

North-East India - December 2012 - January 2013

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Introduction

A trip to northern India, with a focus on the remote North-East, aimed to see something of the spectacular diversity of birds in an area renowned for its forest endemics and for providing a winter home to many Palaearctic migrants. The backdrop of snowy Himalayan peaks would be a bonus. We were constrained in the timing of our visit to the Christmas-New Year period, when, as we found out, short days and cold weather can sometimes take the edge off the birding experience.

Outline and tour company

We flew from Glasgow to Delhi on 6th December and returned on 15th January 2013. During this time we spent two short periods in Delhi and visited Bharatpur and Chambal Safari Lodge (arranged quickly by Nikhil Devasar, e-mail devasar@gmail.com) and the Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla Bird Sanctuaries on the outskirts of Delhi. In between we flew to Guwahati in Assam, later returning from Digburgh, and meanwhile spent 24 days touring both Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Since the Delhi area is well-travelled and already known to many birders and tour groups, we focus on North-Eastern India in this report.

Transport in the North East was by 4x4 throughout, on mainly mountain roads, some surfaced, but with many in poor condition or undergoing re-construction. The troubled recent history of the North-Eastern frontier zone was reflected in the conspicuous Army presence along many border roads.

All our travel and accommodation arrangements between Guwahati and Digburgh were made by Peter Lobo (of www.allindiabirdingtours.com) peterlobo65@gmail.com who organised for our guide (Abidur Rahman) and driver to take us to a range of sites, including rivers, lakes, marshes, grassland, tea-estates, lowland broadleaved woodland, subtropical forests, cloud and coniferous forests and mountain passes. We also visited Kaziranga National Park and a wide selection of planned and impromptu roadside stop-offs.

Itinerary

17-19 December: arrive Guwahati and drive to Nameri area (overnight at Nameri Eco Camp).
20 December: drive to Dirang (overnight in Hotel Pemerling)
21 December: visit Dirang to Mandala Road
22 December: visit Sangti Valley and Sela Pass (4500m)
23 December: re-visit Mandala Road and later drive to Eaglenest Reserve (overnight in tented camps – ‘Lama’ and ‘Bomphu’)
24–27 December: explore Eaglenest Reserve
28 December: drive to Kaziranga National Park (overnight at Jupuri Lodge)
29-31 December: visit Kaziranga NP and nearby sites
1 January: drive to Tinsukia (overnight in Tinsukia hotel)
2 January: drive to Mishmi Hills via Brahmaputra ferry (overnight at Mishmi Hills Jungle camp)
3-5 January: walking in Mishmi Hills, Mayodia Pass (2655m), Dibanz Valley and Roing areas
6 January: return to Tinsukia via Brahmaputra ferry (overnight Tinsukia hotel)
7 January: by boat along Brahmaputra to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
8 January: visit Digboi and forest nature reserve near Tinsukia
9 January: by boat on Maguri Beel and visit nearby grasslands and forest
10 January: drive to Digburgh Airport for flight to Delhi

Birding highlights

Over 500 species were recorded during the two phases of the trip, with 215 in the Delhi area (of which 121 were also seen in the NE) and 415 in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Highlights included Ibisbill, White-winged Duck, Greater Adjutant, Pied Harrier (male), Indian Skimmer, Bugun Liocichla, Ward’s Trogon, 38 raptors, 12 Woodpeckers, 8 Wren Babblers, 12 Laughingthrushes, 26 Warblers/Bush warblers and 18 Babblers and Scimitar Babblers. Amongst notable Palaearctic visitors were Slavonian (Horned) Grebe (1st for Assam), Dusky Thrush and Siberian Rubythroat. Over 100 species in a day were seen at Bharatpur, Chambal Lodge area, Sultanpur Jheel and Kaziranga National Park; all were sites which combined open, wooded and wetland habitats. In forested areas 40-60 species a day was usual.

Accommodation and Travel

The accommodation was varied and ranged from ‘very basic’ to ‘3 star’; including Campsites, Rest Houses, Hotels and a Game Lodge. The tented camp at Nameri was comfortable and had good food. Hotel Pemerling at Dirang was adequate with mountain views, but had patchy service. The two tented camps

we used at Eaglenest were basic but had helpful staff and good food. Lama Camp looked over impressive Himalayan peaks. The Lodge at Kaziranga was a welcome follow-up to Eaglenest's chilly quarters, offering both comfort and good eating. The Jungle camp at Mishmi was very basic with poor support staff and sub-standard facilities. The Rest Houses at Mayodia and Roing were pretty grim but probably would have felt better with more experienced support staff and longer and warmer days. The Tinsukia hotel was well appointed, included a good restaurant, but was in a (bird-free) busy mid-town location.

Long distance travel within India is normally by Rail or Air. Long distance travel by road takes a very long time. We did all of these, however, using a local agent to book cars and trains but we booked our own flights from Delhi to Assam before our arrival in India using the website 'www.cleartrip.com'. This website accepts overseas credit card bookings. We used two low-cost airlines (SpiceJet and JetKonnnect), both of which were entirely satisfactory and moderately priced.

Moving about in NE India was mostly on rough roads, often carved into steep mountain sides, and so was rarely comfortable. Our driver (Podum) was excellent, however, and drove in a confidence-inspiring way and barely hit a single pothole at speed! It is in the nature of a visit to this frontier area, however, that facilities will tend towards the basic. In midwinter, 'basic' also implies cold. Until fairly recently much of Arunachal Pradesh was closed to overseas visitors: a visitor permit is still required, booked in advance (arranged for us by Peter Lobo), is checked on entry and exit, this being additional to an Indian visa. The area has yet to develop a significant tourist infrastructure. The only other visitors we saw were occasional birders, mostly constrained to also visit in December-January, or were tourists on their way to the remote Tawang Monastery close to the border with China.

Overview of tour

Our tour extended over 3+ weeks and provided an excellent introduction to the birds of NE India. The combination of low mid-winter temperatures, short days and a high proportion of skulking species, however, meant that many species required a lot of work to winkle out. Also, we neither heard nor saw any Tragopans or Monals. It seems likely that the most popular months for a visit, March and April, favoured by most of the larger group tours, would be better for seeing the residents and summer-visiting migrants, with many species by then singing and calling, but this would be at the cost of missing many of the departed Palaearctic visitors.

Our guide, Abid, was excellent and very experienced on what is his 'home

territory'. He is a keen sound-recordist, is planning his own audio-guide, and was encyclopaedic in his knowledge of calls and locations, and put us onto many of the most difficult skulkers. Whatever the timing of a visit, however, it is inevitable, given the range of forest canopy and understory species involved, that many of the views in forest will be fleeting and a first rate guide or excellent prior knowledge of calls is essential for finding birds and securing firm identifications. I rate this as one of the hardest places to see birds I have experienced across 6 Zoogeographical regions, at least in the mid-winter period. Happily, there were many compensating exceptions, like our stunning views of Ward's Trogon and Bugun Liocichla, foraging Ibisbills and a tree-top duo of Dusky Thrush and Black-throated Thrush.

All advice in India indicated that the window for visiting NE India that largely avoids travel being hampered by the monsoon and landslip-caused road-closures runs from November to early May, with an increasing risk of rain in the later months as the monsoon nears. While subzero temperatures were common in the mountains in midwinter, plus some snow, it was largely dry so this is one plus for a December-January visit. Another trip would likely plump for late February - early March to get a rather kinder climate but with both resident and migrant birds present. This will still miss some of the more local migrants, however, such as cuckoos returning from the south.

Itinerary review

Our itinerary in NE India turned out to be a tour of two halves. The first half was excellent in virtually all respects and gave us an average of 16 new species per day, peaking at 42 on the Mandala Road. This rate dropped to just 4 per day in the second half (i.e. post-Kaziranga). We suggest that if you do as we did and extend the 'usual tour' (Nameri-Kaziranga), then you might try and visit more and different areas in the 'second half'. For example, Mishmi Hills, while clearly harbouring many interesting species, yielded relatively few 'new' species, instead mainly offering a second-helping of some of Eaglenest's birds. Instead, consider spending a day or two longer at Kaziranga, reducing the time spent at Mishmi-Roing, and adding a couple of days in Nagaland and around Somerling instead. Also, be sure that there is some agreed flexibility in the itinerary, so if you do find conditions are poor for birding, or you cannot take the cold or the accommodation/facilities do not suit you, then you can move on to another area. Peter Lobo facilitated this but others might not.

Practicalities

Overseas visitors are not permitted to buy a mobile phone in India (for security reasons). This means (depending on your contract) that you may be out of

phone-contact for much of the time in the more remote areas of the NE since most networks with reasonable coverage are India-based (i.e. Airtel). You will probably be able to negotiate with your guide/driver to use their phone occasionally.

Advance travel-advice about health matters in India was largely correct, with the predictions of both respiratory tract infections (affects 25% of visitors to India) as well as the routine gut problems (all too) fully borne out. This happened even though we relied entirely on bottled water and went vegetarian for the duration. Perhaps we avoided worse? Health warnings for the North-East were stronger, especially for mosquito-borne diseases. There were very few biting insects, however, and even fewer bites, and although we took anti-malarials the risk of malaria and Dengue fever in mid-winter appears low. Japanese encephalitis is another mosquito-borne virus reported in the area but locals said (in contrast to Dengue fever) that it was very rare (and immunisation costs £300 in the UK!). Vicki picked up a few ticks and when we were searching in the forest undergrowth but with no ill effects.

Tipping was problematic. There is a universal expectation of a tip for any service and yet advice on its level is very variable. For example, a long-time Delhi resident advised us on tipping our guide and suggested 100 rupees per day, whereas a visiting birder we met was planning on 1000 rupees per day. There is a concern amongst locals that tourists are inflating the tipping rate, whilst many visitors will feel that what they would pay at home would be an appropriate rate. It's clearly up to you, but be aware it will be a significant extra expense overall and will require careful management of pocketfuls of the hard-to-find smaller bank notes to meet all your requirements! Some group tours include all tips which would be a relief! Begging was not encountered outside Delhi and even there it was rare.

In habitats where many of the target species are understory-dwellers, we suspect that a high proportion of those on group tours do not see many of the more secretive species. We heard that some tour guides intentionally ignore the most difficult-to-see species, confident that none of the tour group will latch onto their calls. This is because, not entirely unreasonably, an hour spent getting half the party (at best) just a glimpse would still leave a lot of grumpy clients and take time away from seeing some 'easier' species. Watching a tour group hang around for half an hour to view a (widespread) Long-tailed Shrike down the leader's telescope made me appreciate our 'group' of two! On midwinter days with barely 10 hours of useful light, and even less in forest, and with more time usually 'lost' for a lunch break, birding-hours are at a premium. Nor will you be taken down road culverts or into bamboo-swamp thickets, as we were, to find some more elusive targets! Clearly, if you want to see the harder-to-find species

then you should arrange your own 1-3 person tour. Using a company based in India will usually be cheaper than one based elsewhere – it appears to be their policy to attract business. We had no problems with money transfers, apart from the usual exorbitant bank charges for international transfers.

Species Lists

The list largely follows the sequence of the Field Guide we used: Grimmett et al. (2011) 'Birds of the Indian Subcontinent', Helm (2nd edition). A few additions based on the updated taxonomy of Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) 'The Ripley Guide', NMNH et al. (2nd edition), have also been included. A terminal letter denotes: h = heard and/or seen fleetingly. Most of these refer to failed attempts to tape-lure the species into full view (Guide-only records are omitted from the list). Also, D = only seen in Delhi area. Site-codes for the North-East are as follows: BF=Brahmaputra Ferry, DB=Digboi, DG=Dirang, DSNP=Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, EN=Eaglenest Reserve, GRT=Guwahati Rubbish Tip, J=roadside stop, KNP=Kaziranga National Park, KTP=Kaziranga Tea Plantation, MB=Maguri Beel, MH=Mishmi Hills, MR=Mandala Road, NEI=Species seen at several sites in NE India, NNP=Nameri National Park, SP=Sela Pass, SV=Sangti Valley. Absence of a site-code indicates a generally widespread species that was recorded at 3 or more sites in both NE India and around Delhi.

Snow Partridge *Lerwa lerwa* SP
Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* D
Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* D
Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis* KNP, h DSNP
Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* h MH
Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii* EN
Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* SP
Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* KNP
Kalij Pheasant *Loiphura leucomelanos* EN
Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*
Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* D
Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* D
Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
White-winged Duck *Asarcornis scutulata* NNP
Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* KNP
Gadwall *Anas strepera*
Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poeciloryncha*
Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
Garganey *Anas querquedula*
Common Teal *Anas crecca*
Common Pochard *Aythya farina*
Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Goosander *Mergus merganser* NNP
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Great-crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* BF
Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* BF (1st Assam record)
Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*
Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilus javanicus* NEI
Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilus dubius* GRT
Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* D
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* D
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* D
Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* D
Striated Heron *Butoroides striata*
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* D
Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*
Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippenis* KNP
Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*
Indian Cormorant *P. fuscicollis*
Great Cormorant *P. carbo*
Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucos* KNP
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* D
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Laggar Falcon *Falco jugger* D
Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Black-eared Kite *Milvus lineatus*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaetus leucoryphus*
Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* KNP
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* D
White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* NEI
Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* NEI
Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* NEI
Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* J
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* D
Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* NEI
Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* KNP, MB
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* SV
Shikra *Accipiter badius*
Besra *Accipiter virgatus*
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* D
Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* NEI
Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* D
Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastata*
Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* D
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*
Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* D
Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* D
Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus* D
Changeable Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*
Mountain Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* EN, MH
Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* BF
Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* MB
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool* KNP
Small Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* D
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyria*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
Common Crane *Grus grus* h D
Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* D

Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*
Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*
Ibisbill *Ibidorhynchus struthersii* NNP
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* KNP, MB
River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*
Yellow-wattled Lapwing *V. malabaricus*
Grey-headed Lapwing *V. cinereus*
Red-wattled Lapwing *V. indicus*
White-tailed Lapwing *V. leucurus*
Little Ringed Plover *C. dubius*
Long-billed Plover *C. placidus* SV, MH
Kentish Plover *C. alexandrinus* D
Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* D
Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemorica* MB
Pin-tailed Snipe *G. stenura*
Common Snipe *G. gallinago*
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* D
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* KNP
Common Redshank *T. totanus*
Common Greenshank *T. nebularia*
Green Sandpiper *T. ochropus*
Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Little Stint *Calidris minuta* D
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* D
Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea* MH
Steppe Gull *Larus barabensis* D
Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*
Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* D
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* D
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* D
River Tern *Sterna aurantia*
Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* D
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* D
Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* D
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* D
Common Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*
Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* SP
Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* EN
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* EN

Mountian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* EN, MH
Barred Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia unchall* EN, MH
Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Red-collared Dove *S. tranquebarica*
Spotted Dove *Stigmatopelia chinensis*
Laughing Dove *Stigmatopelia senegalensis* D
Ashy-headed Green Pigeon *Treron phayrei* NNP
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus*
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda* NNP, MH
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenurus* EN, MH
Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseate* KNP
Red-breasted Parakeet *P. alexandri*
Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hieroccyx varius* D
Green-billed Malkoha *Rhopodytes tristis* KNP, DB
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* D
Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*
Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* D
Indian Eagle Owl *Bubo bengalensis* D
Dusky Eagle Owl *Bubo coromandus* D
Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeyonensis* KNP
Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* h EN
Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* NEI
Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus baliensis* MB
Little Swift *Apus affinis* D
Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardi* EN
Indian Roller *Coracias bengalensis* D
Black-billed Roller *Coracias affinis* NEI
Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* KNP
White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* MB
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctornis athertoni* KNP
Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*
Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyroceros birostris* D
Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthrococeros albirostris* KNP, DG
Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* KNP
Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis* EN

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus* MH
Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* NEI
Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylandica* D
Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata* NEI
Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*
Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*
Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* D
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonatus* MH
Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea* KNP
Pale-headed Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia* MH
Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* NEI
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicappilus* KNP
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei* MH
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis* D
Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos cathpharius* KNP
Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophos*
Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinuncha* MH
Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus* DSNP
Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* KNP
Lesser Goldenback *Dinopium benghalense*
Greater Goldenback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* NEI
Blue-naped Pitta *Pitta nipalensis* h KTP
Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis ponicerianus*
Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina maqcei*
Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike *Hemipus picatus* NNP
Common Iora *Aegithena tiphia* NNP
Small Minivet *Pericrocatus cinnamomeus*
Grey-chinned Minivet *P. solaris* EN
Long-tailed Minivet *P. etholagus*
Short-billed Minivet *P. brevirostris* NEI
Scarlet Minivet *P. speciosus*
Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus* D
Grey-backed Shrike *L. tephronatus*
Lesser Raquet-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* NEI
Greater Raquet-tailed Drongo *D. paradiseus*
Spangled Drongo *D. hottentotus*
Black Drongo *D. macrocerus*
Ashy Drongo *D. leucophaeus* EN
Bronzed Drongo *D. aeneus*
Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo* D
Black-hooded Oriole *O. xanthornus*

Maroon Oriole *O. traillii* KNP, MH
Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha*
White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* KNP
Yellow-billed Blue-magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* MH
Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
Grey Treepie *D. formosae*
Collared Treepie *D. frontalis* MH, DB
Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Eastern Jungle Crow *C. levaillantii*
Indian Jungle Crow *C. culminatus* D
House Crow *C. splendens*
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* SP
Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* MR, SP
Great Tit *Parus major* KNP
Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* NEI
Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* NEI
Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris*
Coal Tit *Periparis ater* MR, MH
Grey-crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous* MR, MH
Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* EN
Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*
Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*
Sand Martin *R. riparia* MB
Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor* MH
Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* NNP
Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon flavicola* D
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* D
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* KNP
Bengal Bushlark *Mirafa assamica* KNP
Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* D
Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark *Eremopteryx griseus* D
Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* D
Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* D
Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*
White-eared Bulbul *P. leucotis* D
Black-crested Bulbul *P. flaviventris*
Red-whiskered Bulbul *P. jocosus*
Red-vented Bulbul *P. cafer*
White-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus flaveolus* NNP

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* NEI
Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii* EN, MH
Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* EN
Jungle Prinia *P. sylvatica* D
Yellow-bellied Prinia *P. flaviventris*
Ashy Prinia *P. socialis*
Plain Prinia *P. inornata*
Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Golden-headed Cisticola *C. exilis* NEI
Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* h MH
Common Tailorbird *P. sutorius*
Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*
Hume's Bush warbler *Cettia brunnescens* EN
Grey-sided Bush Warbler *C. brunnifrons* MR
Thick-billed Warbler *Phragamaticola aedon* NEI
Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*
Chestnut-headed Tesia *Oligura castaneocoronata* NEI
Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* NEI
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* D
Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Smoky Warbler *P. fulgiventis* NEI
Tickell's Leaf Warbler *P. affinis* KNP
Buff-barred Warbler *P. mulcher* NEI
Ashy-throated Warbler *P. maculipennis* NEI
Brook's Leaf Warbler *P. subviridis* D
Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus*
Hume's Leaf Warbler *P. humei* D
Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides*
Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* h MR
Black-faced Warbler *A. schisticeps* NEI
Yellow-bellied Warbler *A. superciliaris* NEI
Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus* NNP
Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* NEI
Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos* NEI
Chestnut-crowned Warbler *S. castaniceps* NEI
Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* D
Hume's Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea* D
Marsh Babbler *Pellorneum palustre* SDNP, MB
Puff-throated Babbler *P. ruficeps* KNP
Buff-breasted Babbler *P. tickelli* h KNP
Eye-browed Wren Babbler *Napothera epilepodota* NNP

Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer* h NEI
Rufous-throated Wren Babbler *Spelaeoris caudatus* EN
Rusty throated Wren Babbler *S. badeigularis* MH
Bar-winged Wren Babbler *S. troglodytoides* NEI
Long-billed Wren Babbler *Rimator malacoptilus* EN
Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler *Sphenocichla humei* EN
Manipur Wedge-billed Babbler *S. roberti* MH
Pin-striped Tit-babbler *Macronus gularis* NEI
Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata* NEI
Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyridopsis rufifrons* NEI
Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* NEI
Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* NEI
Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* KNP
White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomathorinus schisticeps* KNP
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomathorinus ruficollis* NEI
Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler *Pomathorinus ferruginosus* NEI
Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris* h MR
Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris* KNP
Common Babbler *Turdoides caudate* D
Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*
Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi* D
Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* D
White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis* EN
White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* NEI
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* MH, DB
Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus* NEI
Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush *Garrulax nuchalis* NEI
Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Garrulax caerulatus* NEI
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax ruficollis* KNP
Bhutan Laughingthrush *Garrulax imbricatus* MR
Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus* NEI
Scaly Laughingthrush *Garrulax subunicolor* h EN
Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis* NEI
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus* EN
Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* NEI
Streak-throated Barwing *Actinodura waldeni* NEI
Red-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea* EN
Bugun Liocichla *Liocichla bugunorum* EN
Silver-eared Mesia *Mesia argentauris* MR, MH
Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* NEI
Blue-winged Siva *Siva cyanouroptera*
Bar-throated Siva *Siva strigula*
Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* NEI

White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
Green Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius xanthchlorus* EN
Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* NEI
Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis* EN, MH
Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Lioparus cinerea* NEI
Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Pseudominla castaneiceps* NEI
Brown-throated Fulvetta *Fulvetta ludlowi* NEI
Manipur Fulvetta *Fulvetta manipurensis* MH
Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis* MH
Rufous-backed Sibia *Leioptila annectans* EN, MH
Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides* NEI
Beautiful Sibia *Malacias pulchellus* NEI
Striated Yuhina *Staphida castaniceps* MH
White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri* NEI
Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*
Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gulans*
Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* NEI
Black-chinned Yuhina *Y. nigrimenta*
White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* h MH
Grey-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus gularis* EN
Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus ruficeps* NEI
Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* D
Jerdon's Babbler *Chrysomma altirostre* DSNP, MB
White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* h DB
Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura* MR, EN
Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*
Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* SP
Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* SV
White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*
Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta Formosa* EN, MH
Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*
Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni* MR
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis* MR
Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
Great Myna *Acridotheres grandis* NEI
Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*
Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*
Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica* NEI
Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodurum* D
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* D
Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* D
Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima* EN
White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* MR, EN
Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul* MH
Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* D
Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* MH
Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* MR
Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* MR
Bluethroat *Lucinia svecica*
Siberian Rubythroat *Lucinia calliope* KNP
White-tailed Rubythroat *Lucinia pectoralis* MB
White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus* SP
Rufous-breasted Bush Robin *Tarsiger hyperythrus* EN
Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus*
Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*
White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicatus* D
Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* D
Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* NEI
White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps* SP
Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* MH
Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* MR
Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* DG
Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* EN
Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculates* EN
Grandala *Grandala coelicolor* SP
Siberian (Common) Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*
White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucurus*
Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* D
Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus* NNP
Brown Rock Chat *Cercomida fusca* D
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitaries* D
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*
Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii* EN
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*
Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*
Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*
Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* NNP
Large Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis magnirostris* MH

Pale-chinned Flycatcher *Cyornis poliogenys* KNP
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* EN
Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*
Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* MR, EN
Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*
Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwicvkii*
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Clalcoparia singalensis* KNP
Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*
Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*
Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturate* NEI
Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* KNP
Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* MR
Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* NNP, EN
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* SV
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Gymnornis xanthcollis* D
Black-breasted Weaver *Phoecus benghalensis* D
Streaked Weaver *Ploecus manyar* J
Baya Weaver *Ploecus phillipinus*
Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica* D
Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* D
White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*
Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* SP
Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata* NNR, EN
Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculate h* MR
Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* KNP
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* MR
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis* D
Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* D
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* D
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*
Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* D

Tibetan Siskin *Serinus thibetanus* h EN
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* EN
Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* SP
Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus* SP
White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* MR
Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala* SP, EN
Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca* MR, MH
Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinia* SP
Spot-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas melanozanthos* NNP, EN
White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* SP
Golden-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptes epaulette* MR
Crested Bunting *Melophus iathami* D
Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* SV
Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* KN