhoroli River in a dugout canoe, and once on the other side followed a track downriver for a couple of miles. At the Forest Guards house, a female **Blue Rock Thrush** was seen perched on a post, but was totally overshadowed by the **Blue-fronted Redstart** that gave an outstandingly confiding display right in front of us.

Walking along the sandy path bordering the edge of the vast forest we found numerous flocks, the first of which held a very scarce and unexpected **Stripe-breasted Woodpecker**, which preceded a large mixed-species flock containing a ton of leaf-warblers such as **Yellow-browed** and **Grey-faced**. But new for us were the several delightful **Yellow-bellied Fantails**, several **Streaked Spiderhunters** and a **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, whilst a **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** showed well amongst the nearby trees, as did a **Long-tailed Shrike** before we hit another flock. In one tree we had **Golden-fronted** and **Orange-bellied Leafbirds**, several **Crimson Sunbirds** and up to a dozen more spiderhunters, before a **Vernal Hanging-parrot** flew in which led to our discovery of at least 40 of them in one tree, and they were joined by a **Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike** that crept furtively around the densest parts of the canopy before giving itself up to everyone. Further along the path a **Pale Blue Flycatcher** was perched overhead allowing us to scope it, before reaching a good place to look out over the river where several **River Lapwings**, **Temminck's Stint**, and a much-wanted **Long-billed Plover** could be seen, along with a **Plumbeous Water-redstart** nearby. From here, we quietly followed a trail to view a small pond where a pair of extremely secretive **White-winged Ducks** gave brief views before flying away. The same area gave us a soaring **Mountain Hawk-eagle** and a typically skulking **Green-billed Malkoha** before reaching another pool that held a very confiding **Blue-eared Kingfisher**. A cracking **Sultan Tit** was found by Mike near the last pond and we watched in amazement as this stunner flew in and perched right over our heads, before returning to the guard's house where we avidly consumed our picnic lunch, seeing a **Himalayan Giant Squirrel** along the way .

After a rest in the afternoon sunshine, we took a walk to view another pool, seeing several **Oriental Turtle-doves**, more perched **Mountain Imperial-pigeons**, and a tree containing a **Great Pied Hornbill** and 5 **Wreathed Hornbills**. A sobering reminder of the constant dangers of birding this area was given by the huge **Tiger** pug marks that were very, very fresh, and maybe only an hour old. But by now it was getting late so we walked back to the river, where a male **Hen Harrier** flew over the grassland on the opposite bank, and a **Tawny Pipit** was found on the beach to round off another great day's birding.

### **Day 7 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

After breakfast we had a little time spare whilst waiting for the rubber rafts to be loaded on top of the jeeps for our boat trip, so entertained ourselves by watching the **Oriental Hobby** in the big tree once again, and with a **Greater Flameback** that landed close by. But that was nothing to the excitement to come when a flock of **Pin-tailed Green-pigeons** that were attracted to a fruiting tree were joined by a **Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon**, but unfortunately the latter bird disappeared inside the foliage, and we were then distracted by a pair of **Short-billed Minivets**. So eventually we were beckoned to board the jeeps and drove for about 40 minutes upriver before setting off in 3 rubber rafts for an interesting couple of hours floating

the 14 kilometres back down the Jai-Bhoroli River towards camp. Our target bird was seen inside the first quarter of an hour, when a splendid **Ibisbill** was seen perched amongst the boulders, and he was the forerunner of an amazing 27 birds seen this morning. Most of them were grouped within a few hundred metres of each other, feeding in the shallows and we had the most excellent views once the rafts had been grounded and we got out walking closer towards them. It was the perfect setting to see this much-wanted Himalayan species, and we marvelled at their camouflage amongst the grey pebbles and shingle. Wow! Continuing on, we saw plenty of **Common Mergansers** and **Ruddy Shelducks**, as well as **River Tern**, **Osprey**, **Lesser Pied Kingfisher**, a couple more **Great Pied** and 4 **Wreathed Hornbills** flying by, and a lovely **White-capped River-chat**. At one point we grounded the rafts again to watch a large flock of **Small Pratincoles**, before reaching the pick-up point where our vehicles were waiting to take us back to camp.

We had a while to relax until lunch, before which George's missing case arrived just under a week later than it should have! So we said our goodbyes to the staff at the excellent Nameri Eco-Camp and drove for just under 3 hours to our next lodge, stopping on the way to scan from a viewpoint looking out over a small section of Kaziranga National Park. This turned out to be a good move with **Changeable Hawk-eagle**, **Short-toed Snake-eagle**, at least 1 **White-tailed Eagle** and a couple of **Pallas's Fish-eagles** perched along the shore of a narrow river. Then we were treated to a veritable vulture-fest starting with a **Red-headed Vulture** that preceded a party of 3 juvenile **Himalayan Griffons** and a **Slender-billed Vulture** that flew in and landed alongside the same river. Add to this a flock of possibly 5 more **Himalayan Griffons** and another **Red-headed Vulture** circling overhead, and even the most ardent raptor enthusiast would have been satisfied. Further scrutiny across the grassland below produced 20+ **Woolly-necked Storks**, **Rufous Treepie**, **Indian Roller**, and several **Hog Deer**, whilst an **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros** was seen a little later.

On arrival at our lodge we checked in before enjoying a cup of tea, and a quick walk around the gardens produced flocks of **Red-breasted Parakeets**, as well as **Common Tailorbird**, **Great Tit** and our first proper look at a **Grey-backed Shrike**.

### **Day 8 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

An elephant ride across the grasslands of the Central Range in Kaziranga National Park was a good way to start the day. Just before the sun had even risen above the horizon we set off on a couple of elephants, and hadn't gone far when we came across a herd of the endangered **Swamp Deer**, as well as several **Hog Deer** and 3 dozing **Wild Boar**. A few wild **Water Buffalo** were grazing in the distance, but we headed off in a different direction when our mahout spotted a group of **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros**. He manoeuvred us around the rhinos and we were treated to some outstanding close views of these prehistoric creatures, and in all there were 21 present in the immediate vicinity. Amidst all this excitement we also managed to pick out a **Bengal Bushlark** and a brief **White-tailed (Himalayan) Rubythroat**, before driving out of the park. As usual we didn't get far without stopping, this time to admire a **Stork-billed Kingfisher** perched close to the track, and behind us there were 19 **Citrine Wagtails** in one small paddyfield, along with a fine pair of **Grey-headed Lapwings**.

After breakfast at the lodge we returned to the Central Range, seeing a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at the entrance gate and drove along the main track which affords excellent views of the grassland either side and is dotted with trees and pools. A **Striated Grassbird** singing from an exposed perch was a nice find, and from this spot we also picked up a **White**

**Wagtail** of the *Alboides* race and 5 **Tickell's Leaf Warblers** in the tree next to us. Moving along we saw a **Grey-headed Fish-eagle** perched in a large tree before stopping at a big lake which was full of activity. A party of **Ferruginous Ducks** were out in the middle of the water, and were joined by common waterfowl such as **Eurasian Wigeon, Common Teal** and **Gadwall**. Our decision to kill the engines and see what would turn up paid dividends when a herd of 12 **Indian Elephants** appeared out of the jungle, and they provided great entertainment as they bathed and splashed, with several of them totally submerging for several minutes with just their trunks above the water. Leaving here we passed more rhinos and elephants before climbing up to the top of a watch tower where we had a grandstand view of the surrounding area. An adult **Great Spotted Eagle** flew in and landed amongst the short grass below us, and as it sat there a **Hog Deer** walked up and sniffed it! So moving on we heard a **White-tailed Rubythroat**, found a pair of **Spotted Owlets**, and had an immature **Steppe Eagle** soaring overhead, before reaching the next lake and finding a **Black-necked Stork, Bronze-winged Jacana** and a pair of **Whiskered Terns**. Just up the track from here the tall grassland came to an abrupt end and we drove past an area that had obviously been burnt at some stage, when all of a sudden a flock of birds flew in front of us and disappeared into the foot high grass that turned out to be a small group of 8 very welcome **Yellow-breasted Buntings** which included a couple of fine breeding plumage birds. Just around the corner we came across a large flowering Bombax tree that was dripping with mynas, but it was just possible to hear and eventually watch at least 8 beautiful **Spot-winged Starlings**, along with a female **Rosy-headed** (formerly called **Blossom-headed**) **Parakeet** which turned out to be our last good bird before returning to the lodge for lunch.

Before we set off for the Western Range in the early afternoon, a couple of male **Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers** made their way onto our ever growing lists as they chased each other around a tree next to our lodge. Once inside the park we headed to an observation tower overlooking a huge lake and were amazed at the amount of wildlife present. Over 80 **Swamp Deer**, 50+ **Hog Deer**, a few **Wild Boar**, 60+ **Water Buffalo**, 44 **Rhinos** and 22 **Elephants** were scattered across the short grassland in front of us. The birds were equally impressive with big flocks of **Bar-headed Geese**, several **Spot-billed Ducks**, lots of **Northern Lapwings**, 5 **Black-necked Storks**, 4 **Greater Adjutants** and several **Lesser Adjutants**, plus lots of commoner waterfowl and waders. Nearby a few **Chestnut-capped Babblers** played hide and seek in the grassland, as did another **White-tailed Rubythroat**, but 3 **Striated Babblers** decided to walk across the path behind us giving pretty good views.

And the day ended on a high with 4 **Swamp Francolins** showing well as we headed out of this superb park. But I think we were all stunned by the sheer numbers of animals present today, and the final count of 82 **Rhinos** and 47 **Elephants** is noteworthy.

### Day 9 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

Our run of good luck came to an abrupt halt as a torrential downpour overnight resulted in the track to Debeswari Island in the Eastern Range becoming impassable, and resulted in us losing our best chance of **Bengal Florican**. So we birded as far as possible along the track, starting off with our first **Ashy Woodswallow** perched on telegraph wires, and then with a hepatic female **Plaintive Cuckoo** looking rather waterlogged. We were then hit by the first of many showers today, resulting in the canvas roof being rolled back to afford us some shelter, but the rain only lasted a short while. Once the weather had cleared we started picking up new birds, and the habitat here in the Eastern Range was much more wooded than we had experienced to date.

Our next stop was at Sohola Bheel, where through the light mist we managed to see both **Greater and Lesser Adjutants, Black-necked Stork**, quite a few **Grey-headed Lapwings, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Purple Heron**, as well as loads of the commoner wildfowl seen the previous day. It was just a shame that the weather was so poor as this is a great little spot and certainly had the potential to produce several trip ticks, but the mist and fine rain simply obscured the far side of the lake where the bulk of the waterfowl were present. However, we carried on and found a **Black-rumped Flameback** that gave reasonable views in a flowering Bombax tree, just before a pair of **Swamp Francolins** was spotted on the other side of a water-filled channel. But we were still picking up birds all the time and hit a purple patch in a wooded area, starting with several **White-vented Mynas** feeding in some flowering trees, and they were quickly followed by a confiding **Asian Barred Owlet** and a great little **Abbott's Babbler**, with an **Indian Spotted Eagle** perched briefly nearby, a **Great Pied Hornbill** calling from a tree overhead, as well as a **Small Niltava**, several **Green Imperial-pigeons** and 6 **Pin-tailed Green-pigeons**. Once we reached the forest guard's house we were told that the track from here was totally choked with mud, so after a cup of tea and some time spent watching yet more **Spot-winged Starlings** we retraced our route. This time a family of **Indian Smooth-coated Otters** were seen chasing each other in the channel, whilst a small flock of **Spot-billed Pelicans** swam by. A pair of **Oriental Pied Hornbills** was then seen, and both **Grey-headed** and **Pallas's Fish-eagles** showed well before having our picnic lunch at the house of Peter's assistant. It was a great insight into local life to be able to spend time with his family and really see how they live, and you can't fault their hospitality and willingness to make us all feel so welcome.

After lunch we returned to the park, where the ritual of pulling the canvas roofs over the jeeps to evade the frequent showers became second nature! However, we still recorded several **Asian Palm-swifts**, a flock of **Indian Baya Weavers**, and a superb pair of **Kalij Pheasants** feeding along a forested track in the Central Range. The dangers of birding here really hit home when we passed a family of **Indian Elephants** next to the path, with the adults marching towards us, their ears and trunks raised, and stamping their feet. So we sped off, leaving them well and truly alone, stopping in another wooded area and gaining brief views of **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** and **White-rumped Shama**, before passing an aggressive family of **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros** on our way out of the park.

#### **Day 10 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

So after another heavy night of rain the decision was taken to cut our stay at Kaziranga short, as the prospect loomed of the park being closed due to the tracks becoming too muddy and waterlogged. Thanks to Peter we managed to be granted access to Digboi Oil Field Nature Reserve, which had been closed to tourists for several months. But first we took a walk around Panbari Forest Reserve, where at first all we were getting was glimpses of birds flying away or non-responsive calling birds, such as **Rusty-bellied Shortwing** and **Slaty-bellied Tesia**. However, a **Spot-throated Babbler** showed right next to the path, and a flock of **Rosy-headed Parakeets** fed right overhead, with at least two fine males being seen. A couple of **Emerald Doves** picked their way along the track in front of us, whilst a fruiting tree held several **Lineated** and **Blue-throated**, plus our first and only **Blue-eared Barbets** of the trip. As we approached the tea plantation some movement across a small stream led to the sighting of a **Mountain Tailorbird** creeping around a stand of bamboo, but unfortunately a **Yellow-vented Warbler** was only seen by the leaders. Meanwhile, the haunting sound of **Hoolock Gibbon** drifted down from the hillside above. At the edge of the tea plantation we saw a pair of **Small Niltavas, Thick-billed Warbler, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Greater Yellow-nape**, and at least 2 **Large Cuckooshrikes**.

So we returned to the lodge for lunch before embarking on the long drive to Digboi, stopping along the way to view a marshy area that held several **Purple Swamphens**, as well as **Bronze-winged Jacana**, **Grey-headed Lapwing** and a **Lesser Adjutant**. We finally arrived at the hotel in Digboi at 7.30pm, just before the rains returned.

### **Day 11 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

After collecting our armed guards, we entered the Indian Oil Bird Sanctuary at Digboi Oilfields and parked our vehicles near a lake. The habitat turned out to be much better than we expected with dense forest cloaking the derelict pumping platforms which was a haven for birdlife, justifying our decision to pay the area a visit. As we walked to the lake several **Emerald Doves** flew away along a small stream, whilst the first of many **Ashy Bulbuls** was really appreciated – for the time being! At the edge of the lake a surprise find came in the form of a **Lesser Fish-eagle** perched, and even through the mist and drizzle it gave good views through the scope! An even more surprising find was the drake **Falcated Duck** feeding amongst some floating vegetation in the middle of the lake. You have got to admit this is a class act, and we simply lapped up the views of this truly outstanding bird and although it was very shy we were totally in awe of it. Further scanning from here revealed several **Ferruginous Ducks** and a brief male **Rosy Minivet**.

Leaving here we headed into the forest, but were soon stopped by the sound of a laughingthrush flock moving inside the dense canopy nearby. A little patience was required before getting views of several **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes**, who were joined by at least 2 stunning **Common Green Magpies**. The path we followed was quite wide, allowing good viewing of the surrounding forest, and from time to time we utilised the call of **Collared Owlet** to entice in some birds. First of all a scarce **Yellow-vented Flowerpecker** flew in, and it stayed on a bare branch for ages, and along with many **Crimson Sunbirds**, we also had right over our heads **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**, **White-browed Piculet**, **Black-throated Sunbird** and a **Rufous-capped Babbler**. By now we were getting tired of the incredibly numerous **Ashy Bulbuls**, and there were several small parties of skulking **Nepal Fulvettas** that never really gave good views, but a few **Large Woodshrikes** were quite showy as were several **Blue-winged Leafbirds**. Probably the major highlight of the morning's walk was the pair of duetting **Chestnut-backed Laughingthrushes** that gave very good views in the shadows of a dense bush. And our luck was really in when a **Collared Treepie** was scoped several hundred metres away calling from right out in the open on top of a bush. Wow! Following this we saw **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, **Sultan Tit**, **White-bellied Yuhina**, **White-rumped Shama**, **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**, and finally a foraging flock of **White-throated Bulbuls**.

So after a picnic lunch we had to leave this very birdy area, returned to the hotel and picked up our bags and drove to the next hotel in Tinsukia, where we met Malcolm and Granville who would be joining us for the next stage of the trip.

### **Day 12 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

We headed to Dibru-Saikhowa in driving rain shortly before first light, which fortunately eased up once we reached the river and boarded our motorised boat for the trip upriver. A **Himalayan Pied** (formerly called **Crested**) **Kingfisher** flying past was totally unexpected here, but one or two **Citrine Wagtails** was more usual. The Dibru River is quite wide at this point, with lots of floating vegetation and dead trees dotted along the course of our 45 minute

journey, which was paused when a drake **Falcated Duck** was found amongst a group of **Gadwall**, and a little while later when an adult breeding **Pallas's Gull** flew in and landed on the sandy shore nearby. A **Black-shouldered Kite** perched on a riverside tree, along with **Eurasian Griffon** and **Slender-billed Vultures** nearby provided some distraction, as did a **Striated Heron** before we had our first views of **Gangetic River Dolphins**. At a prearranged point we landed and walked into the tall grassland, where despite the heavy showers managed excellent views of a **Jerdon's Babbler** perched on a single grass stem for some time. Walking further inside the grassland, the path we were following was waterlogged so wearing our recently purchased sandals we just waded on through, and duly scored with 3 absolutely superb **Black-breasted Parrotbills**. One bird in particular perched out in plain view allowing everyone magnificent views, and whilst here a **Yellow-bellied Prinia** came in and landed nearby. We then clambered along a narrow trail and sat quietly in an attempt for the ever elusive **Marsh Babbler**, but just as the bird flew in and began singing the heavens opened and it poured down. We stuck to our task but luck just wasn't on our side, as the heavy rain meant the bird just wouldn't come out into the open, and we had to content ourselves with a couple of brief but uncountable views.

So leaving here we sailed back downstream and headed off to an area in search of **Jerdon's Bushchat**. The 3 kilometre walk began with a canoe crossing of a large channel, before we set off across scrubland and into submerged forest which meant we had to wade across several knee deep channels before taking another canoe ride across a deep water channel to Kolomy Camp, seeing **White-rumped Vulture** on the way. Our efforts for the bushchat were in vain, but Granville came up trumps when he spotted a cracking **Pied Falconet** feeding on what looked like a **Yellow Wagtail** at the top of a dead tree. Wow! So we had lunch at the camp before taking a short walk nearby, and this time hearing the **Jerdon's Bushchat** which refused to show, and some compensation came in the form of a pair of **Sultan Tits**, **Changeable Hawk-eagle** and another **Eurasian Griffon Vulture**.

So we returned to the hotel later that afternoon and prepared for the exciting prospect of birding Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **Day 13 Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

We left Tinsukia by 6am and headed on the long drive towards the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, stopping to eat our packed breakfast in a roadside café and enjoying some cups of tea. We stopped off at the Kaziranga Viewpoint, where we saw **Lesser Adjutant**, **Woolly-necked Stork**, **Short-toed Eagle**, and some distant vultures that disappeared behind the trees. Lunch was taken at Nameri Eco Camp, where **Asian Koel** and a female **Daurian Redstart** were both new for our trip so far. We also enjoyed watching the **Oriental Hobby** again, as well as **Red-breasted Parakeets**, **Lineated Barbet** and **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**.

From here it's just a short 23 kilometres to the border crossing into Arunachal Pradesh, and along this road we had 2 **Wreathed Hornbills** flying over, followed by a **Great Pied Hornbill**, some **Ashy Woodswallows** and a **Striated Grassbird**. At the border post we waited for Peter to finalise the paperwork at the police checkpoint, and it was very apparent that we were entering a different region with a real mix of ethnic origins. Once across the border we loaded up with beer and rum (!) before driving along the Bhoroli River through some magnificent scenery comprising densely forested mountainsides to a new lodge overlooking pristine primary forest at 1040 feet. I'm not exaggerating when I say it was a

very excited group of birders who went to bed anticipating the goodies the following morning would bring.

#### **Day 14 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

The morning started with a thick mist enveloping the surrounding area and after an abortive walk uphill due to the rain, we returned to the lodge for breakfast, during which time it rained even harder. From the veranda we watched **House** and **Pacific Swifts**, with several **Himalayan Swiftlets** joining them a little later, whilst in the bamboo below us we saw **Greater Yellow-nape**, **Ashy** and **Himalayan Black Bulbuls**, **Bronzed** and **Greater Racket-tailed Drongos**, **Yellow-bellied Fantail**, and a great little **Yellow-vented Warbler**.

Thankfully the rain eased off and the mist lifted to reveal some breathtaking scenery, so we headed off working from 1040 feet to just under 2000 feet. The road is bordered for a couple of kilometres on either side by dense stands of bamboo, and we found some excellent birds, including the first of 40 **Long-tailed Sibias**, **White-throated Bulbul**, **Long-billed Ground-thrush**, **Spotted Wren-babbler**, **Slaty-bellied Tesia**, **Maroon Oriole** and **Yellow-bellied Warbler**, with Malcolm finding a **Golden-throated Barbet**, before driving over Nepchu Pass (5694 ft) and dropping down to the small village of Tenga (4415 ft). The road wound its way alongside deep-sided valleys, at one point following the Dedza River, which held **White-capped River-chat** and **Plumbeous Water-redstart**, and a pair of **Brown Dippers** at one spot. As we watched these, a female **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** flew into the tree right next to us, with a **Himalayan Buzzard** looking down on us from a perch on the hillside above. Further along Granville picked up a **Himalayan Pied Kingfisher**, before continuing on to Bombilla Pass (8483 ft) to our nice little hotel.

#### **Day 15 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Our first **Green-backed Tit** from the breakfast table this morning heralded the arrival of a small fast-moving flock in the scrub below the hotel. **Bar-throated** (formerly called **Chestnut-tailed**) **Minla** formed the bulk of the numbers, but careful scrutiny revealed a **Rufous-capped Babbler**, as well as **Rufous-winged Fulvetta**, several **Blue-winged Minlas**, and a brief view of what was probably an **Eastern Crowned Warbler**. Our route down through the picturesque valley followed a narrow, fast flowing stream where a **Little Forktail** picking for insects was a good sighting. Whilst here, we also tracked down both **Strong-footed** (formerly called **Brownish-flanked**) and **Grey-sided Bush-warblers**, and a fine male **Daurian Redstart**. A little further along the stream we saw the first of 2 **Wallcreepers** to be seen this morning, before finding a couple of **Rufous-breasted Accentors** frequenting the sparsely covered slopes here, and as we watched them a pair of **Blue-fronted Redstarts** showed well, but a flock of **Red-headed** (formerly called **Black-throated**) **Tits** stayed high up on the hillside above us.

Eventually we reached the marshy area where until 2 days earlier 11 **Black-necked Cranes** had been wintering (!), but a pair of **Long-billed Plovers** and a **Black-tailed Crake** was ample compensation in the warm sunshine. So from here we began the drive towards the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary and our first campsite. As the narrow track began to ascend the side of the mountain we drove through thick mist, and stopped the vehicles when a flock crossed the track in front of us. Several **Rusty-fronted Barwings** were seen amongst the **Bar-throated Minlas**, but a little higher up the mountain we drove above the mist and walked a short distance. What a good move that turned out to be, as we had absolutely crippling views of a **Rufous-throated Wren-babbler** singing on an exposed branch just a few feet away from us! A flock of 8 **Black-chinned Yuhinas** then flew in to inspect our **Collared Owlet** tape, before we reached Lama Camp at 7885 feet. A spectacular view greeted our arrival, as did a **Beautiful Sibia** singing from the top of a nearby tree. That night

**Grey Nightjar** and **Mountain Scops-owl** began calling, but unfortunately a strong wing suddenly sprang up out of nowhere putting paid to any thoughts of some night birding. So we enjoyed a fine meal in the dining tent, complete with copious amounts of Beer and Rum!

### **Day 16 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

After a rather chilly night the morning dawned clear and bright, so after breakfast we began walking along the track full of anticipation as to what the day would bring, but sadly none of us could have possibly anticipated the tragic events that were to unfold later on. We started off with a **Black Eagle** soaring over the nearby trees, followed by a flock of **Yellow-browed Tits** and a brief view of **Black-faced Laughingthrush** and **Long-billed Ground-thrush**. A **Manipur (Streak-throated) Fulvetta** was a good find being well outside its recognised range, and was followed by a **Red-tailed Minla** and **Rufous-vented Yuhina** in a small flock on the slope above us. We continued walking along the track, passing the 8,000 feet point, seeing plenty of **Beautiful Sibias** in the dramatic landscape, but birds were a little thin on the ground for a while. A small flock of 4 **Pacific Swifts** flew by in the clear blue sky, before encountering a flock comprising mainly **Rufous-vented Yuhinas** and many **Mrs Gould's Sunbirds**, but also a pair of skulking **Brown-throated Fulvettas**. Another flock of **Yellow-browed Tits** followed, before we saw a **Yellow-throated Marten** picking its way through the woodland below us. The bamboo zone here turned out to be particularly disappointing and birdless, so we drove a little further in the jeeps before having our picnic lunch. A short walk from here produced a very large flock comprising **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker**, **Stripe-throated**, **Rufous-vented** and **Whiskered Yuhinas**, **Hoary Barwing**, **Fire-capped Tit**, and **White-tailed Nuthatch** amongst all the commoner species previously seen. Our route peaked at the 9000 feet mark before descending towards our next camp, with just a flock of **Coal Tits** for company along the way.

Unfortunately it was here that tragedy struck when John collapsed and died suddenly from what turned out to be a massive heart attack, and despite our best efforts and speedy drive down the mountain to a waiting doctor he never regained consciousness. There are no words I can think of to make sense of this situation, but I suppose he died doing what he loved and I know that he had been really enjoying our Himalayan adventure. We had shared many laughs over the years, many good birds, and some alcohol too; he will be sadly missed by his many friends.

So the tour was brought to an abrupt halt, with Peter and I taking John's body to Guwahati and the rest of the group catching up with us a day later. Everyone was taken aback by the kindness, generosity and humility shown by the local villagers, who looked after our group on their return to Tenga, and their intention to build a memorial to John is a much appreciated gesture. I certainly intend on paying my respects as soon as possible.

There were several more birds seen during the last few days of our tour, but out of respects to John I do not mention them here. Suffice it to say that eventually everyone flew out of Kolkatta and returned to the UK a few days later.

On behalf of the group I would like to say a huge thank you to Peter Lobo for his guidance, support, good humour and enthusiasm. Without Peter's extensive network of contacts, I don't think we could have exited Arunachal Pradesh so quickly and had John so well taken care of.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the group for their patience and understanding in such sad circumstances and I appreciate all their kind words and support.

**Checklist starts on next page -**

**BIRDLIST FOR EASTERN HIMALAYAS**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

SPECIES		SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	At least 15 seen on Uniman Reservoir at the end of the old Shillong-Guwahati.
2.	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	3 seen on Uniman Reservoir.
3.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	2 on Uniman Reservoir
4.	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Quite common at Kaziranga.
5.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Locally common and seen on 7 dates.
6.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Quite common and seen on 11 dates
7.	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Seen on 4 dates at Kaziranga, Digboi and Dibru-Saikhowa.
8.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Not surprisingly was common in

			suitable habitats.
9.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Common in all suitable areas.
10.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Locally common in all likely habitats.
11.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	A recent split from Western Cattle Egret found in Africa and Europe. Seen on 9 dates.
12.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Quite scarce and only seen on 4 dates.
13.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	3 around Sohola Bheel at Kaziranga on 21/2 were the only ones.
14.	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Common in suitable habitats.
15.	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Only a couple seen at Kaziranga on 20/2.
16.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Single on the Dibru River on 24/2 was the only sighting.
17.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Locally quite common, with good numbers observed at Kaziranga.
18.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	20+ seen from the overlook on the drive from Nameri to Kaziranga was the highest total.
19.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1 on Uniman Reservoir, Shillong and 1 at Nameri on 25/2.
20.	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	5 at Kaziranga on 20/2 and 6 there the following day.
21.	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Just a couple seen near Kolkatta at the end of the trip.
22.	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Pair on a nest just outside the town of Nagawn, Assam, were followed by 3 soaring over Nameri and a further 8 sightings followed at various locations.
23.	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	2 adults and 2 Juveniles in the town of Nagawn were our first ones. They were followed by 4 in Kaziranga on 20/2, and a couple there the next day.
24.	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	The sight of a small flock migrating north along the Dedza River at 4415 feet is noteworthy. Apart from that, this species was common at Kaziranga.
25.	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Seen on both days at Kaziranga.
26.	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	500+ near Kolkatta was our only sighting.

27.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	A common sight and sound along the Jai-Bhoroli River at Nameri, and also seen at Dibru-Saikhowa.
28.	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	Just a couple seen amongst the huge congregation of Lesser Whistling-ducks near Kolkatta.
29.	White-winged Duck	<i>Cairina scutulata</i>	A very shy pair observed at Nameri in secluded forested pool unfortunately flew before everyone could see them.
30.	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Seen on 6 dates with the highest count of 16+ at Nameri on 18/2.
31.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Only seen near Kolkatta on 4/3.
32.	Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	A drake at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi gave very good views, with another drake seen on the Dibru River. Interestingly, both were found amongst groups of Gadwall.
33.	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Several flocks seen, and always worth scanning through for the previous species!
34.	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Seen at Kaziranga and along the Dibru River.
35.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Usually seen in company with the previous species and at the same sites.
36.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	8+ on Uniman Reservoir, Shillong were our first, and followed by sightings on a further 4 dates – usually in small numbers.
37.	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Recently split to include Indian and Chinese species. 6 on our first day in Kaziranga were followed by sightings on a further 4 dates.
38.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
39.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Seen on just 2 dates.
40.	Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	8 on our first day in Kaziranga, were followed by 5 there the following day, and also seen at Digboi.
41.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	1 drake at Digboi on 23/2 was the only sighting.
42.	Cotton (Pygmy Goose) Teal	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	12+ seen near Kolkatta on 4/3.
43.	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Or as we know it, Goosander. A common bird along the Jai-Bhoroli River at Nameri.
44.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Single observed along the Dibru River was the only sighting.
45.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans migrans</i>	Dozens over the rubbish tip on the old

			Shillong-Guwahati road, and there followed sightings on a further 5 dates.
	<i>Black-eared Kite</i>	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Several seen over the old Shillong-Guwahati road on 15/2.
46.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Just a couple seen.
47.	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>	A recent split from Common Buzzard. Single along the Dedza River, Arunachel Pradesh was followed by another 2 the following day.
48.	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Single over Nameri, and singles on both days at Kaziranga.
49.	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Seen on just 3 dates.
50.	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Pair from the overlook en-route to Kaziranga from Nameri on 19/2 was followed by another sighting at the same locality on 25/2 as we drove to Arunachel Pradesh.
51.	Mountain Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Single over Nameri on 18/2 was the only one seen on the tour.
52.	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	This species and Crested Hawk-eagle which is found further south in India are a relatively recent split. Singles on 2 dates at Kaziranga, with another at Dibru-Saikhowa.
53.	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Just a couple flying over Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 28/2 wee the only ones seen.
54.	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila hastata</i>	Single in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga on 21/2.
55.	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	A few were seen on our first day in Kaziranga.
56.	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	A 2 <sup>nd</sup> year bird was seen on our first day in Kaziranga.
57.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 on Uniman Reservoir, Shillong was followed by sightings at Kaziranga and Nameri.
58.	Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilil</i>	Just a single sighting at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi.
59.	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	2 seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga and another couple in Eastern Range.
60.	Pallas' Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Distant pair on a nest at Nameri on our first evening there, with further sightings at same site from the rafts. But the views at Kaziranga on both days there were superb.
61.	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Two were seen from the overlook en-route to Kaziranga from Nameri on 19/2.

62.	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	Single observed on the walk to the 'core area' at Dibru-Saikhowa on 24/2.
63.	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	A relatively recent split from Long-billed/Indian Vulture. Single observed en-route to Kaziranga, with at least 2 along the Dibru River on 24/2.
64.	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Only 2 birds were seen, with good views along the Dibru River.
65.	Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Up to 8 seen from the overlook at Kaziranga on the way from Nameri. Heavy snowfall higher up had pushed these birds down here.
66.	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	2 seen at Kaziranga overlook on 19/2.
67.	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Pair at Nameri on 18/2.
68.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A female quartering the marshes near Kolkatta on 5/3.
69.	Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>	Granville found us a cracking individual perched on top of a dead tree at Dibru-Saikhowa, and seemed to have a Yellow Wagtail in its talons.
70.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
71.	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>	1 bird chasing parakeets and green-pigeons around the camp at Nameri was ever present during our stay, and apparently nesting in a large tree at edge of the camp.
72.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Seen at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.
73.	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	This terai grassland specialist is endemic to the Indian Sub-continent. Our highest count was 4 in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga, with 2 in the Central Range the following day. Several birds were heard at Dibru-Saikhowa.
	Common Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	Heard calling from a dense shrub-covered hillside on the way to Cherrapunjee, but was impossible to see.
	Rufous-throated Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>	Heard calling from the same site as the previous species.
74.	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Easily seen at Kaziranga.
75.	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos lathami</i>	Males of this race are dark all over with obvious white scaling on rump and

			uppertail coverts. A pair showed well in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga.
	Grey Peacock-pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	Heard at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
76.	Black-tailed Crake	<i>Porzana bicolor</i>	A single seen with another calling at a regular site on way to Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
77.	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
78.	Purple Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Seen on 3 dates.
79.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
80.	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	A count of 27 made on the Jai-Bhoroli river at Nameri on 19/2 is noteworthy.
81.	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Easily seen at Kaziranga and Digboi.
82.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga.
83.	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	A couple flocks over 100+ on different sections of the Jai-Bhoroli river at Nameri on 19/2 was the highest count.
84.	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	A common sight and sound at all the lowland sites.
85.	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus duvaucelii</i>	The Jai-Bhoroli River provided our only views.
86.	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	10+ seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga on 21/2 was the highest count and seen on 2 further dates.
87.	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	50+ at a large lake in the Western Range at Kaziranga was the highest count.
88.	Common Ringed Plover		A single bird along the Dibru River was a little unexpected being a scarce bird here.
89.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Small numbers at Nameri and along the Dibru River.
90.	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	2 individuals showed very well along the Jai-Bhoroli River at Nameri and another couple near the Shangti Valley, Arunachal Pradesh seemed to be nesting in a marshy area.
91.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
92.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Seen at Kaziranga on 20/2.

93.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
94.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
95.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Just a couple seen at Kaziranga on 20/2.
96.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	At least 6 along the Jai-Bhoroli River at Nameri on 18/2 and several along the Dibru River on 24/2.
97.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Seen on Dibru River on 24/2.
98.	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Only seen on some marshes near Kolkatta.
99.	Great Black-headed or Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	A superb adult in full breeding plumage along the Dibru River.
100.	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	A few seen along the Jai-Bhoroli river at Nameri, and several at Kaziranga.
101.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	A couple seen at Kaziranga.
102.	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Seen on 12 dates.
103.	Green Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	6+ seen in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga on 21/2, with another couple in the Eastern Range the following day.
104.	Mountain Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Common at Nameri.
105.	Oriental Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	2 seen briefly on the old Shillong-Guwahati road, another 5 seen on road to Cherrapunjee, common at Nameri and Kaziranga, and also seen in Shangti Valley.
106.	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
107.	Barred Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	Flock of 5 flew over us at Nameri NP.
108.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	A few seen at Panbari and Digboi.
109.	Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenura</i>	Single in a flock of Pin-tailed Green-

			pigeons at a fruiting tree at Nameri Eco-Camp.
110.	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron p. phoenicoptera</i>	Seen at Nameri and Kaziranga.
111.	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>	Flock of 20+ feeding in the fruiting tree at Nameri Eco Camp. Also seen at Kaziranga and Panbari.
112.	Vernal Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	40+ in a fruiting tree at Nameri.
113.	Rosy-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>	Formerly called Blossom-headed Parakeet. Female in the central range at Kaziranga was followed by a male and two females at Panbari.
114.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
115.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Only seen at Kaziranga.
116.	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	Very common at Nameri and Kaziranga. Also seen at Digboi.
117.	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	Female at Kaziranga on 21/2.
118.	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	A female at Nameri Eco-camp on 25/2.
119.	Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococyx varius</i>	Endemic to Indian Sub-continent. Only seen in the botanical gardens at Kolkatta.
120.	Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	Single at Nameri National Park.
121.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	A few seen at Kaziranga.
122.	Brown Hawk-owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Single at Nameri Eco Camp on 18/2.
	Oriental Scops-owl	<i>scops sunia</i>	Heard both nights at Nameri Eco Camp.
	Mountain Scops-owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	Heard on our first night in Arunachel Pradesh.
123.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Pair seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga.

124.	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Common at Nameri National Park and also seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga.
	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	Heard on our first evening at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, although remained quite distant.
	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>	This species has been split from Indian Jungle Nightjar which is found in Peninsular India. Heard on our first evening at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
125.	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensi</i>	Seen on 4 dates at widespread localities.
126.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	A small flock hawking for insects low over the grassland at Dibru-Saikhowa.
127.	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>	There were several small flocks on our first full day in Arunachal Pradesh.
128.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Seen on a few dates.
129.	Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Seen on 2 dates at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
130.	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias b benghalensis</i>	Common around Kaziranga, and also seen at Dibru-Saikhowa.
	'Black-billed' Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis affinis</i>	A few seen at Kaziranga appeared to have the plain dark face and dark upperparts of this race.
131.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Seen at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.
	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	Seen by the leader at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
132.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Several seen at Kaziranga and at the botanical gardens in Kolkatta.
133.	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Seen on 10 dates at various sites.
134.	Himalayan Pied (Crested) Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	A surprising observation along the Dibru River, followed by a pair along the Dedza River, Arunachal Pradesh.
135.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	5 seen from the rubber rafts along the Jai-Bhoroli river at Nameri NP, with several at Kaziranga, but our highest count of 6 were along the Dibru River.
136.	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	Single seen at Nameri National Park on 18/2.

137.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
138.	Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	The Central Range at Kaziranga was the only place this species was seen.
139.	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	A pair seen in flowering Bombax tree along the old Shillong-Guwahati road was followed by brief views of another in the Eastern Range of Kaziranga.
140.	Great Pied Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	2 seen on our first evening at Nameri National Park in company with 3 Wreathed Hornbills, followed by at least 6 the following day there, and another 2 the following day. Single observed in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga and another flying over on our way into Arunachal Pradesh.
141.	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	Seen briefly on 20/2 in the Central Range at Kaziranga, followed by good views the following day in the Eastern Range. Also seen at Digboi.
142.	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	3 in a tree with a Great Pied Hornbill, and another flying on our first evening at Nameri National Park, with counts of 5 and 4 there on subsequent days. Another 2 flew over the vehicles on our way to Arunachal Pradesh.
143.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Seen on the drive from Shillong to Nameri. Also heard at Kaziranga.
144.	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Easily seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, and at most other lowland sites.
145.	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Megalaima australis</i>	6 in a fruiting tree at Panbari Reserve was a good sighting.
146.	Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	Single in a Bombax Tree at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
147.	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	Relatively abundant at Nameri and Kaziranga.
	Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	Only heard at Shillong, Cherrapunjee and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
148.	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Single along the road to Cherrapunjee.
149.	White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i>	A couple were seen in a mixed-species flock at the Indian Oil Bird Sanctuary at Digboi.
150.	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	1 seen going to roost in a tree stump along the old Shillong-Guwahati road. Several seen at Nameri National Park.
151.	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	Heard along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, but several seen at Nameri and

			Panbari.
152.	Stripe-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus atratus</i>	A scarce bird anywhere in India, single observed at Nameri National Park on 18/2.
153.	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>	Seen in a large flock at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 28/2.
154.	Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	Seen in the tea plantation, Panbari and at our first lodge in Arunachel Pradesh.
155.	Grey-faced Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	Seen in the tea plantation, Panbari on 22/2.
156.	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Seen in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga.
157.	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Singles at Nameri Eco Camp and Kaziranga.
	Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	Heard along the old Shillong-Guwahati road and by Nameri Eco Camp.
	Blue-naped Pitta	<i>Pitta nipalensis</i>	Heard by our lodge at Kaziranga.
158.	Bengal Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	Seen on the elephant ride in the Central Range at Kaziranga, and near Kolkatta.
159.	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Several seen on the outskirts of Kolkatta.
160.	Common Sand-martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga and along the Dibru River.
161.	Eurasian Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonprogne rupestris</i>	At least 8 around the viewpoint on way to Cherrapunjee.
162.	Grey-throated Sand-martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>	A recent split from Plain Martin (Africa). Common at Nameri.
163.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
164.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	4 flew over the old Shillong-Guwahati road, with a small flock flying over the Jai-Bhoroli River on our rafting adventure.
165.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla Flava</i>	Just a couple noted in the marshes near Kolkatta.
166.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Single noted on way to Cherrapunjee on 16/2.
167.	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Common in Kaziranga, with 19 in a small paddyfield on our first day there.

			A few seen the following day with further sightings at Dibru-Saikhowa.
168.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Seen on 3 dates.
	<i>Masked Wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>	Seen on 1 date.
	<i>Black-backed Wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla alba alboides</i>	Seen on 3 dates.
	<i>White-faced Wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla lugens leucopsis</i>	The commonest race present and seen on 6 dates.
169.	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba madaraspatensis</i>	Endemic to Indian Sub-continent. Relatively common and found on 8 dates.
170.	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Seen at Cherrapunjee, Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa and Shangti Valley.
171.	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	First seen on Uniman Reservoir, Shillong, with sightings on a further 5 dates.
172.	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae richardi</i>	Only seen in the fields near Kolkatta on 5/3.
173.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi rufulus</i>	Seen at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kolkatta.
174.	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Single at Nameri National Park on 18/2 was the only sighting.
175.	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	Only seen at Kaziranga on 21/2 and on way to Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary on 25/2.
176.	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	This species has been split to include Ceylon Woodshrike in Sri Lanka. A group of 8 at Nameri on 18/2.
177.	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>	This species has been recently split to include Malabar Woodshrike in SW India. 2 birds at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi was the only sighting.
178.	Pied Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	At least 6 along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, and seen at Digboi and Bombila.
179.	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Single observed at Nameri National Park and within the Eco Camp grounds, plus another at Digboi.
180.	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	2 at Panbari were followed by a single bird on the way to Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
181.	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	Seen Nameri National Park, Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.
182.	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	A few seen at Nameri Eco Camp, and

			Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
183.	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	This species has been recently split to include Orange Minivet in Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. A few seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, were followed by regular sightings at Nameri, Kaziranga, Digboi, Dibru-Saikhowa, and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
184.	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	First seen at Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary on 26/2.
185.	Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	Male at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi.
186.	Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>	Single observed in a flock of Long-tailed Minivets at Dibru-Saikhowa on 24/2.
187.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Seen on 15 dates.
188.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
189.	Himalayan Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	This species has been split to include Square-tailed Black Bulbul in SW India. Exceedingly common along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, and at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
190.	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>	Very common at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi, and in the lower regions of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
191.	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mccllellandii</i>	A couple seen in the mist near Cherrapunjee was the only sighting.
192.	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaveolus</i>	A small flock showed well at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi, and also seen at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
193.	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>	Seen Nameri National Park, Panbari, and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
194.	Crested Finchbill	<i>Spizixos canifrons</i>	A flock of approx 40 seen at a viewpoint on the road to Cherrapunjee.
	Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	Leader only sighting.
195.	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Only seen on 3 dates, but was pretty common at Nameri, and seen in all the large flocks.
196.	Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Seen Nameri National Park, Digboi, and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
197.	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	Just the one sighting on 18/2 at Nameri.

198.	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	A recent split from Jerdon's Leafbird, and boy it sure looks very different. A couple were seen at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary, Digboi on 23/2.
199.	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>	Relatively common at certain localities with sightings on 8 dates.
200.	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	First seen at Kaziranga NP, with sightings on a further 8 dates.
201.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Much scarcer than previous species with sightings only on 3 dates.
	Black-naped Blue Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Heard in Kaziranga, but the bird wouldn't show itself in the rain!
202.	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	Seen Nameri National Park, Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary
203.	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Several of these lively little sprites were seen at Nameri National Park and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
204.	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	One seen along the Dedza River on 26/2.
205.	Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	Pair seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, and a female seen on the way to Cherrapunjee.
206.	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Pair seen at the viewpoint on road to Cherrapunjee, a female at Nameri National Park, and a male at our first lodge in Arunachel Pradesh.
207.	Blue Whistling-thrush	<i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	Seen on way to Cherrapunjee, and at Nameri NP, and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
208.	Small-billed Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	This species has undergone a recent taxonomic review and involves a 3-way split. One in plain view just a few metres from us on the path at Nameri would normally be wintering a lot higher. A recent heavy snowfall could have resulted in this bird moving to lower altitude.
209.	Long-billed Ground-thrush	<i>Zoothera monticola</i>	Single bird in the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary showed to a few members in the group, as did another at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
	Rusty-bellied Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx hyperythra</i>	This extremely skulking species was heard singing in dense undergrowth at Panbari on 22/2.
210.	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	A female at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 1/3 was a good sighting.
211.	Himalayan Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	Formerly called White-tailed Rubythroat. Seen briefly from the elephants, and heard several times in Kaziranga.

212.	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	First heard at Nameri NP, and seen at Kaziranga and Digboi.
213.	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
214.	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>	Just one seen in the Shangti Valley on 27/2.
215.	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	Seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
216.	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris</i>	Female on 2/3 near Tenga.
217.	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>	Female at Nameri Eco Camp on 25/2 and a pair in the Shangti Valley on 27/2.
218.	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	Heard en-route to Cherrapunjee, but seen very well at Nameri and in the Shangti Valley.
219.	Plumbeous Water-redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	Locally common along all fast-flowing rivers in the region.
220.	White-capped River-chat	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Seen along fast flowing rivers but not as common as previous species.
221.	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata maura</i>	All birds seen appeared to be of the race <i>maura</i> , and seen on 11 dates.
	Jerdon's Bushchat	<i>Saxicola jerdoni</i>	After all our efforts, one was heard singing deep inside the grasslands of Dibru-Saikhowa.
222.	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	3 seen on way to Cherrapunjee on 16/2.
223.	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	Locally common with frequent sightings at Shillong, Nameri and Kaziranga.
224.	Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	Singles at Nameri, Kaziranga and Kolkatta.
225.	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Single by the entrance gate to Central Range in Kaziranga showed well.
	Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophhiata</i>	Heard along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
226.	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	Heard along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, and seen briefly in the Central Range at Kaziranga.
	Sapphire Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula sapphira</i>	Seen by the leader only.
227.	Pale-chinned Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>	Seen briefly at Nameri on 18/3.

228.	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	A few seen at Shillong, Nameri and Kaziranga
229.	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	One individual showed extremely well at Nameri NP on 18/3.
230.	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	Finally seen well in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga after several brief glimpses at other localities.
231.	Red-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>	Seen briefly at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
232.	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax affinis</i>	A couple seen at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary
233.	Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax nuchalis</i>	Pair seen well at Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi on 23/2.
234.	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>	A small flock seen at dusk on our first evening at Nameri must have moved down to these lower altitudes due to heavy snowfall higher up.
235.	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	Just a few seen.
236.	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	A large flock at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary, Digboi.
237.	Jerdon's Babbler	<i>Chrysomma altilirostre griseigulare</i>	Good views at Dibru-Saikhowa on 24/2.
238.	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>	3 in the Western Range, Kaziranga were our only ones.
239.	Striped Tit Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>	Seen well at Nameri.
240.	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>	Seen amongst a mixed flock at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary and one in a mixed-species flock at Bombila.
	Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	Heard at Digboi and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
241.	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	3 on the track in Western Range, Kaziranga, on 20/2 were followed by a party of 4 at Dubru-Saikhowa.
242.	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	Endemic to Indian Sub-continent. Seen at the Kolkatta Botanical Gardens on 4/3.
	Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	Heard at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 28/2

243.	Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argenteauris</i>	Common around Shillong, with several large flocks seen numbering around 100+.
244.	Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	An inquisitive flock of 8 at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 27/2.
245.	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	Formerly called White-bellied Yuhina. At least 4 seen at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary, Digboi, and another couple at Bombila.
246.	Striated Yuhina	<i>Staphida castaniceps</i>	A flock of at least 12 flew into roadside trees on the old Shillong-Guwahati road, and a few were also at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
247.	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	Several flocks in the Sessa and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuaries.
248.	Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	Common at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
249.	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>	Common at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
250.	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>	3 seen in the Shangti Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.
251.	Brown-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe ludlowi</i>	A good find at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 28/2.
252.	Manipur Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe manipurensis</i>	Formerly called Streak-throated Fulvetta. A very good find at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, being well out of its usual range.
253.	Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Several skulking flocks seen at Shillong and Digboi.
254.	Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	A flock crossed the track in front of us at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 27/2.
255.	Hoary-throated Barwing	<i>Actinodura nipalensis</i>	An unexpected find at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 28/2.
256.	Grey Sibia	<i>Heterophasia gracilis</i>	Quite common around the Shillong area, with at least 20 seen.
257.	Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	Common in the Sessa Wildlife sanctuary between 1040 – 2000 ft with 40+ birds seen.
258.	Beautiful Sibia	<i>Heterophasia pulchella</i>	A few birds greeted our arrival at Lama Camp on the evening of 27/2.
259.	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyanouroptera</i>	Several seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, with several more seen at Bombila in the mixed-species flock.
260.	Bar-throated Minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>	Formerly called Chestnut-tailed Minla. Very common around Bombila and the lower stretches of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
261.	Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	A single bird noted in a roving flock at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.

262.	White-browed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	A male gave good views along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, with several others heard singing there.
	Pygmy Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	Heard at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
263.	Rufous-throated Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaeornis caudatus</i>	Endemic to Indian Sub-continent. Superb views of a singing bird at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 27/2.
264.	Spotted Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaeornis formosus</i>	A typically elusive bird in the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary eventually gave brief views.
265.	<b>Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Spelaeornis longicaudatus</i>	<b>Endemic.</b> One showed extremely well en-route to Cherrapunjee, with another heard directly across the road.
266.	Streaked Wren-babbler	<i>Napothera brevicaudata</i>	Gave brief views along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
267.	Spot-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum albiventris</i>	A single bird crossed the path in front of us at Panbari Reserve.
268.	<b>Marsh Babbler</b>	<i>Pellorneum palustre</i>	Endemic. Showed very briefly at Dibru-Saikhowa, although could be heard singing for several minutes.
269.	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i>	Single showed very well in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga on 21/2.
	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	Heard along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
270.	<b>Black-breasted Parrotbill</b>	<i>Paradoxornis flavirostris</i>	<b>Endemic.</b> Good views in the grassland of 3 birds at Dibru-Saikhowa.
271.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen around Kolkatta on 5/3.
272.	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	Seen well in Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa and near Nameri.
273.	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	A few along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
274.	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	A couple around Kolkatta Marshes on 5/3.
275.	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Heard in Kaziranga and seen well at Dibru-Saikhowa.
	Himalayan Aberrant Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia flavolivacea</i>	Heard at same site as next species.
276.	Strong-footed (Brown-flanked) Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes</i>	Heard on the way to Cherrapunjee and seen in the Shangti Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.
277.	Grey-sided Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>	Seen well in the Shangti Valley.

278.	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>	Heard at Nameri, and seen well at Panbari.
	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	Heard around the fish ponds at Kolkatta.
279.	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Recorded on 11 dates at various locations.
280.	Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cuculatus</i>	Seen at Panbari on 22/2.
281.	Slaty-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia olivea</i>	Single in the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary on 26/2.
282.	Chestnut-headed Tesia	<i>Tesia castaneocoronata</i>	A typically skulking bird gave frustratingly brief views along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
283.	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates.
284.	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	Seen by Granville on our first day in Arunachal Pradesh.
285.	Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>	2 seen in the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary on 26/2.
286.	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistus</i>	Several seen around Shillong, Cherrapunjee, Bombila and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
287.	Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>	Seen briefly at Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
	Whistler's Warbler	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>	Only seen by the leaders at Nameri NP.
288.	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Locally common and seen on 7 dates.
	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	Heard at Nameri and Kaziranga.
289.	Tickell's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	5 in a tree together in Central Range at Kaziranga gave good views, with another few at Digboi.
290.	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Single observed near Tenga.
291.	Blyth's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	Relatively common at Nameri NP in mixed warbler flocks.
292.	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Common around Shillong, also seen at Kaziranga and Digboi.

293.	Orange-barred Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	Formerly called Buff-barred Warbler. Several seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, and at Cherrapunjee.
294.	Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	Only a couple seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
295.	Grey-faced (Ashy-throated) Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	Quite common around Shillong, usually in company with other <i>phylloscopus</i> species. Also seen Cherrapunjee, Nameri and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
296.	Yellow-vented Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	Seen by leader only at Nameri Eco-Camp, but good view by all at our first lodge in Arunachal Pradesh.
297.	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	2 in the Shangti Valley on 27/2.
298.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen at Kaziranga and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
299.	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Seen at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
300.	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Couple seen at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary on 28/2.
301.	Red-headed (Black-throated) Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	Several flocks in the Shangti Valley and near Singchung.
302.	Black-spotted Yellow Tit	<i>Parus spilonotus</i>	Formerly called Yellow-cheeked Tit. At least 25 seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
303.	Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	Seen well at Nameri NP, Digboi, Dibru-Saikhowa and Shangti Valley.
304.	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	Several small parties seen at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
305.	Fire-capped Tit	<i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>	Several present in the large mixed-species flock at Eaglenest on 28/2.
306.	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	A few seen on the old Shillong-Guwahati road and at Nameri.
307.	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	Several seen on 28/2 at Eaglenest.
308.	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>	This species has been split to include Indian Nuthatch which is found south of the Himalayas. Seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
309.	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i>	Another recent split as per 'The Ripley Guide', with Nilgiri Flowerpecker considered a separate species in the Western Ghats. A few seen.
310.	Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum chrysorrheum</i>	Pair seen very well and photographed at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary, Digboi.
311.	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>	Female along the Dedza River in Arunachal Pradesh showed very well
312.	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	Seen in the gardens of the Bon Habi Resort at Kaziranga.

313.	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	Several along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
314.	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes singalensis</i>	Seen at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi.
315.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	A few at Nameri on 17/2, with several at Kolkatta Botanical Gardens on 4/3.
316.	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Reasonably common at Nameri NP, and numerous at Digboi.
317.	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>	An eclipse male seen in roadside trees along the old Shillong-Guwahati road, with a few more near Cherrapunjee.
318.	Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae isolata</i>	Very common at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
319.	Black-breasted Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	Formerly called Black-throated Sunbird. A few seen at Digboi and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
320.	Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>	20+ is a conservative estimate from our walk at Nameri on 18/2, and seen on a further 2 dates.
321.	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	1 gave tantalisingly brief views at Cherrapunjee in the mist, with another seen at the Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary on 26/2.
322.	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophiatea</i>	At least 4 in the Sangti Valley on 27/2.
323.	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	Seen on the way to Cherrapunjee on 16/2.
324.	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Small flock of at least 8 birds in Central Range at Kaziranga on 20/2.
325.	Himalayan (Yellow-breasted) Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis spinoides</i>	5 seen at Singchung on 2/3.
326.	Grey-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>	Single observed near the landslide at Eaglenest on 1/3.
327.	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	Just a couple seen at Kaziranga.
328.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus indicus</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
329.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Seen on 7 dates at scattered localities.
330.	Cinnamon Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>	Formerly called Russet Sparrow. Seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
331.	Indian Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus burmanicus</i>	A large flock seen on 21/2 at Kaziranga.

332.	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	Seen Nameri NP and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary
333.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Seen on 8 dates aw widespread localities.
334.	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	A couple seen at Kolkatta Botanical Gardens on 4/3 were a surprising find.
335.	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Seen in typical lowland areas on 8 dates.
336.	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus hopwoodi</i>	Relatively common and seen on 9 dates.
337.	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	Only seen a couple of times in forested areas.
338.	Crow-billed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectans</i>	1 seen following a flock of Scarlet Minivets in the Central Range at Kaziranga on 20/2.
339.	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	A few seen at Nameri NP on 18/2, with a couple following the mixed-species flocks.
340.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Seen at Nameri NP and Sessa Wildlife Sanctuary.
341.	Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	A common sound from all the lowland forests. Abundant at Nameri NP and relatively common at Kaziranga and Panbari.
342.	Spot-winged Starling	<i>Saroglossa spiloptera</i>	A real Himalayan speciality. 8+ in a flowering Bombax tree in the Central Range at Kaziranga on 20/2, plus several seen the following day.
343.	Grey-headed (Chestnut-tailed) Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	Following recent studies Chestnut-tailed Starling has been split to include this species and Malabar White-headed Starling in SW India. Relatively common and seen on 7 dates.
344.	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
345.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common and seen on 14 dates.
346.	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
347.	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres cinereus</i>	Several in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga on 21/2.
348.	Common Hill-myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Relatively common at Nameri,

			Kaziranga and Panbari.
349.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendensponensis</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
350.	Eastern Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus levaillantii</i>	1 of 2 splits from what was formerly called Large-billed Crow. Seen on 15 dates.
351.	Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	At least 2 following a flock of Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary at Digboi.
352.	Collared Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta frontalis</i>	Unbelievably we scoped a single bird out in the open for over 10 minutes at the Oil India Bird Sanctuary, Digboi.
353.	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	A few seen at Nameri and Kaziranga.

### **BIRDS SEEN IN OMAN ON 13th FEBRUARY**

1. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
2. Indian Pond-heron *Ardeola grayii*
3. Great Egret *Egretta alba*
4. Western Reef-heron *Egretta gularis*
5. Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*
6. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
7. Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*
8. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
9. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
10. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
11. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
12. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
13. Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*
14. Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*
15. Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*
16. Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*
17. Steppe Gull *Larus h. barabensis*
18. Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*

19.	Sooty Gull	<i>Larus hemprichii</i>
20.	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columbia livia</i>
21.	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
22.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
23.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
24.	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
25.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
26.	Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
27.	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
28.	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
29.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
30.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus cafer</i>
31.	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus xanthopygos</i>
32.	Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius pallidirostris</i>
33.	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
34.	Arabian Babbler	<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>
35.	Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>
36.	Hume's Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia althea</i>
37.	Desert Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca minula</i>
38.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
39.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
40.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
41.	Indian House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>

## OTHER SIGHTINGS

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
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1.	Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>
2.	Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>
3.	Capped Langur	<i>Presbytis pileata</i>
4.	Eastern Swamp Deer	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>
5.	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjai</i>
6.	Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>
7.	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>
8.	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
9.	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
10.	Indian One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>
11.	Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>
12.	Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>
13.	Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>
14.	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>
15.	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
16.	Ganges River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>
17.	Northern House Gecko	<i>Heidacylus flaviviridis</i>
18.	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>
19.	Common Indian Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>

Please note that our checklists do not include species seen by leaders only.  
We also do not include single observer sightings or very poor views.  
We do not count heard only or subspecies, although they are noted.  
This we believe gives us a very honest accurate group total.

With this in mind we welcome you to compare our lists with other companies, check out our high standards and above all our prices which offer the very best value for money.

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