

# BIRDSEEKERS

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ATOL 6156

## INDIA – the NORTH EAST – JAN – 2008

389 Bird Species recorded

Checklist starts on Page 12

Leaders Nick Bray & Peter Lobo

### Day 1 Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January

After an uneventful 9 hour flight we arrived in Kolkata at 1.45am and were soon meeting my friend Neil and heading to the Saturday Club in the middle of the city and after a short sleep and breakfast we returned to the airport and flew to Dibrugarh more or less on time. On arrival we met my good friend and guide Peter Lobo and drove to a hotel in Tinsukhia for an overnight stay. After settling into our rooms and having lunch we walked along the main street to find some beer for the next few nights, as we would be staying in a remote area of the Mishmi Hills. As today was primarily a planning and rest day we found time to scan the surrounding area from the roof garden of our hotel and saw some common birds such as **Black Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Blue-throated Barbet, Common and Jungle Mynas, Grey-headed Starling, Eastern Jungle and House Crows**, and hundreds of **Eastern Cattle Egrets** going to roost.

### Day 2 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January

We left in darkness at 5am for the hour long drive across a misty Assam to Dhola Ghat where we were due to take a makeshift ferry across the river. We came across hardly any traffic with the only bird of note being a male **Blue Rock Thrush**, and once the road ended we followed a track across a dried up sandy riverbed where a mixed flock of **Rosy, Tawny and Paddyfield Pipits** made for interesting side-by-side comparisons. Also present were flocks of **Yellow Wagtails** of the *Thunbergi* race, whilst some cattle crossed our path were adorned with several **White-vented Mynas** that gave excellent views. On reaching the river we parked alongside some small huts and our ground crew of 6 lads, our own cook and 2 of Peter's own guides prepared breakfast. By now the sun was warming us up nicely and from our riverside **viewpoint** during breakfast watched a couple **Pallas's Gulls** flying upriver, along with **Ruddy Shelduck, Common Greenshank**, and both **Little and Great Cormorants**.

It took quite a long time to sort out the formalities for the river crossing with the authorities and the numerous small boats that transport vehicles to various destinations, although the main 'sticking point' appeared to be the governments tax man had not yet showed up and without his consent we couldn't depart. So we whiled away the time walking around the scrubby fields watching numerous **Common Stonechats** of the Siberian races, along with **Grey-backed and Long-tailed Shrikes, Richard's Pipits**, numerous **Tickell's Leaf Warblers, Ashy Prinia**, and lots of **Plain Martins** flying past. Eventually, we set sail on our makeshift **ferry** around 10am and made our way along the channels between huge sandy islands that apparently shift after every monsoon. Quite a few birds were seen such as **Lesser Pied Kingfisher, Temminck's Stint, Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Oriental Darter and Sand Lark** which enlivened proceedings. Once ashore a quick stop was made to scan the grassland with the Mishmi Hills dominating the horizon. A good selection of species was recorded including **Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Long-legged Buzzard, Pied and Western Marsh Harriers, Black Stork and Citrine Wagtail**. The road from here to Roing in

Arunachal Pradesh was very rough in places and the journey took a couple of hours, before we crossed the border and the road started to rise quickly. A couple of **Rufous-necked Hornbills** flying in the distance was the only sighting of note at this stage. At one point the road was diverted as the bridge had been destroyed during the previous monsoon, so we had to drive along the dried river bed until rejoining the main road several kilometres away. The habitat as we drove along looked fantastic, with the first 600m consisting of secondary growth interspersed with huge swathes of bamboo that looked very promising and was an area we would bird in a few days.

Anyway, Peter had arranged lunch at a lodge that was just being built, and which gave superb views over the **Dibang Valley**. A **Himalayan Buzzard** and several **Grey Bushchats** were spotted in the cleared area below the lodge, and on the other side of the buildings a large gully choked with bamboo and some taller trees held a calling **Bay Woodpecker**, as well as our first **Green-tailed Sunbird** and **Oriental White-eyes**, but more interestingly a flock of **Black-chinned Yuhinas** passed close by. Overhead, **Mountain Hawk-eagle**, **Rufous-bellied Eagle** and a dark-phase **Oriental Honey Buzzard** were seen, with a flyby **Pale-capped Pigeon** disappearing into the densely forested hillside across the road. Making a mental note to revisit this lodge later, we would in fact stay overnight in the central hall but this would be an ideal base to explore from in future visits once the building work is completed. We drove another couple of hundred metres higher before getting out and walking up the road a short distance. A few **Maroon Orioles** were obvious, whilst a flock of over 100 **Silver-eared Mesias** flew across the road and disappeared all too quickly. An open area held **Bronzed**, **Ashy** and **Spangled Drongos**, as well as a confiding **Lesser Yellownappe**. Nearby, a huge flock of Laughingthrushes could be heard working their way across the forested hillside below us, but we only managed a glimpse of a **White-crested** and **Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush** as the vegetation was so dense. A **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** then began calling and we found **Green-backed Tit**, **Beautiful Sibia**, **Golden-throated Barbet** and a nice male **Black-throated Sunbird**. So we finished birding at around 1100m as the light began to fade around 4.30pm and it took another 90 minutes driving around steep, twisting bends to reach our lodge and base for the next few nights, situated a few kilometres below Mayodia Pass. In fact we took over the place completely and in good time we had a roaring fire and our dinner was being cooked – what a relief to know we wouldn't be camping and would be sleeping in proper beds! We had buckets of hot water to wash with in the bathroom and dined by candlelight – still feeling like intrepid explorers despite the modern conveniences!

### Day 3 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Tea on the terrace at 5.30am was most welcome after a very chilly night, but what a **view** confronted us this morning. As the sun slowly rose above the surrounding hills, birds suddenly began to appear and we kicked off the day with a flock of stunning **Yellow-billed Blue Magpies** and we counted at least 10 birds in a large tree below us, in company with several **Eurasian Jays** of the race *interstinctus*. A **Shikra** then flew along the ridge above us and seemed to prompt a **Bay Woodpecker** to begin calling and we also heard **Streak-breasted** and **Slender-billed Scimitar-babblers** calling from the bamboo directly below us. So we began walking up the road towards the pass, but hadn't gone far when a flock of lovely **Grey-headed Bullfinches** were seen feeding on berries beside the road. A flock of **Striated Laughingthrushes** were next up, followed eventually by several **Black-faced Laughingthrushes** and a few **Stripe-throated Yuhinas**. Nearby we heard a mixed-species flock and turned a corner to find several **Yellow-cheeked Tits**, **Ashy-throated Warbler**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, **Rufous-vented Yuhina**, **Green-tailed Sunbird**, **Streak-breasted** and a confiding **Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler**, and best of all 2 **Manipur Fulvettas** – one of the star birds here.

Walking on we had several close views of female **Spot-winged Rosefinches**, a **Dark-rumped Rosefinch**, as well as our only **Yellowish-bellied (Hume's) Bush-warbler** of the trip. A flock of 30+ **Black-throated Parrotbills** passed beside us very quickly and at the same moment a **Rufous-capped Babbler** appeared, but our eyes were drawn to some movement just ahead which turned out to be a party of 3 female and a cracking male **Crimson-browed Finch**. So after all this excitement

we jumped into our 4-wheel drives and drove up to **Mayodia Pass** (2560m) where our **breakfast** was waiting on a table for us! After copious amounts of porridge, omelette, tea and toast we began walking down the other side. Unfortunately it was unusually quiet, possibly due to this whole slope being in the shade and all we got for our efforts were **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and **Blue-fronted Redstart** of any note before lunch. We probably spent too much time scanning the scree slope above the road for the reported **Sclater's Monal** without success and it does seem that this bird requires a terribly difficult climb along a hunters track from the ridge to reach the treeline – which we attempted later in the week, and even when at the right point the viewing is incredibly restricted and in our opinion, not worth the effort. So after a hot lunch brought to us by the crew, we continued down the same road and eventually reached some sunnier parts which immediately brought its rewards with good looks at **Great Barbet**, a couple flocks of **Chestnut-tailed Minlas**, loads of yuhinas, **Grey-hooded Warbler**, **Spotted Forktail** and **Blue Whistling Thrush**. We found some of our best birds towards the end of the day, firstly when some movement on the bank above the road turned out to be a small party of 3 females and a superb male **Gold-naped Finch** which were very obliging, and shortly after a brilliant male **Rufous-breasted Bush-robin** simply wouldn't leave the road as we walked up to him. So, all in all, an interesting day and we may well have recorded the first **Spot-winged Rosefinch** and **Grey-headed Bullfinches** for the Mishmi Hills.

#### Day 4 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

We met on the terrace at 5.30am for breakfast, listening to the calls of **Common Hill-partridges** ringing across the hillsides and watched the **Yellow-billed Blue Magpies** in a nearby tree before driving up to the pass. We spent most of the morning scrambling up the rough and very steep path to the look-out point for **Sclater's Monal** and after all the effort only succeeded in hearing it, but the hard walk produced the first flock of **Fulvous Parrotbills** for the Mishmi Hills. There was also a mixed flock containing **Yellow-browed**, **Rufous-vented** and **Rufous-fronted Tits**, whilst nearby a flock of **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes** passed by, a few delightful **Brown-throated Fulvettas** showed really well, another **Rufous-breasted Bush-robin** put in an appearance and our only **Darjeeling Woodpecker** of the trip was seen. After lunch we drove down below the lodge and began walking along the road for several kilometres, seeing some very nice birds such as both **Rusty-fronted** and **Streak-throated Barwings**, **White-tailed Nuthatch**, **Mountain Bulbul**, **Rufous-vented** and **Stripe-throated Yuhinas**. Unfortunately the sun dipped behind the mountains all too quickly this afternoon and the last hour of the day was practically birdless apart from several superb **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robins** that adorned the denser areas alongside the road.

#### Day 5 Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January

We left the lodge early this morning and drove downhill, intending to spend the rest of the day exploring the lower section and only paused to look at a few **Speckled Wood pigeons** perched in a leafless tree beside the road. Once the altimeter read 1850m we began walking down and at this elevation birds were literally everywhere and we recorded a good selection of typical Himalayan species such as **Olive-backed Pipits**, **Great Barbets**, **Eurasian Woodcock**, **Striated Laughingthrushes**, **Orange-bellied Leafbird**, lots of **Beautiful Sibias**, **Chestnut-tailed Minla**, **Large Niltava** and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**. Finally, after much trying with the ipod we scored heavily with awesome close views of the endemic **Mishmi Wren-babbler** as it sang from an open perch at eye-level on the side of a bank. Wow! Only a handful of birders have been privileged to see this species since its rediscovery just a few years ago and once the bird had disappeared we duly celebrated with a few cheers and shaking of hands!

Not long after all this excitement we bumped into some more target birds for these hills when an excellent large feeding flock moved across the hillside below the path. Initially, just the rather large and brash **Rusty-fronted Barwings** could be seen feeding on some berries, but all of a sudden a fantastic male **Black-headed Shrike-babbler** appeared in a small leafless tree nearby and we had excellent views. Not wanting to take our eyes off this Eastern Himalayas speciality, a sudden burst of activity within the berry laden tree led us to a fine **Red-tailed Minla** and a pair of **Coral-billed**

**Scimitar-babblers**. Peter suddenly shouted out “Parrotbill!” and there in the same tree was a single **Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill**. Pure Mishmi magic! The flock moved off quickly and although we tracked it for quite some time, never came back towards the road. The next stage of the walk was in the shade and was much colder than earlier hence there was not much activity but at a sunny hollow we had earmarked for breakfast, we were surprised to have point-blank views of 7 stunning **Himalayan Cutias** feeding in a flowering bush just 10 feet above the ground. This was quite unusual behaviour for this species and something myself or Peter had ever witnessed before. We were privileged to watch them for a good 20 minutes as they fed amongst the flowers before flying across the road into a moss encrusted tree and feed in a more normal fashion! As they moved away down the hillside below us the van with our hot breakfast turned up and erected our dining table and we sat in the sun, toasting our success with...toast, omelettes and hot coffee.

Our great morning continued immediately after breakfast when a small group of at least 3 **Maroon-backed Accentors** flew up from the side of the road near where we had been sitting and promptly dropped down onto a bare slope beside the road and continued feeding right out in the open. These birds are always a delight to see and at this low altitude their presence is normally a result of harsh weather higher up in the Himalayas – and another new bird for the Mishmi Hills! As we watched these, a flock of 20+ **Long-tailed Sibias** flew across the road behind us and at the same time a **Mountain Hawk-eagle** and a **Besra** flew across the blue sky right over our heads. Continuing on, the road passed through mature primary forest and birds kept appearing at a steady pace. Noteworthy species over the next couple of hours included **Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher**, several **Sultan Tits**, **Himalayan Griffon Vulture**, **Bronzed Drongo**, a large flock of **Striated Bulbuls**, a confiding flock of 12 **Coral-billed Scimitar-babblers** gave good views and the first of the day’s 9 **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robins** including several fine breeding-plumaged males was seen.

After **lunch** more **bluetails** followed, along with an all too brief **White-spectacled Warbler**, and the first of several flocks of **White-naped Yuhinas** – another Eastern Himalayas speciality. As soon as the yuhina flock disappeared, a **Sultan Tit** flew in to a small moss encrusted tree beside the road and began calling, and as I raised my binoculars to look at it, instead of seeing a bright yellow and black bird with a large crest there was a **Beautiful Nuthatch** in its place! After a few expletives, some more coherent directions were given and we were all looking at one of the most coveted birds in the Eastern Himalayas – and at point-blank range in a leafless tree. Wow! We were fortunate to be able to watch it for several minutes before it flew away, leaving 4 birders just a little elated! How can you follow that? Well, we tried very hard and came up with a fine male **Black-throated Sunbird**, another **Maroon-backed Accentor** and a close perched **Bay Woodpecker**. Towards the end of the day we observed several large flocks on the hillside above us, with the pick of the bunch being **Golden Babbler**, **Rufous-winged Fulvetta** and **Black-faced Warbler**. A fast-moving flock of **Yellow-throated Fulvettas** almost passed unnoticed behind us as they kept low down but we raced ahead to cut them off and were eventually rewarded with great views of yet another Eastern Himalayan specialty. But by now the light had faded too much and we reluctantly set off in the vehicles down to a new, partially constructed lodge where we spent a pleasant and warm night in the central hall.

### Day 6 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January

The first cloudy morning of the trip so far greeted us at dawn, but there was no threat of rain as we set off along the road seeing a large flock of **Lesser Necklaced** and a few **Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes** feeding at the edge of the cleared area above the lodge. We walked below the 700m zone, passing huge areas of bamboo intersected with secondary growth and some cleared areas. Birds were literally everywhere and both **Streaked** and **Little Spiderhunters** were numerous, and there were also several large flocks of **Nepal Fulvettas** which proved very distracting. With so many birds to look at, we didn’t actually walk very far but it was so enjoyable watching species such as **Pin-tailed Green-pigeon**, **Bay Woodpecker**, **Striated** and **Black-chinned Yuhinas**, **White-throated Bulbul**, **Short-billed Minivet**, lots of **Yellow-bellied Warblers** and a single **Rufous-faced Warbler**. Both **Chestnut-headed** and **Slaty-bellied Tesias**

called and remained hidden in the dense vegetation at the side of the road and a **Pygmy Wren-babbler** gave brief views before we came across our best find of the day in the form of a pair of **Collared Treepies** that flew in and landed on the nearby bamboo stalks. Moving ever lower there was **Crested Goshawk**, **Asian Barred Owlet**, **Mountain Imperial-pigeon**, **Lesser Yellownappe**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **Red-headed Trogon**, **Grey-backed Shrike**, **Grey-breasted Prinia**, **Blue-winged Minla**, **Yellow-bellied Fantail**, **Grey-throated Babbler**, **Striped Tit-babbler**, **Long-tailed Sibia** and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**. The pick of the bunch being a close **Stripe-breasted Woodpecker** and **Pale Blue Flycatcher**, although a calling **White-browed Piculet** remained just a voice deep within the bamboo. But time was pressing so we drove back down to the ferry, where **Common** and **Ruddy Shelducks**, **Indian Spot-billed Duck** and the same bunch of waders as before were present. Once safely across the other side we said our goodbyes to the ground crew who had looked after us so well and drove back to Tinsukhia. Along the way, a quick stop for petrol resulted in decent views of **Common Hill-myna**, **Great Tit** and a **Yellow-browed Warbler**, and a short while later we passed a carcass in a roadside field which was proving rather enticing to several **White-rumped** and **Slender-billed Vultures**.

### Day 7 Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Today we visited Dibru-Saikhowa and our birding was hampered all day by a steady drizzle which definitely affected bird activity. A nice breakfast at the reserve entrance was much appreciated before boarding a large motorised dugout canoe and sailing along the river for nearly an hour, during which time we saw **Striated Heron** and several good views of **Gangetic River Dolphin** before entering the tall grassland. We spent most of the day searching for the specialties this site is renowned for and only managed to see a few **Jerdon's** and **Chestnut-capped Babblers**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia** and **Blyth's Reed Warbler**. We also had some half-decent views of what was probably a **Chinese Bush-warbler** that moved around us in typically skulking fashion in the undergrowth, and Peter was pretty adamant it was very similar to a bird he had identified here the year before. In the afternoon we visited the grassland on the other side of the river, where a couple of **Paddyfield Warblers** and **Plain Prinias** were really the only birds of interest. The birding was tough in the gloomy and cold conditions so we decided to call a halt mid-afternoon and head back to the hotel for some much needed rest and relaxation.

### Day 8 Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January

As access to the Digboi Oilfields Wildlife Sanctuary was not allowed we returned to Dibru-Saikhowa, which turned out to be a very good move as the weather was much better than yesterday and we experienced no rain at all. After breakfast we sailed upriver like yesterday, passing a fine drake **Falcated Duck** amongst a flock of **Gadwall**, as well as **Gangetic River Dolphins** again. On entering the grassland we immediately saw a group of **Striated Babblers**, followed shortly after by 3 superb **Black-breasted Parrotbills** which came straight towards us in response to the tape and proceeded to feed on the grass stems close by. What a difference a bit of sun makes! Elated at this we went across the river, passing an **Osprey** and **Green** and **Wood Sandpipers**, before landing on the opposite bank where we had an extremely close encounter with the endemic **Swamp Prinia**. As we sat down amidst a tall and dense stand of grasses it flew straight in and began singing right next to us – amazing!

So we went back across the river once more and walked towards Kolomi Camp, seeing a group of **Dunlin** on a small riverside pool. Along the way we had to take our shoes and socks off and wade across a couple of waterways and also made a few stick bridges to traverse some other muddy stretches. Amongst the commoner birds we had **Lesser Adjutant**, **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon**, **White-throated Kingfisher**, **Black-hooded Oriole**, **Black-billed Roller**, **Lineated Barbet**, **White-vented Myna**, **Grey-headed Starling**, **Taiga Flycatcher**, **Rufous Treepie**, and near the end of the walk we found **Eurasian Griffon** and **White-rumped Vultures** perched in a large dead tree. Just after crossing a particularly muddy section, we came across a feeding flock containing **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**, **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**, **Great Tit**, **Common Iora**, **Yellow-browed Warbler** and **Tickell's Leaf Warbler**, with a **Dusky Warbler** skulking lower down

amongst a tangle of vines. Our route then took us beside a lake where **Bronze-winged** and **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas**, **Little Grebe**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Common Teal**, **Pintail Snipe**, **Great Egret** and **Common Kingfisher** were seen. As we approached Kolomi Camp a **Chestnut-crowned Bush-warbler** began calling and after a little enticing and perseverance eventually gave very good views in a close bush. And finally with the smell of lunch teasing us from the camp we had to wade across one more river before we could sit down and eat. Once fully recovered and refreshed we checked out the surrounding area in vain for **Jerdon's Bushchat**, and with only a group of **Spot-billed Pelicans** and a **Black Stork** flying over soon decided to head back to the river. So we returned to the boat seeing **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Green Imperial-pigeon** and **Common Hill-myna** along the way.

### Day 9 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Today was primarily a travelling day as we drove down to Kaziranga, stopping in the large town of Jorhat to visit an ATM machine and buy some much needed chocolate. We also stopped along the way for lunch at a roadside cafe and some interesting birds were seen such as **Little, Intermediate** and **Great Egrets**, **Indian Pond-heron**, **Lesser Adjutant**, **Asian Openbill** and a flock of **Common Swifts**. It was 3.45pm when we arrived at the Bon Habi Resort at Kaziranga and after checking into our rooms had a little time for a walk around the gardens, where **Oriental Turtle Dove** and a male **Daurian Redstart** were the highlights. And it was with much anticipation that we went to sleep, wondering what secrets the bird-filled Kaziranga National Park would bring in the morning.

### Day 10 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Well we didn't have to wait too long and a great day started with an Elephant ride through the grassland of the Central Range of Kaziranga National Park. It was a bit chilly to say the least but well worth the early start as somehow Peter had arranged for our 2 **Elephants** to move away from the main group of 10 or so others and were rewarded with flight views of 3 **Bengal Floricans** as they took off from the tall vegetation and disappeared into the mist. Wow! We also had our first incredibly close encounters with at least 5 **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros**, a group of wild **Water Buffalo**, both **Swamp** and **Hog Deer**, as well as a **Paddyfield Warbler** and some **Woolly-necked Storks**. On our return to the lodge for breakfast we had an **Asian Barred Owlet** in the garden, as well as a couple of **Red-breasted Parakeets** perched outside the dining room. So after a nice breakfast we were soon heading to the Park HQ for our permits and whilst waiting a **Little Pied Flycatcher** and some **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** enlivened proceedings.

We spent the rest of the morning in the very 'birdy' Central Range, starting off with a **Striated Grassbird** near the Mahout station, quickly followed by **Crested Serpent-eagle**, **Spangled Drongo**, another **Asian Barred Owlet**, and a group of 7+ **Red Junglefowl** picking their way across the leaf litter right out in the open. We then entered a mosaic of habitats from this point on which ranged from open pools with scattered tall trees along the edges, tall grassland and weed choked channels. At the first large pool we saw a **Black Stork**, lots of **Lesser Adjutants**, and both **Grey-headed** and **Pallas's Fish-eagles** were very common, whilst on the water were **Common Teal**, **Bar-headed Geese** and several **Indian Spot-billed Ducks**. Driving on further, we stopped in the tall grassland and picked out some rare **Finn's Weavers** feeding with some **Eastern Baya Weavers**, and were able pick out all the main identification features. Birds then came quickly, with **Oriental Darter**, **Mallard**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Changeable Hawk-eagle**, **Alexandrine Parakeets**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Streak-throated Woodpecker** and some **Red-rumped Swallows**. Next, we stopped at a small bridge to view a marshy channel where a **Common Snipe** was feeding and suddenly 4 **Swamp Francolins** walked out from the dense vegetation and began feeding out in the open, and they were followed by 4 female **Red Junglefowl**. A **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** did its best to get our attention as it sallied forth from the base of a large tree nearby to catch insects, but we were totally besotted with the francolins and continued to watch them until they were out of sight.

Our next stop was at a large lake where we could get out and set up our scopes and found **River, Whiskered** and rarest of all a couple of **White-winged Terns**, as well as **Northern Pintail, Tufted Duck** and several **Wild Boar**. We'd also been counting **Rhinos** and up to this point had seen 13 so far today. But time passed quickly here and all too soon we had to leave the park and head back to the lodge for lunch at 12.30, having a good meal and a short siesta before returning to the Central Range at 2pm. Whilst waiting for the gates to open a flock of **Nepal House Martins** flew over and we also had some close **Little Green Bee-eaters** as well. Back at the first pool, there was now 8 **Grey-headed** and 3 **Northern Lapwings** and a rare sighting here of a solitary **Dalmatian Pelican**. Driving along the main track produced **Black-rumped Flameback, Oriental Turtle Dove, Yellow-footed Green-pigeon, Red-breasted Parakeet** and best of all a fine male **Pied Harrier**. The temperature this afternoon was just perfect and also the light made everything seem crystal clear which only added to the enjoyment.

Most pools we passed from here on in had a **Lesser Pied Kingfisher** adorning them, whilst **Green Imperial-pigeons** were perched prominently on the larger tree tops. Leaving the main track behind, a narrower side track took us beside a long watercourse where a group of **Asian Elephants** were feeding. We cut the engines and ghosted up alongside them getting incredibly close views feeding amongst the floating vegetation. Another **Elephant** joined them from the far bank and he came face to face with a **Rhino** and they made a 'stand off' before the **Rhino** backed down and disappeared into the grassland. Behind us in a dense section of woodland we came across a **Small Niltava**, whilst a **Forest Wagtail** was a rare sighting here and certainly had Peter excited. As we watched this little beauty a flock of **White Pelicans** flew over, but the best was yet to come. Just as we reached the head of the next lake we put our binoculars up to scan the far side and we were amazed to see yet another male **Falcated Duck** swimming along in the shallow water. The jeeps drove on a little further and managed to stop opposite this fine bird and we had first class views for several minutes. But time was pressing and we continued on, seeing a fine **Grey-headed Fish-eagle** perched at the water's edge. A few minutes after this we paused to look at yet another **Rhino** when all of a sudden it charged at Peter's vehicle and the guard had to fire a shot from his rifle into the ground to scare it off! Everything happened very quickly and we couldn't believe how close one of the vehicles came to having a very nasty accident. It turned out that this **Rhino** had been fighting with another one close by and was obviously still topped up with testosterone! So on that note we called it a day and headed back to the lodge for tea and we were probably the last vehicle out of the park tonight! At the end of the day we had seen 33 different **Rhinos** and recorded 108 species seen.

### Day 11 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Spent the morning in the Eastern Range and it was again a very misty start which cleared almost immediately upon arrival. On the way in there was a **Brown Shrike** to greet our arrival, followed by **Spotted Owlet, Large Cuckooshrike** and a **Dusky Warbler**. The large lake called Sohola Bheel was full of all the usual wildfowl, as well as **Black-necked Stork, Grey-headed and Northern Lapwings, Spotted Redshank, Grey-headed Fish-eagle** and loads of **Spot-billed Pelicans**. The main track went through a mature section of forest where we saw **Changeable Hawk-eagle, Common Hill-myna, Long-tailed Minivet, Golden-fronted Leafbird**, several **Pallas's Fish-eagles** and another **Pale Blue Flycatcher**. Further on another male **Pied Harrier** flew by, and there was also **Steppe Eagle, Streak-throated Woodpecker, Small Niltava**, a skulking **Thick-billed Warbler**, a calling **Abbott's Babbler**, and a Bombax tree full of **Spot-winged Starlings** and mynas. A puzzling raptor perched high up in a tree over the road had us fooled for a while, until we could better views and it turned out to be a rare dark morph of **Changeable Hawk-eagle**.

As we continued along the trail, we took our time as access to Debeswari Island was not allowed due to a census and we enjoyed good views of many previously mentioned species. At one point a large bird flew across the track up ahead of us, so we zoomed off in its direction expecting it to be a Fish-owl, but to our amazement it turned out to be a **Spot-bellied Eagle-owl** – one of very few records from the park! Continuing on alongside a waterway we saw **Stork-billed Kingfisher, Red-**

headed **Vulture**, 2 **Oriental Pied Hornbills**, **White-rumped Shama**, a heard only **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, and a family of rather inquisitive **Smooth-coated Otters**. Leaving here we took a very dusty track back to the entrance of the park, pausing to take a look at the mighty Brahmaputra River along the way. After lunch we visited the Tea Gardens, spending a nice couple of hours in this large open habitat and at the edge of the plantation amongst a large stand of bamboo caught up with a couple of **Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes** that were associating with a huge flock of **Greater** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes**. In fact the flock was moving rapidly away and we had to put in some leg work to get ahead of them before eventually getting good views. Also in the gardens were **Blue-eared Barbet**, **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker**, **Taiga Flycatcher**, **Oriental White-eye**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, and a surprising find in the form of a **Collared Owlet**, with an unresponsive **Blue-naped Pitta** calling from the far side of the tea bushes.

### Day 12 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January

A cracking **Small-billed Scaly Thrush** feeding in the leaf litter below our veranda was a pretty good way to start the day! We followed that goodie with a **Little Spiderhunter** in the garden before spending the morning in the Western Range which was a little quiet but the weather was good. At the entrance gate a **Eurasian Hoopoe** greeted our arrival, and was quickly followed by **Great Tit**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Oriental White-eye** and **Common Iora** all in the large tree by the barrier. The track took us towards a watchtower overlooking a large lake and grassland and along the way we disturbed 2 male **Kalij Pheasants** from beside the track. From the viewing area birds were a little distant but through the scopes we saw a flock of **Pacific Golden Plovers**, **Whiskered** and **River Terns**, **Bar-headed geese**, 5+ **Pied Avocets**, lots of **Water Buffalo**, as well as all the usual common wildfowl and waders. We then drove through the grassland seeing **Lesser Adjutant**, a family of 4 **Black-necked Storks**, 2 **Purple Herons**, 3 **Slender-billed** and 3 **Eurasian Griffon Vultures** perched above an Elephant carcass, **Great Spotted Eagle**, **Changeable Hawk-eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Asian Barred Owlet**, **Asian Palm Swift**, a couple of **Himalayan (White-tailed) Rubythroats**, **Striated Babbler**, 2 **Little Pied Flycatchers**, **Citrine Wagtail**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, 31 **Rhino's**, lots of **Hog Deer** and a few groups of **Wild Boar**.

After lunch we tried to have a siesta, but a **Purple Cochoa** began calling behind the lodge from an area of woodland with several fruiting trees. Unfortunately there was a fence stopping us get closer and despite a careful scrutiny of the area we couldn't locate it. Later on, a short drive took us up into the hills and we followed a path into the forest seeing **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** and a **Blue Rock Thrush**. A mixed flock of **Greater** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes** were present but moved quickly through the undergrowth, with a **Common Green Magpie** and a **White-browed Scimitar-babbler** trailing along in their wake. Once we had traversed a steep hill the trail descended into a bamboo choked gully, where we could hear the distinctive song of a **Rusty-bellied Shortwing**. Despite our best efforts it refused to play ball although did give an extremely brief view, but whilst we were waiting for it to show a fine male **Blossom-headed Parakeet** flew in and began calling from the top of a nearby tree, both **Black-crested** and **Ashy Bulbuls** appeared and a pair of **Great Hornbills** were seen flying above us. The walk down towards the road was enlivened by a pair of confiding **Greater Flamebacks**, as well as **White-capped River-chat**, **Plumbeous Water Redstart** and several **Capped Langurs**.

### Day 13 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January

As Panbari Forest was closed due to the **Hoolock Gibbons** mating (what!) we were restricted to the surrounding forest edge and **tea plantation**, but still managed to turn up some interesting birds. Several **Yellow-vented Warblers** were present, along with **Eurasian Hobby**, 2 **Oriental Pied Hornbills**, **Little Spiderhunters**, **Crimson Sunbird**, **Black-backed Forktail**, **Verditer** and **Snowy-browed Flycatchers**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Yellow-browed Warbler** and a flock of **White-throated Bulbuls**, with a **Large Scimitar-babbler** calling distantly from within the forest. Our best find was a beautiful **Pygmy Blue Flycatcher** discovered at the edge of the forest and which stayed in one small area for a good 20 minutes allowing superb views. So by late morning we

had reached our jeep and returned to the Bon Habi Resort, loaded the luggage aboard our vehicle and headed towards Nameri, crossing the mighty Brahmaputra River along the way. On arrival at the wonderful **Nameri Eco-Camp** we had time for a quick look around the grounds, seeing the resident pair of **Oriental Hobbies** in the large tree by the car park, as well as **Greater Flameback**, **Small Niltava**, **Taiga Flycatcher** and listened to several raucous flocks of **Red-breasted Parakeets** as they flew overhead.

#### Day 14 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January

It was a very misty beginning to the day as we took a dugout canoe across the Jai-Bhorelli River to Nameri National Park. A singing **Striated Grassbird** greeted our arrival on the far bank and it was very atmospheric to watch **Small Pratincoles** and a **River Tern** appearing out of the mist. It took a few minutes to walk across the sandy bank before reaching the forest and once we hit the trail saw **Yellow-bellied Fantail**, **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, lots of **Black-winged Cuckooshrikes** and a **Blue Whistling Thrush**. The trail followed the river through quite open forest, allowing relatively easy viewing of species such as the numerous **Streaked Spiderhunter** and **Crimson Sunbird**. Probably the main highlight was the excellent views of 2 **Spot-throated Babblers**, one of which remained in the same small bush for ages allowing us to scrutinise all the relevant identification features. Moving on we saw **Greater Yellownappe**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, lots of **Maroon Orioles**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**, both **Orange-bellied** and **Golden-fronted Leafbirds**, **Daurian Redstart**, **Striped Tit-babbler**, **Yellow-vented** and **Yellow-browed Warblers**, a close **Abbott's Babbler**, **Black-crested** and **Himalayan Black Bulbuls** and **Spangled Drongo**.

We checked out several pools within the forest in vain for **White-winged Wood-duck** but only managed to find several beautiful **Black-breasted Thrushes**, as well as **Cinnamon Bittern**, **Vernal Hanging-parrot**, **Asian Fairy Bluebird**, **Sultan Tit**, **Black-backed** and **White-crowned Forktails** and a small flock of **Blyth's Leaf Warblers**. On the river were several **River Lapwings**, along with **Pallas's Fish-eagle**, **Common Merganser**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Plumbeous Water-redstart**, and a family of **Smooth-coated Otters**. Our hot lunch was brought to us just as we reached the Rangers huts and after all the leg work we had put in searching the pools it was a relief to sit down for a while. So afterwards we headed out into the grassland to check yet more pools but all we had for our efforts was a male **Greater Painted Snipe**, **Great Hornbill**, **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Green Imperial-pigeon**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** and a single **Oriental Pied Hornbill**. As we headed back towards the river a herd of **Asian Elephants** crossed the track ahead of us and we had to retreat pretty quickly as there were some small calves present and we didn't want an over-anxious parent to get aggressive with us! Back at camp our only **Wreathed Hornbill** of the trip flew over the camp.

#### Day 15 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January

After an interesting night when we heard **Oriental Scops-owl**, **Brown Hawk-owl** and **Asian Barred Owlet** calling more or less continuously, I hesitate to say the sound was evocative! After a 7am breakfast we birded the grounds of the camp for a short while, seeing **Taiga Flycatcher**, a pair of **Small Niltavas**, **Ashy-fronted Green-pigeon** with a flock of **Pin-tailed Green-pigeons**, **Greater Yellownappe**, **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** and **Coppersmith Barbet**, whilst a flock of **Spot-winged Starlings** was an unusual sighting here. Then we drove about 13kms upriver and met up with the guys from the camp who had arrived earlier to prepare our rubber rafts for the morning's excursion. Even before reaching the rafts we had seen our first **Ibisbill** about 100m downriver and once aboard scored with a further 4 birds. A very interesting couple of hours followed as we drifted downriver seeing **Long-billed Plover**, 2 **Great Thick-knees**, 100+ **Small Pratincoles**, **Common**, **White-breasted**, **Lesser Pied** and **Crested Kingfishers**, **Osprey** and a flock of **Vernal Hanging-parrots** amongst a good number of commoner species. In the afternoon we birded the road down to the river from the camp and found it a little quiet to be honest and spent far too much time trying to get views of **Siberian Rubythroat**, which is extremely common here. Eventually, we managed to pull out a couple of fine males, one of which appeared on top of a tall bush and just stared down at us for ages! For some reason there were a lot of people at the river and

they all seemed to have loud music blaring out which hampered our chances of finding anything skulking, but we still saw **Peregrine Falcon**, **Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon**, **Oriental Turtle-dove**, **Ashy Woodswallow** and a **White-rumped Shama** before returning to the camp for a nice hot shower.

### Day 16 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January

We had a very early start this morning and arrived at the river still in darkness, which was just as well as our only **Large-tailed Nightjars** of the trip were flying around the riverbank and we managed to find one perched on top of a close bush. Meanwhile our guard was trying to attract the attention of the boatman who was apparently still asleep over in the forest, but after a while he must have heard all the commotion and he came and took us across the river once more. Once again we checked the forest pools without success, but several new species for the trip made the walk quite interesting and we had **Blue-eared Kingfisher**, **Large Woodshrike**, **Pale-chinned Flycatcher** and a **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**. There was also a confiding **Sultan Tit**, and both **White-crowned** and **Black-backed Forktails** gave good views at one of the pools. The rest of the day was taken up with the long drive to Shillong in the Indian state of Meghalaya.

### Day 17 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Spent the day birding along the old Shillong-Guwahati Road which turned up a few interesting species, although the presence of the locals with catapults was an all too frequent sight and made the birds very shy and nervous. We scored early on with the local speciality, **Grey Sibia**, and came across several feeding flocks of these birds. It did seem a little quiet compared to normal and we went long periods without seeing anything at all, but made up for this with a few nice feeding flocks. The main highlights were several **White-browed Shrike-babblers**, **Yellow-cheeked Tit**, **Kaleej Pheasant**, **White-tailed Robin**, **White-bellied Erpornis** and a **Small-billed Scaly Thrush**. Other species included **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Black Kite**, a flock of **Pied Flycatcher-shrikes**, **Buff-barred Warbler**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin**, **White-rumped Shama**, and a heard only **Pygmy Wren-babbler**. We returned to our rather quaint 'old colonial' style hotel earlier than usual for a rest, or rather would have if it wasn't for a traffic jam that delayed us by a couple of hours.

### Day 18 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Another early start saw us driving to an escarpment overlooking Bangladesh at Cherrapunjee. On the way a stop at Mawphlang Bridge produced the endemic **Assam Laughingthrush** and this was followed later by superb views of another much-wanted endemic, **Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler** which popped up on top of a bush just a few yards away from us. As the sun started to warm the freezing early morning air, we were treated a flock of **Crested Finchbills**, along with **Crimson-browed** and **Scarlet Finches**, **Golden Babbler** and **Whiskered Yuhina**. Later on, we found **Tawny** and **Rosy Pipits**, **Lemon-rumped** and **Grey-hooded Warblers** before reaching the escarpment where we caught up with **Eurasian Crag-martin** and 3 endemic **Dark-rumped Swifts** which was a fitting end to an excellent day and a wonderful holiday.

### Day 19 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January

On the way to the airport we called in to the local rubbish dump to take a look at the highly endangered **Greater Adjutants** that seemed quite at home amongst the muck, before arriving at the airport only to find our flight had been cancelled. After some fixing we managed to book flights with a different airline and eventually arrived at Kolkata where we had a nice evening meal and short rest before taking the overnight British Airways flight back to London.

Nick Bray.

Checklist starts on next page -

# BIRDLIST FOR INDIA – the NORTH EAST

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Only seen at Dibru-Saikhowa on 13 <sup>th</sup> January.
2.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Odd ones and twos seen to/from Mishmi Hills.
3.	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Good numbers present at Kaziranga.
4.	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	A flock of 25+ flew over the Central Range at Kaziranga on 15 <sup>th</sup> January.
5.	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	A single observed in Central Range at Kaziranga on 15 <sup>th</sup> January is a scarce sighting here.
6.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen on 9 dates at various locations.
7.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	A common sighting and seen on 10 dates.
8.	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Just a few seen at scattered locations.
9.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Common.
10.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Common.
11.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Scarcer than the previous 2 species and seen on just 2 dates.
12.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	A recent split from 'western' species and seen on 8 dates.
13.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
14.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2 seen on 17 <sup>th</sup> January in the Western Range of Kaziranga NP.
15.	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
16.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Seen at Kaziranga and Nameri.
17.	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	A single bird observed at one of the woodland pools in Nameri NP on 19 <sup>th</sup> January.
18.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Relatively common and seen at several sites.
19.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	A few seen at Kaziranga.
20.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Seen at several sites over 5 dates.
21.	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	A couple of family groups observed at Kaziranga
22.	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Quite common in certain areas and we counted over 25 in Kaziranga on 15 <sup>th</sup> January.
23.	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	A globally endangered species. 10+ seen at a rubbish dump on the outskirts of Guwahati.
24.	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Common in the right habitat.
25.	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Just a few seen at Kaziranga.
26.	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	A couple seen as we returned across the Lohit River on 11 <sup>th</sup> January.
27.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Common along all the rivers visited.
28.	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Seen in small numbers on 6 dates.
29.	Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	Two fine males seen at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga, both in company with Gadwalls.
30.	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Small numbers seen at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga.
31.	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Seen on 3 dates at Kaziranga.
32.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Seen on 3 dates at Kaziranga.
33.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen on 3 dates at Kaziranga.
34.	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
35.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
36.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Seen on 3 dates at Kaziranga.
37.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Just a few seen at Kaziranga on 16 <sup>th</sup> January.
38.	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Seen on the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.
39.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Only seen at Kaziranga NP.
40.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans migrans</i>	Seen at Tinsukhia and around Shillong.
41.	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	A couple different birds seen in the Mishmi Hills.
42.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Singles at scattered locations throughout the tour.

43.	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	A single bird observed well in the Mishmi Hills.
44.	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>	Singles in the Mishmi Hills and more surprisingly in Kaziranga.
45.	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	2 birds present in Mishmi Hills on 7 <sup>th</sup> January.
46.	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Seen at several lowland sites.
47.	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>	A worn bird flew over the lodge at the base of the Mishmi Hills on 7 <sup>th</sup> January.
48.	Mountain Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	A couple seen well in the Mishmi Hills.
49.	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	Quite common in Kaziranga and Nameri.
	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus ?</i>	This rare dark morph was seen well in the Eastern Range of Kaziranga.
50.	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Single observed in the Western Range of Kaziranga NP.
51.	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Single flew over the Eastern Range at Kaziranga.
52.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Seen at Dibru-Saikhowa, Kaziranga and Nameri.
53.	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaeus</i>	Common in Kaziranga.
54.	Pallas' Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Very common in Kaziranga and Nameri.
55.	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	Seen at Dibru-Saikhowa and near Tinsukhia.
56.	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Seen at a carcass near Tinsukhia.
57.	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Present near Kolomi Camp and in Kaziranga.
58.	Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	A few seen in the Mishmi Hills.
59.	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Seen on just 1 date in the Eastern Range of Kaziranga on 16 <sup>th</sup> January.
60.	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Males seen near Roing and in Kaziranga.
61.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A single male bird seen near Sadia Ghat.
62.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	A few seen at scattered locations.
63.	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>	A breeding pair still present at Nameri Eco-Camp.
64.	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	A bird flew over the tea gardens near Panbari.
65.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
66.	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Heard at Dibru-Saikhowa and seen well in Kaziranga.
	Common Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	Heard in the Mishmi Hills.
	Sclater's Monal	<i>Lophophorus sclateri</i>	After a really tough walk, one was heard in the Mishmi Hills on 9 <sup>th</sup> January.
67.	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Relatively common in Kaziranga and Nameri.
68.	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos lathami</i>	Seen at Kaziranga, Nameri and Shillong.
69.	Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	3 birds flushed by our Elephants in the Central Range at Kaziranga.
	Grey Peacock-pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	Heard at Panbari Forest on 18 <sup>th</sup> January.
70.	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Common in suitable habitat.
71.	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	A couple were seen driving between sites.
72.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Only seen at one of the woodland pools in Nameri
73.	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	5 present on the Jai-Bhorelli River.
74.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	Seen distantly from the watch tower in the the Western Range of Kaziranga.
75.	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Some nice views in Kaziranga.
76.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Several present at a large pool as we walked to Kolomi Camp.
77.	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	Our highest count was 150+ during our rafting trip along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.
78.	Great Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>	2 present on the Jai-Bhorelli River were new for this trip.
79.	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Common in all lowland areas.
80.	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus duvaucelii</i>	Nice views of several birds at Nameri.
81.	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	Quite common in Kaziranga. Our highest count was 8+ in the Central Range.
82.	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Small numbers were present in all 3 ranges at Kaziranga National Park.
83.	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	A flock were present beside the Dibru River.

84.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Small numbers seen at several sites.
85.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
86.	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	One seen along the Jai-Bhorelli River.
87.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	10+ seen from the viewing area in the Central Range at Kaziranga National Park.
88.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common and seen on 9 dates.
89.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Small numbers seen along Dibru River and in the Western Range of Kaziranga National Park.
90.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
91.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Just a few seen along the main rivers.
92.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A few seen in Kaziranga were the only ones.
93.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Much commoner than the previous species and only seen at Kaziranga.
94.	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Single flyby at Kaziranga.
95.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	A common sight at most wetlands visited.
96.	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	The one flushed in the grassland at Nameri was a surprise sighting and new for this tour.
97.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Just a few seen in Kaziranga.
98.	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Several were present at the large pool as we walked to Kolomi Camp.
99.	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	One bird remained beside the road in the Mishmi Hills, allowing very good views.
100.	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaeus</i>	A couple present on the way to the Mishmi Hills.
101.	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Several individuals present at Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.
102.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Seen at a couple lakes in Kaziranga NP.
103.	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	2 seen in Kaziranga were a rare sighting here.
104.	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common. Seen on 14 dates.
105.	Green Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	First seen on the walk to Kolomi Camp and subsequent sightings at Kaziranga and Nameri.
106.	Mountain Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Seen on our last day in the Mishmi Hills.
107.	Speckled Woodpigeon	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>	Good views of a small flock perched beside the road as we drove down from Mayodia Pass.
108.	Pale-capped Pigeon	<i>Columba punicea</i>	A couple were seen flying across the lower slopes of the Mishmi Hills on the first day.
109.	Oriental Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Seen on 8 consecutive dates in the lowlands.
110.	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Common.
111.	Eurasian Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen in Kaziranga.
112.	Ashy-headed Green-pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	1 of 4 splits from what was formerly called Pompadour green-pigeon. A new addition to our checklist, seen in a mixed pigeon flock at the large fruiting tree at Nameri Eco-Camp.
113.	Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenura</i>	A few were in the large fruiting tree at Nameri Eco-Camp.
114.	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron p. phoenicoptera</i>	Relatively common in the lowlands and our highest count of 30+ was at Dibru-Saikhowa.
115.	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>	Seen on our last morning in the Mishmi Hills, and also at Nameri National Park.
116.	Vernal Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	Only seen at Nameri National Park.
117.	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>	A solitary bird in the hills behind the Bon Habi Resort was calling and showed well.
118.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Seen on 3 dates.
119.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
120.	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	A familiar sight and sound at Nameri Eco-Camp, as well as well as at Kaziranga.
121.	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Seen briefly at Dibru-Saikhowa.
122.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Just a couple seen in Kaziranga.
123.	Brown Hawk-owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	A common night-time sound at Nameri Eco-Camp and we had good views one evening behind our tents.

124.	Spot-bellied Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>	A rare sighting in Kaziranga's Eastern Range.
	Oriental Scops-owl	<i>scops sunia</i>	Heard every night at Nameri Eco-Camp but not tape responsive.
125.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Just the one sighting in Kaziranga's Eastern side.
126.	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	First seen in the Mishmi Hills, followed by recorded on 8 subsequent dates.
127.	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	A surprise find by one of our local guides in the tea gardens at Kaziranga.
128.	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	A couple seen at daybreak beside the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri National Park.
129.	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensi</i>	A few seen at Kaziranga and Nameri on 3 dates.
130.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	A few flying over Kaziranga and some high flyers over Kolkata were the only ones.
131.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Seen on the way to Tinsukia and as we left Shillong.
132.	<b>Dark-rumped Swift</b>	<i>Apus acuticauda</i>	An Indian breeding endemic and only observed here and in Bhutan. A few seen nr Cherrapunjee.
133.	Black-billed Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis affinis</i>	A distinctive subspecies which may well be a split from nominate Indian Roller in the future. A common sight in the lowlands.
134.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Only seen on the 17 <sup>th</sup> in Kaziranga.
135.	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	A female observed in the Mishmi Hills was our only sighting.
136.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Seen on 4 dates at Kaziranga and Nameri.
137.	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
138.	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Seen 2 days running at Nameri National Park.
139.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates.
140.	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	A single bird observed perched above a woodland pool at Nameri National Park.
141.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen on 7 dates.
142.	Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Only seen in Kaziranga.
143.	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>	This forest dweller was seen first in the hills behind Kaziranga and then at Nameri.
144.	Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	AS we approached Roing on the way to Arunachal Pradesh, 3 birds were seen flying in the distance.
145.	Great Pied Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A couple of sightings in Kaziranga and Nameri.
146.	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	Seen a couple of times at Kaziranga and also heard at Dibru-Saikhowa.
147.	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	As they are usually so common at Nameri it was very surprising to see just one bird flying over the camp in the late afternoon of 19 <sup>th</sup> January.
148.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Only a single was seen at Nameri Eco-Camp.
149.	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
150.	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Megalaima australis</i>	Seen on a couple of occasions at Kaziranga.
151.	Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	Seen twice in the Mishmi Hills.
152.	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	Seen on 6 dates in the lowlands.
153.	Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	A common sight and sound in the Mishmi Hills and we had a few great views.
	White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i>	A calling bird failed to respond to the tape in the Mishmi Hills.
154.	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	Seen a few times at Kaziranga, Nameri and near Shillong.
155.	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	Seen in Mishmi Hills, Kaziranga and Nameri.
156.	Stripe-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos atratus</i>	A single bird seen well in the Mishmi Hills.
157.	Darjeeling Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>	Single bird observed at Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills.
158.	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	Just a couple seen in Kaziranga.
159.	Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	Seen on 3 consecutive days at Nameri NP.
160.	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	A couple seen very well in the lower parts of the Mishmi Hills.

161.	Grey-faced Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	Single bird seen in the Western Range at Kaziranga National Park.
162.	Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	A calling bird amongst the bamboo zone just after we arrived in the Mishmi Hills was our first, followed by a couple close flybys and eventually a perched bird at about 700m – all in Mishmi Hills.
163.	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Seen near Kolomi Camp and several sightings in Kaziranga.
164.	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Several good sightings at Kaziranga and Nameri.
	Blue-naped Pitta	<i>Pitta nipalensis</i>	A calling bird in the tea plantation at Kaziranga failed to respond to the tape.
165.	Bengal Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	A few seen during our Elephant ride in the Central Range at Kaziranga.
	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Just heard at Saikhowa Ghat on the way to the Mishmi Hills.
166.	Sand Lark	<i>Calendrella raytal</i>	Seen during the river crossing to Mishmi Hills and also at Dibru-Saikhowa/
167.	Grey-throated Sand-martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>	Also known as Plain Martin. Relatively common in most lowland areas near water.
168.	Eurasian Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonprogne rupestris</i>	Only seen on our last day near Cherrapunjee.
169.	Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>	A high flying flock over Kaziranga on 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan.
170.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
171.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Seen at Kaziranga and Shillong.
172.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla Flava thunbergi</i>	Seen on the way to the Mishmi Hills and at Dibru-Saikhowa.
173.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	A couple seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati Road on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January.
174.	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Seen at Sadia Ghat, along the Dibru River and in Kaziranga National Park.
175.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alboides</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
	Amur White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla lugens leucopsis</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
176.	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	A single bird observed in the Central Range at Kaziranga was a rare bird here.
177.	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Seen well at several locations.
178.	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	Seen several times at scattered locations, with a loose flock of 10+ associating with other pipits along the sandy track as we drove to Dhola Ghat.
179.	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	A couple were found along with the previous species as we drove towards the ferry.
180.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi rufulus</i>	Only seen on the morning we headed towards the Mishmi Hills with the previous two species.
181.	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Seen at the same site as the previous 3 species and also near Cherrapunjee.
182.	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	Seen near the Eco-Camp at Nameri.
183.	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>	One of the recent splits from the Ripley Guide with Malabar Woodshrike now being recognised from South West India. A loose flock on our last morning at Nameri gave really good views and was our only sighting.
184.	Pied Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	A small flock was seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati Road.
185.	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Very common this year at Nameri NP.
186.	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	Relatively common at Kaziranga.
187.	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	Common during the second half of the tour.
188.	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	Only seen in the Mishmi Hills.
189.	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	A recent split, with Orange Minivet now being found in South India and Sri Lanka. Seen during the second half of the tour.
190.	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	Just a couple seen on the way to Cherrapunjee.
191.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Seen most days.

192.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Quite common in the lowlands.
193.	Himalayan Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	Another recent split, with Square-tailed Black Bulbul being found in S India and Sri Lanka. Surprisingly low numbers this year and not seen until we reached Nameri NP.
194.	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>	A pair seen in the hills above Kaziranga NP.
195.	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mcclllandii</i>	Present in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri in small numbers.
196.	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaveolus</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri in small numbers. A flock showed well along the edge of Panbari Forest as well.
197.	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>	Recently split into 3 species – see Ripley Guide. Just a few seen in Kaziranga and Nameri NP's.
198.	Crested Finchbill	<i>Spizixos canifrons</i>	Only seen on the way to Cherrapunjee.
199.	Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	A large flock present one afternoon in the Mishmi Hills was a new species for this particular tour.
200.	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Seen at several lowland sites.
201.	Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Quite common this year and seen at most sites.
202.	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	Seen at Kaziranga and Nameri.
203.	Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Single bird observed at one of Nameri's woodland pools.
204.	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>	Reasonably common during much of the tour.
205.	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	Common and seen on 13 dates.
206.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	A single bird observed near the entrance to the Eastern Range was the only sighting this year.
207.	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Good views along the edge of Panbari Forest.
208.	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	Quite scarce this year and just a couple seen in the Mishmi Hills and at Nameri.
209.	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Single bird showed briefly in the Mishmi Hills.
210.	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Just 3 birds seen during the tour.
211.	Blue Whistling-thrush	<i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	A common roadside bird in the Mishmi Hills and along the river at Nameri NP.
212.	Black-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>	Surprisingly common this year at Nameri NP.
213.	Small-billed Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	1 of 3 recent splits. Seen behind the Bon Habi Resort and along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
	Rusty-bellied Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx hyperythra</i>	Very poor views of a constantly singing and rather unobliging individual in the hills above Kaziranga National Park.
214.	White-tailed Robin	<i>Cinclidium leucurum</i>	Seen briefly along the old Shillong-Guwahati Road.
215.	Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>	A recent split from the more northerly species. Common in the Mishmi Hills where a day total of 9 individuals is rather noteworthy. Also seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
216.	Rufous-breasted Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i>	A couple of fine males were observed in the Mishmi Hills.
217.	Himalayan Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	Some good views of at least 2 males in the grassland at Kaziranga
218.	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>	Heard several calling near the Eco-Camp at Nameri and eventually saw 2 fine males.
219.	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Several seen at Kaziranga and Nameri.
220.	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
221.	White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	An individual was observed at a woodland pool in Nameri and was new for this tour.
222.	Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	A couple seen in the Mishmi Hills.
223.	Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	Only seen at Nameri.
224.	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	Single bird observed in the Mishmi Hills.
225.	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus auroreus</i>	A fine male was present in the grounds of the Bon Habi Resort and another was seen at Nameri NP.
226.	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	Just 2 birds seen in the Mishmi Hills.
227.	Plumbeous Water-redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	A frequent sight along the fast flowing rivers.

228.	White-capped River-chat	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Seen a few times along the faster flowing rivers.
229.	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata maura</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
	Jerdon's Bushchat	<i>Saxicola jerdoni</i>	Heard only as we left Kolomi Camp.
230.	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	Just a few seen in the higher areas.
231.	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	Several delightful individuals seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.
232.	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	Almost a daily sighting from Dibru-Saikhowa to Nameri.
233.	Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophciata</i>	Just a few seen in the Mishmi Hills only.
234.	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	Heard at 3 different locations and only seen briefly along the edge of Panbari Forest.
235.	Pygmy Blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapella hodgsoni</i>	A cracking and extremely obliging male showed very well along the edge of Panbari Forest.
236.	Pale-chinned Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>	A single bird was found on our last morning at Nameri National Park.
237.	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	Only seen around the Eco-Camp at Nameri.
238.	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	Seen in the lower section of the Mishmi Hills and also in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga NP.
239.	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
240.	Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>	Male seen in the Mishmi Hills.
241.	<b>Assam Laughingthrush</b>	<i>Trochalopteron chrysopteron</i>	An Indian endemic. A small flock observed on the way to Cherrapunjee.
242.	Red-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>	Also known as Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush. Quite common the Mishmi Hills.
243.	Rufous-necked Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ruficollis</i>	AT least 2 birds were present amongst a large flock of 'necklaced' Laughingthrushes in the tea garden at Kaziranga.
244.	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax affinis</i>	Quite common below Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills.
245.	Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills.
	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	Heard a few times and a leader only sighting in the Mishmi Hills.
246.	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	A couple present in a large flock of the following species in the Mishmi Hills were our first. Followed by a few sightings around Kaziranga.
247.	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	A large flock was present around one of the lodges in the Mishmi Hills, and also several flocks were observed at Kaziranga.
248.	Jerdon's Babbler	<i>Chrysomma alirostre</i> <i>Griseigulare</i>	Good views in the grassland at Dibru-Saikhowa.
249.	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>	Common at Dibru-Saikhowa and also heard in Kaziranga.
250.	Striped Tit Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills and Nameri NP.
251.	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>	Several seen in the Mishmi Hills.
252.	Golden Babbler		A leader only sighting in the Mishmi Hills was followed by one in Meghalaya.
253.	Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	A few seen in the Mishmi Hills.
254.	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	Seen at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga.
255.	Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Xiphirhynchus superciliaris</i>	One bird showed well and others heard in the bamboo below Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills.
256.	Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	Several seen in the Mishmi Hills.
257.	White-browed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>	Seen well at the tea garden at Kaziranga.
	Large Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus hypoleucos</i>	Heard distantly from Panbari Forest.
258.	Coral-billed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ferruginosus</i>	A flock of around 12 birds fed close to the road in the Mishmi Hills and gave outstanding views.
259.	Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	A couple large flocks seen in the Mishmi Hills.
260.	Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality and seen well on a couple of occasions in the Mishmi Hills.
261.	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills by the leaders only and along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
262.	Striated Yuhina	<i>Staphida castaniceps</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen well in the Mishmi Hills.

263.	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills and Meghalaya.
264.	White-naped Yuhina	<i>Yuhina bakeri</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. A flock of 40+ showed really well in the Mishmi Hills.
265.	Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	Very common in the Mishmi Hills.
266.	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>	Very common in the Mishmi Hills.
267.	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>	Seen rather distantly in the Mishmi Hills.
268.	Yellow-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe cinerea</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen well in the Mishmi Hills.
269.	Brown-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe ludlowi</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen at Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills.
270.	Manipur Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe manipurensis</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. An excellent sequence of sightings around Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills and according to distribution maps should not be here!
271.	Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Very common in the lower slopes of the Mishmi Hills and several large flocks seen.
272.	Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	Several seen in the Mishmi Hills and also on the way to Cherrapunjee in Meghalaya.
273.	Streak-throated Barwing	<i>Actinodura waldeni</i>	A flock of 6+ came down to the road take a look at us in the Mishmi Hills.
274.	Grey Sibia	<i>Heterophasia gracilis</i>	One of the key species on this tour and seen well near Shillong in Meghalaya.
275.	Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	AN Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen well in the Mishmi Hills and possibly previously unrecorded here.
276.	Beautiful Sibia	<i>Heterophasia pulchella</i>	Very common in the higher parts of the Mishmi Hills, Arunachal Pradesh.
277.	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyanouroptera</i>	A small flock was seen in the Mishmi Hills and also seen near Shillong.
278.	Bar-throated Minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>	Also known as Chestnut-tailed Minla. Several in mixed flocks in the Mishmi Hills.
279.	Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	A few present in the Mishmi Hills.
280.	White-browed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	Eventually caught up with this beauty along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
281.	Black-headed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius rufiventer</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. One showed very well in a mixed feeding flock in the Mishmi Hills.
282.	Himalayan Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	Outstanding close views of a flock of 7 birds in the Mishmi Hills.
283.	Pygmy Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills and heard along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
284.	<b>Mishmi Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Spelaeornis badeigularis</i>	An Indian endemic. Extraordinary confiding individual sang its heart out for us in the Mishmi Hills and you just couldn't get better views!
285.	<b>Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler</b>	<i>Spelaeornis longicaudatus</i>	An Indian endemic. Also showed remarkably well from the top of a small bush in Meghalaya.
286.	Spot-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum albiventris</i>	A couple seen very well in Nameri NP.
287.	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i>	Heard a few times in Kaziranga before we finally nailed this smart bird at Nameri NP.
	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	Only heard this year.
288.	Black-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis nipalensis</i>	A fast moving flock of over 30 birds was seen below Mayodia Pass, in the Mishmi Hills.
289.	Fulvous Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis fulvifrons</i>	A flock of 12+ delighted us as they fed close by the trail above Mayodia Pass, in the Mishmi Hills.
290.	Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris</i>	Seen in a mixed feeding flock in the Mishmi Hills
291.	<b>Black-breasted Parrotbill</b>	<i>Paradoxornis flavirostris</i>	An Indian endemic. Eventually had superb views of 3 confiding birds at Dibru-Saikhowa.
292.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Only seen in Kaziranga National Park.
293.	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	Seen well in Kaziranga and heard several times along the Jai-Bhorelli River.
294.	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	Only seen in the Mishmi Hills.

295.	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	A couple of flocks were present in the Mishmi Hills and in Meghalaya.
296.	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	Seen at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga NP.
297.	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	This wet grassland specialist was very common at Dibru-Saikhowa.
298.	<b>Swamp Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia cinerascens</i>	An Indian endemic. One confiding bird came right in to the tape at Dibru-Saikhowa and was a new species for this tour.
299.	Black-throated (Hill) Prinia	<i>Prinia atrogularis khasiana</i>	Only seen on the way to Cherrapunjee.
300.	Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>	Also called Hume's Bush-warbler. A single bird observed as we walked up to Mayodia Pass.
301.	Chestnut-crowned Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia major</i>	One very confiding individual practically at our feet as we walked to Kolomi Camp.
	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>	Heard and seen poorly in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga National Park.
302.	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	A couple seen at Dibru-Saikhowa.
303.	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	Seen at Dibru_Saikhowa and Kaziranga NP.
304.	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Common and recorded on 13 dates.
	Slaty-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia olivea</i>	A calling bird in the Mishmi Hills failed to respond to the tape.
305.	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Recorded on 8 dates at various sites.
306.	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen briefly in the lower bamboo zone in the Mishmi Hills.
307.	Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Quite common in the bamboo zone in the Mishmi Hills.
308.	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistus</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills and near Cherrapunjee.
309.	White-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus affinis</i>	Single bird observed in a mixed flock in the Mishmi Hills.
310.	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Recorded on 10 dates at various sites.
311.	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	A few seen at Dibru-Saikhowa, Kaziranga and Nameri.
	Smoky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fulgiventis</i>	Leader only sighting at Dibru-Saikhowa
312.	Tickell's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	The bushes near the ferry departure point to the Mishmi Hills were alive with this species! Also seen at several other locations.
313.	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Only seen at Kaziranga NP.
314.	Blyth's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	A few seen in a mixed feeding flock at Nameri.
315.	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Seen on 11 dates.
316.	Buff-barred Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	Finally caught up with this species along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
317.	Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	Only seen near Cherrapunjee.
318.	Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills, Nameri and Meghalaya.
319.	Yellow-vented Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	Quite a few seen this year at Panbari Forest and Nameri National Park.
320.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Quite common at several sites.
321.	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Only seen in the Mishmi Hills.
322.	Rufous-fronted Tit	<i>Aegithalos iouschistos</i>	Came across a small flock above Mayodia Pass, in company with the next species.
323.	Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Parus rubidiventris</i>	A few present in a mixed flock with Rufous-fronted Tits.
324.	Yellow-cheeked Tit	<i>Parus spilonotus</i>	Also called Black-spotted Yellow Tit. Quite common in the Mishmi Hills.
325.	Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	Our first encounter was unexpectedly quite high up in the Mishmi Hills. We followed this with some lower down there, and also present in the forest at Nameri National Park.
326.	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	Several seen in the Mishmi Hills.
327.	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	Seen at Nameri and near Shillong.
328.	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	Seen in the higher parts of Mishmi Hills, as well as Nameri and along the old Shillong-Guwahati Road.

329.	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>	This species has been recently split with Indian Nuthatch <i>Sitta castanea</i> found over most of India, south of the Himalayas. Seen in Mishmi Hills and Meghalaya.
330.	Beautiful Nuthatch	<i>Sitta formosa</i>	One of the most wanted birds in the Eastern Himalayas and we had fabulous views of a close bird in a roadside tree around 600m in the Mishmi Hills.
331.	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	Several seen in a mixed flock on the walk to Kolomi Camp.
332.	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	Quite common in the Mishmi Hills and along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
333.	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes singalensis</i>	First seen in a mixed flock at Dibru-Saikhowa and then again in Nameri National Park.
334.	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Several cracking males seen in Kaziranga and Nameri NP's.
335.	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>	A small flock was found below the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
336.	Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae isolata</i>	Only seen near Cherrapunjee.
337.	Black-breasted Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	Seen a few times in the Mishmi Hills.
338.	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	A daily sight in the Mishmi Hills.
339.	Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>	Very tape responsive and common in the lower section of the Mishmi Hills and Nameri NP.
340.	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills and a few times in Kaziranga National Park.
341.	Maroon-backed Accentor	<i>Prunella immaculata</i>	A small flock in the Mishmi Hills may well have been the first record there and was a total surprise.
342.	Crimson-browed Finch	<i>Propyrrhula subhimachala</i>	A feeding party of 4 were seen below the lodge in the Mishmi Hills and also seen near Cherrapunjee
343.	Scarlet Finch	<i>Haematospiza sipahi</i>	A fine male was seen near Cherrapunjee.
344.	Spot-winged Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodopeplus</i>	At least 3 females seen below Mayodia Pass gave superb views.
345.	Dark-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>	A female was identified below Mayodia Pass and was possibly a first record for Mishmi Hills.
346.	Gold-naped Finch	<i>Pyrrhoplectes epauletta</i>	A group of 4 birds included a superb male feeding beside the road in the Mishmi Hills.
347.	Grey-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>	The group of 10+ feeding below our lodge in the Mishmi Hills was a first record for the region.
348.	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	A small flock observed in Nameri NP>
349.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Just a single flock in Kaziranga.
350.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus indicus</i>	Observed on 10 dates.
351.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Only seen around Kaziranga National Park.
352.	Cinnamon Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>	A few seen along the old Shillong-Guwahati road
353.	Eastern Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus burmanicus</i>	A potential split – see Ripley Guide. A small flock in the grassland of the Central Range in Kaziranga were the only ones seen.
354.	Finn's Weaver	<i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	Understandably, this was a new bird for this particular tour. A scarce and hard to find bird anywhere, we had pretty good views amongst some Eastern Baya Weavers in Kaziranga.
355.	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	Quite a few seen in the Mishmi Hills and around Nameri National Park.
356.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Quite common at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga.
357.	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Common. Seen on 12 dates.
358.	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus hopwoodi</i>	A frequent sight in most forests visited.
359.	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
360.	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	A single tail-less bird observed in Nameri National Park.
361.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Sightings from Mishmi Hills, Kaziranga and Nameri NP's.
362.	Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Seen on 8 dates at various sites.

363.	Spot-winged Starling	<i>Saroglossa spiloptera</i>	A true Himalayan speciality and you only really ever see them in flowering <i>Bombax</i> trees, as we did in Kaziranga. Except the flock perched beside the fruiting tree at Nameri Eco-Camp that is!
364.	Grey-headed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	One of the 2 splits from what was formerly called Chestnut-tailed Starling. First seen in Tinsukhia, followed by sightings at Dibru-Saikhowa, Kaziranga and Nameri.
365.	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Common. Seen on 13 dates.
366.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common. Seen on 15 dates.
367.	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Common. Seen on 13 dates.
368.	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres cinereus</i>	Reasonably common in the lowland areas visited during the first half of the tour.
369.	Common Hill-myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	One of the recent splits from the Ripley Guide. Seen on 7 dates in the main lowland sites.
370.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendensponensis</i>	Common. Seen on 11 dates.
371.	Eastern Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus leuallantii</i>	A recent split from what was formerly known simply as Large-billed Crow. Common and seen on 15 dates.
372.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius interstinctus</i>	This distinctive Eastern Himalayan race was a regular sight around our lodge in the Mishmi Hills
373.	Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	Heard a few times in the Mishmi Hills before we got a look at one in Kaziranga.
374.	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	Very common at our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
375.	Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	A very brief view of one along the old Shillong-Guwahati road.
376.	Collared Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta frontalis</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. A pair showed well in the Mishmi Hills.
377.	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Common during the middle of the tour.

## OTHER SIGHTINGS

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

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

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

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