

## **North East India 17 April – 9 May 2009**

### **By Henk Hendriks**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

I intended to visit the region for a couple of years already, but when I met Joseph Brooks and Uthai Treesucon on Sumba in July 2008 my plan became more concrete.

Joseph had arranged a 3 week trip with Peter Lobo in April/May 2009 and he invited me to join him.

Back home I was able to take leave in this period and so I joined them.

Because of working commitments Uthai had to step out and I asked several birders I knew to come along. Stijn de Win a Belgian birder, currently living in Bangkok and Dutch birder Jan Hein van Steenis, currently living in London stepped in and so we had a fine 4 member team.

This trip report is a reflection of my own experiences on this trip, complemented by notes written by Jan Hein van Steenis.

The trip started under a bad omen as a good birding friend of mine, Rob Goldbach, was killed by an elephant in Panbari Forest just 10 days before our trip took off. The ironic thing is that I initially asked him to come with me on this trip, but he had already booked a trip to Eaglenest with a regular bird tour company. I talked to several people, present at the incident, and I strongly have the impression that the whole attack could have been prevented if the group had paid more attention to the warnings of the local guides and guards.

In general western birders ( me included, until recently) tend to say that local people overreact in confrontations with wildlife, but we all forget while we visit these regions once and a while, they live there all year round.!!

There are many incidents with elephants in Assam because there is a constant strong conflict between the local farmers and elephants entering their agriculture fields. The same day Rob was killed, in another incident an elephant killed 3 children.

Anyway it is sad that Rob can no longer undertake the birding trips he so deeply enjoyed.

I had visited Assam and Meghalaya in March 1998 and as Joseph did Assam and Namdapha in 2006, we focussed on the Dirang area, Eaglenest and last but not least the Mishmi Hills.

Our itinerary worked out fine and in the end we spent an extra day in Kaziranga because we did so well in the Eaglenest area.

I also spent an extra day at the start of the trip at Sultanpur near Delhi to try for Sind Sparrow, which worked out fine and Stijn and I also added an extra day at the end of the tour for a visit to Dibru-Saikhowa and Digboi.

The whole trip was perfectly organised by Peter Lobo and his crew, During the first 2 weeks he and his guide Abid accompanied us and during the Mishmi Hills leg of the tour we were guided by Abid alone.

We were very well taken care of and all we had to do was birding. The birding was fantastic. Not only did we see some extraordinary species but all that against a backdrop of undisturbed pristine forest, especially at Eaglenest and the Mishmi Hills. We mainly birded from the road or a wide track with NO traffic (Eaglenest) or just a few cars daily (Mishmi Hills). I was a bit worried about the timing of our visit because most bird tours visit the region in March and April but it all worked out fine. Some species were more vocal than earlier in the year and as a result easier to observe. Of course we also dipped some species: no sign of the two tragopans. But you can judge for yourself when looking at our annotated bird list. Highlights were many but the sighting of a ♂ **Blue-naped Pitta** in full view for at least 30 seconds, less than 10 meters away in a gully in the tea garden near Kaziranga stands out.

But we also saw **Himalayan Monal, Snow Partridge**, the endemic **Chestnut-breasted Hill Partridge, Black-tailed Crake, Long-billed Plover, Hodgson's Frogmouth, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Snow Pigeon, Blue-naped Pitta** (3 birds!!), **Purple Cochoa, Blyth's Kingfisher, Blue-fronted Robin, Rusty-bellied Shortwing, Grandala, Bugun Liocichla, Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Black-breasted Parrotbill, Manipur Fulvetta, Black-headed Shrike Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, Slender-billed Babbler, Marsh Babbler, Himalayan Cutia, Collared Treepie**, 15 species of Laughingthrush (including the rare and localised **Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush**), 9 species of Wren-Babblers including the 2 **Wedge-billed's** and the recently rediscovered **Mishmi Wren-Babbler**, an unexpected ♂ **White-bellied Redstart, Ward's Trogon, Broad-billed Warbler, Beautiful Nuthatch, Scarlet Finch** and **Crimson-browed Finch**.

In total we recorded 476 species of which 10 were only heard.

## **VISA**

You do need a visa for India.

I obtained it through my local travel agency and this was valid for 3 months.

### **GETTING THERE – FLIGHT**

I flew with KLM from Amsterdam to New Delhi.

A return ticket cost me €820,- including all taxes.

When I flew out of Delhi I unexpectedly had to pay an additional €19,- departure tax.! (since May 1 2009)

I also flew from New Delhi to Guwahati and from Dibrugarh to New Delhi with Jet Airways. Cost me around €220,-

### **MONEY**

The currency used in India is the indian rupee

During our stay the exchange rate was: 1000 Indian Rupee = 15 €

We hardly used any money as we paid for the whole trip to Peter Lobo.

Only for drinks we had to pay. I took some cash Euros which I changed in Delhi.

### **GETTING AROUND – CAR – ACCOMMODATION – FOOD & DRINKS**

As all logistics were arranged by Peter we did not have to bother about all this. I booked a room in New Delhi (hotel Lohmod), close to the airport.

A room cost \$60,-

Transportation was by 2 Tata jeeps. These were ok but in the highlands they produced a lot of fumes which was not nice for the people in the second car.

Accommodation was in either good hotels, a basic lodge in the Mishmi Hills and twice in a tented Camp where every evening we were provided with hot water for washing/showering.

Generally we had good to excellent meals. The first day in the field I was surprised to round a corner on the road, only to find a nicely dressed table with lunch just next of the road. This turned out to be the routine for the whole trip. We had lunch and most breakfasts out in the field, every day.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Though some areas in Assam are still considered to be unsafe because of tribal unrest we had no problems in this respect.

I used to state in many reports that I was never sick during my stay etc., but not this time.

During the first day I got sick, probably of some food along the road between Guwahati and Tezpur. I had serious stomach problems for the first 4/5 days and it took at least 7/8 days before I was really fit again.

During that period we also birded the area around the Sela Pass (4200m) and I was really struggling in that area. Stijn had also some stomach problems and Joseph had some problems with the altitude.

I did take prophylaxis against malaria while we were in the lowlands, though apparently the risk is rather low.

Wildlife can be dangerous, especially elephants at Panbari Forest, where Rob Goldbach was killed. But elephants also occur at Eaglenest, so you have to be careful.

## **WEATHER**

We were very lucky with the weather.

Only during our first visit to the Sela Pass we encountered a nasty drizzle and fog at the pass.

We also drove most part of the day in the rain when we drove out of Eaglenest to Kaziranga. But that was a travelling day.

At Mishmi Hills we had some rain and fog one day in the area near the Mayodia Pass.

Most days the temperatures were very pleasant and actually perfect for birding. It was cold at Sela Pass and early mornings/evenings at Lama Camp and the lodge area in Mishmi Hills.

In the lowlands near Kaziranga it was hot during the day and it was very hot in Delhi.

## **EQUIPMENT**

We had 3 scopes in the group and Stijn did quite some digiscoping.

I carried a Canon 40d with Canon 300f4 is with 1.4 extender.

We both succeeded in photographing a large number of species we encountered.

Stijn also recorded a nice selection of songs during this trip (Sony MK 300 + Philips voicetracer) This selection can be heard at [www.bird2asia.com](http://www.bird2asia.com).

Joseph and I had also collected a good selection of vocalisations on an I-Pod. Both Peter and Abid had also good recordings of most target species on an I-pod.

## REFERENCES

### Books:

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. Richard Grimmett, Carol & Tim Inskipp.

Birds of South Asia: the Ripley guide P.Rasmussen & Anderton

A Birdwatcher's Guide to India. Krys Kazmierczak

### Trip reports & articles

We used several trip reports of recent trips of some of the Bird tour companies.

[www.travellingbirder.com](http://www.travellingbirder.com)

Birding Hotspots-Kaziranga Maan Barua-BirdingASIA 3 June 2005

Birding Hotspots-Eaglenest Ramana Athreya – Birding ASIA 4 December 2005

New Liocichla found in India at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary  
- Arunachal Pradesh B.R.Sykes – Birding ASIA 6 December 2006

Birding Hotspots revisited  
On the trail of the Bugun  
Liocichla *L.bugunorum* in  
North-east India Simon Allen & Mike Catsis  
Birding ASIA 7 – June 2007

Streak-throated Fulvetta *Fulvetta cinereiceps* in north-eastern Arunachal Pradesh – India Mathias Ritschard  
Birding ASIA 8 December 2007

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

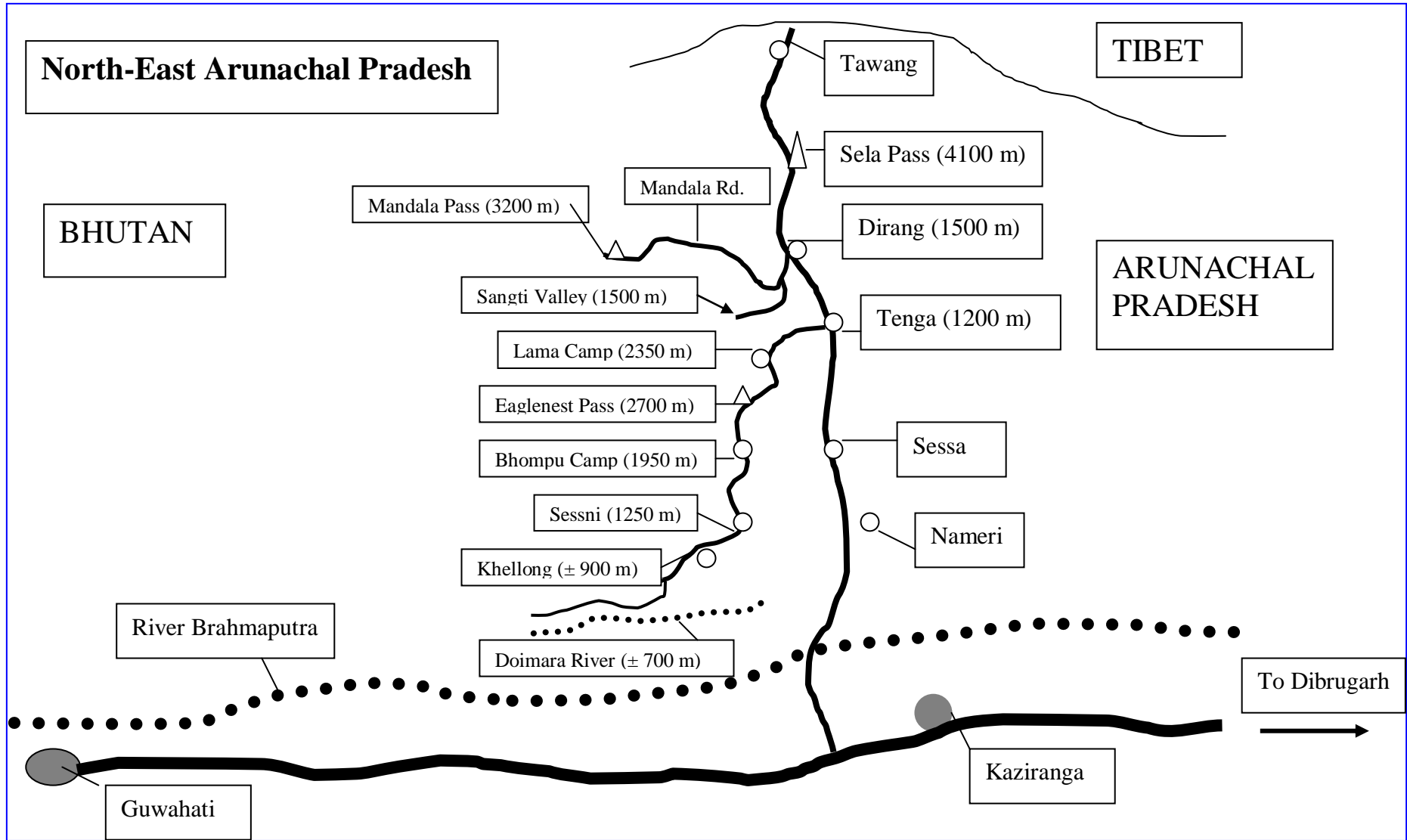
First of all I like to thank Peter Lobo and his crew, especially Abid, for organising this great birding trip for us.

Further my birding companions, Stijn de Win, Jan Hein van Steenis and Joseph Brooks. Together we saw an incredible number of quality species. Especially Jan Hein for compiling the mammal list and to make comments and corrections to the original text.

## USEFULL ADRESSES

Peter Lobo for organising your trip to north-East India.

[peterlobo65@gmail.com](mailto:peterlobo65@gmail.com) or [birdingindia@gmail.com](mailto:birdingindia@gmail.com)



## **SITES**

### **Introduction**

The Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary has become a popular birding destination in recent years. After the discovery of a new *Liocichla* in 2005 many birders made the birding pilgrimage to this north-east corner of India. If you combine Eaglenest with the Dirang Area, birders are able to score an incredible number of rare and/or range-restricted birds of the Eastern Himalayas.

Another advantage is that it can be done at a very reasonable price, certainly if you compare this to the costs you have to make to bird neighbouring Bhutan. You can see all the Bhutan species and more. And yet another advantage is that you can combine these sites easily with other areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya.

Areas like Nameri, Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa in Assam, Namdapha and the Mishmi Hills in Arunachal Pradesh, Shillong area in Meghalaya and even a visit to Nagaland is possible.

We opted for a 5-day extension to the beautiful, undisturbed forests of Mishmi Hills.

### **EAGLENEST**

Eaglenest got its name from a general Singh of the Indian Army who was fighting the Chinese in the India-Chinese war in 1960 and who had his base in this area. Actually the track where you bird along is an old army road, built to transport troops through the region.

At Eaglenest you bird along this wide track from Lama Camp (2300 m) up to Eaglenest Pass (2700 m) and then down to Bhompu (1900 m), Sessni (1200 m), Khellong and further down to the Doimara River (700 m).

We stayed in tented camps at Lama Camp and Bhompu and from these camps we birded along the different stretches of the road.

The birding along this track with no traffic and through mostly undisturbed, pristine habitat was absolutely fabulous.

### **DIRANG AREA**

Dirang (1500 m) is a small town in western Arunachal Pradesh, which is your base from where you bird the Sela Pass Rd. (Sela Pass at 4200 m), Mandala Rd. (Mandala Pass at 3200 m.) and from where you can visit the Sangti Valley ( $\pm 1500$  m).

We stayed at a nice, small hotel (Hotel Pemaling) in Dirang.

Along the Sela Pass Rd. you also bird at different altitudes but the most interesting part is the roughly 10 km stretch before the actual pass and at the pass and its immediate surroundings itself.

Here you find the species you most likely will not encounter at the other sites.

We found the birding along the Mandala Rd. very productive, but along this road you already encounter some disturbed patches.

The Sangti Valley is nice to visit in an early morning or late afternoon, as we did. The specialties of this valley are the occurrence of **Black-tailed Crane** at a swampy area and along the stony riverbank **Long-billed Plover** is found to be breeding.

### **MISHMI HILLS**

This area can be reached from Dibrugarh with some difficulty. You have to transport your vehicle(s) over the river Brahmaputra with a ferry boat. It takes some skill to drive the car over some planks on the boat. But to reach the shores of the river is the trickier part. After heavy rain the tracks to the river all almost impassable for a normal car. Trucks and busses make deep ruts in the mud and we saw busses, trucks and cars stuck in the mud.

When you succeed in crossing the Brahmaputra you continue over a very bad, potholed road to the small city of Roing. From there you start climbing into the Mishmi Hills up to the Mayodia pass. (2500 m) From the start of the road to the pass is a little more than 50 km. A couple of km before the pass is a basic lodge where you can stay overnight.

Along the road you still find large tracts of undisturbed forests. Many of the species you find here, you are familiar with from the Eaglenest and Dirang area but the star bird of the area is the enigmatic Mishmi Wren Babbler.

This species was rediscovered by Ben King & Julian Donahue in late November/early December 2004 after being lost for more than 57 years. We had good views of it and I even succeeded in taking some photographs.

Another specialty of the area is **Blyth's Tragopan**. It is said to be a reliable area to encounter this species but we dipped. **Sclater's Monal** has also recently been found at higher altitudes but it takes a tough hike of several hours to reach this site.

### **KAZIRANGA**

Kaziranga is of course one of India's most famous wildlife parks and this alone merits a visit to this park. Besides, it harbours a lot of (some special) birds. We did not plan to visit Kaziranga as Joseph and I had visited the park in the past and we thought we needed the time elsewhere. But because we did so well at Eaglenest we decided to revisit Kaziranga and we were not to be disappointed. We even recorded a life bird, **Slender-billed Babbler**, in the park and had an unexpected ♀ **Blue-naped Pitta** on the track in full view. We made 3 game drives in the park.

### **KAZIRANGA TEAGARDEN**

The only reason to visit this site was to find **Blue-naped Pitta**.



### **DIBRU-SAIKHOWA**

At the end of the trip Stijn and I visited Dibru-Saikhowa for a full birding day. It is easily reached from Dibrugarh (30 minutes)

We had a great day and found 3 out of 4 target species. Good views of **Black-breasted Parrotbill, Marsh Babbler** and **Jerdon's Babbler** but we failed to find **Swamp Prinia**. Other good birds were a pair of **Jerdon's Bushchat, Black Bittern**, a ♂ **Watercock, Greater Painted Snipe** and a few **Black-faced Buntings**.

I was lucky to observe a Ganges Dolphin, because I was looking in the right direction at the right time.

### **DIGBOI**

On our last morning we spent 2 hours at Digboi Oilfields and our only target was the rare and localised **Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush**. We first heard one but failed to tape it in, but another bird was found nearby which turned out to be more cooperative and gave great views. Digboi is also readily accessible from Dibrugarh (45 minutes)

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **Day 1: Friday April 17                      Geldrop – Amsterdam – New Delhi**

I took the 7.10 am train from Amsterdam to Schiphol Airport.

Left Amsterdam on a KLM flight at 11.10 am and arrived at New Delhi at 22.50 pm where, after I had collected my luggage, I met my old friend Raj. In the past I have made several trips in India with him.

We drove to nearby hotel Lohmod which I had prebooked through internet and had some drinks.

He promised to pick me up in the early morning for my visit to Sultanpur.

### **Day 2: Saturday April 18    New Delhi – Sultanpur.**

At 6.00 am I drove with Raj to Sultanpur where we arrived at 7.00 am.

We had a quick breakfast and I phoned one of the local guides (Sanjay) to help us find **Sind Sparrow**. The guard at the entrance told us where the general area was where the sparrows are mostly observed.

We walked to this site and were soon joined by Sanjay. A soon as we reached the core area I heard the familiar call of a sparrow and within seconds I located a pair of **Sind Sparrows**, which gave good views for the next 10 minutes.

After this early succes we birded the area until 11.00 am when it became pretty hot.

After some drinks at the restaurant we drove back to Delhi where I had a late lunch with Raj.

Some reading in my hotel room and in the evening Joseph Brooks and Jan Hein van Steenis arrived from Los Angeles and Londen.

### **Day 3: Sunday April 19                      New Delhi – Guwahati – Tezpur.**

After an early breakfast we left New Delhi at 10.10 am for the flight to Guwahati where we arrived at 13.00 pm. Here we met Peter Lobo and his guide Abid and we briefly saw the remaining part of the tour group of which Rob Goldbach formed part of. But time was too short to have a real conversation, as they had missed their plane and were trying to get on the next one.

We left Guwahati and paid the "famous" rubbish dump a short visit, where we enjoyed the sight of many **Greater Adjutants** and smaller numbers of **Lesser Adjutants**. **Bengal Bushlark** was another nice addition.

We initially had planned to stay overnight in the tented camp of Nameri but because of a social conflict this had to be changed. Instead we drove to a hotel in the town of Tezpur. During this drive we made a short road stop were we ate and drank something and unfortunately this was in my opinion the cause of my health problems for the next week or so.

**Day 4: Monday April 20 Tezpur – Tenga – Bomdila - Dirang**

After an early breakfast we left the Assam Plains to Bhalukpong, where we passed the border with Arunachal Pradesh.

The first part of the road went to wet forest, along the edge of the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary. A stop in a bamboo patch yielded great views of **Pale-headed Woodpecker**, with a **Crimson-winged Liocichla** at the next location.

The valleys got drier and in scrubby vegetation beyond Bomdila the recently-split and unimpressive **Bhutan Laughingthrush** was a lifer for all of us. We also had a good view of **Indian Blue Robin**.

After we dropped our gear at hotel Pemaling in Dirang we immediately left for the nearby Sangti Valley.

Here we quickly scored **Black-tailed Crake** which gave good views in the scope. We then descended to the shores of the stony river to look for **Long-billed Plover**. This species can be difficult to find but we were lucky as within minutes after our arrival we found one.

After this success we tried in vain to locate **Wood Snipe** in a corner of the swamp. I did not feel very well in the evening and I spent quite some time in the bathroom that night.

**Day 5: Tuesday April 21 Mandala Road**

At dawn we started to bird the lower stretches of Mandala Road.

We spent all day along this road, birding up to 3000 m.

The first of many **Beautiful Sibias** was recorded and Jan Hein was the only one who saw a ♂ **Fire-capped Tit** in a flock.

After some effort most of us had good, but brief views of a ♂ **Blue-fronted Robin**. We had an excellent lunch along the road before we continued up the road. At an open patch of disturbed forest we found the distinctive local race of **Spotted Nutcracker** and a lone **Blue-capped Rock-Thrush**.

The real star of the afternoon was a ♀ **Ward's Trogon**. First heard at a distance but after some playback the bird flew straight to the road side and gave excellent and prolonged views.

Higher, near the pass, a bushy slope with a very dramatic backdrop of huge cedars held both **Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler** and **Spotted Laughingthrush**. Other nice finds were a ♀ **Crimson-browed Finch**, a singing **Large-billed Leaf-Warbler**, our first **Ludlow's Fulvetta** and a single **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper**.

**Day 6: Wednesday April 22 Sela Pass Rd – Sela Pass**

Early morning we drove up to the Sela Pass, which is about a 4 hours drive from Dirang. We made several bird stops along this road but unfortunately the weather was bad, with much fog. At the pass, it was even worse with strong winds and drizzle. We had some compensation in the form of some very tame **Alpine Accentors** but best were a few **Grandalas**, including some gorgeous males.

Because of the bad weather and also because some of us did not feel that well, we drove down to bird the lower areas along the road. On the way down we got stuck (almost 3 hours) because of the recovery of a military truck which had driven off the road (amazingly no fatalities).

### **Day 7: Thursday April 23 Mandala Road**

In the early morning we drove straight up to the Mandala Pass. On the way up we observed a single **Eurasian Jay**.

After having breakfast at the pass we started to bird the forest just before and just after the pass. A large flock of **Plain Mountain-Finches** was seen but highlight was the superb observation of a very responsive pair of **Bar-winged Wren Babblers**.

We also observed 2 ♂♂ **Collared Grosbeaks** and had great looks at a pair of **Spotted Laughingthrushes**.

Most of the bamboo had died after flowering, much reducing our chances of some bamboo loving species.

In the afternoon we birded down the road but did not add any new birds to our list.

### **Day 8: Friday April 24 Sela Pass Rd.**

This morning we made another trip to the Sela Pass. We were a bit nervous because we did not know what the weather would do at the pass and we had also planned a short hike into Monal territory and that is no sinecure at this altitude. But the weather was fine.

During a birding stop on the way up we had our only, rather distant views of a couple of **Snow Pigeons**.

During our hike, slowly ascending along a slope, we had excellent views of **Plain-backed Thrush** and a small covey of **Snow Partridges**. While watching the partridges through the scope, a large bird came sailing down the slope, calling loudly: a ♀ **Himalayan Monal** which landed on a nearby cliff and could be studied for a few minutes before it walked out of sight. We decided it would not be a good idea to continue, as the altitude was taking its toll. The mammal highlight was the observation of some Blue Sheep.

We decided to drive a few km down from the pass and to start walking from there. Amazingly when Peter played some squeaky sounds of Fire-tailed Myzornis in habitat which seemed perfect for this species, we got an immediate response when Jan Hein shouted Myzornis and soon we all enjoyed great and close views of a ♂ **Fire-tailed Myzornis** flitting about in the bushes before us.

### **Day 9: Saturday April 25 Dirang – Lama Camp**

Today we drove from Dirang to Lama Camp in Eaglenest, which took less than 5 hours, despite stopping for **Himalayan Greenfinches** and successfully visiting a good site for **Crested Kingfisher**.

A few Indian birders were just departing, leaving all of Eaglenest for us alone! Apparently quite different from earlier in the season, when there were four groups at the same time...

We spent the afternoon walking back along the road we came in by, looking for the one bird which gave Eaglenest its fame: **Bugun Liocichla**. In a nice secluded spot we found a gorgeous ♂ **Sapphire Flycatcher**, that did not get the attention it deserved because a **Gould's Shortwing** had been seen at the same spot recently. Of course, this probable migrant did not show, although Peter had a brief view of one nearby.

Unfortunately we did not succeed in persuading the bird to show it self again but we did have excellent views of a pair of very cooperative **Himalayan Cutias**.

We stopped at a broad gully where the Liocichla is regularly observed, and after some waiting, a four-note whistle announced the arrival of a **Bugun Liocichla**. I was lucky to be looking at the right spot when the bird popped up. Meanwhile I was trying to explain to the others where to look, but only Joseph got on to the bird before it disappeared, never to be seen again that afternoon. Of course that was not very encouraging for the mood of the other 2.

### **Day 10: Sunday April 26 Lama Camp – Eaglenest Pass**

At dawn we were back at the same gully where we quickly located a **Blue-winged Laughingthrush**. However, it did not take long before we all had good views of a pair of responsive **Bugun's Liocichlas**. We even saw another ♂ nearby. Apparently the species is rather vocal at the end of April.

To complete the successful early morning, a responsive **Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler** scrambled up the slope into the road verge and gave good views.

After a late breakfast we drove up to Eaglenest Pass (about 30 min. from Lama Camp alt. 2700 m) where we failed to attract **Temminck's Tragopan**, but had some compensation in the form of 2 very tame **Brown Parrotbills** and a singing **Hume's Bush-Warbler**.

We walked towards Lama Camp and found a **Streak-throated Barwing**. But highlight of the afternoon was the ♂ **Black-headed Shrike-Babbler**, which gave "the greatest performance of the trip". At one time the bird almost hit Joseph when the bird flew in in response of playback of its call. Other nice species we recorded were **Darjeeling Woodpecker** and 2 **Scaly Laughingthrushes** emerging from the thick vegetation.

It was a rather cold, starlit night and in the early morning a **Himalayan Wood Owl** was calling but nobody wanted to get up to try to tape it in.

**Day 11: Monday April 27 Lama Camp – Eaglesnest Pass – Bhompu**

After a bit of birding around Lama Camp where a couple of **Brown Bullfinches** were the highlight, we continued to Eaglesnest Pass. Again not a sniff of **Temminck's Tragopan** at the pass, but a **Spot-winged Grosbeak** was some consolation.

Bhompu (1900 m) lies at a distance of 30 km from Lama Camp.

On the way to Bhompu Camp, at Sunderview, a circular walk through lots of flowering knotweed was good for a ridiculous amount of **Green-tailed Sunbirds**, but little else.

Continuing to Bhompu we recorded our first of many **Yellow-throated Fulvettas** and at about 2300 m we observed another **Ward's Trogon** and again a female. A **Ferruginous Flycatcher** showed well on a log and then we all got very excited as we heard the long, low whistle of **Purple Cochoa**, a lifer for all of us. After some frenetic searching and after some near-misses and poor flight views we got our bird of the day: a ♂ **Purple Cochoa** which showed well in the scope. It was Jan Hein's first and my last Cochoa.

**Day 12: Tuesday April 28 Bhompu – Sessni – Khellong – Doimara River**

We slowly made our way down to the lowest point in Eaglesnest that can be reached by road: the Doimara River (27 km or 1.30 h from Bhompu at 700 m).

A scary landslide blocks the road here, right at an obvious viewpoint over the Doimara River.

The drivers became quite excited when fresh elephant dung was found just below Bhompu Camp, and fire crackers and matches were laid out on the dashboards. We walked long stretches through beautiful forests and we stopped regularly at streams with tall herbs that looked perfect for wren-babblers. At one of this stream we taped in a **Long-billed Wren-Babbler** which sat motionless for at least a minute in full view.

But we failed to find **Sikkim Wedge-billed Wren-Babbler**.

We also had our first views of the impressive **Rufous-necked Hornbill**.

A surprise addition to the mammal list was a dhole in the middle of the track, of which I could take a record shot before it disappeared into the thick vegetation.

After earlier flight views, a **Hodgson's (Whistling) Hawk-Cuckoo** feeding on a caterpillar, gave fantastic views (Peter's best views ever).

We spent a few hours near the river, looking for the **Blyth's Kingfisher** seen here earlier in the year but we had to settle for **Crested Kingfisher** and some other lowland species.

As evening fell, we headed back to a stake-out for **Hodgson's Frogmouth**. After some playback a bird flew in on a bare branch. Sometimes it can be so easy...

**Day 13: Wednesday April 29 Bhompu - Sessni**

Early morning we tried again at one of the favourite gullies of the **Wedge-billed W.B.** This time we were successful and had good and lengthy views of one, singing its heart out, right in the open.

We spent the rest of the day walking the road between Bhompu and Sessni, with birding quite slow at times.

Once we got the adrenaline running when Stijn discovered a **Beautiful Nuthatch**, a species which had eluded us so far, but we failed to obtain satisfactory views of the bird.

At one time we located a frantically calling **Chestnut-breasted Partridge** in a small patch of scrub/forest between a hairpin and a landslide, but the bird refused to show. In a joint operation of drivers, guides and birders we all succeeded in seeing this rare endemic. At one time the bird passed me at a distance of 1 meter!!

As we continued along the road we finally located several **Beautiful Nuthatches** which were much more obliging and showing very well.

A mystery bird song kept us occupied for some time. We were convinced that it had to be a Laughingthrush but we could not identify the song at the time. Stijn made a recording and it turned out to be the song of **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush**. Despite playback it never showed.

**Day 14: Thursday April 30 Bhompu - Sessni – Khellong – Doimara**

We decided to drive straight down to the lower reaches of Eaglenest to catch up with a few species we had missed on the 28<sup>th</sup>. In a bamboo patch we finally caught up with **White-hooded Babbler**.

At about 9.30 am we arrived at the landslide (700 m) just above a nice viewpoint over the Doimara River. Our plan was to walk down to the location we had occupied on the 28<sup>th</sup> to try again for the **Blyth's Kingfisher**. This seemed a better idea than scanning the river from the viewpoint. However, a high-pitched call from the river below followed by : "Kingfisher!" led of course to a change of mind. We all rushed to the edge of the cliff and I saw a **Blyth's Kingfisher** briefly perched on a rock in the middle of the river, just below us. The kingfisher then flew upriver, landing twice briefly – long enough for everyone to see it.

We later checked an area upstream and flushed a **Blyth's Kingfisher** again which was only briefly seen by Stijn.

We slowly birded our way back up, where the find of a ♂ **White-bellied Redstart** was a huge surprise. We also scored the more expected **Rufous-faced Warbler** and **Yellow-vented Warbler**. Both species are more easier to find from the end of April onwards than earlier in the season.

We heard **Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler** but this species would elude us.

Joseph had birded the area above Bhompu after seeing the Kingfisher, but although he encountered some impressive flocks, no sign of a **tragopan**.

With the chance of lifers now quite slim, we had decided to leave Eaglenest a day earlier than planned, so we would have an extra day in the Kaziranga area.

**Day 15: Friday May 1 Bhompu – Lama Camp – Tenga - Kaziranga**

Our decision to leave Eaglenest was a good one, as it was raining heavily when we left (at 4 am), foggy and rainy on the way and still raining when we reached Kaziranga nine hours later. On the way, we said goodbye to Peter who had to leave to assist Birdseekers in seeking birds; our drivers left us in Kaziranga.

In the afternoon we made a game drive in Kaziranga NP (Western Range), luckily not in an open jeep, as it was still raining from time to time.

During our stay in Kaziranga we stayed at the pleasant Jupuri Ghar hotel.

**Day 16: Saturday May 2 Tea garden – Kaziranga (Central Range)**

We started rather late this morning: 7 am. It was with great anticipation that we left for a nearby teagarden to look for **Blue-naped Pitta**. Besides Abid we were accompanied by another local guide, Rafik. We went straight for a bamboo-filled gully, where a few weeks earlier Chris Goodle (The birder who is on a year-long quest to score all the pittas of the world in just one year) saw one. It was warm and rather quiet birdwise and best species were some **Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes**. After a single response from our target (but no further sign) and some checking of other nearby gullies we decided to descend to the bottom of the gully where we had our first response and wait there. Motionless (as motionless as one can be with all the leeches present!) we waited, but nothing happened. When we discussed the best strategy and we were about to leave, Abid suddenly saw some movement and after some tantalising moments we had excellent views of a ♀ **Blue-naped Pitta** and I also saw briefly a second bird, probably the ♂.

What a relief and especially for Joseph, who failed to find the species a few years earlier, despite the fact that he spent days at Namdapha and Kaziranga, looking for the Pitta (and hearing it daily).

Both birds had disappeared up the slope and Rafik decided to circle around and to try to push the birds back towards us. I was rather sceptical about this move but to my surprise at one time a pitta flew straight in and perched completely in the open on a horizontal bamboo stem at a distance of less than 8 meters. When I raised my binoculars I had exceptional views of a ♂ **Blue-naped Pitta**. We all did and the bird even obliged more to turn around to show off its blue nape. We observed it for at least 30 seconds before it flew off again. Incredible. I never thought that we would be able to observe this species so well with a group.

After this great success we returned to our hotel and enjoyed the feeling of actually being on a holiday for a few hours.

After lunch we made another game drive in the Central Range of Kaziranga, where we made good use of the photographic opportunities in



the park, also because of the excellent weather conditions. We checked many patches of reed, and eventually succeeded in finding a few **Slender-billed Babblers**, along with many of the more common resident marsh birds.

We failed to find **Bengal Florican** at a site where it had recently been seen.

### **Day 17: Sunday May 3 Kaziranga (Central Range)–drive to Tinsukia**

We made another, not so early-morning visit, to the Central Range.

The park only opens at 7.30 am, which is three hours after sunrise!!

We drove a "long route" which gave a chance of vultures, which we did not see.

The open forest we passed through held some nice birds like Blue-bearded Bee-eater, but the real surprise was a ♀ **Blue-naped Pitta**, drinking or feeding at the edge of a puddle, right in the middle of the track. I even succeeded in taking some photographs of the bird before it hopped off into the adjoining scrub. Three different **Blue-naped Pittas** in 2 days!!

At about 11.00, we left for the long uneventful drive to Tinsukia with two new drivers, though a single **Greater Adjutant** was seen on the way.

In Tinsukia we stayed at a rather nondescript hotel in the center of town.

### **Day 18: Monday May 4 Tinsukia – Roing – Mishmi Hills**

It had stormed a great deal of the night with heavy rainfall and lightning according to the others, but I had slept through it all without noticing.

We left before dawn for our trip to Mishmi Hills. The road ended close to the Brahmaputra, after which a myriad of muddy tracks led us to the bank from where the ferries depart. Our three cars were driven sideways onto a rather battered, old boat.

When Jan Hein descended the stairs into the hull of the boat, the stairs gave way beneath him and he was very lucky that he was not injured when he fell down!

Slowly the captain navigated along and between the sand banks to the other shore of the Brahmaputra. Getting ashore turned out to be a real problem because, as a result of the storm, the shore had been crumbled away, but eventually we were dropped a bit further upstream: the crossing had taken three hours!

Over a very bad, potholed road we continued to Roing, Arunachal Pradesh.

Beyond Roing, a few destroyed bridges marked the entrance to the Mishmi Hills, which rise to 3000 meters. A few hundred meters up, we stopped at a bamboo patch where we quickly found our target species: **Collared Treepie**. Instead of the hoped for **Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler** we observed a single **Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler**.

An interesting blue flycatcher which mostly looked like Hill Blue was observed but we had to leave the i.d. open.

Stijn and Jan Hein who were in the second car had excellent views of a male Western Hoolock Gibbon.

At about 1500 m, Abid heard a **Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler**, and it did not take long for us to have good views of it.

We reached our "lodge" (2300m), which is roughly 2 km before the Mayodia Pass, just before nightfall. In the garden we saw the captive Mishmi Takin, which is very rarely seen in the wild.

### **Day 19: May 5 Mishmi Hills**

At dawn we started at the area around the Mayodia Pass (2600 m), where we quickly found the local specialty, the rather unimpressive Manipur Fulvetta. We spent the morning beyond the pass and though the scenery was impressive the birding was slow.

After lunch, we drove back down to a bridge at 2000 m and from there walked further down. This area is known to hold **Blyth's Tragopan**, but we had no sign whatsoever, despite three days of trying.

We kept on checking gullies, and on the edge of a large clearing we heard a **Mishmi Wren-Babbler** singing and 2 of us (not me) saw the bird briefly.

Luckily a little later a second bird showed much better and we all had good views. This species was rediscovered in November 2004 by Ben King and Jonathan Donahue, after it had gone missing for more than 57 years.

### **Day 20: May 6 Mishmi Hills**

We spent most of the day walking down from the 2000 m bridge. Before we got there, we had already seen a flock of **Speckled Wood-Pigeons**. Right at the bridge we saw a **Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler** perched on a rock, just next to the road. Fast and silently we covered about 5 km in the hope to find a **Blyth's Tragopan** along this stretch but to no avail.

At one time Jan Hein heard a **Rusty-bellied Shortwing** and after some playback we all had reasonable views of the bird.

Most of the birds we encountered today were familiar species from Eaglenest but it is no punishment to have again excellent views of a pair of **Beautiful Nuthatches**.

### **Day 21: May 7 Mishmi Hills**

Today we visited the lower reaches of the Mishmi Hills, which meant a few more foothill species for the trip list. The most interesting species we observed was that mystery blue flycatcher we saw and heard a few days earlier. We found two birds at 700 m which we thought most likely to be **Chinese Blue Flycatcher**( e.g. orange of breast not sharply demarcated from white of belly, bill not heavy) but it caused a lot of discussion.

Stijn made a recording of its song and afterwards he concluded that it was not **Chinese Blue**, not **Hill Blue**, but **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**!

On the way back, we entered thick fog at 2200 m but from the car I spotted a large Trogon, which was probably flushed by our passing car.

Just moments later we had very good and close views (despite the fog) of a ♂ and later also a ♀ **Ward's Trogon**. At the same site we also had incredible close views of a **Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler**.

**Day 22: May 8 Mishmi Hills – drive to Tinsukia**

We started the day with another good look at the pair of **Ward's Trogon** but only heard **Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler**.

We also failed to find the local race of **Bar-winged Wren-Babbler** but a little raptor watching from the terrace of our lodge gave us some nice raptors, including a ♀ **Amur Falcon**.

Then it was time to leave for our return trip to Tinsukia. The crossing of the Brahmaputra again was problematic, with one of our cars getting very stuck on a muddy track. And our car was not the only vehicle bogged down. Cars, trucks and busses ploughed through the muddy plain towards the shore of the river. This time we needed 3½ hours for the crossing. On the sandbanks we observed **Lesser Sand Plovers** and a flock of **Pacific Golden Plovers**.

In Tinsukia, I said goodbye to Jan Hein and Joseph who would fly out tomorrow to New Delhi and on to London and LA.

Stijn and I would stay another day and bird Dibru-Saikhowa tomorrow.

**Day 23: May 9 Dibru-Saikhowa**

At dawn we drove the short distance to Dibru-Saikhowa where we had breakfast at the shore of the Brahmaputra.

We spent all morning in the grassland areas of the park and scored all our targets: **Jerdon's Bushchat**, **Marsh Babbler**, **Jerdon's Babbler** and best of all **Black-breasted Parrotbill**. The latter proved to be rather elusive and it took some time before we had excellent views of one.

We also flushed a **Barred Button-Quail** twice.

On our way back I was the lucky one who saw a Ganges Dolphin surfacing close to the boat. We also had a flock of **Slender-billed Vultures** from the boat.

After lunch, where we met one of the local birders from Tinsukia we visited another area in search of **Swamp Prinia**. We unexpectedly bumped into some semi-domestic Buffaloes, which caused some havoc and a hasty retreat. It turned out that the grassland area where the Prinia was observed earlier in the season, had been burnt and as a result we dipped.

We birded all afternoon at the reserve and really enjoyed it. We saw a ♂ **Watercock** in flight, several **Black Bitterns**, **Greater Painted Snipe** and at least 2 **Black-faced Buntings**.

Later afternoon we returned to Tinsukia.

**Day 24: May 10 Digboi – Tinsukia – Dibrugarh – New Delhi**

In the early morning we drove (45 min. drive) to Digboi where we had 2 hours to find our target: the scarce and local **Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush**.

First we heard the species but it did not really respond to the tape but finally after one hour we located a single bird which gave excellent views. So satisfied we returned to our hotel to pack our stuff for our flight home. At 11.00 am we left for the drive from Tinsukia to the airport of Dibrugarh. We said goodbye to Abid and at 14.05 I flew from Dibrugarh to Delhi, via Guwahati. Stijn changed flights in Guwahati for his flight to Calcutta and on to Bangkok.

Around 18.00 pm I landed in Delhi where I met Raj again. We had dinner together and at 00.50 am I flew from New Delhi to Amsterdam where I arrived at 6.00 am the next morning.

**Day 25: May 11**

Landed at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam at 6.00 am. Took the train home, where I arrived just before 9.00 am.

Henk Hendriks - [hhendriks@onsmail.nl](mailto:hhendriks@onsmail.nl)  
Geldrop, 12 June 2009

## **SHORT ITINERARY**

- 17-04 Geldrop – Amsterdam by train.  
Amsterdam – New Delhi. Arrival at 23.00 pm. Hotel Lohmod.
- 18-04 Visit to Sultanpur, one hour out of Delhi, with my friend Raj.  
Birded from 7.00 – 11.00 am. Scored Sind Sparrow.
- 19-04 Flight New Delhi – Guwahati. Arrival at 13.00 pm.  
Visit to Rubbish Dump. Drive to Tezpur.
- 20-04 Drive from Tezpur – Dirang (hotel Pemaling)  
Visit to Sangti Valley. (15.00 – 18.00 PM)
- 21-04 All day on the Mandala Road. Up to the summit (3200 m.)
- 22-04 All day on the road up to the Sela Pass. (4200 m.)
- 23-04 All day on the Mandala Road. Morning at the other side of the  
pass (3200 m.) and between 3000 – 2600 m. in the afternoon.
- 24-04 Walked 2 km. along a track which started at the Sela Pass.  
Birded down along the road (last 7 km.) from the Sela Pass.
- 25-04 Drive Dirang to Lama Camp (2300 m.) at Eaglesnest.  
Late afternoon birding around Lama Camp.
- 26-04 Early morning around Lama Camp and later along the road  
towards Eaglesnest Pass. (2700 m.)
- 27-04 Birded along the road to Eaglesnest Pass and down to  
Bhompou.
- 28-04 Birded all day along the road from Bhompou to Sessni and  
further down to Khellong.
- 29-04 All day along the road from Bhompou to Sessni.
- 30-04 All day along the road from Bhompou to Sessni, Khellong and  
further down to Doimara.
- 01-05 Long drive from Bhompou to Kaziranga. Afternoon drive in  
western range of Kaziranga.
- 02-05 Early morning visit to teagarden for Blue-naped Pitta.  
Afternoon drive in central range of Kaziranga.
- 03-05 Morning drive (to 10.00 am) in central range of Kaziranga.  
Long drive to Tinsukia.
- 04-05 Drive from Tinsukia via ferry over the Brahmaputra to Roing  
and on the the Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills.
- 05-05 Early morning at Mayodia Pass and beyond.  
Afternoon along the road down between 2000 – 1850m.
- 06-05 All day along the road from the bridge (2000 m.) down to  
1550 m.
- 07-05 Birded down from the bridge to 700 m.
- 08-05 Birded along the road between 2200 – 2300 m.(5.00 – 7.30  
am). Long drive from Mishmi Hills to Tinsukia via Roing.
- 09-05 All day at Dibru Saikowa.
- 10-05 Early morning at Digboi Oilfields (6.30 – 9.00 am)  
Flight from Dibrurgarh to New Delhi. Arrival at 18.00 pm.
- 11-05 Flight from New Delhi to Amsterdam. Departure at 1.00 am  
and arrival at Amsterdam at 6.00 am.  
Train to Geldrop where I arrived at 8.45 am.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF OBSERVATIONS

### PODICIPEDIDAE

**Little Grebe** *Podiceps ruficollis*

On 9-05 a total of 15 exx. observed at Dibru-Saikhowa.

### PHALACROCORACIDAE

**Indian Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

On 1-05 a single bird was observed on transit close to Kaziranga.

**Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*

Small numbers were observed on transit in the Assam Plains and common during the drives into Kaziranga NP.

**Spot-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*

A total of 30 exx on 2 dates in the central range of Kaziranga.

### ANHINGIDAE

**Oriental Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

On 18-04 2 exx at Sultanpur.

A total of 14 exx on 3 dates in Kaziranga.

On 09-05 1 ex at Dibru-Saikhowa

### ARDEIDAE

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Small numbers in the Assam lowlands and up to 10 exx daily at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus*

As previous species.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedius*

Single birds at Kaziranga and 4 exx on 09-05 at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

Commonly encountered in the plains of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

On 18-04 a few at Sultanpur

A single bird on 1-05 in Kaziranga.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

One or two birds daily at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 a single bird at Dibru-Saikhowa.

On 18-04 a few at Sultanpur

**Indian Pond-Heron** *Ardeola grayii*

Up to 20 exx daily in the plains of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

On 18-04 3 exx at Sultanpur.

On 02-05 heard near our hotel, Kaziranga

On 08-05 2 exx Tinsukia and on 09-05 a single bird at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

On 09-05 6 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa

**Black Bittern** *Dupeter flavicollis*

On 09-05 2 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa

**Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

On 01-05 a single bird near Tezpur

On 09-05 10 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis*

On 09-05 15 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

### CICONIIDAE

**Asian Openbill** *Anastomus oscitans*

On 19-04 20+ between Guwahati-Tezpur.

Up to 50 exx daily at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 4 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Painted Stork** *Mycteria leucocephala*

On 18-04 2 exx at Sultanpur

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

On 02-05 2 exx at Kaziranga.

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

On 18-04 1 ex at Sultanpur.

A total of 10 exx on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

**Lesser Adjutant** *Leptoptilos javanicus*

On 19-04 10 exx at the Guwahati rubbish dump and a few on transit to Tezpur.

Up to 10 exx daily at Kaziranga.

On 04-05 1 ex near Rohing.

On 09-05 1 ex at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Greater Adjutant** *Leptoptilos dubius*

On 19-04 30+ at the Guwahati rubbish Dump.

On 03-05 2 exx between Kaziranga-Tinsukia.

#### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

On 18-04 1 ex at Sultanpur

**Black-headed Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

A few at Sultanpur

On 02-05 1 ex at Kaziranga

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

On 18-04 3 exx at Sultanpur.

#### ANATIDAE

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

On 22-04 3 exx migrating over the road to the Sela Pass.

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*

On 04-05 and 08-05 up to 30 exx along the Brahmaputra.

On 09-05 10+ at Dibru-Saikhowa

**Lesser Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*

Common at Kaziranga, along the Brahmaputra and Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

On 22-04 8 exx along the road to the Sela Pass.

On 25-04 3 exx at the Sela Pass.

Up to 10 exx daily at Kaziranga.

**Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotis*

On 18-04 20+ at Sultanpur.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

4 exx at Sultanpur.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

On 09-05 1 ♂ at Dibru-Saikhowa

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

2 exx at Sultanpur.

**Indian Spot-billed Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Up to 10 exx along the Brahmaputra on 04 and 08-05.

On 09-05 10 ex at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Cotton Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*.

A total of 7 exx on 2 dates at Kaziranga.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

On 1-05 2 exx Kaziranga.

On 09-05 1 ex Dibru-Saikhowa

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

Rather scarce. Common on 19-04 at the Guwahati rubbish dump.

Small numbers in the Assam plains and a total of 17 exx on 3 dates in the Mishmi Hills.  
(On 07-05 10 exx)

**Black-eared Kite** *Milvus lineatus*

A few identified at the Guwahati rubbish dump.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

Single birds on 02 and 03-05 in Kaziranga.

**[Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*]

On 08-05 probably this species at Mishmi.

**Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentiles*

On 08-05 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

**Sparrowhawk** *accipiter nisus*

On 27-04 1 ex near Lama Camp.

**Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*

On 27-04 1 ex and on 28-04 2 exx Eaglenest area.

**Himalayan Buzzard** *Buteo burmanicus*

2 single birds in the Dirang area.

On 25-04 2 exx. near Lama Camp.

**Oriental Honey-Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

On 18-04 2 exx at Sultanpur.

On 02-05 a single bird at Kaziranga.

On 06-04 6 exx and on 08-04 4 exx at the Mishmi Hills.

**Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*

A total of 3 exx in the Kaziranga area.

On 05-05 a single bird at Mishmi.

On 10-05 a single bird near Tinsukia.

**Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

On 27-04 1 imm. above Bhompou, Eaglenest.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

On 18-04 1 ex at Sultanpur.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus nipalensis*

A total of 4 exx on 4 dates at Eaglenest.

On 06-05 1 ex at Mishmi Hills.

**Changeable Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus limnaeetus*

A total of 6 exx on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*

Single birds on 2 dates in the Dirang area.

Daily up to 4 sightings in the Eaglesnest area.

Single birds daily at Mishmi Hills.

**Grey-headed Fish-Eagle** *Ichthyophaga ichthyaeetus*

A total of 10 exx on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

**Pallas's Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

Single birds on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

**White-rumped Vulture** *Gyps bengalensis*

A single bird on 09-05 at Dibru-Saikhowa was the only observation.

**Slender-billed Vulture** *Gyps tenuirostris*

A group of 15 exx on 09-05 at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Himalayan Griffon Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis*

On 05-05 1 ex and on 08-05 2 exx at the Mayodia Pass, Mishmi.

## FALCONIDAE

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

On 25-04 1 ex on transit from Dirang to Lama Camp.

On 09-05 3 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Oriental Hobby** *Falco severus*

On 09-05 1 ex at Dibru-Saikhowa.



**Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

On 07-05 possibly this species lower slopes of Mishmi Hills.

On 08-05 1 ♀ passed by at close range over our lodge at Mishmi.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

On 08-05 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

PHASIANIDAE

**Grey Francolin** *Francolinus pondicerianus*

A few observed at Sultanpur on 18-04.

**Swamp Francolin** *Francolinus gularis*

A total of 6 exx on 3 dates at Kaziranga. Some nice views.

**Snow Partridge** *Lerwa lerwa*

On 24-04 at least 6 exx right at the Sela Pass (4200 m.)

Some great views in the scope.

**Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola*

Commonly heard at Eaglenest and Mishmi.

On 24-04 1 ex Dirang area h.

**Chestnut-breasted Partridge** *Arborophila mandelii*

Regularly heard at Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills.

On 29-04 I got great views of one bird after a joint action of the entire crew. This species is considered Vulnerable by Birdlife International.

**Rufous-throated Partridge** *Arborophila rufogularis*

Heard at Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills.

**Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*

Heard at the lower part of the Eaglenest area.

Heard and seen daily at Kaziranga.

On 10-05 heard at Digboi.

**Himalayan Monal** *Lophophorus impejanus*

On 24-04 1 ♀ observed in the scope at The Sela Pass.

**Grey Peacock-Pheasant** *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

On 28 and 30-04 heard at Eaglenest. Mainly around the Sessni area.

**Kalij Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos*

A total of 10 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

On 04-05 1 ♀ at Mishmi Hills.

**Indian Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*

Observed at Sultanpur.

TURNICIDAE

**Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix susicator*

On 09-05 2 exx flushed at Dibru-Saikhowa

GRUIDAE

**Sarus Crane** *Grus antigone*

On 18-04 1 pair at Sultanpur.

RALLIDAE

**Black-tailed Crake** *Amaurornis bicolor*

On 20-04 nice views in the scope of 1 bird in the Sangti Valley.

Several more birds were heard.

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Observed at Kaziranga.

**Brown Crake** *Amaurornis akool*

On 18-04 1 ex at Sultanpur.

**Watercock** *Gallicrex cinerea*

On 09-05 1 ♂ flew by at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Grey-headed Swampen** *Porphyrio poliocephalus*

On 03-05 20+ between Kaziranga and Tinsukia.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

On 02-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

On 03-05 20+ between Kaziranga and Tinsukia.

Observed at Sultanpur.

**Common Coot** *Fulica atra*

Observed at Sultanpur.

JACANIDAE

**Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus placidus*

On 09-05 10+ at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Bronze-winged Jacana** *Metopidius indicus*

On 19-04 3 exx between Guwahati and Tezpur.

Daily up to 10 at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 a few at Dibru-Saikhowa.

GLAREOLIDAE

**Small Pratincole** *Glareola lacteal*

On 01-05 4 exx on transit between Eaglenest and Kaziranga

CHARADRIIDAE

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*

Regularly observed in the Assam plains.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

On 08-05 50+ on sandbanks at the Brahmaputra river crossing.

**Lesser Sandplover** *Charadrius mongolus*

On 08-05 10+ on sandbanks at the Brahmaputra river crossing.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

On 08-05 4 exx on sandbanks at the Brahmaputra river crossing.

**Long-billed Plover** *Charadrius placidus*

On 20-04 1 ex along the river in the Sangti valley.

SCOLOPACIDAE

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Single birds at Kaziranga, along the Brahmaputra and Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

On 18-04 1 ex at Sultanpur.

On 02-05 3 exx at Kaziranga.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

On 18-04 10+ at Sultanpur

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

On 01-05 a single bird at Kaziranga.

On 04-05 a group of 10 exx along the Brahmaputra.

On 09-05 2 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

On 04-05 4 exx and on 08-05 2 exx along the Brahmaputra.

On 09-05 5 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

On 02-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

On 18-04 10+ at Sultanpur.

ROSTRATULIDAE

**Greater Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

On 09-05 1 ♂ at Dibru-Saikhowa

LARIDAE

**Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*

On 08-05 20+ along the Brahmaputra.

STERNIDAE

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

On 03-05 4 exx at Kaziranga

On 09-05 30+ at Dibru-Saikhowa.

COLUMBIDAE

**Snow Pigeon** *Columba leuconota*

On 24-04 3 exx at the Sela Pass.

**Speckled Wood Pigeon** *Columba hodgsonii*

On 06-05 15 exx upper part of Mishmi Hills.

**Ashy Wood Pigeon** *Columba pulchricollis*

On 26-04 1 ex near Lama Camp.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

Daily recorded in the Dirang area.

**Red-collared Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

On 01-05 1 ex Kaziranga.

On 09-05 recorded in small numbers at Dibru-Saikhowa.

On 10-05 4 exx at Digboi.

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

Observed throughout.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

On 18-04 observed at Sultanpur.

**Barred Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia unchall*

On 26-04 1 ex Eaglenest Pass.

On 29-04 5 exx between Bhompu and Sessni.

Single birds on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

Single birds Sangti Valley, Eaglenest, Kaziranga, Mishmi Hills + Digboi.

**Pin-tailed Green-Pigeon** *Treron apicauda*

Twice a single bird at Eaglenest below Sesni/Khellong.

**Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon** *Treron bicinctus*

On 09-05 1 pair at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon** *Treron sphenurus*

Single birds on 2 dates at Eaglenest.

**Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon** *Treron phoenicopterus*

Common at Sultanpur and up to 5 exx daily at Kaziranga.

3 exx. on 2 dates at the Mishmi Hills.

**Green Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula aenea*

Observed in small numbers at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Mountain Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula badia*

A total of 16 exx on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area.

PSITTACIDAE

**Blossom-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula roseate*

A total of 6 exx on 2 dates at Kaziranga.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Common at Sultanpur.

A few observed at Kaziranga.

**Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

Daily 5 to 10 exx at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 4 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Red-breasted Parakeet** *Psittacula alexandri*

Common at Kaziranga. On 10-05 10+ at Digboi.

CUCULIDAE

**Large Hawk Cuckoo** *Cuculus sparverioides*

Recorded on 16 dates. Many heard and at least 5 exx seen well.

**Whistling (Hodgson's) Hawk Cuckoo** *Cuculus nisicolor*

Heard on 4 dates in the Eaglenest area. On 28-04 excellent and close views of 1 bird.

Also heard on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills.

**Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*

Heard on 15 dates and twice actually seen.

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Heard on 15 dates and at least 9 birds seen.

**Himalayan(Oriental) Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*

Heard on 13 dates and at least 3 exx seen.

**Lesser Cuckoo** *Cuculus poliocephalus*

Heard on 10 dates and Stijn was the only one who saw it.

**Asian Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx maculates*

On 30-04 4 exx below Khellong, Eaglenest.

On 06-05 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

**Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*

On 03-05 1 ex at the entrance of Kaziranga.

**Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris*

On 02-05 4 exx at Kaziranga.

Commonly heard at the lower part of Mishmi Hills and at least 5 seen well.

**Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopaceus*

Common in the lowlands.

**Green-billed Malkoha** *Rhopodytes tristis*

On 03-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

On 10-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*

A few at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*

More common than previous species.

STRIGIDAE

**Mountain Scops-Owl** *Otus spilocephalus*

Heard on 4 nights in the Bhompu area, Eaglenest.

**Brown Wood-Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*

On 27-04 1 ex flushed between Khellong and Bhompu.

**Himalayan Wood-Owl** *Strix nivicola*

On 26/27-04 heard near Lama camp.

**Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*

Heard on 10 dates throughout this trip.

**Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Twice a single bird at Kaziranga.

On 05-05 1 ex at Mishmi Hills and on 10-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Spotted Owlet** *Athene brama*

On 18-04 2 exx at Sultanpur.

On 01-05 2 exx Kaziranga and on 08-05 1 ex near Roing.

PODARGIDAE

**Hodgson's Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*

On 28-05 1 ex spotlighted below Khellong, Eaglenest.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

**Grey Nightjar** *Caprimulgus jotaka*

Heard every night at our hotel in Dirang and at Lama camp.

In the early morning of 24-04 we had 2 exx in the headlights of our car near Dirang.

APODIDAE

**Himalayan Swiftlet** *Collocalia brevirostris*

On 25-05 a large flock (100+) near Dirang.  
A total of 18 exx on 3 dates in the Mishmi Hills.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

On 19-04 10 exx near Guwahati.

**Pacific (Fork-tailed) Swift** *Apus pacificus*

Recorded on 7 dates, mainly in the Dirang and Eaglenest area.

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*

On 29-04 3 exx between Bhompu and Sessni, Eaglenest.

**Silver-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*

On 27-07 6 exx Eaglenest.

On 04 and 05-05 10 and 4 exx at the Mishmi Hills.

**Asian Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

On 19-02 2 exx near Guwahati and a few daily at Kaziranga.

On 08-05 5 exx near the Brahmaputra.

On 09-05 10 exx Dibru-Saikhowa.

TROGONIDAE

**Red-headed Trogon** *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

On 28 and 30-04 1 ♀ lower down Eaglesnest area.

On 04-05 1 ex heard at lower part of Mishmi Hills and on 07-05 1 ♀ seen at Mishmi Hills.

**Ward's Trogon** *Harpactes wardi*

Great views of a very responsive ♀ along the Mandala Road on 21-04.

On 27-04 another ♀ was seen between Lama Camp and Bhompu.

On 07-05 and 08-05 1 pair was observed at Mishmi Hills. (2250 m.alt.)

ALCEDINIDAE

**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Regularly encountered in the Assam lowland areas.

**Crested Kingfisher** *Ceryle lugubris*

On 25-04 2 exx along a river between Dirang and Lama camp.

On 28 and 30-04 2 exx along the Doimara River, Eaglenest area.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Single birds at Kaziranga and on 09-05 5 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Blyth's Kingfisher** *Alcedo hercules*

On 30-04 1 ex along the Doimara River. (700 m.alt.)

This bird was seen briefly perched on a rock in the river and later flew upstream.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

1 ex near Guwahati and single birds along the Brahmaputra and Digboi.

MEROPIDAE

**Little Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*

Single birds at Kaziranga.

**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merops leschenaultia*

A total of 7 exx on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*

A total of 5 exx on 2 dates at Kaziranga.

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctiornis athertoni*

Twice a single bird at Kaziranga.

CORACIIDAE

**Black-billed Roller** *Coracias affinis*

Common in the Assam plains.

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

Twice a single bird at Kaziranga.

UPUPIDAE

**Common Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Common at Sultanpur.

BUCEROTIDAE

**Oriental Pied Hornbill** *Anthracoceros albirostris*

On 10-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Great Pied Hornbill** *Buceros bicornis*

On 20-04 1 ex near Nameri.

On 28-04 2 exx below Khellong.

On 02-05 1 ex Kaziranga.

**Rufous-necked Hornbill** *Aceros nipalensis*

A total of 17 exx on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area. Some great views.

**Wreathed Hornbill** *Aceros undulates*

On 28-04 2 exx along the Diomara River, Eaglenest area.

**Indian Grey Hornbill** *Tockus birostris*

On 18-04 2 exx at Sultanpur.

CAPITONIDAE

**Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*

Commonly recorded in the hill areas. Heard almost daily and regularly seen as well.

**Lineated Barbet** *Megalaima lineate*

On 19-04 1 ex seen at a roadside stop between Guwahati and Tezpur.

Heard and seen at Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa and 1 at Digboi.

**Golden-throated Barbet** *Megalaima franklinii*

Recorded on 5 days at Eaglesnest and on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

Some birds gave excellent views.

**Blue-throated Barbet** *Megalaima asiatica*

On 28-04 2 exx around 700m. in the Eaglenest area.

Heard and seen at Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa and Digboi.

On 07-05 4 exx lower area of Mishmi Hills.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*

Common at Sultanpur.

Recorded daily at Kaziranga and also heard at Dibru-saikhowa and Digboi.

PICIDAE

**Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus*

On 07-05 1 ex lower part of Mishmi Hills.

**White-browed Piculet** *Sasia ochracea*

On 30-04 2 exx Eaglenest.

On 07-05 1 ex at Mishmi Hills.

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus canicapillus*

On 01-05 1 ex Kaziranga.

**Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus macei*

On 02-05 3 exx at Kaziranga.

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus hyperythrus*

On 21-04 1 ex and on 23-04 2 exx along the Mandala Road, Dirang area.

**Darjeeling Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus darjellensis*

Single birds observed on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

Single birds observed on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills.

**Rufous Woodpecker** *Microptemus brachyurus*

On 04-05 1 ex at Mishmi Hills.

**Streak-throated Woodpecker** *Picus xanthopygaeus*

Single birds on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

**Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*

On 01-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

On 10-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Grey-faced (headed) Woodpecker** *Picus canus ssp. hessei*

On 30-04 heard Eaglenest area.

Single birds seen on 2 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense*

On 18-04 2 exx Sultanpur.

On 19 and 20-04 single birds on transit between Guwahati-Tezpur and Tezpur to Tenga.

On 03-05 1 ex near Kaziranga.

**Greater Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

On 30-04 1 ex at the river Doimara, Eaglenest area.

**Bay Woodpecker** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

Regularly heard and also 4 seen on 2 dates in the Eaglenest area.

Heard and twice a single bird seen at Mishmi Hills.

**Pale-headed Woodpecker** *Cecinulus grantia*

On 20-04 one ♂ gave great views between Tezpur and Dirang.

On 07-05 another ex. was seen at Mishmi Hills.

EURYLAIMIDAE

**Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

On 29-04 2 exx and on 30-04 3 exx at Eaglenest.

PITTIDAE

**Blue-naped Pitta** *Pitta nipalensis*

On 02-05 a pair of this enigmatic species gave superb views in a gulley in a tea garden near Kaziranga. The ♂ was perched in full view for 30 seconds at a distance of less than 10 meters.! Highlight of the trip.

On 03-05 a ♀ was photographed from the jeep on a track in Kaziranga, during a game drive in the park.

ALAUDIDAE

**Bengal Bushlark** *Mirafra assamica*

On 19-04 2 exx at the Guwahati Rubbish Dump.

**Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*

On 04-05 2 exx along the shore of the Brahmaputra.

HIRUNDINIDAE

**Grey-throated Sand Martin** *Riparia chinensis*

Common at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.

Also observed on transit in the lowlands and along the Brahmaputra.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Up to 10 exx at Kaziranga.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

Observed at Sultanpur.

**Nepal House-Martin** *Delichon nipalense*

On 22 and 24-04 20+ along the road to the Sela Pass.

MOTACILLIDAE

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

On 20-04 2 ex. near Dirang.

On 27-04 1 ex Eaglenest area.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola ssp. citreola*

A single bird at Guwahati Rubbish Dump.

A total of 10 exx on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 7 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa

**Black-backed (Tibetan) Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola ssp. calcarata*

On 03-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 1 ex at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Himalayan Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ssp. alboides*

On 20-04 2 ex. along the river at the Sangti Valley.

On 24-04 2 exx along the road to the Sela Pass.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ssp. dukhunensis*

On 04-05 1 ex along the Brahmaputra River.

**Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*

On 19-04 2 exx near Guwahati.

A few at Kaziranga and on 08-05 2 exx along the Brahmaputra.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

Observed throughout the trip.

**Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseatus*

On 20-04 10 exx at the Sangti Valley.

On 22 and 24-04 5 to 10 exx in fields along the road to the Sela Pass.

On 04-05 3 exx near the Brahmaputra.

## CAMPEPHAGIDAE

**Large Cuckoo-Shrike** *Coracina macei*

Single birds on 2 dates in Kaziranga.

**Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike** *Coracina melaschistos*

On 25-04 2 exx near Lama Camp, Eaglenest.

On 06 and 07-05 a total of 3 exx Mishmi Hills.

**Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis gularis*

On 07-05 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** *Hemipus picatus*

On 28-04 2 exx between Sessni and Khellong.

**Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

On 18-04 3 exx at Sultanpur.

**Grey-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris*

On 21-04 2 exx near Dirang.

Single birds seen on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

**Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Observed in the Dirang area. A total of 20 exx on 4 dates.

On 25-04 10 exx near Lama Camp.

On 05-06 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

**Short-billed Minivet** *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

On 21-04 4 exx along the Mandala Road, Dirang area.

On 30-04 1 ex near Bhompu.

A total of 4 exx on 2 dates Mishmi Hills.

**Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus*

On 27 and 29-04 a few at the lower stretches of Eaglenest.

Daily a few in the Kaziranga area.

On 07-05 2 exx lower part of Mishmi Hills.

## PYCNONOTIDAE

**Striated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus striatus*

Single birds along the Mandala Road, Dirang area.

Common and daily recorded at Eaglesnest.

A total of 13 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris*

On 02-05 1 ex Kaziranga.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

A few near Tezpur on 20-04.

Common near Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa and Digboi.

Also recorded at lower elevations Mishmi Hills.

**Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*

Commonly recorded. Seen on 15 days.



**White-throated Bulbul** *Alophoixus flaveolus*

On 28-04 1 ex near Khellong and on 30-04 2 exx Doimara river, Eaglenest area.

On 02-05 6 exx tea garden Kaziranga.

On 07-05 3 exx lower part of Mishmi Hills.

**Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flavala*

On 07-05 2 exx lower part of Mishmi Hills.

**Mountain Bulbul** *Hypsipetes mcclllandii*

Daily up to 10 exx at Eaglenest.

**Himalayan Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Common in the hilly regions. Recorded on 15 dates.

CHLOROPSEIDAE

**Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*

On 29 and 30-04 4 and 1 ex between Bhompou and Sessni, Khellong.

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

CINCLIDAE

**Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasi*

On 22-04 2 exx above Dirang on the way to Sela Pass.

On 30-04 a single bird observed along the Doimara River, Eaglenest.

TROGLODYTIDAE

**Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes ssp.nipalensis*

On 22-04 heard at Sela Pass. On 24-04 at least 6 exx seen at the Sela Pass (4200 m.alt.). This is the dark nipalensis race.

PRUNELLIDAE

**Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*

On 22 and 24-04 3 and 6 exx at the Sela Pass.

**Rufous-breasted Accentor** *Prunella strophiatea*

A total of 9 exx on 4 dates in the Dirang area.

TURDIDAE

**Blue-capped Rock Thrush** *Monticola cinclorhynchus*

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates in the Dirang area.

On 01-05 1 ex Eaglenest.

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*

A total of 23 exx on 8 dates in the hilly regions.

**Plain-backed Thrush** *Zoothera mollissima*

On 24-04 1 pair at the Sela Pass.

**Small-billed Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*

On 21-04 2 exx. along the Mandala Road.

**White-collared Blackbird** *Turdus albocinctus*

A total of 13 exx on 3 dates in the Dirang area, mainly along the Mandala Road.

**Grey-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boulboul*

A total of 4 exx on 2 dates along the Mandala Road, Dirang area.

**Blue Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*

Common in the Dirang area, Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills.

**Lesser Shortwing** *Brachypteryx leucophrys ssp.nipalensis*

On 29-04 2 exx seen between Bhompou and Sessni.

Also heard on 2 more dates.

On 05-05 1 ex observed at Mishmi Hills.

**White-browed Shortwing** *Brachypteryx Montana*

On 26 and 27-04 a ♂ was seen in the area around Eaglenest Pass.

Heard on 2 dates at Mishmi Hills

**Rusty-bellied Shortwing** *Brachypteryx hyperythra*

On 06-05 1 ex observed at Mishmi Hills.

On 07-05 1 ex and on 08-05 2 different birds were heard.

**[Gould's Shortwing** *Heteroxenicus stellatus*]

On 25-04 Peter Lobo briefly saw this species just below Lama Camp.

We did not succeed in taping it in.

## CISTICOLIDAE

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

On 19-04 2 exx near Guwahati.

A few at Kaziranga and common at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*

On 18-04 a few at Sultanpur.

On 01-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

**Black-throated Prinia** *Prinia atrogularis ssp.atrogularis*

This is a split from the Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*

Daily a few seen and heard at Eaglenest.

**Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis ssp.stewarti*

On 02-05 2 exx At Kaziranga

**Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*

On 02-05 2 exx at Kaziranga.

On 08-05 10 exx in the Brahmaputra area.

**Yellow-bellied Prinia** *Prinia flaviventris ssp.flaviventris*

On 02 and 03-05 3/4 exx at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 10 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

## SYLVIIDAE

**Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Tesia castaneocoronata*

On 22-04 heard along the Sela Pass road.

On 26 and 27-04 2 and 3 exx seen at Eaglenest. Regularly heard.

On 05-05 1 ex seen at Mishmi Hills.

**Slaty-bellied Tesia** *Tesia olivea*

Seen and heard on 3 dates at Eaglenest. Perfect views.

On 07-05 1 ex observed at Mishmi Hills.

**Grey-bellied Tesia** *Tesia cyaniventer*

Only heard on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

Heard and one seen in the Mishmi Hills.

**Hume's Bush Warbler** *Cettia (acanthizoides) brunnescens*

On 23-04 1 ex seen near the pass of Mandala Road, Dirang.

On 26-04 heard and on 27-04 great views of 1 ex. near Eaglenest Pass.

**Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler** *Cettia fortipes*

Recorded on 14 dates. Dirang area, Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills.

**Grey-sided Bush Warbler** *Cettia brunnifrons ssp.muroides*

Heard on 6 dates and on 21-04 1 ex seen well along the Mandala Road.

On 05-05 1 ex at Mishmi Hills.

**Russet Bush Warbler** *Bradypterus mandelli*

Single birds on 2 dates seen along the Mandala Road.

On 22-04 1 ex observed along the Sela Pass road. A few more heard.

**Indian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus brunnescens*

On 03-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

On 08-05 1 ex near the Brahmaputra.

**Thick-billed Warbler** *Phragmaticola aedon*

On 01-05 1 ex at Kaziranga.

**Mountain Tailorbird** *Orthotomus cuculatus*

Heard on 2 dates in the Dirang area.

Heard and 1 seen on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area.

Daily heard and a few seen at Mishmi Hills.

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*

On 19-04 2 exx near Guwahati.

On 10-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis*

On 10-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Tickell's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*

On 20-04 2 exx near Dirang.

On 21-04 5 exx along the Mandala Road.

On 07-05 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

**Buff-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*

A total of 7 exx on 2 dates along the Sela pass road.

On 27-04 a single bird at Eaglenest.

On 05-05 a single bird at Mishmi Hills.

**Mandelli's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus (humei) mandellii*

On 23-04 heard along the Mandala Road.

**Ashy-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

A total of 5 exx on 2 dates along the Mandala Road.

A total of 7 exx on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area.

On 05-05 2 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**(Simla) Lemon-rumped Warbler** *Phylloscopus chloronotus ssp.chloronotus*

A total of 5 exx on 2 dates along the Mandala and Sela Pass road.

On 27-04 a single bird at Eaglenest.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides ssp.trochiloides*

Single birds on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills.

**Large-billed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Regularly heard along the Mandala and Sela Pass road. 2 exx seen well.

On 05-05 1 ex seen at Mishmi Hills.

**(Southern) Blyth's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Common. Recorded on 10 dates in the Dirang area, Eaglenest and Mishmi.

**Yellow-vented Warbler** *Phylloscopus cantator*

On 30-04 2 exx between Sessni and Khellong.

On 07-05 3 exx seen at Mishmi Hills.

**Grey-hooded Warbler** *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*

Single birds seen along the Mandala Road and Eaglenest (2 dates)

**Whistler's Warbler** *Seicercus whistleri*

Recorded on 8 dates along the Mandala/Sela Pass road, Eaglenest and the higher areas of Mishmi Hills. Locally common.

**Grey-cheeked Warbler** *Seicercus poliogenys*

A total of 26 exx on 4 dates at Eaglenest.

A total of 20 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus castaniceps*

On 21-04 a single bird along the Mandala Road.

On 25 and 28-04 a single bird at Eaglenest.

**Rufous-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus albogularis*

On 30-04 2 exx below Khellong. Eaglenest area.

On 07-05 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

**Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Abroscopus superciliaris*

A single bird at Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills.

**Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps ssp.flavimentalis*

On 21-04 6 exx and on 23-04 2 exx along the Mandala Road.

On 24-04 1 ex along the Sela Pass road.

On 25-04 4 exx near Lama Camp. Eaglenest.

A total of 7 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Broad-billed Warbler** *Tickellia hodgsoni*

On 21-04 2 exx along the Mandala Road.

On 30-04 a single bird between Sessni and Khellong.

A total of 3 ex. on 2 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris*

On 19-04 3 exx near Guwahati and a single bird at Kaziranga on 01-05.

On 04 and 08-05 2 exx and 10 exx near the Brahmaputra.

On 09-05 10+ at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

On 18-04 1 ex at Sultanpur.

## MUSCICAPIDAE

**Dark-sided Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica*

Regularly recorded in the Dirang area (Mandala Road), Eaglenest and 1 ex. at Mishmi Hills on 07-05. A total of 23 exx on 8 dates.

**Ferruginous Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ferruginea*

Single birds on 27 and 29-04 at Eaglenest, near Bhompu and Sessni.

**Slaty-backed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hodgsonii*

On 21-04 1 ex along the Mandala Road.

**Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophiiata*

A total of 14 exx in the Dirang area, mainly along the Mandala Road.

On 05-05 2 exx Mishmi Hills.

**Red-throated Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*

Twice a ♂ near Sessni, Eaglenest.

**White-gorgetted Flycatcher** *Ficedula monileger*

On 28-04 1 ex between Sessni – Khellong.

On 06-05 1 ex. Mishmi Hills.

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*

A total of 6 exx on 4 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula superciliaris*

A total of 6 exx on 3 dates in the Dirang area, mainly along Mandala Road. On 25-04 1 ex near Lama Camp.

**Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates in the Dirang area.

**Sapphire Flycatcher** *Ficedula sapphire*

On 25-04 great views of a ♂ near Lama Camp.

On 27-04 a ♂ near Bhompu.

**Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassina*

Common in the hilly regions. Recorded on 13 dates.

**Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis*

On 27-04 1 ♂ near Bhompu.

On 05 and 06-05 2 exx at Mishmi Hills

**Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae*

On 28-04 2 exx near Sessni.

A total of 7 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*

Single birds on 6 dates in the Dirang area and Eaglenest.

On 06-05 4 exx Mishmi Hills.

**Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**

On 04 and 07-05 2 singing ♂♂ lower part of Mishmi Hills.

**Pale-chinned Flycatcher** *Cyornis poliogenys*

On 01-05 1 ex heard at Kaziranga.

**Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*

A total of 7 exx on 3 dates in the area between Bhompu and Khellong.

On 07-05 1 ex Mishmi Hills.

**Blue-throated Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides*

On 27-04 1 ex Eaglenest.

**Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Single birds along the Mandala Road.

A total of 10 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

On 05-05 2 ex at Mishmi Hills.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

On 18-04 4 exx at Sultanpur.

**Indian Blue Robin** *Luscinia brunnea*

On 20-04 1 ♂ near Dirang and on 22-04 1 ♂ along the Sela Pass road.

On 24-04 heard along the Sela Pass road.

**Golden Bush-Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaeus*

A total of 5 exx. on 2 dates along the Sela Pass road.

On 23-04 1 ex. along the Mandala road.

**White-browed Bush-Robin** *Tarsiger indicus*

On 23-04 twice a ♀ along the Mandala Road.

On 26-04 heard and on 27-04 1 near Bhompur, Eaglenest area.

**Oriental Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis*

Scattered observations in the lowlands.

**White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*

On 07-05 1 ex at Mishmi Hills.

On 10-05 2 exx at Digboi.

**Indian Robin** *Saxicoloides fulicata*

On 18-04 a few at Sultanpur.

**Hodgson's Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

On 21-04 1 ex along the Mandala Road.

**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*

A total of 10 exx on 3 dates in the Dirang area.

**White-capped Redstart** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

A total of 11 exx in the Dirang area. Also on transit in the mountains.

**White-bellied Redstart** *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*

On 30-04 superb views of a ♂ near Khellong, Eaglenest area. Rare.

**Plumbeous Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*

As for White-capped Redstart.

**White-tailed Robin** *Cinclidium leucurum*

Regularly heard in the Dirang area and Eaglenest.

On 21-04 1 ex seen along the Mandala Road.

On 07-05 heard Mishmi Hills and on 05 and 08-05 1 ex seen.

**Blue-fronted Robin** *Cinclidium frontale*

Regularly heard along the Mandala Road, Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills.

On 21-04 1 ex taped in along the Mandala Road which gave brief but good views. On 27-04 astonishing views of a singing ♂ just above Bhompur.

**Grandala** *Grandala coelicolor*

On 22-04 good views of at least 4 exx (3 ♂♂ + 1 ♀) of this most wanted species right at the Sela Pass.

On 24-04 again 4 birds in the same area.

**Slaty-backed Forktail** *Enicurus immaculatus*

A total of 5 exx on 2 dates in the Eaglenest area.

**Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculates*

On 20-04 2 exx near Dirang.

On 28-04 1 ex Eaglenest.

**Purple Cochoa** *Cochoa purpurea*

On 27-04 we observed a ♂ between Eaglenest Pass and Bhompur. (finally)

We had good views in the scope.

On 05 and 08-05 heard at Mishmi Hills.

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maura*

On 18-04 2 exx at Sultanpur.

**Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata*

On 18-04 observed at Sultanpur.

**Jerdon's Bushchat** *Saxicola jerdoni*

On 09-05 a pair at Dibru-Saikhowa gave great views.

**Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferrea*

Daily up to 6 exx In the Dirang area.

RHIPIDURIDAE

**White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*

Small numbers recorded on 8 dates in the hill region.

**Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Rhipidura hypoxantha*

Up to 10 exx daily in the Dirang area (Mandala Road) and Eaglenest.

TIMALIIDAE

**Bhutan Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron imbricatum*

A total of 31 exx on 8 dates in the Dirang and Eaglenest area.

**Scaly Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron subunicolor*

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

**Blue-winged Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron squamatus*

Heard on 3 dates at Eaglenest. Single birds seen on 26 and 27-04.

On 30-04 2 exx seen near Sessni.

Single birds seen on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Chestnut-crowned (Red-headed Laughingthrush)**

*Trochalopteron erythrocephalus nigrimentum*

A total of 24 exx on 6 dates in the Dirang and Eaglenest area.

On 05 and 06-05 2 exx and 1 ex at Mishmi Hills.

**Black-faced Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron affinis*

A total of 14 exx on 4 dates along the Mandala and Sela Pass road.

**Rufous-chinned laughingthrush** *Lanthocincla rufogularis*

The mystery laughingthrush heard and tape recorded on 29-04 below Bhompu, turned out to be this species

**Spotted Laughingthrush** *Lanthocincla ocellata*

On 21-04 a single bird along the Mandala Road.

On 23-04 fantastic, close views of a pair, next to the road, Mandala pass.

On 24-04 a single bird along the Sela Pass Road.

**Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush** *Dryonastes nuchalis*

On 10-05 good views of a single bird at Digboi.

**Rufous-necked Laughingthrush** *Dryonastes ruficollis*

On 02-05 3 exx tea garden near Kaziranga.

On 08-05 1 ex in scrub along the Brahmaputra.

On 09-05 2 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa and on 10-05 10 exx at Digboi.

**Grey-sided Laughingthrush** *Dryonastes caerulatus*

On 21-04 2 exx. and on 23-04 1 ex along the Mandala Road.

On 24-04 a single bird along the Sela Pass road.

A total of 6 exx on 2 dates at Eaglenest area.

A total of 7 exx at 2 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Striated Laughingthrush** *Grammatoptila striata*

A total of 8 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

A total of 11 exx on 4 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis*

Single birds on 2 dates along the Mandala Road.

On 24-04 3 exx along the Sela Pass Road.

On 27-04 4 exx between Lama Camp and Bhompu.

**White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*

Heard a few times at Eaglenest. A total of 9 exx on 2 dates.

On 07-05 5 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax monileger*

On 30-04 4 exx near Khellong, Eaglenest.

Heard on 2 dates at Mishmi Hills.

On 10-05 6 exx at Digboi.

**Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax pectoralis*

On 28-04 1 ex seen between Bhompu and Sessni, Eaglenest.

**Crimson-faced Liocichla** *Liocichla phoenicea*

On 20-04 1 ex. near Dirang.

A total of 5 exx. on 3 dates at Eaglesnest. Below Bhompu.  
Heard on 2 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Bugun Liocichla** *Liocichla bugunorum*

In the afternoon of 25-04 1 ex briefly seen in a gully near Lama Camp.  
In the morning of 26-04 great views of a vocal pair in the same area.  
Later a different bird was observed nearby.

**Abbott's Babbler** *Malacocincla abbotti*

On 09-05 2 exx Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*

On 02 and 03-05 2 exx at the Mishmi Hills.

**Marsh Babbler** *Pellorneum palustre*

On 09-05 we heard several birds and glimpsed 2 exx, before I had extremely close views of 1 bird in the grasslands of Dibru-Saikhowa.

**White-browed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

On 02-04 twice heard in the tea garden, Kaziranga.

**Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Regularly heard in the Dirang area (Mandala Road and Sela Pass Rd.) and on 23-4 I saw 2 exx along the Mandala Rd.

Also heard at Eaglesnest and a total of 7 exx seen on 3 dates in this area.

Heard on 05-5 and a single bird seen on 06-05 at Mishmi Hills.

**Large Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*

On 29-04 1 ex observed between Bhompu and Sessni, Eaglenest.

On 07-05 heard at Mishmi Hills.

**Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*

On 30-04 briefly heard at Eaglenest.

Heard on 07 and 08-05 at Mishmi Hills. Too far unfortunately.

**Red-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*

On 28 and 30-04 single birds seen at Eaglenest.

On 04-05 3 exx and on 07-05 2 exx in a bamboo patch, Mishmi Hills.

We had good and lengthy views in the scope.

**Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*

On 21-04 1 bird gave good views at Mandala Pass.

Twice heard at Eaglenest.

On 05-05 heard at Mishmi Hills and on 07-05 superb, close views of a very responsive bird at Mishmi Hills.

**Long-billed Wren-Babbler** *Rimator malacoptilus*

On 28-04 excellent views of this species below Bhompu, Eaglenest area.

Also heard on 2 other dates.

**Streaked Wren-Babbler** *Napothera brevicaudata*

On 30-04 1 ex heard at Eaglenest.

**Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga albiventer*

On 21-04 heard along the Mandala Rd.

**Pygmy Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla*

Commonly heard at Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills. Several birds seen well.

**Sikkim Wedge-billed Wren Babbler** *Sphenocichla humei*

On 29-04 1 ex seen very well at Eaglenest.

**Cachar Wedge-billed Wren Babbler** *Sphenocichla roberti*

Single birds were seen on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills. One bird even perched right in the open on a rock, just next to the road.

**Rufous-throated Wren Babbler** *Speleaornis caudatus*

Recorded on 4 dates in the Eaglenest area. Twice a single bird gave good views.

**Mishmi Wren Babbler** *Speleaornis badeigularis*

This enigmatic species was seen on 2 consecutive days in the Mishmi Hills.

The second day I was able to take some photo's of this species.

**Bar-winged Wren Babbler** *Speleaornis troglodytoides*

A very responsive pair was observed on 21-04 at Mandala pass.

Also heard on 26-04 in the Eaglenest area.

**Spotted Wren Babbler** *Speleaornis formosus*

On 26-04 1 ex was briefly heard at Eaglenest but did not respond.

On 06-05 great views of a very responsive bird at Mishmi Hills.

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyris ruficeps*

Recorded on 10 dates on this trip.

**Golden Babbler** *Stachyris chrysaea*

A total of 30+ exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

A total of 7 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps*

On 28-04 heard near Khellong, Eaglesnest area.

**Pin-striped Tit Babbler** *Macronous gularis*

Daily heard at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.

On 10-05 1 ex observed at Digboi.

**Chestnut-capped Babbler** *Timalia pileata*

On 02-05 4 exx at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 2 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense*

On 02-05 1 ex. at Kaziranga.

**Jerdon's Babbler** *Chrysomma altirostre*

On 09-05 1 ex seen well at Dibru-Saikhowa. A few more were heard.

**Slender-billed Babbler** *Turdoides longirostris*

On 02-05 4 exx at Kaziranga. More were heard but very skulky.

**Striated Babbler** *Turdoides earlei*

On 01-05 5 exx and on 02-05 2 exx at Kaziranga

On 09-05 4 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Large Grey Babbler** *Turdoides malcolmi*

On 18-04 a flock at Sultanpur.

**Jungle Babbler** *Turdoides striatus*

On 18-04 observed at Sultanpur.

**Fire-tailed Myzornis** *Myzornis pyrrhoura*

On 24-04 extended views of a ♂ along the upper part of the Sela Pass Road.

**Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argentauris*

On 20-04 2 exx between Tezpur and Dirang.

A total of 30+ on 3 dates in the area below Bhompu, Eaglenest area.

On 07-05 5 exx Mishmi Hills.

**Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*

On 21-04 2 exx and on 23-04 1 ex along the Mandala Rd.

A total of 5 exx on 3 dates in the upper part (above Bhompu) of Eaglenest.

**Himalayan Cutia** *Cutia nipalensis*

On 25-05 5 exx near Lama Camp, Eaglenest.

Also heard on another 3 dates in the Eaglesnest area and on 30-04 we observed another 2 exx between Bhompu and Sessni.

On 04-05 heard and on 06-05 4 exx seen at Mishmi Hills.

**Black-headed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius rufiventer*

On 26-04 we taped in a ♂, which gave exceptional fine and close views.

**White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

On 21-04 a pair along Mandala Rd.

On 26 and 27-04 heard at Eaglenest and on 29-04 2 exx seen.

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Green Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

Single birds seen on 21 and 23-04 along Mandala Rd.

On 26-04 3 exx at Eaglenest and heard on 27-04.

**Black-eared Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius melanotis*

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

Single birds on 05 and 07-05 at Mishmi Hills.



**Indian White-hooded Babbler** *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*

On 28-04 heard at Eaglenest and on 30-04 2 exx of this bamboo loving species seen well near Khellong.

On 04-05 2 exx and on 07-05 4 exx in a large bamboo patch, Mishmi Hills.

**Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodura egertoni*

On 21-04 2 exx along the Mandala Rd. and on 24-04 2 exx Sela Pass Rd.

A total of 25 exx on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area.

A total of 17 exx on 4 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Streak-throated Barwing** *Actinodura waldeni ssp.deflaensis*

On 26-04 1 ex. and 27-04 4 exx at Eaglenest.

**Blue-winged Siva** *Siva cyanouroptera ssp.cyanouroptera*

On 21-04 5 exx along the Mandala Rd.

A total of 17 exx on 6 dates in the Eaglenest area.

On 05-05 4 exx at Mishmi Hills

**Chestnut-tailed Minla** *Minla strigula ssp.yunnanensis*

A total of 25 exx on 4 dates in the Dirang area.

A total of 26 exx on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area.

On 05-05 4 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotincta*

On 21-04 5 exx and on 23-04 2 exx along Mandala rd.

A total of 8 exx on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area.

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta** *Alcippe chrysotis ssp.chrysotis*

On 21-04 6 exx and on 23-04 4 exx along the Mandala Rd.

A total of 10 exx on 3 dates in the Eaglenest area.

On 05-05 2 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Yellow-throated Fulvetta** *Alcippe cinerea*

A total of 45 exx on 4 dates in the Eaglenest area.

A total of 50+ on 4 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Alcippe castaneiceps*

A total of 21 exx on 5 dates in the Eaglenest area.

On 05-05 4 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Ludlow's (Brown-throated) Fulvetta** *Alcippe ludlowi*

A total of 12 exx on 4 dates in the Dirang area.

On 26-04 a single bird near Eaglenest pass.

On 05-05 a single bird at Mishmi Hills.

**Manipur Fulvetta** *Alcippe manipurensis*

On 05-05 3 exx of this restricted species near Mayodia Pass, Mishmi.

**Nepal Fulvetta** *Alcippe nipalensis ssp.nipalensis*

A total of 3 exx on 2 dates at Eaglenest.

A total of 4 exx on 2 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Rufous-backed Sibia** *Heterophasia annectens*

A total of 6 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest.

On 07-05 2 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Long-tailed Sibia** *Heterophasia picaoides*

Up to 20 exx daily in the lower parts of the Eaglenest areas.

**Beautiful Sibia** *heterophasia pulchella ssp.nigroaurita*

Common. Recorded on 15 dates on this trip.

**Striated Yuhina** *Yuhina castaniceps ssp.rufigenis*

On 07-05 4 exx at Mishmi Hills

**White-naped Yuhina** *Yuhina bakeri*

A total of 8 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest. All below Bhompu/Sessni.

A total of 19 exx on 4 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*

Recorded on 11 dates in the Dirang area, Eaglenest and Mishmi Hills

**Stripe-throated Yuhina** *Yuhina gularis ssp.gularis*

A total of 13 exx on 2 dates in the Dirang area.

A total of 6 exx on 2 dates at Eaglenest.

On 05-05 4 exx. at Mishmi Hills.

**Rufous-vented Yuhina** *Yuhina occipitalis*

A total of 50+ on 4 dates in the Dirang area.

A total of 16 exx on 2 dates at Eaglenest.

**Black-chinned Yuhina** *Yuhina nigrimenta*

A total of 13 exx on 4 dates in the Eaglenest area.

#### PARADOXORNITHIDAE

**Brown Parrotbill** *Cholornis unicolor*

On 26-04 fantastic views of 2 exx near Eaglenest Pass.

**Black-breasted Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis flavirostris*

On 09-05 a few heard and at least 2 different bird seen.

One bird gave excellent views eventually.

**Black-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis nipalensis*

On 23-04 2 exx along the Mandala Rd.

On 27-04 2 exx Eaglenest and on 30-04 50+(!!) near Khellong.

On 05-05 4 exx Mishmi Hills.

**Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill** *Psittiparus ruficeps*

On 25-04 1 ex and on 30-04 2 exx Eaglenest.

On 04-05 3 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill** *Psittiparus atosuperciliaris*

On 20-04 5 exx during a road stop between Tezpur and Dirang.

On 30-04 2 exx at Eaglenest.

On 07-5 2 exx at Mishmi Hills.

#### AEGITHALIDAE

**Black-throated Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus*

On 20-04 2 exx during a road stop between Tezpur and Dirang.

On 25-04 2 exx near Lama Camp, Eaglenest.

A total of 5 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Rufous-fronted Tit** *Aegithalos iouschistos*

On 22-04 2 exx along the Sela Pass Rd.

On 26-04 2 exx Eaglenest.

#### PARIDAE

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

A total of 6 exx on 3 dates in the Dirang area.

**Grey-crested Tit** *Lophophanes dichrous ss.dichrous*

On 23-04 4 exx along the Mandala Rd.

**Rufous-vented Tit** *Parus rubiventris*

On 22-04 4 exx along the Sela Pass rd.

**Grey (Cinereous) Tit** *parus cinereus ssp.nipalensis*

Up to 3 exx daily in the Kaziranga area.

On 09-05 2 exx Dibru-Saikhowa and on 10-05 4 exx at Digboi.

**Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*

A total of 50 exx recorded on 8 dates in the Dirang and Eaglenest area.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Parus spilonotus*

A total of 8 exx on 5 dates in the eaglesnest area.

A total of 11 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus*

On 21-04 1 ex along the Mandala Rd.

A total of 3 exx on 2 dates at Eaglenest.

On 05-05 2 exx at Mishmi Hills

**Fire-capped Tit** *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

On 21-04 1 ♂ along the Mandala Road. (Jan-Hein only)

**Sultan Tit** *Melanochlora sultanea*

A total of 22 exx on 3 dates lower part of the Eaglenest area.

## SITTIDAE

**White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*

On 23-04 1 ex along the Mandala rd.

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates at Eaglenest area.

On 05-05 1 ex at Mishmi Hills.

**Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamoventris*

On 30-04 2 exx at the viewpoint of the Doimara river, Eaglenest.

**Beautiful Nuthatch** *Sitta Formosa*

29 april was an exceptional day for this species. While birding along the road between Bhompu to Sessni, Eaglenest, we observed no less than 7 birds.

On 06-05 we observed 2 exx at Mishmi Hills. Also heard the next day.

## CERTHIIDAE

**Rusty-flanked Treecreeper** *Certhia nipalensis*

On 21-04 1 ex along the Mandala Rd.

## NECTARINIIDAE

**Purple Sunbird** *Nectarinia asiatica*

On 18-04 a few at Sultanpur.

On 20-04 1 ex between Guwahati and Tezpur.

**Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae ssp.isolata*

Recorded on 7 dates in the Dirang and Eaglenest area.

**Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis ssp.nipalensis*

Recorded on 12 dates. Very common in the Eaglenest Pass area.

**Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturate ssp.assamensis*

On 20-04 a single bird between Tezpur and Dirang.

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates in the lower part of the Eaglenest area.

On 07-05 4 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja ssp.labecula*

On 19-04 2 exx near Guwahati.

On 10-05 2 exx at Digboi.

**Fire-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga ignicauda*

On 22-04 at least 3 ♂♂ and on 24 6 birds along the Sela Pass Rd.

**Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna*

On 20-04 3 exx between Tezpur – Dirang during a road stop.

A total of 12 exx on 4 dates at Eaglenest.

A total of 8 exx on 3 dates at Mishmi Hills.

**Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra*

On 28-04 3 exx below Khellong.

## DICAUIDAE

**Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*

On 21-04 a single bird along the Mandala Rd.

On 25-04 a single bird between Lama Camp and Bhompu, Eaglenest.

**Yellow-vented Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

On 02-05 1 ex Kaziranga.

**Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum*

A total of 4 exx on 2 dates at Kaziranga.

On 10-05 2 exx Digboi.

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectus*

On 21-04 1 ex along the Mandala Rd.

A total of 8 exx on 5 dates at Eaglenest.

A total of 3 exx on 2 dates at Mishmi Hills.

## ZOSTEROPIDAE

**Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*

On 21-04 4 exx along the Mandala Rd.

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates at Kaziranga.

ORIOLIDAE

**Indian Oriole** *Oriolus kundoo*

On 18-04 2 exx at Sultanpur.

**Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*

Twice a single bird observed at Kaziranga.

**Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii*

A total of 7 exx observed on 3 dates at Eaglenest. More were heard.

On 08-05 3 exx at Mishmi Hills.

IRENIDAE

**Asian fairy Bluebird** *Irene puella*

On 28-04 2 exx at the Doimara river.

LANIIDAE

**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach ssp.tricolor*

A total of 10 exx on 5 dates in the Dirang area.

Single birds near Bhompu and Lama Camp.

**Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*

Twice a single bird along the road to Sela Pass. Lower area.

Twice a single bird near Bhompu.

A total of 4 exx on 3 dates in the Mishmi Hills.

**Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*

A single bird was present next to our lodge at Kaziranga.

On 04-05 1 ex near Roing.

On 10-05 3 exx. at Digboi.

DICRURIDAE

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus ssp.albrictus*

Common in the lowlands.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus ssp.hopwoodi*

Recorded in the Dirang and Eaglenest area.

**Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*

A total of 11 exx on 3 dates in the lower parts of Eaglenest.

**Crow-billed Drongo** *Dicrurus annectans*

On 29-04 2 exx identified near Sessni.

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer*

A total of 8 exx on 3 dates in the lower parts of Eaglenest

**Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Observed on 2 dates at Kaziranga.

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus paradiseus ss. Grandis*

On 02-05 1 ex Kaziranga.

On 04 2 exx and 08-05 1 ex lower part of Mishmi Hills.

ARTAMIDAE

**Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*

On 19-04 2 exx near Guwahati.

On 27-04 2 exx near Doimara River, Eaglenest area.

A few daily at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 4 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa and on 10-05 10 exx at Digboi.

CORVIDAE

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius ssp.interstinctus*

On 23-04 1 ex along the Mandala Rd.

**Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie** *Urocissa flavirostris ssp. flavirostris*

On 21-04 2 exx and on 13-04 1 ex along the Mandala Rd.

Heard on 2 dates at Eaglenest Pass.

On 05-05 2 exx at Mishmi Hills.

**Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis*

Heard on 2 dates in the area below Sessni.

**Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda ssp.vagabunda*

A total of 8 exx on 3 dates in the Kaziranga area.

On 09-05 2 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae ssp.himalayensis*

On 21-04 4 exx along the Mandala Rd.

A total of 6 exx on 2 dates at Eaglenest.

On 08-05 3 exx at Mishmi Hills.

On 10-05 common at Digboi.

**Collared Treepie** *Dendrocitta frontalis*

Single birds on 04-05 and 08-05 at Mishmi Hills.

On 09-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Spotted Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes ssp.macella*

A total of 17 exx during 2 visits to Mandala Rd.

On 25 and 26-04 2 exx near Lama Camp, Eaglenest

**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

A total of 10 exx during 2 visits to the Sela Pass area.

**Alpine (Yellow-billed) Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

On 24-04 1 ex along the Sela Pass Rd.

**House Crow** *Corvus splendens*

Observed in the lowlands

**Eastern Jungle Crow** *Corvus (macrorhynchos) leuillanti*

Observed in the Kaziranga area, near Tinsukia and Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Large-billed Crow** *Corvus (macrorhynchos) japonensis*

Daily observed in the Dirang area.

#### STURNIDAE

**Common Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa ssp.peninsularis*

Single birds on 20-04 between Tezpur – Dirang, on 01-05 near Kaziranga,

And on 10-05 near Digboi.

**Jungle Myna** *Acridotheres fuscus*

On 20-04 10+ between Tezpur and Dirang.

On 03-05 10+ between Kaziranga and Dibrugarh.

On 09-05 common at the edge of Dibru-Saikhowa.

**White-vented Myna** *Acridotheres grandis*

On 01 and 02-05 10+ Kaziranga area.

On 10-05 1 ex at Digboi.

**Bank Myna** *Acridotheres ginginianus*

On 03-05 2 exx between Kaziranga and Dibrugarh.

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

Common in the lowland areas.

**Asian Pied Starling** *Gracupica contra*

Observed around Delhi, Guwahati, Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Chestnut-tailed Starling** *Sturnia malabarica*

A total of 16 on 2 dates in the Kaziranga area.

On 04-05 4 exx and on 08-05 20 exx near Roing.

On 09-05 4 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

#### PLOCEIDAE

**Eastern Baya Weaver** *Ploceus (philippinus) burmanicus*

On 01-05 5 exx at Kaziranga.

On 09-05 4 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

ESTRILDIDAE

**White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata ssp.acuticauda*

On 07-05 7 exx and on 08-05 10 exx lower areas of Mishmi Hills.

On 09-05 4 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata ssp.subundulata*

On 08-05 1 ex near Roing.

EMBERIZIDAE

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

On 20-04 1 ex at the Sangti Valley, Dirang.

**Black-faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*

On 09-05 at least 2 exx at Dibru-Saikhowa.

FRINGILLIDAE

**Plain Mountain Finch** *Leucosticte nemoricola*

On 23-04 50+ at Mandala Pass.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus ssp.roseatus*

On 22-04 1 ♂ along the Sela Pass Rd.

On 25-04 1 ex and on 26-04 10 exx Lama Camp, Eaglenest.

**Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch** *Carpodacus thura*

On 22 and 24-04 2 exx along the Sela Pass Rd.

**Yellow-breasted Greenfinch** *Carduelis spinoides*

On 25-04 20+ between Dirang and Munna.

**Brown Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula nipalensis*

On 21-04 2 exx along the Mandala Rd.

On 25-04 4 exx at Lama Camp, Eaglenest.

**Grey-headed Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula erythaca*

On 21-04 7 exx along the Mandala Rd.

**Collared Grosbeak** *Mycerobas affinis*

On 23-04 2 ♂♂ along the Mandala Rd.

**Spot-winged Grosbeak** *Mycerobas melanozanthos*

On 27-04 1 ex at Eaglenest Pass.

**Gold-naped Finch** *Pyrrhoptectes epaulette*

A total of 6 exx on 3 dates in the Lama Camp area.

**Crimson-browed Finch** *Propyrrhula subhimachala*

On 21-04 1♀ along the Mandala Rd.

**Scarlet Finch** *Haematospiza sipahi*

On 25-04 1♀ at Lama Camp.

On 06-05 2♂♂ and on 07-05 1 pair at Mishmi Hills.

PASSERIDAE

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

A few observed in the Kaziranga area.

On 08-05 3 exx at Roing.

**Sind Sparrow** *Passer pyrrhonotus*

On 18-04 excellent views of a pair at Sultanpur.

**Russet Sparrow** *Passer rutilans*

On 20-04 10+ near Dirang.

On 23-04 4 exx along the Mandala Rd.

On 24-04 10+ along the Sela Pass Rd.

On 27-04 3 exx Eaglenest.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Common in the lowlands.

A total of 476 recorded of which 10 exx only heard

**LIST OF OBSERVED MAMMALS**

Compiled by Jan Hein van Steenis

**Indian Elephant** *Elephas maximus*

Heard at Eaglenest and seen daily at Kaziranga.

**Rhesus Monkey** *Macaca mulatta*

2 exx at Bhalukpong and 1 ex at Tezpur

**Assamese Macaque** *Macaca assamensis*

1 ex at Kohora and a single at Mishmi Hills

**Arunachal Macaque** *Macaca munzala*

A total of 6 exx (5+1) on 2 dates at Eaglenest

**Western Hoolock Gibbon** *Hylobates hoolock*

Mishmi Hills: many heard, 2♂ and 1♀ seen

**Himalayan Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops mccllellandii*

Mandala Road, Dirang

**Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel** *Dremomys lokriah*

Mandala Road, Dirang

**Himalayan Hoary-bellied Squirrel** *callosciurus pygerythus*

A single one at Eaglenest

**Indian Rhinoceros** *Rhinoceros unicornis*

Common at Kaziranga.

**Dhole (Asiatic wild dog)** *Cuon alpinus*

1 on the track at Eaglenest.

**Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*

A few at Kaziranga

**Nilgau** *Boselaphus tragocemelus*

A few at Sultanpur

**Hog Deer** *Axis porcinus*

Common at Kaziranga

**Swamp Deer (Barasingha)** *Cervus duvaucelii*

Common at Kaziranga

**Sambar** *Cervus unicolor*

A single at Kaziranga

**Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)** *Muntiacus muntjak*

Heard once at Eaglenest

2 exx at Digboi

**Water Buffalo** *Bubalus bubalis*

Common at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa

**Bharal (Blue Sheep)** *Pseudois nayaur*

2 exx at the Sela Pass.