

NORTHERN INDIA AND HIMALAYA 2012 (BIRDQUEST)

Nov 23 Annelien and I had a direct flight with KL0871 from Amsterdam to Delhi, arrival at 23.45 (+ 4 ½ hours). After an exciting taxi drive, we arrived at the Ashok Country Resort at 01.00 for a two-night stay.

Nov 24 First Indian birds seen during an early morning stroll in the hotel garden. Birds included Rose-ringed Parakeet, and Red-wattled Lapwing. Because the tour started in the evening, we went sightseeing Old Delhi. The traffic is amazing, smog is bad, litter is everywhere, but we nevertheless enjoyed street life –including a local fruit and vegetable market, and the Red Fort. We met our guide, Dave Farrow, and the other group members (Sandra and Alan, Rod, John, Dan) at 18.00, had dinner at 19.00, and tried to sleep at 21.30 with a Hindu wedding going on.



Nov 25 Breakfast at 06.00, departure at 07.30. Throughout the tour we had a spacious old bus. Because the driver and his hand slept in the bus, every morning we had to open the curtains to get in touch with the world and birds outside. After a slow drive (East) through Delhi, roadside birds (outside Delhi) included our first Indian Black Ibis. We spend a few hours from 10.00 to 12.15 along the Ganges near Gajraula.



Again, surprising numbers of people, and both shit and litter widely distributed. Birds included River Lapwing, Ruddy Shelduck, Spot-billed Duck, Painted Stork, Asian Openbill, Common Crane, Sand Lark, River Tern, and the first mammal of the tour, a Small Indian Mongoose. Drive to Kumaria, for a two-night stay at “The Den”.



Nov 26 Left at 07.30 for a 15 km drive to the Kosy River at Gargia Devi. Bird watching from a windy bridge across the river, resembling a stone desert rather than a river. The bird watching was excellent and included our first Woolly-necked Stork, Himalayan Pied Kingfisher, great views of a Wallcreeper, and –for me the bird of the tour- two Ibisbills. When returning to Kumaria, we had superb views of two male Asian Elephants and scope views of a Tawny Fish-Owl. In the afternoon we encountered several mixed flocks, including Alexandrine Parakeet and Pied Falconet.



Nov 27 Early morning birdwatching near “The Den” produced a male Orange-bellied Leafbird. Drive to the Dhungari Gate, the main entrance of Corbett NP, with many roadside stops, producing Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher, Small Niltava, and Rufous-bellied Niltava. Good views of a skulking Nepal Wren-Babbler, an altitudinal migrant. In the park we changed our bus for jeeps. Tiger tracks

were everywhere. and we saw our first Himalayan Griffon, Mugger, Gharial, Sambar, and a superbly camouflaged Small-billed Scaly Thrush. Best bird was a “write-in”, a Chestnut-crowned Warbler, a new bird on the Corbett NP bird list. We arrived at Dhikala around 15.00. Facilities of the lodge were basic, but this was compensated by excellent views over an artificial lake with large numbers of birds, mammals and reptiles, including several species of ducks, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black Stork, Great Thick-knee, Black-necked Stork, Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, Mugger, and Gharial. A late afternoon drive through the extensive grassland plain produced several new birds, including a Pallas’s Fish-Eagle, Hen Harrier, and at least six Peafowl.



Nov 28 A Tiger (female) crossed the trail in front of the jeep, an impressive sight. Birds included a Himalayan Flameback, two perched Cinereous Vultures, and our first (male) Kaleej Pheasant. Returned to the lodge at 11.30, where we saw Mountain Hawk-Eagle and Collared Falconet. Lunch at 13.00, and then dipped on a Brown Fish-Owl. Best bird of the day was a Hobby, together with two Red-headed Vultures, near the lodge.



John Anderson (<http://www.pbase.com>)

Nov 29 Breakfast at 06.30, and after 07.00 we saw two tigers, thus bringing our total numbers of “tiger-sightings” to three. Seeing a Tiger is a rare event: they are shy and live within the dense cover of

the forest. This time the Brown Fish-Owl was present. Other good morning birds included Great Slaty Woodpecker and Rosy Pipit. Afternoon drive to Nainital over the Kaladunghi Road, a climb from about 1,000 m to 2,000 m. Nainital is situated in the “foothills” of the Himalaya and a popular summer resort. Various roadside stops produced White-rumped Vulture, Bonelli’s Eagle, Common Kingfisher, Variable Wheatear of the race *ohistoleuca*, the first Sind Sparrow, and Red-billed Blue Magpie at a fast dropping temperature.



Nov 30 Morning birding at Satal was very productive, including Black-headed Jay, Red-billed Leiothrix, Orange-barred Warbler, Greater Barbet, and a female Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin. In the afternoon birding was less productive, and we went back to Satal. Again, we saw many birds including a singing young male Himalayan Rubythroat and Dusky Warbler. At 15.00, I followed Dave, when part of the edge collapsed. I became part of a small landslide, dropped about six meter, and then managed -with difficulty- to prevent myself from slipping further down. With the help of a rope, Dave and Dany managed to descend me slowly, and Dany, Annelien and I were transferred by the hotel manager to the hospital at Nainital. Broken left arm (shoulder).

Dec 1 After a poor night, I woke up at 02.30. We rose at 04.15 and Annelien got me dressed “properly”. At 06.30 we left for higher elevations, meanwhile having gorgeous views on part of the Indian Himalaya, including the Nanda Devi (7816 m) from the Vynayek Road.



We had eye-level views of Lammergeier and Himalayan Griffon. Other birds included Blue-capped Redstart and Altai Accentor. In the afternoon we encountered mixed flocks consisting of various Tits and Nuthatches. We made several roadside stops, descending slowly. Albeit the birding was

slow, the Rhododendron forests are spectacular, we heard a Leopard, best bird being a Himalayan Woodpecker. Throughout the day temperature remained low. We also made a stop at “Snow view” (Pongot), a surprisingly dirty place with “Indian entertainment”, for Barred Owl and Oriental Turtle-Dove. Upon arrival in the hotel, there was a cake in our room, from the hotel manager, to facilitate my recovery.



Dec 2 Our last day in Nainital was spent along several small roads, one through a small agricultural community at Bajun in the Mangully Valley. One small tree, at eye-level, was full of various species of Leaf-woodwarblers, a truly amazing sight. Other good birds included Crimson Finch, a stunning male Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin, and a female Golden Bush-robin. In the afternoon we met a very young dog, which was apparently left alone, and was adopted by Dany. Immediately thereafter, we saw a shrub containing both Siberian Himalayan Rubythroat! Therefore our dog was called “Ruby”. At the end of the day I was so tired, that Annelien had to carry my bins.

Dec 3 A travel day to Delhi.

Dec 4 We caught the 06.00 train from Delhi to Agra, where we arrived at 08.30. An astonishing number of people sleep in and near the main entrance of the train station in Delhi. Travel by train (first class) was comfortable. After breakfast, we visited the Taj Mahal, an impressive piece of architecture, especially considering nowadays buildings.



We left at 11.30 for Chambal, and arrived at the Chambal Safari lodge around 12.45. Lunch outside, and thereafter went birding with Dave and a local guide around the premises. Birds included Indian Grey Hornbill, Pallas's Gull, Brown Boobook, and Yellow-throated (Chestnut-shouldered) Sparrow, and we saw our first Nilgau.

Dec 5 Morning visit to the National Chambal Sanctuary, encompassing a major stretch of the Chambal River, one of the only still more or less unpolluted tributaries of the Ganges. We made a cruise on the river from 09.20 to 11.30. Best birds were Black-bellied Tern and Indian Skimmer, both threatened species. Both species were roosting on a small sand bank, and a roosting flock of Bar-headed Geese was present, a high-altitude migrant from the Tibetan plateau, a Brown Crake, and a various species of Turtles. Afternoon travel to Bharatpur, where we stayed in "The Bagh".



Dec 6 Early morning characterized by dense smog due to the many wood and garbage fires, used for heating and cooking. After a brief drive we entered the Keoladeo Ghana National Park at Bharatpur. This man-made wetland produced numerous Painted Stork, several Greater Spotted and a single Indian Spotted Eagle, many duck species, Nilgau, a Jungle Cat, and Sambar. We started with a stroll in the nursery garden for migrant thrushes. Later, we walked over the little dikes which are lined with often dense shrubs, providing excellent spots for Black Bittern, and in the afternoon by rickshaw. Both Black Redstarts of the Eastern race *phoenicuroides* and Bluethroat were common. Although the scenery is superb, the distant noise of trains and traffic can be heard throughout most of the park, again illustrating the India is a well-populated country. Also the presence of cows which are prohibited by brought into the park by local farmers, is a disturbing sight.



- Dec 7 Our second day at Keoladeo Ghana NP. Birds tended to be a little bit more cooperative, and we ended up with a highly diverse list ranging from Greater Spotted Eagle, Red-headed Vulture, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Wryneck, Moustached Warbler, etc.. We dipped on the local Marshall's Iora. Dave thought he heard one in the dry acacia shrubs, but it proved to be his own tape. Nice weather.
- Dec 8 Bird watching from 07.00-09.00 along some dirty canals, full of plastic, near the palace of the maharajah of Bharatpur. Excellent views of Greater Painted-snipe, and large numbers of Citrine Wagtail, with at least one male of the race *calcarata* and Sykes Wagtail. At 09.00 we returned to "The Bagh", and Dave, Rod and Dan left for Ranthambhore, a post-tour extension. With a local guide Sandra, Alan, Johan, Annelien and I returned for a last few hours of birdwatching at Keoladeo Ghana NP, which produced a perched Large-tailed Nightjar, Orange-headed Thrush and a male Tickell's Thrush at the temple complex.

BIRDS

PODICIPEDIDAE

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* - Common at Bharatpur.

PELECANIDAE

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* – Three birds at Bahratpur.

PHALACROCARIDAE

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* – Common throughout the tour except in the mountains.

Indian Shag *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* – Common at Bharatpur.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* – Common except in the mountains.

ANHINGIDAE

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* – Common at Bahratpur.

ARDEIDAE

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* - Common, not seen in the Nainital area.

Great Egret *Egretta alba* – As previous species.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* – Seen at Bahratpur.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* – As Little Egret.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* – Common at Bharatpur, esimated 300+ per day.

Eastern Cattle *Bubulcus coromandus* – Common, except in the mountains.

Indian Pond-Heron *Ardeola grayii* – Seen throughout the tour, but not in the mountains. Highest counts (at least 100-200 birds/day) at Bharatpur.



Striated (Little) Heron *Butorides striata* – Single birds seen at Bharatpur.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Common at Bharatpur.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* – Three birds seen well at Bharatpur.

CICONIIDAE

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* – At least 20 birds along the Ganges and large breeding colonies at Bharatpur. *Picture below (top).*

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* – About 50 birds along the Ganges. *Picture below (bottom).*

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* – A flock of 20 birds in Corbett NP.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* – Low numbers in Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* – As previous species.



THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* – Common at Bharatpur.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* – Seen at Bharatpur, less common than Glossy Ibis.

Indian Black (Red-naped) Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* – Several seen while travelling from and to Delhi. Well seen at the Chambal river, a flock of 13 birds roosting on a sand plate.



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* – Common at Bharatpur.

ANATIDAE

Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* – Flocks at the Chambal River and Bharatpur.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* – Two birds at Bharatpur.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* – A flock of 200 birds at the Chambal River, lower numbers at Bharatpur.



Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* – Common throughout the tour.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* – Common at Bharatpur.

Cotton Teal (Cotton Pygmy-Goose) *Nettapus coromandelianus* – A female at Bharatpur.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* – Four birds in Corbett NP, common at Bharatpur.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* – A female at Bharatpur.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* – Low numbers in Corbett NP and at Bharatpur.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* – Three birds at the Ganges, common at Bharatpur (50+ birds/day).

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* – Common at Bharatpur.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* – As previous species.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* – A single bird at Bharatpur.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* – Highest counts at Bharatpur.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* – A male in Corbett NP, a small flock at Bharatpur.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* – As previous species, but common at Bharatpur.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* – A small flock at Bharatpur.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* – A male in Corbett, common at Bharatpur.

Common Merganser (Goosander) *Mergus merganser* – Brief views of a single bird when leaving Corbett.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Oriental (Crested) Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* – Two distant birds at Bharatpur.

Black-winged (Black-shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus* – Seen almost daily in low numbers.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* – Common at Delhi.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus lineatus* – Seen on three days, best seen at the Taj Mahal.

Pallas's Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* – Low numbers in Corbett NP, an immature at Bharatpur.

Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis* – An adult bird in Corbett NP.

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus* – Excellent views of a sub adult bird flying together with Himalayan Griffons near Nainital.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* – Seen on four days in the Akra and Bharatpur area.

White-rumped (Indian White-backed) Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* - One of the critically endangered Indian vulture species, five birds when travelling from Corbett to Nainital. Picture next page (right).

Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* – A few in Corbett NP, common near Nainital.



Cinereous (Eurasian Black) Vulture *Aegypius monachus* – Two birds in Corbett NP.

Red-headed Vulture *Aegypius calvus* – Two birds at both Corbett NP and at Bharatpur. Picture above (left).

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* – Two birds near the Ganges.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela* – A single bird at Bharatpur.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* – Common at Bharatpur.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* – Three birds in Corbett.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* – An immature bird at Bharatpur.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* – Single birds at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* – Single birds seen on five days throughout the tour.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* – Great views of a bird along the Chambal River.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* – A bird near Nainital.

Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastate* – Singles at Bharatpur.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* – Up to ten birds per day at Bharatpur

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* – Seen on seven days, up to six birds per day.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* – Low numbers on four days.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* – A distant bird at Bharatpur.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus* – Four birds in Corbett NP.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis* – As previous species.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* – Five birds in Corbett NP and a single bird at Bharatpur.

FALCONIDAE

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens* – Four birds in Corbett NP.



Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* – Seen on most days of the tour.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* – A single bird, together with two peregrines, in Corbett NP.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* – Two birds in Corbett NP and three birds at Nainital.

PHASIANIDAE

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* – A flying male near the Ganges.

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* – Common at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* – Brief views of a roadside bird in Corbett.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* – Common in Corbett.

Kaleej Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* - Common in Corbett and Naitital.



Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* – A male seen while travelling by train from Delhi to Corbett NP. Common in Corbett, Chambal and Bharatpur.



GRUIDAE

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* – Two birds at the Ganges, a single bird from the train while travelling to Agra and close views of three birds at Bharatpur.

Common Crane *Grus grus* – A single bird flying in together with Painted Storks near the Ganges.

RALLIDAE

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* – Common at Bharatpur.

Brown Crake *Porzana akool* – Single birds along the Chambal and at Bharatpur.



Grey-headed Swampfen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* – Common at Bharatpur.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* – As previous species.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* – As previous species.

JACANIDAE

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* – Six birds in winter plumage at Bharatpur.

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* – Low numbers on five days.

ROSTRATULIDAE

Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* – Great views of thirteen birds in a small and very dirty channel near the palace of the maharajah of Bharatpur.

CHARADRIIDAE

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* – Seen on three days, including ten birds at the Ganges.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* – Seen on two days, including three birds at the Ganges.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* – A single bird at Bharatpur.

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii* – Seen on eight days.



Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* – Common, first bird seen in Delhi.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* – Three birds seen together with Greater Painted-Snipes.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* – A flock of 100+ birds at Bharatpur.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus* – Low numbers on three days.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* – Common.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* – Two birds in the sewage channel with Common Snipe.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* – Common, seen on eight days.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* – Seen in low numbers on four days.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – Low numbers on five days.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* – Two birds at Bharatpur.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* – Seen on three days, common along the Ganges.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* – A few seen.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* – Common, largest groups along the Ganges.

BURHINIDAE

Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris* – Well seen in Corbett NP, two birds at the Chambal River.

IBIDORHYHIDAE

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* – Great views of two birds feeding on the gravel banks of the Kosy River near Gargia Devi. Superbly camouflaged. A Wallcreeper was feeding in the same gravel.



LARIDAE

Great Black-headed (Pallas's) Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* – Two birds near Chambal, and two birds at the Chambal River.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* – Three birds at Bharatpur.

(Common) Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* – At least ten birds at the Ganges.

STERNIDAE

River Tern *Sterna aurantia* – Seen on several rivers, including the Ganges.

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* – Magnificent views of a flying and later a perched bird on a sand bank, together with the next species, of the Chambal River.

Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* – A flock of forty birds, as previous species.



Black-bellied Tern (top) and Indian skimmer (bottom, also top next page).



COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* – Common throughout the tour.

Common Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus casiotis* - A rare bird within this region, with a characteristic orange/golden spot in the neck, along the Kaladunghi Road to Nainital. Well drawn on plate 66 of the Ripley Guide.

Oriental (Rufous) Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* – Single birds on December 1 and 8.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* – Common from December 4-8.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* – Low numbers during the first week.

Red Collared-Dove (R Turtle-Dove) *Streptopelia tranquebarica* – Five birds at Bharatpur.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* – Seen at Delhi and Baratpur.

Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus* – Seen on four days, great views of five birds at a roadside stop between Delhi and Kumaria.

PSITTACIDAE

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* – Good views of a pair in Corbett NP.

Rose-ringed (Ring-necked) Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* – Common at Delhi and Bharatpur.

Himalayan (Slaty-headed) Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana* – Common in the “foothills” of the Himalaya, for example at Satal.

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala* – Seen in Corbett NP, common at Chambal.



Rose-ringed (Ring-necked) Parakeet

CUCULIDAE

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* – Common throughout the tour.

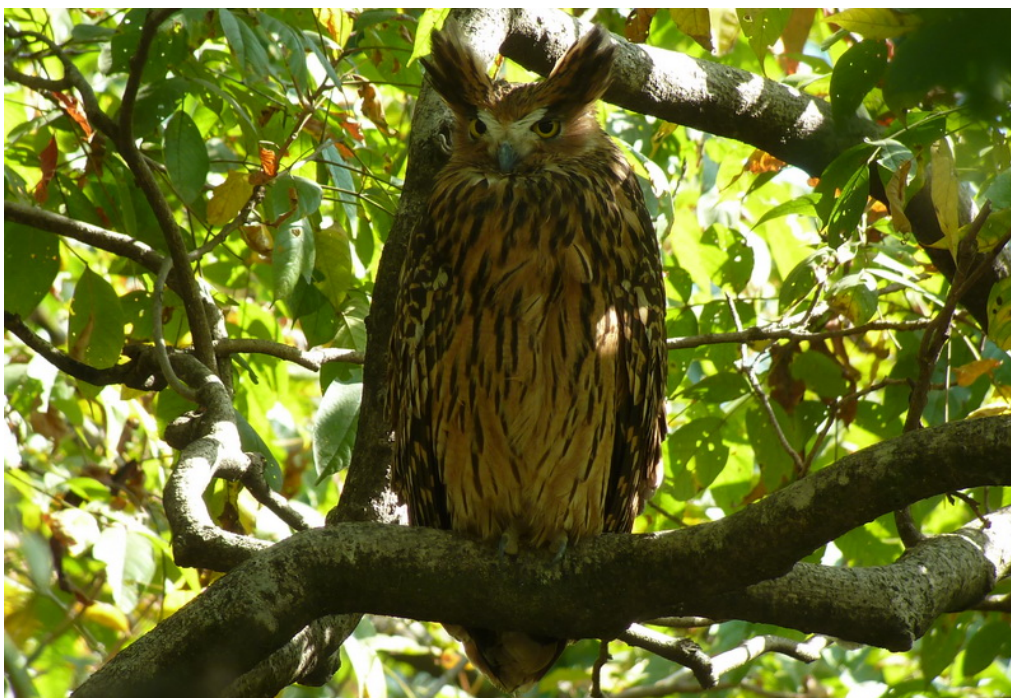
Sirkeer Malkoha *Taccocua leschenaultia* – Good views at Bharatpur.

Asian (Common) Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* – A male at Chambal.

STRIGIDAE

Brown Fish-Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* – One seen in Corbett NP.

Tawny Fish-Owl *Ketupa flavipes* – Magnificent views of a three birds in Corbett NP.



Indian Scops-Owl *Otus bakkamoena* – Two birds in a palm tree at Bharatpur.

Dusky Eagle-Owl *Bubo coromandus* – Seen on a nest at Bharatpur.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* – Heard near Bajun in the Mangully Valley.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* – One bird in Corbett NP.

Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum* – Four birds in Corbett NP.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* – Two birds at Chambal and a single bird at Bharatpur.

Brown Hawk-Owl (Brown Boobook) *Ninox scutulata* – A single bird at Chambal.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* – Great views of a roosting bird at Bharatpur.

APODIDAE

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris* – A single bird in Corbett NP.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* – A single bird at Delhi and a flock at Bharatpur.

HEMIPROCINIDAE

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* – Low numbers daily in Corbett NP.

ALCEDINIDAE

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* – Seen in Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* – Distant views of a bird in Corbett NP.

White-throated (White-breasted) Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* – Seen on most days.

Himalayan (Crested) Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris* – A really big kingfisher! In total five birds seen at the Kosy River near Gargia Devi.

(Lesser) Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* – Seen at the Ganges and at Chambal.

MEROPIDAE

(Little) Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* – A flock of about ten birds outside Delhi.

CORACIIDAE

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* – A roadside bird. Seen on four days.

UPUPIDAE

Common (Eurasian) Hoopoe *Upupa epops* – Common, seen in Corbett, Chambal and Bahratpur.

BUCEROTIDAE

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* – Seen daily from Chambal to Bahratpur.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* – Heard in Corbett NP.

CAPTINONIDAE

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* – A single bird seen at Satal.



Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica* – Seen at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineate* – Seen near the Kosy River at Gargia Devi. Also six birds on Nov 29.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* – Seen in Corbett NP and when travelling to Satal.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* – Great views on three days.

PICIDAE

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* – A single bird at Bahratpur.

Grey-capped (Pygmy) Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos canicapillus* – Low numbers daily in Corbett NP.

Brown-fronted (Pied) Woodpecker *Dendrocopos auriceps* – Daily seen in the Nainital area.

Fulvous-breasted (Pied) Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos macei* – Daily seen, mostly males, in Corbett NP.

Yellow-fronted (Yellow-crowned) Pied Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos mahrattensis* – A pair at Bahratpur.

Himalayan (Pied) Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos himalayensis* – A male in a Rhododendron forest in the Himalayan “foothills” near Nainital.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Hypopicus hyperythrus brachyurus* - Two males near Nainital.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus* – Single birds in the Corbett NP area.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* – As previous species, and one bird at Bajun, Mangully Valley.

Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus* – Three birds in Corbett NP.

Grey-faced (Grey-headed, Black-naped) Woodpecker *Picus canus* – Two females in Corbett NP, a male on Nov 30.

Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii* – A single bird in Corbett NP.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense* – Seen in Corbett NP, Chambal, and Bharatpur.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* – A single bird in Corbett NP (Nov 29).

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* – A single bird in Corbett NP.

ALAUDIDAE

Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark *Eremopterix grisea* – A female at Chambal and a male near the Chambal River.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* – Nice views of a single bird at Bharatpur.

Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal* – Distant views of a single bird at a sand bank bordering the Ganges.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* – Three birds near the Chambal River.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* – A single bird in Corbett NP.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* – Two birds in Corbett NP.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Grey-throated Sand-Martin *Riparia chinensis* – Common throughout the tour, but absent in the mountains.

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* – Seen in the mountains near Nainital.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – Seen on seven days.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* – Seen in Bharatpur.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* – Daily seen in the first week, a single bird at the Chambal River.

Nepal House-Martin *Delichon nipalense* – Seen in the mountains near Nainital.

MOTACILLIDAE

White Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) alba* – Seen near Corbett NP, at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Masked Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) personata* - Seen on four days, e.g. at the Ganges.

Himalayan Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) alboides* – A single bird at the Ganges.

Amur Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) leucopsis* – Seen on two days, best seen at the Chambal River together with Indian Skimmer, Black-bellied tern, and Black-winged Stilt. Four strikingly black-and-white species.



Amur Wagtail (left) and White-browed Wagtail (right).

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla madaraspatis* – Seen on six days, three birds at the Kosy River.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* – Common at Chambal and 100+ birds in the sewage channel at Bharatpur. At least one black-backed male of the race *calcarata* was present.

Sykes's Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) bema* – Together with the Citrine Wagtail at Bharatpur but less numerous.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) feldegg* – A fly-by at Bharatpur.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* – Seen on six days, first seen along the Kosy River at Gargia Devi.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* – Two birds in Corbett NP.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* – A single bird in a mixed flocks of pipits and larks at Bharatpur.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* – Heard in Corbett NP, but seen at Chambal and Chambal River.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* – A single bird at Bharatpur.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* – Common at Chambal.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* – Seen on four days, first bird in Corbett NP.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* – A single bird in winter plumage in Corbett NP.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei* – Two birds in Corbett NP.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* – Two small flocks at Bharatpur.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* – Seen on three days, e.g. a flock of five birds in Corbett NP.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* – Seen daily in Corbett NP.

Pied (Bar-winged) Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus* – As previous species.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* – Singles at Chambal and Bharatpur.

RHIPIDURIDAE

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* – Daily seen in Corbett NP.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha* – As previous species.

PYCNOTIDAE

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* – Four birds in Corbett NP.

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* – Seen at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Himalayan (White-cheeked) Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys* – Common in Corbett NP and Nainital area.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* – Common, seen almost daily.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flava* – Heard and seen in the Corbett area.

Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* – Daily seen in the Nainital area.

AEGITHINIDAE

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* – Two birds in Corbett NP.

CHLOROPSEIDAE

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* – Nice views of a single male in Corbett NP.

LANIIDAE

Xinjiang (Chinese) Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* – A single bird at Bharatpur.

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus* – A few birds daily at Bharatpur.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* – Seen throughout the tour.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* – A single bird at the Ibisbill site near Corbett NP.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* – A distant bird at Chambal.

CINCLIDAE

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasi* – A single bird in Corbett NP.

PRUNELLIDAE

Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana* – A flock of at least 80 birds in the mountains near Nainital.

TURDIDAE

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* – Great views of a single bird in the temple garden at Bharatpur.



Small-billed Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* – A single bird, remarkably well camouflaged, in Corbett NP.

Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* – As Orange-headed Thrush.

Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* – Common in Corbett NP and Nainital.

MUSCICAPINAE

Orange-gorgeted (Rufous) Flycatcher *Ficedula strophilata* – Seen in Corbett NP and Nainital area.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* – Seen at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* – Great views, including three birds in Corbett NP.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* – A single male in Corbett NP.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* – Poor views of a single bird in Corbett NP.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolour* – Single males in Corbett NP.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus* – Single birds near Bajun and Chambal.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* – A male and female in Corbett NP.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* – Single males in Corbett NP.

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* – Seen on four days, including three birds in Corbett NP.

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* – A female on Nov 29, a male seen well near Nainital.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* – A single male along the Chambal River.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* – Great views of a male, together with next species, along the Kaladunghi Road near Nainital. Heard at Bharatpur.

Himalayan (White-tailed) Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis* – As previous species. A surprise to see both species together. Also a singing immature male at Satal.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* – A single bird in Corbett NP but common at Bharatpur.

Himalayan Red-flanked (Bluetail) Bush-Robin *Tarsiger rufilatus* – A female briefly seen near Satal, and great views of a male near Nainital.

Golden Bush-Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* – A skulking female seen well at Bajun in the Mangully Valley.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis* – Single birds in Corbett NP, common at Bharatpur.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* – A single female in Corbett NP.

Indian (Black) Robin *Saxicoloides fulicatus* – Seen at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* – Seen at Chambal and common at Bharatpur. Birds show the characteristic red belly of the Eastern form(s).

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* – A male and female near Satal. Also three birds on Dec 2.

Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus coeruleocephala* - Low numbers daily in the mountains.

White-capped River-Chat *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* – Common in and along rivers in Corbett NP and near Nainital.

Plumbeous Water-Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa* – As previous species.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculates* – Great views of two birds at Satal and two birds near Nainital.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* – Common in Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* – A male near Akra, seen daily at Bharatpur.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus* – Seen in Corbett NP and near Nainital.

Variable (Eastern Pied) Wheatear *Oenanthe picata opistholeuca* – Seen near Nainital and Chambal River.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* – A male and female at the Chambal River (Dec 5).



Brown Rock-Chat *Cercomela fusca* – Seen on three days in low numbers, near Nainital and Chambal.

TIMALIIDAE

White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis* – Common in Corbett NP and Satal.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* – Three birds seen well in Corbett NP.

Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata* – Four birds at Bajun in the Mangully Valley.



Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Lanthocincla rufogularis* – At least four birds at Satal.

Streaked Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron lineatum* – Common in the Nainital area.

Red-headed (Chestnut-crowned) Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* – Two birds at Bajun.

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps* – A single bird in Corbett NP.

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys* – A total of five birds in Corbett NP.

Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer* – Superb views of two birds near Nainital.

Nepal Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga immaculate* – Great views of two birds in Corbett NP.

Black-chinned Babbler *Stachyris pyrrhops* – Single birds of this restricted range species in Corbett NP.

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* – Great views of four birds at Chambal.

Common Babbler *Turdoides caudate* – Seen at the Ganges and Chambal River.

Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi* – Common, daily at the Ganges, Chambal and Bharatpur.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* – Common throughout the tour, first seen in Corbett NP.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* – Great views of a single bird at Satal.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* – Seen on three days in Corbett NP and Satal.

Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata* – Common near Nainital.

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* – A single bird at Satal.

Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* – Seen in Corbett NP.

Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera* – A single bird in Corbett NP, three birds near Nainital.

Rufous-fronted Prinia *Prinia buchanani* – At least six birds near the Chambal River.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii* – Seen daily in Corbett NP.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* – Seen at Chambal and Bharatpur.



Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* – Seen on five days, for example at the Ganges.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* – Singles on four days.

SYLVIIDAE

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata* – Heard in Corbett NP and great views of a single skulking bird during a roadside stop near Satal.

Yellow-browed (Grey-bellied) Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* – Heard in Corbett NP.

Large (Chestnut-crowned) Bush-Warbler *Cettia major* – A single bird in Corbett NP.

Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* – A single bird at Bajun.

Aberrant Bush-Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea* – Two birds in Corbett NP (Nov 27), a single bird near Satal.

Moustached (Sedge) Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon* – Two single birds at Bharatpur.

Blyth's Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* – At least four birds at Bharatpur.

Indian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus brunnescens* – Two birds at Bharatpur.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis* – Common, seen throughout the tour..

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* – A single bird well seen at Satal.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* – Great views of a single bird at Bharatpur.

Orange-barred (Buff-barred) Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* – A single bird at Satal, at least two birds in a mixed warbler flock near Bajun.

Grey-faced Leaf-Warbler (Ashy-throated Warbler) *Phylloscopus maculipennis* – At least six birds in a mixed warbler flock near Nainital.

Lemon-rumped Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* – Seen daily in the Corbett NP and Nainital area.

Yellow-browed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* – A single bird near Nainital.

Hume's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* – Common, seen or heard on all days of the tour except in the mountains.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* – Single birds at Chambal and Bharatpur.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* – Common, seen daily from Nov 26 to Dec 3.

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri* – Single birds on four days, including Corbett NP.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* – A single bird in Corbett NP (Nov 27), a rare bird and our only "write-in". Not mentioned in the Avibase list of Corbett NP.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* – Seen daily at Bharatpur.

AEGITHALIDAE

Red-headed (Black-throated) Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* – Common in mixed flocks in the Nainital area.

PARIDAE

Spot-winged Tit *Parus melanolophus* – Common in the mountains.

Grey Tit *Parus cinereus* – Seen in Corbett NP and –almost daily- in the mountains.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* – Common in the mountains near Nainital.

Black-lored Yellow Tit *Parus xanthogenys* – Common in Corbett NP and in the mountains.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* – Two birds in a mixed flock near Nainital.

SITTIDAE

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris* – Common in mixed flocks in Corbett NP and in the mountains. Occurs at lower elevation than next species.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* – Seen in the mountains at higher elevations, a few in mixed flocks with previous species.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* – Seen daily in and near Corbett NP.

TRICHLIDROMADINAE

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* – Excellent scope views of a bird feeding on the rocky boulders of the Kosy River at Gargia Devi. A stunning bird, also seen in flight.

CERTHIIDAE

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana* – Seen daily in mixed flocks in the mountains.

DICAEIDAE

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* – A male well seen during a walk near Nainital.

NECTARINIIDAE

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus* – Common at Chambal and Bharatpur.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* – Seen in Corbett NP, more common in the mountains.

EMBERIZIDAE

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* – A flock of four birds in Corbett NP, males in Corbett NP and near the Chambal River.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* – Good views of single birds in the mountains.

White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* – A male at Satal.

FRINGILLIDAE

Himalayan (Yellow-breasted) Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* – Seen in Corbett NP and in the mountains.

Common (Scarlet) Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* – Seen in Corbett NP, Satal, and at the Chambal River.

Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi* – Nice views of a singing immature bird near Nainital.

ESTRILDIDAE

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* – A flock of 20+ birds at the Ganges, a female in Corbett NP, and both males and females seen well at Bharatpur.

Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica* – Small flocks at Chambal.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* – A flock of 20+ birds at the Ganges.

Tricoloured Munia *Lonchura malacca* – A flock of eight birds at Bharatpur.

PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – Common, seen on most days of the tour.

Cinnamon (Russet) Sparrow *Passer rutilans* – A female in Corbett NP, more common in the mountains.

Yellow-throated Sparrow (Chestnut-shouldered Petronia) *Petronia xanthocollis* – A flock of at least fifty birds at Chambal.

PLOCEIDAE

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* – A female at the Ganges, six birds in Corbett NP and nests everywhere, and a female at Chambal.

STURNIDAE

Brahminy Starling *Temenuchus pagodarum* – Three birds at Chambal, common at Bharatpur.



Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* – Seen at the Ganges, Chambal and Bharatpur.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* – Very common except at higher altitudes.

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* – Less widely distributed than previous species. Good numbers when travelling to Corbett NP and Delhi.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* – Apparently uncommon. A few sightings of single birds.

ORIOLIDAE

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* – Heard and several males seen in Corbett NP.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* – A male and female seen in Corbett NP.

DICRURIDAE

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* – Common, except at higher elevations.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* – A single bird at Bharatpur.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* – Two birds in Corbett NP, seen daily in the mountains.

CORVIDAE

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* – Brief views of a streamer-lacking bird in Corbett NP.

Black-headed (Lanceolated) Jay *Garrulus lanceolatus* – A restricted range species. Seen well at Satal and daily from Dec 1-3.

(Red-billed) Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* – Common at Satal. A few other sightings.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* – Common in Corbett NP, Chambal River and Bharatpur.



Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* – Three birds seen at Satal.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* – Common at Delhi, Chambal and Bharatpur.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* – Seen in the mountains.

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminates* – Common throughout the tour.

MAMMALS

SCIURIDAE

Northern Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii* – Common at Delhi, Chambal and Bharatpur.



MURIDAE

House (Black) Rat *Rattus rattus* – Seen at Delhi and Chambal.

VIVERRIDAE

Asian (Common) Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* – One seen at Chambal.

FELIDAE

Jungle Cat *Felis chaus* – Good views at Bharatpur.

Leopard *Panthera pardus* – Heard in the mountains.

Tiger *Panthera tigris* – We had three encounters in Corbett NP. A female slowly crossed the track on Nov 28. Two seen, likely both females, on Nov 29.



HERPESTIDAE

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* – Two seen at the Ganges, a single on Dec 3.

Indian Grey (Common) Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii* – Seen in Corbett NP, Chambal and Bharatpur.

CINIDAE

Golden (Common) Jackal *Canis aureus* – Two seen in Corbett NP, heard at Chambal and a total of six seen in Bharatpur.



PTEROPODIDAE

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus* – At least 10 at Chambal.

CERCOPITHECIDAE

Northern Plains Grey Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* – Common in Corbett NP.

Tarai Grey Langur *Semnopithecus hector* – Daily seen in the mountains.

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta* – Common throughout the tour.

SUIDAE

Eurasian Wild Boar *Sus scrofa* – Common in Corbett NP and seen at Bharatpur.

CERVIDAE

Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus muntjak* – Seen daily in Corbett NP, also a single animal at higher elevation on Dec 1.

Sambar *Cervus unicolor* – Seen almost daily in Corbett NP, common at Bharatpur.

Chital (Axis Deer, Spotted Deer) *Axis axis* – Common in Corbett, a few animals seen at Bharatpur.

BOVIDAE

Nilgai (Blue Bull) *Boselaphus tragocamelus* – A huge animal, especially the males. Seen at Chambal, common at Bharatpur.



ELEPHANTIDAE

Asian (Indian) Elephant *Elephas maximus* – Great views of two males eating bamboo and drinking from a stream near Corbett NP. Surprisingly hard to see in hill forest, even at close range. Also distant views in Corbett NP.

REPTILES

VARANIDAE

Bengal (Common Indian) monitor *Varanus bengalensis* – A single at Bharatpur.



GEOEMYDIDAE

Indian tent turtle *Pangshura tentoria* – At least three along the Chambal River.

Indian roofed turtle *Pangshura tecta* – As previous species.

Red-crowned roofed turtle *Batagur kachuga* – A single at the Chambal River. A critically endangered species.

TRIONYCHIDAE

Indian (Ganges) softshell turtle *Nilssonina gangetica* – At least two seen along the Ganges. Also seen at the Chambal River and at Bharatpur. Vulnerable

COLUBRIDAE

Asiatic Water Snake (Checkered Keelback) *Xenochrophis piscator* – Seen at Bharatpur.



GAVIALIDAE

Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus* At least fifteen seen in Corbett NP, and about forty at the Chambal River, including some immatures. Seen at close range, some very large. Critically endangered.



CROCODYLIDAE

Mugger (Marsh) crocodile *Crocodylus palustris* – Low numbers in Corbett NP and three at the Chambal River. Vulnerable.

AGAMIDAE

Kashmir Rock Agama *Laudakia tuberculata* – Quite a large lizard, one seen near Nainital.