



## NORTHERN INDIA: TIGERS, AMAZING BIRDS AND HIMALAYAS SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

21 JANUARY – 06 FEBRUARY 2025

By Dominic Rollinson



*We could not have asked for better looks at **Tiger** in Jim Corbett National Park.*

### Overview

This Indian birding tour covered central northern India and went from the lowlands of Ranthambore and Keoladeo National Parks to the heights of the foothills of the mighty Himalaya Mountains and finished with a few days in Jim Corbett National Park. The tour focused on the many beautiful, rare and most-wanted birds which can be found throughout northern India, however, we also focused on finding Tigers and other wildlife as well as taking in some Indian culture by visiting the Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri.

Simply put, India is a busy and bustling place which many consider an ‘assault of the senses’, however, if you know where to go, it is possible to escape the crowds. Our time in the Himalayas was an example of this, where we essentially had the higher altitude forests to ourselves with barely a person around and the relaxed atmosphere in the villages could even be considered tranquil.



*The impressive snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas, some of which are over 22,000 feet (7,000 meters) high!*

The birding highlights from this tour were many. Early in the tour (after leaving Delhi), we spent a few days around Ranthambore National Park where we found **Indian Peafowl** (proper wild ones), **Painted Spurfowl**, **Painted Sandgrouse**, **Indian Vulture**, **Brown Fish Owl** and **Crested Serpent Eagle**. We then moved on to the Bharatpur area, where we were acquainted with many waterbird species such as **Bar-headed Goose**, **Dalmatian Pelican**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** and **Sarus Crane**, while other standout species included **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, **Dusky Eagle-Owl** and **Siberian Rubythroat**. In the Chambal River area we enjoyed the likes of **Indian Skimmer**, **Great Stone-curlew**, **River Lapwing**, **Black-necked Stork** and **Black-bellied** and

**River Terns**, along with strange-looking **Gharial** crocodiles. A few nights in the Himalayan foothills were up next and here we found a very different suite of birds, with highlights including **Koklass** and **Cheer Pheasants**, **Brown Dipper** and an assortment of laughingthrushes. Before finishing in Delhi, we spent a few enjoyable days in Jim Corbett National Park where birding and wildlife viewing was fantastic and included **Ibisbill**, **Wallcreeper**, **Pallas's Fish Eagle** and **Jungle Owlet** as well as **Asian Elephant**, multiple **Tiger** sightings and **Golden Jackal**.



*It was not just about birds on this trip, as we found other charismatic wildlife such as this **Asian Elephant**.*

Other wildlife highlights (not previously mentioned) included **Leopard**, three species of langurs, **Indian Flying Fox**, **Ruddy Mongoose**, **Northern Palm Civet**, **Nilgai**, **Himalayan Goral**, **Sambar** and **Chital** deer, **Eurasian Wild Pig** and **Mugger** crocodile.

### Detailed Report

#### **Day 1, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Arrival in Delhi and Sultanpur birding**

Mahendra, our expert local guide, and I met all the clients this morning at our hotel in Delhi and we headed out after lunch to an area just outside of Sultanpur National Park (one of India's smallest national parks), on the outskirts of Delhi, for our introduction to Indian birding.

We mostly birded in the Chandu Canal area (with Sanjay, the local site guide) which was just full of birdlife and was a little overwhelming (in a good way) with new bird species everywhere. Immediately after stepping out of the bus we worked our way through a bunch of wading species



feeding in a rice paddy, which included **Black-winged Stilt**, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Red-wattled** and **White-tailed Lapwings**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Green** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Ruff** and **Temminck's Stint**. Here, we also found a few **Citrine Wagtails** and a single **Rosy Pipit**. In the surrounding wetland areas we found **Indian Spot-billed** and **Ferruginous Ducks**, **Common Moorhen**, **Grey-headed Swamphen**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Asian Woolly-necked** and **Painted Storks**, **Black-headed** and **Red-naped Ibises** and **Western Marsh Harrier**. In the surrounding scrub we found **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Black Drongo**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Crested Lark**, **Delicate**, **Ashy**, **Plain** and **Yellow-bellied Prinias**, **Yellow-eyed**, **Large Grey**, **Jungle** and **Striated Babblers**, **Indian Pied Myna**, **Rosy** and **Common Starlings**, **Bluethroat**, **Pied Bush Chat**, **Streaked** and **Black-breasted Weavers**, **Sind Sparrow**, **Red Avadavat** and **Indian Silverbill**. We heard the calls of **Ruddy-breasted Crake** and **Water Rail**, but despite our best efforts we could not lay eyes on these skulkers. A small group of **Nilgai** antelope got our mammal list off to a good start. We finished the afternoon with 70+ species recorded, many of which were lifers for the group.

### Day 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. Transfer to Ranthambore National Park

After an early breakfast we left Delhi and headed south to Ranthambore National Park where we were based for the next two nights. En route to Ranthambore we birded some open fields where we found our target bird, **Indian Courser**, as well as **Indian Roller**, **Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark**, **Siberian Stonechat**, **Isabelline Wheatear** and **Tawny Pipit**. As good as the birding was here, we could not linger though, as we had our first safari drive within the park this afternoon.



*Small groups of the scarce **Indian Courser** were seen near Ranthambore.*

We arrived at our lodge for lunch and soon afterwards we headed out for our first safari drive, where we would begin our search for Tiger. We were assigned Zone 6 this afternoon, which is comprised of dry woodlands and rolling hills. Upon our arrival at the gate we bumped into a small feeding flock of **Small Minivets** before we headed into the park. We spent the next three hours or so driving through the park and making regular stops to enjoy the many birds and other wildlife on offer. It did not take long to find our first **Indian Peafowls**, which were common and conspicuous – it was exciting to see truly wild **Indian Peafowl** after being so familiar with the species from feral populations and pets from around the world. As we moved through the open and closed woodlands, we found good numbers of both **Sambar** and **Chital** (Spotted) deer and had our ears honed for the alarm call of **Chital**, which often gives away the presence of predators. Over our time in Ranthambore we also encountered good numbers of **Bengal Sacred** (Northern Plains Grey) **Langurs** as well as **Rhesus Macaques** (a species which was to be seen daily over the rest of the tour) and a pair of **Indian Hares**. A waterhole held **Black Stork**, **Indian Pond Heron**, **Great White Egret**, **White-throated Kingfisher** and **Mugger** crocodiles. Overhead we saw a small flock of vultures comprising of **Indian Vulture** and a single **Red-headed Vulture**.

Other interesting species seen on our drive included **Shikra**, **Painted Spurfowl**, **White-eyed Buzzard**, **Indian Scops Owl**, **Spotted Owlet**, **White-naped Woodpecker**, **Black-rumped Flameback**, **Plum-headed Parakeet**, **Common Woodshrike**, **White-browed Fantail**, **Rufous Treepie** (very common), **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, **Grey Wagtail** and **Long-billed Pipit**. Unfortunately, we did not find any Tiger this afternoon, however, with two more safari drives in the park the following day, we were hopeful that we would still see this dream animal!



*Painted Spurfowl were seen infrequently in Ranthambore National Park.*



**Day 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025. Ranthambore National Park**

After meeting for early tea and coffee, we loaded up into our private safari vehicles and made our way back into the park and into Zone 1 for the morning. Tiger was the main priority for the morning, as we hoped to find them while it was still cool, and they were still roaming about. As we drove through the park we were particularly mindful of the alarm call of **Chital** deer. This meant some of the morning felt a bit rushed as we didn't make too many birding stops, however, this method paid off when we heard alarm calls nearby, which soon revealed a small female **Leopard** that showed incredibly well for us. Soon thereafter we struck gold when we found a large female **Tiger** lying in the grass, occasionally sitting up to give us clear views of her face. After what had been a slow start to the morning, we were all elated and watched the **Tiger** until we felt we had had our fill and then moved on out of the park. While we hadn't fully concentrated on birding this morning, we still came across many bird species, including the likes of **Greater Coucal**, **Bronze-winged Jacana**, **Crested Honey Buzzard**, **Indian Scops Owl**, **Spotted Owlet**, **Common**, **Stork-billed** and **White-throated Kingfishers**, **Coppersmith Barbet**, **White-bellied Drongo** and **Indian Robin**.



*Your first **Tiger** sighting is always a special one!*

We got back to our lodge in the late morning and grabbed a delicious breakfast. After breakfast we went for a walk along the entrance road to a small pond which was quite birdy and found **Greater Coucal**, **Spotted** and **Common Redshanks**, **Temminck's Stint**, **River Tern**, **Common Babbler**, **Brahminy Starling**, **Black Redstart**, **Purple Sunbird** and a good-sized flock of **Yellow-throated Sparrows**.

Later that afternoon, we headed out for our third and final Ranthambore safari drive, this time in Zone 5. With the big cat pressure off, it meant that we could take it much slower and enjoy a

more relaxed drive and fully concentrate on finding any bird species we had yet to find in the park. Highlights from our drive were many but some of the standout species included **River Tern**, **Crested Honey Buzzard**, **Crested Serpent Eagle**, **Indian Scops Owl**, **Brown Fish Owl**, **Dusky Eagle-Owl**, **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**, **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, **Dusky Crag Martin**, **Taiga**, **Red-breasted** and **Tickell's Blue Flycatchers**, **Yellow-throated Sparrow** and **Grey Wagtail**. We eventually exited the park in the late afternoon and headed back to our hotel, where we celebrated our first Tiger sighting with a tasty meal and a drink.



*We had many good sightings of **Brown Fish Owl** on this tour.*

#### **Day 4, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Ranthambore National Park to Bharatpur**

We didn't have a particularly long transfer today as we made our way northeast towards the town of Bharatpur. After breakfast, at a normal hour, we packed our vehicle and enjoyed some fine birding along the drive. Soon after we left the hotel, we stopped for a pair of very showy **Painted Sandgrouse** which posed for photos.

After a quick curio shop, we stopped at some roadside pans which produced **Knob-billed Duck**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Red-crested Pochard** and **Eurasian Coot**. On the opposite side of the road Mahendra did well to spot a pair of **Yellow-wattled Lapwings**, and here we also saw **Red Collared Dove**, **White-browed Wagtail** and **Long-tailed Shrike**.

We then moved onto the same fields where we had birded a couple days ago and, sure enough, the **Indian Coursers** were still around in decent numbers. Today, we had a bit more time to bird the area and while walking the area we found **Indian Roller**, **Indian Bush Lark**, **Greater Short-toed Lark**, **Siberian Stonechat**, **Isabelline**, **Desert** and **Variable Wheatears** and many **Tawny Pipits**. A distant **Great Grey Shrike** also provided good scope views.

We then made the rest of the journey to Bharatpur and checked into our rather luxurious hotel, where we enjoyed lunch. For the remainder of the afternoon, we birded some wetland areas, on the edge of town, which were full of birds and gave us great looks in the beautiful afternoon light. Here, we enjoyed looking through large flocks of waterfowl which were mostly comprised of **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail** and **Eurasian Teal**, however, on closer inspection we picked out **Bar-headed Goose**, **Knob-billed Duck**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Garganey**, **Eurasian Wigeon** and **Indian Spot-billed Duck**. Other waterbirds seen here included **Grey-headed Swamphen**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Asian Openbill**, **Painted Stork**, **Oriental Darter**, **Eurasian Spoonbill** and a multitude of shorebirds such as **Pied Avocet**, **White-tailed Lapwing**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Common Snipe**, **Green**, **Marsh** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Common** and **Spotted Redshanks**, **Ruff** and **Temminck's Stint**. Overhead we saw a few raptor species with **Greater Spotted** and **Booted Eagles**, **Shikra** and **Western Marsh Harrier** all seen well, while good numbers of hirundines comprised of **Grey-throated Martin** and **Barn**, **Wire-tailed** and **Streak-throated Swallows**. Along the shoreline we found **Western Yellow**, **Citrine** and **White Wagtails** with singletons of **Tawny** and **Rosy Pipits** also seen well. An incredibly obliging male **Bluethroat** further entertained us here.



*Waterfowl, such as these **Bar-headed Geese**, are numerous around Bharatpur.*

#### **Day 5, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Full day at Keoladeo National Park**

Keoladeo National Park, just outside Bharatpur, was originally designated a duck-hunting reserve, however, it was thankfully proclaimed a bird sanctuary in 1956 and ultimately a national park in 1982. It hosts impressive numbers of waterbirds, particularly during the winter months when tens of thousands of waterfowl reside here to escape the colder temperatures further north.



We spent the full day birding the park and were moved around the park in electronic rickshaws, which is the best way to explore the park.

We entered the park soon after sunrise and immediately started birding the woodlands and scrub, which held **Indian Stone-curlew, Hume's Leaf, Greenish, Blyth's Reed and Clamorous Reed Warblers, Indian Grey Hornbill, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Indian Golden Oriole, Bay-backed Shrike, Common Tailorbird, White-eared Bulbul, Yellow-eyed Babbler and Bluethroat**. We spent a long time trying to lure out a male **Siberian Rubythroat** which unfortunately only showed briefly for Mahendra, Chuck and I. There were plenty of raptors around too including **Indian Spotted, Greater Spotted, Booted and Eastern Imperial Eagles, Shikra and Western Marsh Harrier**. We also enjoyed good looks at another pair of **Dusky Eagle-Owls** and found roosting **Indian Scops Owl and Spotted Owlet**.

We then moved onto the wetlands part of the reserve which was just teeming with birdlife, and we spent the remainder of the day birding various water bodies, with a tasty lunch in between. Some of our waterbird highlights included **Lesser Whistling Duck, Greylag Goose, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Garganey, Gadwall, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Sarus Crane, Grey-headed Lapwing, Great Crested Grebe, Little, Great and Indian Cormorants, Black Bittern and Dalmatian and Great White Pelicans**.

We encountered some other exciting wildlife today including **Indian Flying Fox** (which Jami particularly enjoyed), **Golden Jackal** (all too briefly), **Chital, Eurasian Wild Pig, Mugger** crocodile, **Ganges Softshell Turtle, Indian Roofed Turtle** and a huge **Indian Python**.



*Indian Python, one of our many targets around Keoladeo National Park.*

After dinner that evening, we found a group of **Grey Francolins** which I had seen flying in to roost for the night, a bird we had heard for most of the day but had not yet laid eyes on.

**Day 6, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Fatehpur Sikri visit and transfer to the Chambal area**

After breakfast, a quick walk around the hotel grounds did not produce too much, except a **Brown-headed Barbet** and a couple of flyover **Egyptian Vultures**. After our walk we loaded up the vehicle and left Bharatpur for the ancient town of Fatehpur Sikri, where we were to enjoy a cultural tour. Fatehpur Sikri was the former capital of the Moghul Empire and was established in 1571, however, it only served as the capital until 1585, due to a campaign in Punjab. We were guided around the city's many impressive red sandstone buildings and monuments, most of which were intricately decorated and sculpted. During our time here, we noted many **Brown Rock Chats** and a flyover **Booted Eagle**.

From Fatehpur Sikri, we continued east, bypassing Agra, for now, and arrived at our beautiful safari lodge for a tasty lunch and some down time in the early afternoon. Later that afternoon, we took a walk around the lodge grounds and the general area and although the birding was a bit slow, we did find **Orange-headed Thrush** (skulking in the leaf litter), **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon**, **Yellow-wattled Lapwing**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Coppersmith Barbet**, **Red-whiskered Bulbul**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Olive-backed Pipit** and roosting **Indian Scops Owl** and **Brown Boobook**.

Later that evening after dinner, we went for a night walk around the property, which produced a single **Northern Palm Civet**.



*Coppersmith Barbet in the beautiful afternoon light.*

**Day 7, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Chambal River boat cruise and birding the surrounds**

This morning we left our lodge after an early breakfast and then headed towards the Chambal River for our boat cruise. We made a few birding stops en route and birded the dry open scrub,

which held several new trip birds such as **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Jungle Prinia** and **Paddyfield Pipit**, as well as familiar species like **Indian Roller**, **Siberian Stonechat**, **Pied Bush Chat** and **Yellow-eyed Babbler**. Another stop nearby further added **Purple Sunbird** and **Baya Weaver**, but unfortunately, we could not find Sirkeer Malkoha.

We then boarded a small boat and slowly made our way down the wide Chambal River. The water levels were relatively low at this time of the year (we could see the maximum height of the river during the monsoon period, which was difficult to fathom) and so it meant that one of our main target species, **Indian Skimmer**, was around and it did not take long until we were enjoying close looks at a good-sized flock. Other birds seen here on these sand banks included **Kentish Plover**, **Great Stone-curlew**, **River Lapwing**, **Common Snipe** and **Black-bellied** and **River Terns**. We also had decent looks at a single **Black-necked Stork**, which we had missed up until this point. There were good numbers of raptors around in the area including **Osprey**, **Black-winged Kite**, **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Long-legged Buzzard** and **Egyptian Vulture**. We had hoped to see the rare Ganges River Dolphin but unfortunately drew a blank here, although we did get great looks at the strange-looking **Gharial** crocodile and saw **Ganges Softshell**, **Red-crowned Roof** and **Indian Tent Turtles**. After a good two hours out on the water, we returned to dry land and then made our way back to the lodge for lunch.



*The strange-looking **Gharial** crocodile was seen along the Chambal River.*

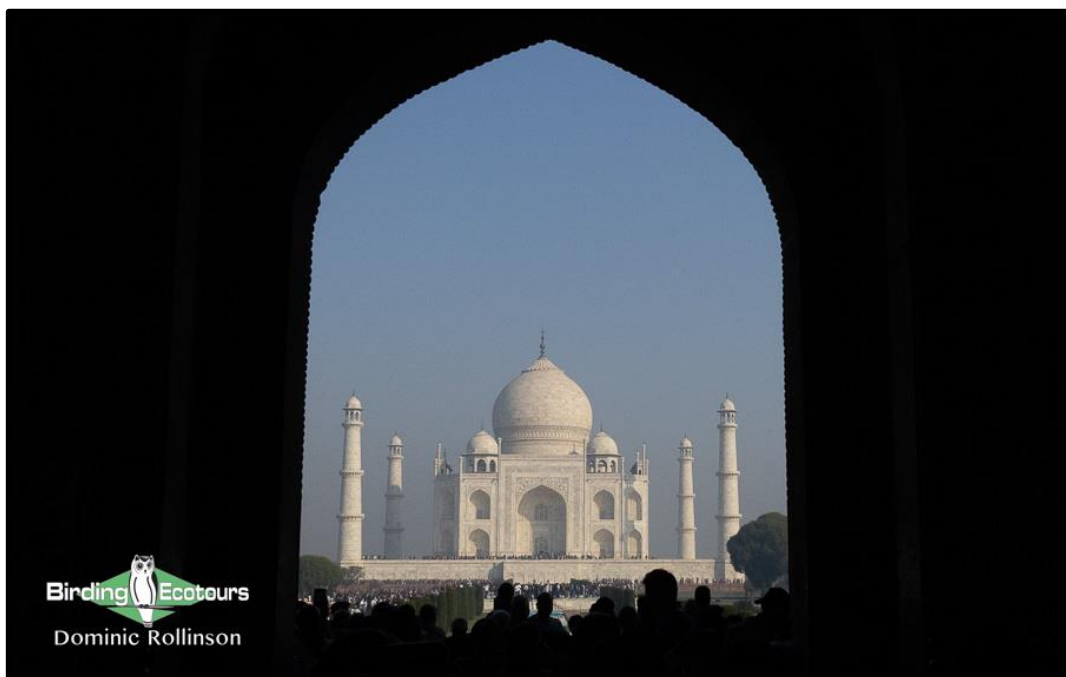
After lunch and a bit of down time in the early afternoon, we headed back out to the same dry scrub we had birded in the morning. We again missed Sirkeer Malkoha but found some other great birds like **Jungle Bush Quail** (after much work) and **Barred Buttonquail**, which both took a lot of effort to see, but we were eventually rewarded with good enough looks. Other



noteworthy birds seen in the area included **Rufous-fronted Prinia**, **Indian Silverbill** and **Common Rosefinch**.

### **Day 8, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Taj Mahal and transfer back to Delhi**

Another early breakfast was taken this morning (a definite theme developing here), as we wanted to get to the Taj Mahal before it got too late when visitor numbers would swell. We arrived at the Taj Mahal around mid-morning along with lots of other people (our trip coincided with three days of Independence Day celebrations) and we spent a couple of hours enjoying the marvel of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The attention to detail is incredible and almost every square inch of the building is seemingly adorned with semi-precious stones and amazing and intricate patterns, it is no wonder it took over two decades to complete work on it. Of course, we had our binoculars around our necks and enjoyed good numbers of birds along the Yamuna River such as **Pallas's Gull**, **Pied Avocet**, **Little Stint** and **Whiskered Tern**. Other birds seen while walking around the Taj Mahal grounds included **Egyptian Vulture** (perched on the turrets), **Indian Grey Hornbill**, **Indian Pied Myna** and **Booted Eagle**.



*The Taj Mahal in all its beauty!*

We then had our lunch in Agra and began the long drive northwards to Noida, on the outskirts of Delhi. We made one birding stop just outside of Noida at Okhla Bird Sanctuary which proved worthwhile and was full of birds. Interesting birds seen here included lots of waterfowl (such as **Ferruginous** and **Tufted Ducks**), **Black-headed** and **Brown-headed Gulls**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Asian Green Bee-eater**, **Alexandrine Parakeet** (a quick flyby), **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and many **Citrine Wagtails**. We also passed by a massive landfill which

must have had tens of thousands of **Black Kites** circling above it and was quite something to witness! Eventually we made it to Noida and checked into our hotel for the night.

### Day 9, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Train ride to the Himalayan foothills at Bhimtal

We had our earliest start yet as we made our way to the Delhi train station (which was expertly navigated by Mahendra), and we spent the whole morning transferring to the Himalayan foothills by railway, this was comfortable and clean. We eventually arrived at our accommodation in Bhimtal (overlooking a lake and some impressive hills) for lunch and then, later that afternoon, headed out for the day's first birding.

As we were meeting to head out for the afternoon, we noticed a feeding flock from the hotel's balcony and had soon picked out **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike**, **Cinereous** and **Himalayan Black-lored Tits**, **Himalayan Bulbul**, **Buff-barred**, **Lemon-rumped** and **Grey-hooded Warblers**, **Red-billed Leiothrix** and **Tree Pipit** – all without leaving the hotel balcony! We eventually left the hotel and made our way to the Chaffi River area, which is a picturesque setting with a beautiful boulder-strewn river cutting through the landscape, with some fine birds on offer. **Brown Dipper** was our primary target here and, despite the pair not being present on our arrival, a dipper suddenly appeared out of nowhere and gave us incredible looks as it went about feeding in the fast-flowing water. We later discovered the pair had a nest, likely with youngsters, as they kept returning with food to the nest. It took some effort, but after a while we had amazing looks at a stunning male **Himalayan Rubythroat** which sat out in the open for all to see!



*This male **Himalayan Rubythroat** put on a show for us near Sattal.*

Other birds seen along the river here included **Crested Kingfisher**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **Spotted Forktail**, **White-capped Redstart** and **Plumbeous Water Redstart**. In the nearby riparian forest we found further great birds such as **Blue-throated Barbet**, **Greater Flameback**, **Greater Yellownape**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **Mountain** and **Black Bulbuls**, **Small Niltava**, **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** and **Grey Bush Chat**. It had been a great introduction to Himalayan foothill birding, and we eagerly awaited the next day's birding adventures.

### Day 10, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Birding the Sattal area

We had a pre-dawn start this morning and headed to the Sattal area where we would be visiting a hide/blind where birds are fed, with perches set up perfectly for bird photography. We arrived just before sunrise and made our way down to the hide, where we waited for the birds to start arriving. It took a little while but then the floodgates opened, and we had dozens of birds coming into feed, which all showed incredibly well, for sustained periods and at close range. Highlights of our almost two hours here included **Rufous-throated Partridge**, **Kalij Pheasant**, **Great Barbet**, **Brown-fronted** and **Grey-headed Woodpeckers**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellownapes**, **Slaty-headed** and **Plum-headed Parakeets**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie**, **Common Green Magpie**, **Grey Treepie**, **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler**, **Striated**, **White-crested**, **Rufous-chinned** and **White-throated Laughingthrushes** and **Grey-winged Blackbird**. We also improved our looks at **Rufous Turtle Dove**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Red-billed Leiothrix**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** and **Blue Whistling Thrush**. We eventually had to tear ourselves away as we had other birds to find and had just about seen all the likely species on offer.



*A pair of normally elusive **Rufous-throated Partridges** showed incredibly well from the bird hide in Sattal.*



Next, we birded along a road winding through the hills and, after grabbing our picnic breakfast, we started to add further new birds. The beautiful **Green-tailed Sunbird** showed briefly, as did **Ashy Bulbul** and then we moved on further down the road, where we found a small feeding flock which included the likes of **Lemon-rumped** and **Grey-hooded Warblers**, **Blue-winged Minla**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** and the diminutive **Speckled Piculet**.

Carrying on further down the hill to the Sattal Studio (named after the fact that birds used to bathe and drink at a certain spot which photographers took advantage of), we found a group of noisy **Red-breasted Parakeets**. Walking deeper into the forest we found **Greater Flameback**, **Greater Yellownape**, **Yellow-bellied Fantail**, **Whistler's Warbler**, **Aberrant Bush Warbler** (a real skulker) and **Himalayan Bluetail**. We spent a while trying to lay eyes on a **Chestnut-headed Tesia** and eventually had decent enough looks as it slowly bounced along the edge of a stream.

We then had lunch back at the hotel and a bit of time off, before we headed back to briefly bird the riverine forest along the Chaffi River which added **Asian Barred Owlet**, **Black Bulbul**, **Small** and **Rufous-bellied Niltavas**, and more **Himalayan Bluetails**. Mahendra then excitedly called us over onto a small wooden bridge overlooking a stream and pointed out a **Slaty-backed Forktail**, which we had missed the previous afternoon.

We then moved further around the corner and birded another stretch of riverine scrub. We had to work for our birds here but, with persistence, we eked out some quality birds such as **Steppe Eagle** (flying high overhead), **Grey-breasted Prinia**, **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler**, **Streaked Laughingthrush**, **Brown Dipper**, **Blue-fronted Redstart**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, **Grey Wagtail** and **Common Rosefinch**.



*Brown Dipper was a highlight around Sattal.*

It had been a long but productive day's birding and we headed back to the hotel for a good night's rest!

### Day 11, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Sattal birding and transfer to Pangot

With several more species to target around Sattal, we headed back to the same road as the previous morning and slowly walked our way downhill. Having arrived a bit earlier than the previous morning, the birding was much more productive, and we soon found **Kalij Pheasant**, **Speckled Piculet**, **Grey-capped Pygmy**, **Brown-fronted** and **Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers**, **Long-tailed Minivet**, **Maroon Oriole**, **Black-throated Bushtit**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Bar-tailed Treecreeper**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor** and the exquisite **Black-throated Sunbird**.



*Red-billed Blue Magpie as seen from the Sattal bird hide.*

We then headed back to our accommodation for a quick breakfast before packing the vehicle and making the relatively short transfer to the small village of Pangot, which sits at an altitude of 6,500 feet (1,950 meters). The drive through the mountains was a pretty one as we caught glimpses of the snow-capped Himalaya Mountains in the distance. We then arrived at Pangot for a delicious lunch with **Black-headed Jay**, **Rufous Sibia** and **White-tailed Nuthatch** as pleasant distractions around our beautifully set and tranquil birding lodge.

Later that afternoon we headed out to bird a track through some higher altitude scrub, which was a little on the quiet side, but did produce **Himalayan Vulture** (overhead), **Himalayan Prinia**, **Himalayan Bulbul**, **Ashy-throated Warbler**, **Blue-fronted Redstart**, **Rufous-breasted**

**Accentor, Russet Sparrow, Common and Pink-browed Rosefinches, Red-fronted Serin** and a flushed **Black francolin**, only seen by Mel and I.

That evening we had a wonderful barbecue under the stars and excitedly discussed the following day's plans to see some rare pheasants!

### **Day 12, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025. High altitude birding at Pangot**

We had a pre-dawn start this morning as we wanted to be in the higher-altitude forest at dawn to stand a decent chance of seeing **Koklass Pheasant**. Over the next couple of hours, we heard distant **Koklass Pheasants** but none that could be easily targeted and were starting to lose hope in seeing the bird. Suddenly Mahendra brought the vehicle to a halt and excitedly pointed out a pair of **Koklass Pheasants** close to the road, with the male even beginning to call as we watched it. We were elated, as it can be a very difficult bird to lay eyes on, and we then moved further down the road to enjoy a celebratory breakfast.



***Koklass Pheasant** was seen incredibly well in the Himalayan foothills.*

We decided to have our breakfast at a spring which is used by birds to come and drink, which meant it was a very distracted breakfast. Highlights from our breakfast stop included **Bonelli's Eagle, Eurasian Crag Martin, Black-chinned Babbler, Black-throated Thrush, Black-throated Accentor, Plain Mountain Finch, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch** and many **Himalayan Vultures** as they started their search for thermals.

We then moved back into the forested areas and started searching for feeding parties, which is normally how one finds new birds in these forests. We soon heard excited bird calls and, on closer investigation, found a small feeding flock which produced many new species, such as



**White-browed Shrike-babbler, Eurasian Jay and Yellow-browed, Coal and Grey-crested Tits**, as well as now familiar species such as **Grey-hooded Warbler, Black-throated Bushtit, White-tailed Nuthatch and Bar-tailed Treecreeper**.

We then came to a break in the forest which opened into steep grass-covered slopes, which is where we hoped to find our next target, **Cheer Pheasant**. We were just starting to get ourselves comfortable for a long wait when Mahendra again shouted that he had them. Sure enough, Mahendra pointed out a pair of cryptically colored **Cheer Pheasants**, and we enjoyed excellent prolonged scope views and slowly improved our photos over the next 30 minutes or so. While enjoying the pheasants, we also watched **Large-billed Crows** flying high overhead and a whirling flock of **Altai Accentors**. While watching the pheasants we also had good looks at a single **Himalayan Goral** – a range-restricted mountain goat.



*The well-camouflaged **Cheer Pheasant** was seen in grassy slopes in the Himalayan foothills.*

We couldn't believe our luck, and before returning to camp we further added **Himalayan Woodpecker** and the cute **Black-faced Warbler**. We then enjoyed some lunch and some well-deserved time off in the early afternoon.

Later that afternoon we headed back out and took a steep, winding road to some nearby farmland and scrub to try to eke out a few other missing species. We started our birding with a long walk through open scrub and small cultivated fields, which added **Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, Common Chiffchaff, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Striated and Streaked Laughingthrushes, Spotted Forktail, Slaty-blue Flycatcher** (after much effort), **Olive-backed Pipit** and **Yellow-breasted Greenfinch**. We then moved to another spot where we found our hoped-for **Grey-crowned Prinia**, which showed well alongside **Grey-breasted Prinias**. It was then back to our lodge after a long but highly successful day in the Himalayan foothills.

**Day 13, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025. Transfer to the lowlands of Jim Corbett National Park**

We had a sit-down breakfast at a more respectable time this morning and then packed the bus and started our descent towards Jim Corbett National Park. At the next village down from Pangot, we stopped to look for **Vinaceous Rosefinch**, of which there had been numerous reports of a single male over the last few days. We slowly walked along the edge of a quaint village and accumulated an impressive bird list in our 90 minutes, or so, here. While we were looking for the rosefinch, we also found **Kalij Pheasant**, **Slaty-headed Parakeet**, **Grey Treepie**, **Black-chinned Babbler**, **Rufous Sibia**, **White-tailed Nuthatch**, **Grey-winged Blackbird**, **Golden Bush Robin** (a smart male), **Pink-browed Rosefinch**, **Brown Bullfinch** and eventually the brightly colored male **Vinaceous Rosefinch**. We were also excited to find a pair of **Hill Partridges**, a bird we thought we had missed after no luck around Pangot.



*Rufous Sibia were common and conspicuous around Pangot.*

We then continued our drop in altitude and had a pleasant stop at the Jim Corbett Museum (the house where he used to live) and here we added **Lineated Barbet** and **Asian House Martin**. Soon after, we stopped for lunch at a forested section, enjoying **Red-headed Vulture** and **Crested Serpent Eagle** as we ate. A short while later we arrived at our accommodation just outside of the national park in the small, busy town of Dhikuli, and took a couple hours off during the early afternoon heat.

Our afternoon's birding would be an exciting trip to the nearby Koshi River to look for two highly desired targets; Ibisbill and Wallcreeper, both monotypic families. We arrived on the boulder-strewn banks of the river, near to the Girija Devi Temple and slowly started scanning the fast-flowing river. It did not take long for Mahendra to spot two **Ibisbill** feeding a little way off, which we all enjoyed scope views of. Not fully satisfied with our views, we edged our way

closer and eventually had to cross a tributary which we easily skipped across (read, cautiously and slowly waded across, it was a well-planned and -orchestrated crossing) and enjoyed much improved looks with some decent photographic opportunities. We could not find Wallcreeper today but had to be content with **River Lapwing**, **Crested Kingfisher**, **Alexandrine Parakeet**, **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, **Common Tailorbird**, **Slaty-blue Flycatcher** and **White-browed Wagtail**, as a support act.



*Ibisbill along the Koshi River, near Jim Corbett National Park.*

#### **Days 14-15, 3-4<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Safari drives in Jim Corbett National Park**

We could only enter the reserve in the late morning, so before breakfast we took a walk around camp which added **Spotted Dove**, **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, **Crimson Sunbird** and a distant **Lesser Fish Eagle**. We then decided to have another shot at **Wallcreeper** which proved to be a good decision as we had incredible looks at a **Wallcreeper** which flew right by us. Other birds seen here included **Stork-billed**, **Crested**, **White-throated**, **Common** and **Pied Kingfishers** (a clean sweep on the kingfishers), **Hair-crested Drongo** and **Western Yellow Wagtail**.

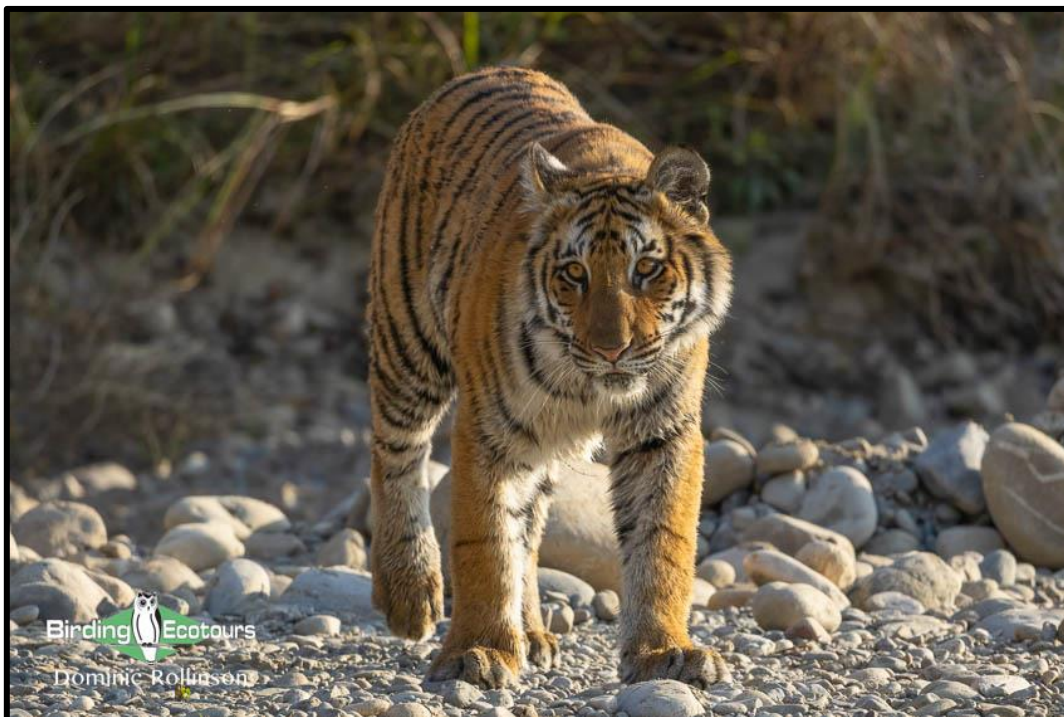
We arrived at the park gate in the late morning, and after the entry formalities, we proceeded into the reserve and towards Dhikala Camp, where we would be staying, deep in the reserve, for the night. Over these two days in the park we enjoyed morning and afternoon safari drives and enjoyed a beautiful sunset overlooking the floodplain below Dhikala Camp.

During our safari drives in the Dhikala area, we came across multiple **Tiger** sightings, including sightings of two groups of three subadult **Tigers**. By far, our best **Tiger** sighting included watching one of these subadults bathing in a river and providing point blank views in glorious afternoon light—surely one of *the* trip highlights. We also got to watch the same group of three subadults cross a fast-flowing river, which was fun to watch.





*We had amazing flight views of **Wallcreeper** along the Koshi River.*



*Later the same day we had multiple prolonged **Tiger** sightings.*

The birding around Dhikala was sublime and over these two days we notched up an impressive list including **White-rumped Spinetail**, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, **Lesser** and **Pallas's Fish**

Eagles, Lineated Barbet, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Himalayan Flameback, Scarlet Minivet, Greater and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos, Ashy Bulbul, Kalij Pheasant, Red Junglefowl (from which present-day chickens originate), Black Francolin, Common Emerald Dove, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Alpine Swift, Crested Treeswift, Asian Barred Owlet, Black-hooded Oriole, Indian Cuckooshrike, Brown Crake and Besra. We also enjoyed decent looks at a small group of Great Slaty Woodpeckers, one of the largest woodpeckers on the planet!

The floodplain below camp was constantly littered with birds, including Mallard (a trip bird!), Northern Pintail, Great Stone-curlew, River Lapwing, Black and Black-necked Storks, Pallas's and Lesser Fish Eagles and Jungle Myna. The area also had good numbers of animals around too, including Asian Elephant, Chital, Sambar, Northern Red Muntjac, Hog Deer, Asian Wild Pig, Golden Jackal and Gharial crocodile. Closer inspection of the grasslands in the floodplain further yielded Oriental Skylark, Paddyfield Pipit and Siberian Stonechat.



*Lesser Fish Eagles were conspicuous in Jim Corbett National Park.*

We returned to our camp in Dhikuli later on that second afternoon, after an incredible two days in the park, and decided to bird a nearby river which was very quiet but did yield **Himalayan Swiftlet**, **Collared Owlet** and **White-rumped Shama**.

#### **Day 16, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Jim Corbett safari and transfer to Delhi**

We had one final safari drive in Jim Corbett National Park and this time we were assigned the Jhirna area. Despite having spent the last two days in the park, we still managed a bunch of new birds. Highlights from our morning safari included **Red Junglefowl**, **Indian Thick-knee**,

**Crested Honey Buzzard, Himalayan Vulture, Jungle Owlet, Great Hornbill, Black-rumped Flameback, Small and Scarlet Minivets, Ashy, Bronzed and Hair-crested Drongos, Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Crimson Sunbird and Golden-fronted Leafbird.** This ended a wonderful few days in this most impressive national park!



*Black-rumped Flameback was seen frequently throughout this tour.*

It was then the long drive west to Delhi, which went by uneventfully. We said our goodbyes to Chuck and Mel, and then to Mahendra, who had done an excellent job over the last 16 days and checked into our Delhi hotel for the evening.

#### **Day 17, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Sultanpur birding and departure**

Kim and Jami only flew out in the evening and so we decided to spend most of the final day birding the Sultanpur area, which we hadn't fully done justice to earlier in the trip. We again met up with Sanjay and let him know our list of targets for the day. We immediately set off to the same Chandu Canal area as before and had an amazing few hours of birding here. Highlights here included **Ruddy-breasted Crake** (seen well this time), **Spotted Redshank**, **Brown-headed** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, **Greater Flamingo**, **Black-necked Stork**, **Indian Spotted Eagle**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Eurasian Wryneck**, **Isabelline** and **Brown Shrikes**, **Delicate Prinia**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Moustached** and **Paddyfield Warblers** and **Black-breasted Weaver**.

Next, we moved onto Sultanpur National Park itself where we did a good walk around the various pans and birded the small patches of woodland. Here we found **Grey Francolin**, **Common Hawk-Cuckoo**, **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Asian Green Bee-eater**, **Brown-headed Barbet**, **Brook's Leaf**, **Greenish** and **Eastern Orphean Warblers**



and **Olive-backed Pipit**. We eventually made our way back to the hotel in the mid-afternoon, after a highly productive final day of birding.

Later we said our final goodbyes, after a thoroughly successful and fun 17 days in northern India. Our multiple Tiger sightings and countless spectacular bird species will not be forgotten anytime soon. Thanks to Mahendra for his expert guiding and intricate knowledge of the route, which made sure the logistics of the trip ran flawlessly.



*Common Green Magpie, another highlight of our time at the Sattal bird hide.*

**Bird List – Following IOC (Version 15.1/February 2025)**

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)</b>	
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Common Pochard - VU	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
<b>Pheasants &amp; Allies (Phasianidae)</b>	
Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>
Rufous-throated Partridge	<i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>
Koklass Pheasant	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>
Cheer Pheasant - VU	<i>Catreus wallichii</i>
Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Painted Spurfowl (Endemic)	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
Grey Francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdicula asiatica</i>
<b>Treeswifts (Hemiprocnidae)</b>	
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
<b>Swifts (Apodidae)</b>	

Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>
White-rumped Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
<b>Cuckoos (Cuculidae)</b>	
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
<b>Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)</b>	
Painted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles indicus</i>
<b>Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)</b>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>
<b>Rails, Crakes &amp; Coots (Rallidae)</b>	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>
Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Zapornia fusca</i>
Brown Crake	<i>Zapornia akool</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
<b>Cranes (Gruidae)</b>	
Sarus Crane - VU	<i>Antigone antigone</i>
<b>Grebes (Podicipedidae)</b>	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
<b>Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)</b>	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
<b>Buttonquail (Turnicidae)</b>	
Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
<b>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)</b>	



Great Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
<b>Ibisbill (Ibidorhynchidae)</b>	
Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>
<b>Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)</b>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
<b>Plovers (Charadriidae)</b>	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>
<b>Jacanas (Jacanidae)</b>	
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>
<b>Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)</b>	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
<b>Couriers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)</b>	
Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>
<b>Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)</b>	
Indian Skimmer - EN	<i>Rynchops albigollis</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
River Tern - VU	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>
Black-bellied Tern - EN	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>

Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
<b>Storks (Ciconiidae)</b>	
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
<b>Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)</b>	
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
<b>Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)</b>	
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
<b>Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)</b>	
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
<b>Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)</b>	
Black Bittern	<i>Botaurus flavicollis</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
<b>Pelicans (Pelecanidae)</b>	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
<b>Ospreys (Pandionidae)</b>	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>

<b>Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)</b>	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Egyptian Vulture - EN	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Red-headed Vulture - CR	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>
Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
Indian Vulture (Endemic) - CR	<i>Gyps indicus</i>
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
Indian Spotted Eagle - VU	<i>Clanga hastata</i>
Greater Spotted Eagle - VU	<i>Clanga clanga</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Steppe Eagle - EN	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
Besra	<i>Tachyspiza virgata</i>
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Pallas's Fish Eagle - EN	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>
Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>
White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
<b>Owls (Strigidae)</b>	
Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
Collared Owlet	<i>Taeniopteryx brodiei</i>
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>
Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus lettia</i>
Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Dusky Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa coromanda</i>
<b>Hoopoes (Upupidae)</b>	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
<b>Hornbills (Bucerotidae)</b>	
Great Hornbill - VU	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthraceroceros albirostris</i>
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>
<b>Rollers (Coraciidae)</b>	
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>



<b>Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)</b>	
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
<b>Bee-eaters (Meropidae)</b>	
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
<b>Asian Barbets (Megalaimidae)</b>	
Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>
Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
<b>Woodpeckers (Picidae)</b>	
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>
Brown-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes auriceps</i>
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>
Himalayan Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos himalayensis</i>
Greater Yellownappe	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>
Lesser Yellownappe	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
Himalayan Flameback	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>
White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>
Great Slaty Woodpecker - VU	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>
<b>Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)</b>	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
<b>Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)</b>	
Slaty-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula himalayana</i>
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>

Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
<b>Vangas &amp; Allies (Vangidae)</b>	
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
<b>Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)</b>	
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>
Indian Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
<b>Vireos, Greenlets, Shrike-babblers (Vireonidae)</b>	
White-browed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>
<b>Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (Oriolidae)</b>	
Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>
<b>Drongos (Dicruridae)</b>	
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
<b>Fantails (Rhipiduridae)</b>	
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
<b>Shrikes (Laniidae)</b>	
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
<b>Crows, Jays (Corvidae)</b>	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Black-headed Jay	<i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i>
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>
Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>

Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>
<b>Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)</b>	
Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i>
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
<b>Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)</b>	
Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
Grey-crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes dichrous</i>
Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
Himalayan Black-lored Tit	<i>Machlolophus xanthogenys</i>
<b>Larks (Alaudidae)</b>	
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>
Indian Bush Lark	<i>Plocealauda erythroptera</i>
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
<b>Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)</b>	
Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flava</i>
Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mcclellandii</i>
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>
Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
<b>Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)</b>	
Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>
Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluviicola</i>
<b>Cupwings (Pnoepygidae)</b>	



Scaly-breasted Cupwing	<i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>
<b>Cettia Bush Warblers &amp; Allies (Cettiidae)</b>	
Black-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>
Aberrant Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis flavolivaceus</i>
Grey-sided Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>
Chestnut-headed Tesia	<i>Cettia castaneocoronata</i>
<b>Bushtits (Aegithalidae)</b>	
Black-throated Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
<b>Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)</b>	
Buff-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>
Ashy-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
Brooks's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus subviridis</i>
Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Whistler's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus whistleri</i>
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>
<b>Reed Warblers &amp; Allies (Acrocephalidae)</b>	
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
<b>Grassbirds &amp; Allies (Locustellidae)</b>	
West Himalayan Bush Warbler	<i>Locustella kashmirensis</i>
<b>Cisticolas &amp; Allies (Cisticolidae)</b>	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Himalayan Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera</i>
Grey-crowned Prinia - VU	<i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>
Rufous-fronted Prinia	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
Delicate Prinia	<i>Prinia lepida</i>
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
<b>Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)</b>	

Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>
<b>Parrotbills &amp; Allies (Paradoxornithidae)</b>	
Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
<b>White-eyes (Zosteropidae)</b>	
Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
<b>Babblers, Scimitar Babblers (Timaliidae)</b>	
Black-chinned Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma pyrrhops</i>
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler	<i>Erythrogonys erythrogonys</i>
<b>Laughingthrushes &amp; Allies (Leiothrichidae)</b>	
Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Grammatoptila striata</i>
Streaked Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron lineatum</i>
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i>
Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>
Blue-winged Minla	<i>Actinodura cyanouroptera</i>
Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Argya malcolmi</i>
Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>
Common Babbler	<i>Argya caudata</i>
Striated Babbler	<i>Argya earlei</i>
White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocincla rufogularis</i>
White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Pterorhinus albogularis</i>
<b>Nuthatches (Sittidae)</b>	
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>
<b>Wallcreeper (Tichodromidae)</b>	
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>
<b>Treecreepers (Certhiidae)</b>	
Bar-tailed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>
<b>Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)</b>	
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Indian Pied Myna	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>

Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
<b>Thrushes (Turdidae)</b>	
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>
Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus bouboul</i>
Black-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>
<b>Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)</b>	
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>
Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>
Himalayan Rubythroat	<i>Calliope pectoralis</i>
Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>
Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophliata</i>
Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula supercilii</i>
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
Golden Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>
Himalayan Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
White-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Grey Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
Brown Rock Chat	<i>Oenanthe fusca</i>
Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>
<b>Dippers (Cinclidae)</b>	
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
<b>Leafbirds (Chloropseidae)</b>	
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>



<b>Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)</b>	
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Pachyglossa agilis</i>
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
<b>Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)</b>	
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>
Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
<b>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)</b>	
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>
Sind Sparrow	<i>Passer pyrrhonotus</i>
Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
<b>Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)</b>	
Black-breasted Weaver	<i>Ploceus benghalensis</i>
Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
<b>Waxbills, Munias &amp; Allies (Estrildidae)</b>	
Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
<b>Accentors (Prunellidae)</b>	
Altai Accentor	<i>Prunella himalayana</i>
Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophia</i>
Black-throated Accentor	<i>Prunella atrogularis</i>
<b>Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)</b>	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>

<b>Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)</b>	
Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>
Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrurus</i>
Pink-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodochroa</i>
Vinaceous Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus vinaceus</i>
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	<i>Chloris spinoides</i>
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>
<b>Buntings (Emberizidae)</b>	
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>

<b>Total seen</b>	<b>380</b>
Total heard only	4
Total recorded	384

### **Mammal List – Following Mammalwatching.com (November 2024)**

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following IUCN Red List: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
<b>Elephants (Elephantidae)</b>	
Asian Elephant - EN	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
<b>Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)</b>	
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
Bengal Sacred Langur (Endemic)	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>
Terai Sacred Langur	<i>Semnopithecus hector</i>
Nepal Sacred Langur	<i>Semnopithecus schistaceus</i>
<b>Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)</b>	
Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
<b>Squirrels (Sciuridae)</b>	
Northern Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>
<b>Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)</b>	
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>
<b>Canids (Canidae)</b>	
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Felids (Felidae)</b>	
Leopard - VU	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Tiger - EN	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
<b>Mongoose (Herpestidae)</b>	
Indian Gray Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>
<b>Civets, Genets, and Oyans (Viverridae)</b>	
Northern Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>
<b>Bovids (Bovidae)</b>	
Himalayan Goral	<i>Naemorhedus goral</i>
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>
<b>Deer (Cervidae)</b>	
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>
Hog Deer - EN	<i>Axis porcinus</i>
Sambar - VU	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
Northern Red Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>
<b>Suids (Suidae)</b>	
Eurasian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
<b>Total seen</b>	<b>21</b>

### Reptile List – Following Reptiles of World (October 2023)

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following IUCN Red List: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)</b>	
Mugger Crocodile - VU	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
<b>Gharials (Gavialidae)</b>	
Gharial - CR	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>
<b>Pythons (Pythonidae)</b>	
Indian Python	<i>Python molurus</i>



<b>Softshell and Flapshell Turtles (Trionychidae)</b>	
Ganges Softshell Turtle - EN	<i>Nilssonia gangetica</i>
<b>Eurasian Pond, River, and Neotropical Wood Turtles (Geoemydidae)</b>	
Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (Endemic) - CR	<i>Batagur kachuga</i>
Indian Roofed Turtle - VU	<i>Pangshura tecta</i>
Indian Tent Turtle	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i>
<b>Total seen</b>	<b>7</b>