

INDIA – THE MISHMI HILLS and BEYOND 2009

Day 1 Sunday 15th February

After an uneventful 8 hour flight we arrived in Delhi at 12 noon and following a lengthy wait at Customs we eventually made it out of the airport and were heading through the chaotic traffic to Okhla Barrage. This is a great place to kick-start a trip and we did very well here, seeing many species that you just don't see in the north-east. A group of 13 **Red-naped Ibis** certainly fitted the bill, and other species in this category included **Grey Francolin, Indian Peafowl, Comb Duck, Glossy and Black-headed Ibis, Greater Flamingo, Egyptian Vulture, White-tailed Lapwing, Steppe Gull, Dusky Crag-martin, Brown Rock-chat, White-tailed Stonechat, Pied Bushchat, Common Babbler, Graceful Prinia, Hume's Warbler, Siberian Chiffchaff and Bank Myna.**

It was very pleasant walking along the embankment and scanning the marshes in the afternoon sunshine and we also saw a good variety of more widespread birds such as **Greylag and Bar-headed Geese, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Garganey, several Purple Herons, Black and Black-eared Kites, Shikra, Spotted Owlet, Red Collared-dove and Striated Babbler** before heading to the hotel and having a good meal at a nearby restaurant.

Day 2 Monday 16th February

After breakfast we transferred to the Domestic Terminal for what turned out to be a 2 hour delayed flight to Guwahati in Assam. My good friend Peter Lobo was there to meet us and we were soon off



on the drive to Nameri Eco-Camp. Along the way we saw a few birds, beginning with a short stop at the local refuse dump where excellent views of **Greater Adjutant** were had. In all, we totalled over a hundred of these globally threatened birds along with numerous **Black-eared Kites** and a **Striated Grassbird** before continuing on the drive, seeing **Lesser Adjutant, Asian Openbill, Osprey, Bronze-winged Jacana,**

Black-billed Roller and Spangled Drongo along the way. It took just over 4 hours to get to the Eco-Camp and we arrived right on cue for a fine dinner and some well earned Kingfisher beers.

Day 3 Tuesday 17th February

After a night spent listening to **Asian Barred Owlet** and **Brown Hawk-owl** we met in the middle of the lawn outside our tents just before 5.30am. As it slowly began to get light more and more birds began to appear, beginning with the pair of **Oriental Hobbies** that have taken up residency here during the last few years. Other birds we noted around the grounds this morning included **Greater Flameback, Lineated and Blue-throated Barbets, Red-breasted Parakeet, Blue Whistling-thrush, Small Niltava, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, Great Tit and Greater Racket-tailed and Spangled Drongos.**



After breakfast we drove just a couple of minutes down to the Jai-Bhorelli River and crossed the tranquil river in a **dugout canoe** and once on the opposite bank found **Hodgson's Redstart**, **Sand Lark** and **Tawny Pipit**. We quickly walked across the sandy beach and entered the beautiful forest, following a single track alongside the river for the whole morning. It was very exciting to be walking inside a Tiger Reserve, although we didn't expect to see one at all and really, none of us gave it much thought as bird activity was pretty high for the first few hours. We began with **Grey-headed (Chestnut-tailed) Starling** and **Oriental Turtle-dove** perched close by, before coming across a large *Bombax* tree which held **Vernal Hanging-parrot**, **Himalayan Black Bulbul**, **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and a female **Maroon Oriole**. Scanning the river revealed a flock of **Small Pratincoles**, **Goosander**, **River Lapwing**, **Crested Kingfisher**, **Indian Stone-curlew** and a **Plumbeous Water-redstart**.



About half way along the path Peter heard a **Rusty-bellied Shortwing** so we went inside the forest and Brian C managed to get a glimpse of it, which was more than the rest of us could manage. But our little detour proved worthwhile as we managed to find 3 other target birds for the area, **Pale Blue** and **Pale-chinned Flycatchers** and an obliging **Abbot's Babbler**, whilst a **Small Niltava** is always worth a look.

Moving on to the first pool a fine male **Daurian Redstart** put on a performance as it bathed, but alas no **White-winged Wood-duck**. Continuing on we came across a flock containing **Yellow-vented**, **Lemon-rumped**, **Grey-hooded** and **Yellow-browed Warblers**, followed by a **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** and a **Banded Bay Cuckoo** high up in a *Bombax* tree. Further along the path we had a couple of **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches** and both Brian's simultaneously found us a cracking male **Black-breasted Thrush** feeding amongst the leaf litter. An eastern race female **Ultramarine Flycatcher** bemused us for a while until seen well enough to i.d, and at the farthest pool a pair of **Black-backed Forktails** showed well, with the distinctive sound of an **Asian Elephant** heard close by. Walking back to the Ranger's hut for our picnic lunch produced both **Short-billed** and **Long-tailed Minivets** to add to the **Scarlet Minivet** seen earlier in the morning. A **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** and **Large Woodshrike** were also seen on the walk back, but by now it had become very hot so we were glad to see our dinner table set up and a hot meal waiting for us.

After lunch we walked out into the grassland and to be honest it made a pleasant change to the forest birding and we saw **Chestnut-headed** and **Blue-bearded Bee-eaters**, **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Great Pied Hornbill**, **Mountain** and **Green Imperial-pigeons**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, **Ashy Bulbul** and **White-vented Myna**. Unfortunately, it was only the leaders who managed to see a **Pied Falconet** perched in a distant tree, but we finished the day off in fine style with a flyover pair of **Wreathed Hornbills**. All that was left was to take the 'ferry' back across the river and return to the wonderful Nameri Eco-Camp where we had a couple of hours 'free time' before meeting at 7pm for the checklist and dinner.

Day 4 Wednesday 18th February

The day started for some insomniacs with a **Brown Hawk-owl** spotlighted at 4am outside our tents before we had our 'usual' 5.30am breakfast. And then we were soon back in Nameri Tiger Reserve once again and began with excellent views of a pair of **Great Pied Hornbills** flying over the river and certainly painted quite some picture in the clear, early morning light. In the small creek at the rear of the beach a **Temminck's Stint** and a **Rosy Pipit** showed nicely, whilst **River Tern** and a **Sand Lark** also put in an appearance. We were intent on getting to the far pool to try for the wood-duck as quickly as possible this morning but were delayed by some good sightings. No sooner had we entered the forest than a few **Tickell's Leaf-warblers** were seen, followed by **Blue Rock Thrush** and an **Asian Barred Owlet**. The pair of **Crested Kingfishers** were again present further down river, but we were more intent watching a typically skulking **Dusky Warbler**!

Unfortunately, our route to the pool was blocked by a couple of **Asian Elephants** so we had to leave pretty quickly, but not before

scoring with a few noisy **White-throated Bulbuls**. Walking back upriver gave us a **White-rumped Shama**, but this was dwarfed in stature at least by a superb **Pied Falconet** perched on top of a *Bombax* tree. This showed very well, as did a **Pale Blue Flycatcher**, both **Velvet-fronted** and **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches**, **Siberian Chiffchaff**, a perched **Crested Goshawk** and a female **Hodgson's Redstart**.



Back at the **camp** we watched the pair of **Oriental Hobbies** before taking a break in the heat of the midday, and afterwards we were all raring to go for a walk down to the river. Just out of the camp gates and we bumped into a nice little flock containing **Yellow-vented**, **Yellow-browed**, **Greenish** and **Grey-hooded Warblers**. Another **Asian Barred Owlet** flew over and **Greater Flameback**,



White-throated Fantail and a skulking **Siberian Rubythroat** were seen. There wasn't much doing at the river, so we returned to camp for a cup of tea and soon got distracted when a **Brown Hawk-owl** began calling nearby. A short while later we were all enjoying great scope views of it in a large tree, as

well as hearing a **Large-tailed Nightjar** calling from the fields behind the camp.

After dinner we walked to the edge of camp and I think it's quite fair to say that everyone was surprised when we got a response from the normally uncooperative **Oriental Scops-owl** that resides here. In fact we spotlighted an extremely aggressive bird that circled the group before trying to land on Nick's head before perching in a small sapling just a few metres away!

Day 5 Thursday 19th February

One of the star birds of any Himalayan birding tour surely has to be **Ibisbill** and this was our main target as we set sail in our **rubber rafts** for the 3 hour trip down the Jai-Bhorelli River early this



morning. It was a very calm setting indeed that greeted us, as the early morning mist created a certain mystical atmosphere to proceedings as we slowly floated downriver. We'd already scoped a **Striated Grassbird** singing from on top of a bush, but the sight of our first **Ibisbill** was truly outstanding and in all we saw 13 of these much-wanted birds. To see this coveted species necessitates you being somewhere exciting and within sight of the mighty Himalayas and this has to be one of the most reliable sites anywhere in the world of seeing them

and so close! Over the course of our rafting excursion we saw a lot of birds, with two separate **Long-billed Plovers** also very much appreciated. There was also a **Black Stork**, **Crested Kingfisher**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Common Merganser**, **Great Pied Hornbill** and a pair of **Great Thick-knees** amongst a bunch of commoner species.



After lunch back at camp we drove to our new lodge at Kaziranga, stopping along the way to view our first **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros**, as well as **Lesser Adjutant**, **Asian Openbill** and a flock of **Bar-headed Geese**.

Once we had settled into our rooms, a quick check of the gardens revealed a flyby **Emerald Dove**, a small flock of **Scarlet Minivets** and a **Large-tailed Nightjar** flying around in broad daylight before we drove to the tea gardens. We failed to connect with the laughingthrush flock that resides here but spent a pleasant couple of hours watching

Brown Fish-owl, **White-browed Scimitar-babbler**, **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, **Lesser Yellownap**, **Red Junglefowl**, a very brief **Kalij Pheasant**, **Asian Barred Owlet** and a skulking



Rufous-fronted Babbler. As usual the call of **Blue-naped Pitta** remained just a voice in the distance but we were happy with our afternoon's haul and returned to the lodge for yet another excellent Indian dinner.

Day 6 Friday 20th February

The day began with an Elephant ride across the grassland of Kaziranga's Central Range, with the sun appearing through the early morning mist providing an evocative setting within which to embark on our quest for **Bengal Florican**. Luck was definitely on our side as we flushed one within the first 20 minutes and everyone had superb views of a fine male flying over the grassland twice. With this cracker safely tucked under the belt we concentrated on the mammals that make this park so famous and began by passing through herds of **Swamp** and **Hog Deer**. There was also a few **Wild Boar** and **Water Buffalo** present before our first **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros** appeared close by. This turned out to be quite an experience as it took offence to our presence so close to its youngster and made a mock charge at one of our Elephants, which in turn retaliated with a huge 'trumpet' and our other Elephants all coming in to protect it. Several other **Rhino's** were seen and the setting was complete with a herd of **Asian Elephants** feeding in the distance, plus a lone bull **Elephant** which seemed to have amorous intentions to one of the females we were riding and began to make its way towards us, so we retreated in the opposite direction quickly! Meanwhile, David spotted some **Barred Buttonquail**, whilst **Woolly-necked Stork**, **Black-headed Ibis** and **Paddyfield Pipit** were also seen. This ride always provides one of the most amazing experiences of the holiday and today's proved no exception and is certainly a contender for one of the major highlights of the tour.

Once finished we returned to the lodge, stopping to view a marsh where several **Pintail Snipe** were feeding before having breakfast and returning to the Central Range. Our **jeeps** followed the main track which passes through a mosaic of habitats from tall grassland and numerous lakes to weed-



choked marshes and dense forest. On arrival we quickly found **Changeable Hawk-eagle**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Black-naped Monarch** and **Tickell's Leaf** and **Greenish Warblers**. As we crossed a narrow bridge we stopped to view the lake and surrounding area and saw **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Grey-headed Fish-eagle**, **Oriental Darter** and a roosting **Brown Fish-owl**. Just around the corner appeared a large lake and in a waterside tree was a congregation of **Eurasian Griffon Vultures** with a couple of **Slender-billed Vultures** as well, so we stopped the vehicles and had a really good look at them. Out on the lake was a **Spot-billed Pelican**, with

Bronze-winged Jacanas feeding on the floating vegetation and some **Water Buffalo** swimming across the lake also proved a popular sighting. On the other side of the road a large concentration of wildfowl held mainly commoner species, as well as 6+ **Ferruginous Ducks** and a few **Eastern Baya Weavers** flew into a *Bombax* tree beside the track.

From here we drove to a watchtower, seeing a **Swamp Francolin** in flight before scanning the grassland and lake where a **Slender-billed Babbler** was a very good find. The flock of vultures had taken to the air and made for a very impressive sight as they soared above us, whilst a superb male **Pied Harrier** and an **Osprey** flew by. Other birds on view from here included **Black-necked** and **Woolly-necked Storks** and **Lesser Adjutant**. Driving on we saw **Alexandrine**, **Red-breasted** and **Rose-ringed Parakeets**, before reaching yet another lake. Here we had 2 **Swamp Francolins** dash across the track, as well as **Plain Prinia**, another **Osprey**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Black-necked Stork**,

Purple Heron and lots of egrets and wildfowl. We spent some time here before continuing on further into the park seeing a few large **Water Monitors** and eventually located a flock of **Spot-winged Starlings** feeding in a *Bombax* tree.

After lunch at the lodge we visited the Western Range and drove to another watchtower which provides a fine view across a large ribbon lake, marsh and grassland, where a huge variety of birds and mammals were present. New for us were 100+ **Northern Lapwings**, as well as **Marsh Sandpiper** and **Grey-headed Lapwing**, whilst **Whiskered** and **River Terns** and lots of common waders and wildfowl were present. 34 **Rhino's** seen from here are also noteworthy, whilst **Hog** and **Swamp Deer** were present in big numbers. Driving on, we tried in vain for **Himalayan Rubythroat** a few times but only heard it calling, a pair of **Pallas's Fish-eagles** at a nest was a nice sighting, and we had



our best views yet of **Swamp**

Francolins, a pair of which was feeding out in the open beside a **Brown Crake**. As we watched the francolins and crake feeding out in the marsh, some movement off to our right was noted. Several birds were feeding on the tops of the tall grass and we assumed they were just **Baya Weavers**, but on Peter's insistence we paid closer attention and amazingly found a couple of very scarce **Finn's Weavers** amongst them and was indeed a great way to finish another superb day.



Day 7 Saturday 21st February

As breakfast wasn't scheduled until 6.45am we met at the edge of the gardens and scanned the surrounding forest for the first hour or so of daylight. After a slow start, during which a **Grey-faced Woodpecker** and a **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** were seen, we eventually scored heavily with a pair of **Indian White-hooded Babblers** feeding in the bamboo along with a couple of **White-browed Scimitar-babblers**. This sighting represents only the second record of **White-hooded babbler** for the Kaziranga area. During breakfast a pair of **Oriental Pied Hornbills** began calling from the tea plantation over the road and they were located at the top of a dead tree and whilst watching them a **Stork-billed Kingfisher** was also seen. So a little later we met at the vehicles and found a **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** before driving to the Eastern Range and checked the dry fields just before the entrance where **Bengal Bushlark**, **Ashy Woodswallow**, **Yellow Wagtail** and a **Brown Shrike** were seen.

Once inside the park we drove along a dusty track beside the severely depleted lake of Sohola Bheel, finding **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Green-billed Malkoha**, **White-vented Myna** and both **Black-rumped** and **Greater Flamebacks** below some large *Bombax* trees. The normally large

lake still had some water but was more like a marsh now due to the drought but there was still a large concentration of birds. Plenty of common wildfowl were present, as well as **Spot-billed Pelican**, **Black-necked** and **Woolly-necked Storks**, **Black-headed Ibis**, **Pallas's Fish-eagle**, **Grey-headed Lapwing**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Whiskered Tern** and **Rosy Pipit**. Continuing on we heard the first of 5 **Blue-naped Pittas** to be recorded today, as well as **Great Pied Hornbill**,



Changeable Hawk-eagle, **White Pelican**, brief **Indian Smooth-coated Otter**, **Rhino** and **Water Buffalo**. In fact we would have seen one of the pitta's had we not happened upon a very wild **Asian Elephant** that mock charged our vehicles and precipitated a hasty departure. A jeep following us had some photographers onboard who were absolutely delighted with their photos of the pitta I was trying to call in at the same spot just a minute or two later!!

After lunch we drove into the Central Range and found 2 more major target species with a **Blossom-headed Parakeet** found by Derek and several flocks of the Himalayan specialty, **Spot-winged Starling**. A **Streak-throated Woodpecker** also gave good views, along with **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Green Imperial-pigeon** and **Greater Spotted Eagle**. A few **Sambar** were dotted around this afternoon, plus we made a good count of 29 **Rhinos**. And as usual we were late leaving the park and as the sun began to set we could see tall plumes of smoke from up ahead and as we got closer could see that the park workers had set alight to several sections of grassland. It certainly made for a spectacular sight but was a little scary as we drove past.



Back at the lodge we spotlighted another **Oriental Scops-owl** along the approach road.

Day 8 Sunday 22nd February

We spent our last morning in this area at the nearby Panbari Forest which turned up its usual mix of star quality birds and absolute frustration in equal measure! As we began our walk, amazingly a **White-cheeked Partridge** began calling and after a lengthy wait some of the group saw a pair walk across the path in front of them. This is apparently the first confirmed sighting here! We'd already seen **Changeable Hawk-eagle**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** and **Oriental Pied Hornbill**. Further on we saw a few **Striped Tit-babblers** creeping around a tangle of vines and heard **Mountain Tailorbird** and **Asian Fairy Bluebird** before we heard and later saw a very close **Streaked Wren-babbler** which is almost as good as the partridge here. Beside a damp area of forest we saw another one and then had to divide our attentions between a **Lesser Shortwing** on one side of the track and a **Rusty-bellied Shortwing** singing on the other side! Both are extremely

tricky to see and expert skulkers and we probably spent way too much time here with some of the group getting lucky with the briefest of glimpses.

But time had passed all too quickly and we had to leave without reaching some other areas we like to visit in this forest. So we returned to the lodge where we had an hour to pack before having an early lunch and then set out on the 5 hours drive to Tinsukhia.

Day 9 Monday 23rd February

We arrived at Dibru-Saikhowa National Park just after sunrise and had breakfast at the small resort along the shores of the Dibru River. A large gull on the opposite shore turned out to be our first

Great Black-headed Gull which was admired in the scope before we set off in a large dugout canoe upriver to the tall grassland this reserve is renowned for – seeing **Gangetic River Dolphin** and **Pallid Harrier** along the way. After much searching and walking through the grassland (and under it) we eventually found our first endemic of the day, a pair of outrageous **Black-breasted Parrotbills**. We spent the rest of the morning trying unsuccessfully for **Marsh Babblers**, although we heard a bird singing on a couple of occasions but with Lady Luck not smiling on us decided to call it quits.



So we returned to the resort for lunch, seeing a **Little Heron** before sailing back upriver to a different grassland site, taking a dugout canoe over a creek and checking out a marsh where **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** was new for our list and then another dugout canoe to another patch of grassland. Here we had brief views of a **Swamp Prinia**, along with a few **Chestnut-capped Babblers**. Then we walked over towards a partially vegetated lake and boarded some different



canoes and picked a route between numerous islands of floating vegetation to view a large concentration of wildfowl where the chief prize was a spectacular drake **Falcated Duck**. In fact at least 3 drakes and a couple of females were present although one drake in particular held our attention for a long

time as it preened and bathed. A few **Red-crested Pochards** and the odd **Ferruginous Duck** were also present but the spectacle of thousands of ducks taking off and wheeling across the sky, combined with the noise of all those wings was a very impressive sight indeed. As we sailed back towards our waiting jeeps an immature **Pied Harrier** flew alongside our canoes. Other species seen

around the marshes included **Sand Lark**, lots of **Citrine**, **Yellow** and **White Wagtails**, thousands of common wildfowl and flocks of **Bar-headed Geese**.

Day 10 Tuesday 24th February

With mounting excitement we set out on the journey to the fabled Mishmi Hills, a truly remote and unexplored region of the Eastern Himalayas. An early start saw us following a sandy track towards Saikhowa Ghat where we came across a **White-rumped Vulture** sat on the ground in front of us,



and as we stopped to take a look several **Slender-billed Vultures** were seen in a nearby tree. After just over an hour's drive we reached the shores of the Brahmaputra River where **Oriental Skylark** was new for our list. Lots of ramshackle wooden buildings were lined up on the riverbank, whilst along the shoreline numerous other 'ferries' or rather large pontoons were being loaded with

cars and even buses. Our ferry meandered between huge sandbanks where **Great Black-headed Gulls** and **Temminck's Stints** were seen before reaching the other side. Amazingly, our hard working ground crew had driven several hours down from our base in the Mishmi Hills to prepare a hearty breakfast for us! From here we drove along dirt tracks and pot-holed roads to Roing, at the base of the hills, seeing a superb **Red-necked Falcon** found by Jo.

Our route took us across a boulder strewn river where **Crested Kingfisher** and **Plumbeous Water-redstart** were present and we passed a flock of **Large Woodshrikes** on the way up to our base. A flock of **Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes** surprised us beside the road but even more so was the first rain for several months. Indeed this went on for the rest of the day, with only a short break later this afternoon. We eventually reached our camp at 810m (2647 feet) and lunch. Unfortunately the rain made staying at the camp unrealistic but fortunately we could use a Forest Rest House lower down for some of the group tonight and relocate the rest of us tomorrow. We were meant to stay in a 'new' lodge which hadn't panned out so we all appreciated our ground crews efforts in setting up the camp and then relocating to the Rest House! This is one of the dangers of birding in such remote areas: things can happen which are often unavoidable but on this occasion we had at least options of where to stay. Now the Rest House turned out to be situated amidst fabulous bird filled grounds complete with a lake, small



marsh, ponds, swathes of bamboo and woodland. The actual building hadn't been used for a long time but it was set at around 300m, was much warmer than being higher up the hills, complete with proper beds, toilets and a dining room. OK it wasn't The Ritz but was certainly useable. What more could you ask? Our crew prepared hot water in large buckets to use to wash in the bathrooms and gave us 3 fantastic meals a day. A bit of a 'clean up' and replacement of a few broken windows and we'd have been in luxury!

So whilst organising the relocation some of us birded above the camp and saw a flock of **Black-chinned Yuhinas**, as well as **Beautiful Sibia** and **Slaty-backed Forktail**. A **Leopard Cat** was also seen this evening by some of the group as they drove up to the camp for dinner.

Day 11 Wednesday 25th February

The rain continued throughout most of the day and hampered our birding although we did see a number of eastern Himalayan speciality birds throughout the day. We had a **Black-throated Sunbird** at the edge of camp before driving higher up and immediately heard a **Rufous-necked Hornbill** calling and saw it briefly in flight. One of the major attractions of visiting the Eastern Himalayas are the numerous large mixed-species flocks encountered throughout the day and our first flock held **Rusty-fronted Barwing**, **Yellow-throated Fulvetta**, **Grey-throated Babbler** and the star find of a **Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill**. A **White-crested Laughingthrush** was seen on the drive up before we had a few walks between heavy showers seeing **White-spectacled Warbler**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Little** and **Chestnut-eared Bunting** (Brian C), **Striated Bulbuls**, **Great Barbet** and a flock of **Grey-chinned Minivets**. A warming cup of tea at a local tea house sat around the fire revived us before continuing on with a flock of **Olive-backed Pipits**, **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** and a nice male **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin**. With the rain getting more persistent we drove lower down and tried our luck, which was a good move as we saw flocks of **Striated Yuhinas**. At around 400m we found a flock of **Long-tailed Sibias**, and at a fruiting tree we watched a male **Scarlet Finch** which is normally found at much higher altitudes. Also here was a **Barred Cuckoo-dove**, **Green-tailed Sunbird** and more **Beautiful Sibias**.

At the lodge we had lunch and birded the fantastic grounds for an hour where we found a flock in the woods containing **Chestnut-crowned** and a delightful **Rufous-faced Warbler**. Both **Yellow-**



bellied and **White-throated Fantails** were quite showy, as was a flock of **Striated Laughingthrushes**, but a **Dark-necked Tailorbird** was a leader only sighting. On the lake both **Black-backed** and **Slaty-backed Forktails** and **White-capped River-chat** were present, whilst a **Pygmy Wren-babbler** was only heard from some dense scrub.

Luckily the cold front seemed to be moving away despite a spectacular lightning storm. A decidedly warm breeze began to blow in from the plains and we had clear sky for a time which prompted us to drive just up the

road to the bamboo zone. What an excellent decision this turned out to be as we scored with several key species. We hit pay dirt with a quality flock in the bamboo that held a trio of key species,

Indian White-hooded Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar-babbler and several **Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbills**. In fact we had repeated views of the same flock as we followed it up the hill, crossing the road and working its way below us, where we also added **Golden Babbler** and a **Stripe-breasted Woodpecker**. Some flock indeed! There was also a flock of attractive **Silver-eared Mesias** feeding over the road and as we watched them, they were replaced by a group of more demure **Nepal Fulvettas** a short while later.

Day 12 Thursday 26th February

Another day of rain began with us driving up higher in a torrential downpour and mist but we kicked off a great series of birds with a pair of **White-crowned Forktails**, followed by **Long-tailed Thrush, Plain-backed Thrush, Spotted Forktail, Rufous-breasted Bush-robin**, and finally a pair of **Ward's Trogons**. An almost unbelievable find, the female kept coming closer and closer without the prompt of the ipod and we were treated to unbelievable views. A male was also present but remained partially hidden behind us and when we became aware of his presence he promptly flew away and disappeared.

Returned to the lodge for lunch and we had some time to rest during which some of us birded the grounds once again. A flock of **Silver-eared Mesias**, lots of **Black-throated Sunbirds, Maroon Oriole** and **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** were seen, Derek had a group of 3 **Scarlet Finches** and a **Crested Kingfisher** seemed a little out of place perched on the wall beside the tranquil lake. Then we drove along the road a few kilometres and trawled the bamboo area again, this time a different mix of species were present and we got the ball rolling with a small feeding party of **Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes**. A pleasant walk along the road gave us good numbers of birds beginning with more mesias, followed by a flock of **Blue-winged Minlas, Emerald Dove, Common Green Magpie**, a group of **Long-tailed Sibias, Beautiful Sibia, Ashy Bulbul, Pied Flycatcher-shrike** and a mixed flock of fast moving **Striated** and **Black-chinned Yuhinas**. As dusk approached both **Collared** and **Asian Barred Owlets** began to call.

Day 13 Friday 27th February

We began the day with the **Crested Kingfisher** perched next to a **Common Kingfisher** on the lake below the lodge before driving up the Roing-Hunli Road once again. Our first stop was to look for a **Red-headed Trogon** which flew across the front vehicle but could not be relocated, but as luck would have it we found a pair of them a short while later in the same tree as a **Common Green Magpie** and 4 **Golden-throated Barbets**. Continuing ever upwards we scanned the scrub and open area around Trewarigaon and came up trumps with a very co-operative **Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler**, as well as a **Collared Owlet** found by Tracey and a **Red-faced Liocichla** found by Brian P, plus a flock of **Rusty-fronted Barwings**. We also had prolonged flight views of a pair of **Rufous-necked Hornbills** flying across the tree tops in the valley below us and away into the distance. Further on there was a group of **White-naped Yuhinas**, before we located the fabled **Mishmi Wren-babbler** which came in very close and gave an outstanding performance. Despite the gloomy and overcast conditions



it was something of a surprise when the bird remained on the bank above us with a dim torchlight highlighting all its plumage finery!

So we were obviously elated with this and continued driving higher up with a flock of **Grey-sided Laughingthrushes** and a **Steak-breasted Scimitar-babbler** showing well. A few **Dark-breasted Rosefinches** fed beside the road and there was also **Rufous-breasted Bush-robin**, **Striated Laughingthrush**, **Green-tailed Sunbird**, more barwings, and a flock of **Nepal House-martins** flew overhead. **Lunch** was brought to us by our excellent ground crew and as we rounded a corner we found tables and chairs and a hot lunch waiting for us!



Soon afterwards we found another flock with numerous **Rufous-winged Fulvettas**, plus some **Black-faced Warblers** and a **Rufous-capped Babbler**. A flock of spectacular **Golden-breasted Fulvettas** then appeared, before we had nice views of 3 **Maroon-backed Accentors**. Overhead, the improving weather had enticed **Himalayan Griffon Vulture**, **Himalayan Buzzard** and a flock of **Himalayan Swiftlets** to soar above the ridge in the afternoon sunshine. Further

on, a **Chestnut-breasted Hill-partridge** called, another **Plain-backed Thrush** fed beside the road, and a **Large Hawk-cuckoo** flew in to round the day off nicely.

Day 14 Saturday 28th February

Began the day with a soaring **Mountain Hawk-eagle** beside the road that appeared as if by magic from the swirling mist in the valley below us and found a pair of **Sultan Tits**, plus 2 **Spotted Wren-babblers** singing either side of the road. On the drive up there were plenty of **Whiskered Yuhinas**, several **Great Barbets** and a small flock of **Maroon-backed Accentors**, but our aim was to reach Mayodia Pass for the higher altitude specialties.

Just below the old hotel a few kilometres below the pass we came across a sizeable flock of **Stripe-throated** and **Rufous-vented Yuhinas** and also several **Dark-rumped Rosefinch** after a



warming cup of tea. Then it was on to the pass where we found the northern side blocked by several feet of snow but this didn't deter us and despite encountering a few flurries of snow and some sleet we walked a little way down, admiring the **scenery** as we went. In fact after only half a kilometre a flock made their way up straight towards us and paused around a large Pine tree which gave us

decent views of **Stripe-throated Yuhina**, **White-tailed Nuthatch** and amazingly, a single **Fire-tailed Myzornis** that perched close to the tree top, as well as a group of very confident **Brown-throated Fulvettas**. So we returned to the pass and walked the south side, gaining incredible views of a **Bar-winged Wren-babbler** beside the road with ease, as well as a wonderfully confident male **Dark-rumped Rosefinch** but only spotting a distant **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** – although David had a very close encounter during a ‘bush’ stop!



After lunch at the rest house we continued walking down the road after avoiding a severe hail storm and found **Mountain Bulbul**, lots more yuhinas and **Ashy-throated Warbler**. But it was decided to drive down to a lower altitude where a flock of **Black-throated Tits** passed by quickly. Beside a damp gully a quick burst of tape resulted in 3 or even more **Long-billed Wren-babblers** that put on an amazing performance and came to within inches of our feet!

Afterwards, we scoped a **Himalayan Cutia** that was calling repeatedly from the hillside above us, had a **Beautiful Nuthatch** fly overhead and heard a **White-gorgeted Flycatcher** singing from the dense forest beside the road.

Day 15 Sunday 1st March

After another night of heavy rain we set off up into the hills once again but today we were treated to a warm dry day and this was to be the best day of the tour. In fact, it’s one of those days you only dream about! We began with a **Bay Woodpecker** and a small party of **Lesser necklaced**



Laughingthrushes beside the road, followed by calling **Grey Peacock-pheasant** and **Chestnut-breasted Hill-partridge**. Then a **White-gorgeted Flycatcher** joined the dawn chorus and we put in some time and were rewarded with fantastic views of this often tricky species. Whilst watching this little beauty a flock could be heard on the hillside above which fortunately came into view after a tense wait and we hit the ‘mother lode’ with a succession of

key target species beginning with at least two **Beautiful Nuthatches**. As hurried directions were given and scopes locked on target this eastern Himalayan specialty performed admirably and lingered on a mossy branch above us. Then a couple of **Rufous-backed Sibilas** joined it, followed

by both **White-browed** and more importantly a **Black-headed Shrike-babbler**, as well as **Lesser Yellowname** and **Sultan Tit**. The same area also held a calling **Collared Owlet** and a shy **Grey Treepie** that called repeatedly but was only seen by the leader. Meanwhile, a flock of **Golden Babblers** and **Nepal Fulvettas** appeared beside the vehicles before we left this wonderful spot and continued on the drive.

After moving up higher we came across a flock of **Mountain Bulbuls** followed by a flock with **Yellow-cheeked Tits**, **Rusty-fronted Barwings**, **Sultan Tit** and **Black-throated Sunbird**. It was obvious that the good weather was enticing birds out into the open to feed so we decided to walk from here and this turned out to be a very wise decision with a number of very good birds being found. We began with a **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** and **Rufous-bellied Niltava** on the first bend of the road, followed by a group of 5 **Olive-backed Pipits** that lingered for ages in front of us and a cracking male **Rufous-breasted Bush-robin**. Then some movement up ahead caused us all to stop when it became apparent that it was a flock of **Blue-winged Laughingthrushes** feeding in a berry laden bush beside the road, so we watched these very attractive birds for a few minutes and also



saw a few **Striated Laughingthrushes** amongst them. Once the flock had moved on, so did we and a couple of minutes later as we walked below a steep section of hillside off to our right a **Chestnut-headed Tesia** began calling from above us and within less than 30 seconds of the call being played, we were treated to a fantastic show by this little beauty. In fact it is very rare to see this normally shy bird being so bold and sit out in the open allowing repeated

and such clear views. Then we saw another one a short distance away acting more in character before we encountered what was probably the most memorable moment of the entire tour. A random burst of tape resulted in a reply from a bird that is supposedly rarer here than the **Mishmi Wren-babbler** we encountered a few days ago. After a few heart-pounding moments when everything went silent, the birds called again and began moving down the hillside towards us, but always remaining out of sight underneath the vegetation. After a few tactical manoeuvres with the ipod, the birds were drawn across a more open area and into full view and there they were, a flock of at least 5 **Cachar Wedge-billed Wren-babblers**, all chattering and calling as they went. We had the most amazing views of them and over the next few hours found an additional 2 groups, both of which performed admirably. These birds' plumage was much darker than depicted in The Ripley Guide, their song is very different to the one from China I used (even though they responded) and the call of these birds is different to the ones in Nagaland, who won't respond to the call of these birds! Interestingly, the closely related Sikkim Wedge-billed Wren-babbler, which these birds resemble more than populations further east, do not respond to the Cachar call we were hearing today.

Anyway, as elated as we obviously were at the moment it was impossible to switch off just yet as the distinctive call of a **Beautiful Nuthatch** emanated from the valley below us. Although seen well earlier this morning, I think it's true to say everyone still craved 'eyeball popping' views so we ran up the road when the flock seemed to be moving that way, only to find that the birds had doubled back. Peter gave a loud whistle and we ran back down..... and there they were, 5 stunningly

exquisite and truly beautiful **Beautiful Nuthatches**(!), all feeding actively on a moss-encrusted tree at eye level about 40 feet away. Even the **Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler** and a **Collared Owlet** that a few of the group saw moments before these birds were found were forgotten!

Lunch was taken beside the road before we checked out an area higher up where another 2 **Cachar Wedge-billed Wren-babblers** were found and one even followed us back down the road for

several hundred metres, calling all the way. We then saw a close flock of **Yellow-throated Fulvetta**, a **Grey-cheeked Warbler** put in an appearance and also got a response from an **Eye-browed Wren-babbler** which failed to appear, but still a noteworthy record as it may be the first for the area. Walking back down in the late afternoon sunshine things were very quiet although **Red-headed Trogon**, a flock of **White-naped Yuhinas**, and another large flock with **Rufous-winged Fulvetta**, **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Yellow-cheeked Tit**, **Golden Babbler**, **Striated Bulbul** and **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** were all seen well. We finished the day with good looks at a big flock of **Black-throated Tits**.



Day 16 Monday 2nd March

We headed straight up to the old hotel just below **Mayodia Pass**, pausing along the way to look at a **Large Niltava** perched on a post beside the road. Clear blue skies greeted our arrival and huge snow capped peaks dominated the surrounding area and the picture was complete with several **Yellow-billed Blue Magpies** present and giving superb views as opposed to our last visit. In fact several of these long-tailed avian jewels were on either side of the road below the hotel and it was



fascinating to watch these beauties flying around us, calling all the time. Our first views of the day of **Brown-throated Fulvetta** followed, before we drove up to the **pass** and this time there was a lot of snow present on the southern side this time. On arrival at the pass we walked along the road through a winter wonderland of snow covered trees

to try and find a feeding flock, but it was very quiet so after a kilometre we turned around and headed back up, but not before the obligatory snowball fight!



Walking back down the other side of the pass was far more profitable as we immediately had a flock with several **Golden-breasted Fulvetta**s being joined by our first **Manipur Fulvetta**. As we rounded a corner the distinctive call of a **Sclater's Monal** could be heard from the valley below us which prompted several of us to run

back up the hill and find an opening from which to scan the tree tops below, but unfortunately there was no sign of this mythical creature. An eclipse plumaged **Fire-tailed Sunbird** was next up and was joined at the top of a moss-encrusted tree by a couple of **White-tailed Nuthatches** before we had lunch at the hotel.



By now it really was very warm so we continued walking down, seeing a couple of **Chestnut-crowned (Red-headed) Laughingthrushes** beside the road, before a mixed flock of **Brown-throated** and the range-restricted **Manipur Fulvetta**s treated us to the most amazing display in a small tree beside the road. However, one of the main highlights of our stay in these hills happened when we walked down through a large area of Bamboo and heard the soft 'bubbling' call of a **Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler** from a long way down the hill below us. After just one quiet call on the ipod the bird immediately responded and kept coming closer and closer until it appeared low down right beside us where it sat for several minutes, calling repeatedly. After a while it flew across the road and spent even longer in a tree directly over the road where we could look up at its distinctive silhouette with the ridiculous down-curved bill showing well. We spent a long time

savouring the most amazing views of what can be a very tricky species to see well but there was still a lot to find here so continued walking. Nearby a **White-browed Bush-robin** called but didn't show, which cannot be said of the little group of **Streak-throated Barwings** that performed admirably.

Now this section of the walk began to go really quiet so we drove a little lower and walked down through fine forest but it was still quiet this late in the day, with only a flock of **Black-faced**



Warblers and an uncooperative but very vocal **Spotted Wren-babbler** of any note.

But our day wasn't over as Peter had arranged for our dinner to be brought up to us, so we helped the drivers collect wood and soon had a roaring bonfire to warm us up in the cool evening air. As we sat around the roaring camp fire, drinking beer and wine, staring at the amazingly clear starlit sky and listening to 60's music it suddenly struck us how surreal this evening was turning out to be. After a delicious meal we drove back up into the hills and tried several places for **Hodgson's Frogmouth**, eventually hearing one on the way back down that failed to appear. However, our day ended with a **Leopard Cat** walking down the road in front of us, seemingly oblivious to

our presence and we followed it for several minutes in the headlights before it disappeared into the darkness.

Day 17 Tuesday 3rd March

Sadly, this was our last morning in the fabled Mishmi Hills and we finished off our stay here in fine style by birding the gardens for the first few hours of the day. What a good move this turned out to be as the grounds were literally jumping with birds and the large flowering trees turned out to be very productive. Many birds were feeding in them and we saw a flock of **Lesser Necklaced**

Laughingthrushes, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Streaked Spiderhunter, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Rufous-backed, Beautiful and lots of **Long-tailed Sibias**, and a flock of **Himalayan Black and White-throated**

Bulbuls. We were really enjoying watching all the activity and commotion as all these birds fed, when our attention was drawn towards a couple of distinctive dark-looking birds with bright white heads. After studying them for a while and then racing around trying to gather up the rest of the group, it was apparent that we were looking at the white-headed race of **Black Bulbul** – and apparently only the 3rd record for



India. A couple of birds had been found in quick succession in Namdapha a few years ago which constituted the first records and now we had added our own little piece of history as well!

But these two little beauties didn't linger long and after a few minutes they flew off and left us to concentrate our efforts around the lakes. A **Bay Woodpecker** was soon lured in and performed amazingly well for this often elusive species, whilst at the water's edge both **Black-backed** and **Slaty-backed Forktails** and a **White-capped River-chat** were present. Both **Slaty-bellied Tesia** and **Pygmy Wren-babbler** were next up around the lawn, and in the low-lying scrub and bushes at the edge of the garden there was a flock of **Silver-eared Mesia** and **Nepal Fulvetta's** busily going about their business. The Bamboo had been really good to us throughout the trip and this morning would prove no exception as we had in-your-face views of **Rufous-faced Warbler**, as well as **Yellow-bellied Fantail** and a confiding **White-spectacled Warbler**. But the best was yet to come as we heard the distinctive call of a **Collared Treepie** and enticed it to fly in to a tall tree beside us where it



showed off its finery to the entire group. Always a much-wanted bird and a pleasure to see, this 5-star species gave walk away views in the end and seemed a perfect way to round off an exciting couple of hours birding. As always in birding there are 'the ones that got away' and in this category we had to file an unresponsive but nonetheless calling **Pale-headed Woodpecker** which just would not respond to the tape, but we weren't so bothered with the calling **Red-headed Trogon** as we'd already had decent views.



So we eventually left and drove down to Roing, stopping to fill up with fuel and as we gazed a little forlornly at the forested hills above us, an **Amur Falcon** flew over which was something of a surprise and a pair of displaying **Crested Goshawks** appeared in the blue sky. The rest of the bumpy journey down to the shores of the Brahmaputra was enlivened by a quick stop to look at a **White-rumped Vulture** and a **Booted Eagle**, and as we watched them fly overhead we heard the distinctive song of a **Rufous-**

necked Laughingthrush which prompted some of us to wander through the scrub and get our second view of this species. Brian C had also spotted a **Tickell's Thrush** along the way to add to our very impressive list of quality birds.

The ferry crossing was an uneventful affair apart from a flock of **Red-crested Pochards** and our only **Eurasian Curlew** of the tour. So once everyone had made it safely to the other side we had our final picnic **lunch** before saying our farewells to Peter's superb ground crew. They had worked

extremely hard to set up our camp, cook an excellent selection of meals and deliver our hot lunches to us out in the field every day. No-one could have asked more of them and they had formed an integral and very important part of our trip, so it was with much sadness that we said our goodbyes. All that remained was for us to drive back to the hotel in Tinsukhia, where everyone enjoyed a hot shower and yet another great meal together.

Day 18 Wednesday 4th March

After bidding our farewell to Peter and the drivers, we flew back to Delhi where we walked up the road from our hotel to our favourite restaurant and dined in splendid fashion, making numerous toasts to our success. And when the tour eventually concluded on Day 19 after our arrival at Heathrow we said our own goodbyes and set out on separate journeys home.

On behalf of Peter and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the group for making it such a pleasure to lead. This tour produced more species than any comparative tour to the region, including many rare, local, endemic and Eastern Himalayan specialties, as well as a diverse range of experiences. From boat rides and rafting to jeep safaris and elephant rides this tour gave us the works and without Peter's organisation all of this simply would not have been possible. As ever, I am in his debt for yet another superb tour to the Mishmi Hills.

Nick Bray.



BIRDLIST FOR THE MISHMI HILLS & BEYOND TOUR 2009

Sunday 15th February – Tuesday 3rd March 2009

SPECIES Blue highlighting = Subcontinent Endemic		SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Seen at Okhla Bird Sanctuary and also very Common at Dibru-Saikhowa.
2.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Only seen as we crossed the Brahmaputra from Saikhowa Ghat.
3.	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	An endangered species. Several seen during our visits to Kaziranga National Park.
4.	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Seen at Kaziranga NP.
5.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen on 10 dates at various locations.
6.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Common throughout the first half of the tour.
7.	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Just a few seen at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.
8.	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	10 seen at Okhla on our first day.
9.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Regularly seen during the first half of the tour.
10.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Common during the first half of the tour.
11.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Seen in small numbers during the first few days.
12.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	A recent split. Seen on 9 dates at various sites.
13.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
14.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	4+ were seen at Okhla, followed by sightings on another 3 dates.
15.	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	A common sight in the lowlands.
16.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Singles observed at Dibru-Saikhowa and at the lake below our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
17.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	A regular sight in the lowlands.
18.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Several present at Kaziranga.
19.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	At least 3 were seen on our rafting excursion along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.
20.	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	A few seen at Kaziranga including a family group of 3 in the Central Range.
21.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Only seen on the first day at Okhla where we counted at least 10 individuals.
22.	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Seen at Okhla and both days at Kaziranga.
23.	Indian Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. We were lucky to encounter a flock of 13 at Okhla feeding in the dry fields.
24.	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	First seen as we drove from Guwahati to Nameri Eco-Camp and subsequently seen on 4 further dates across Assam.
25.	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	A globally endangered species. 100+ were present at Guwahati rubbish dump. Also a few seen at Kaziranga National Park as well.
26.	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Seen in good numbers on 6 dates.
27.	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
28.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Quite common and seen on 10 dates.
29.	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidornis melanotos</i>	A good spot by Derek of a single bird at Okhla.
30.	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Seen several times during the first half of the tour.
31.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Just a drake was found at Okhla, before reaching Dibru-Saikhowa where several were seen in the big wildfowl flock.
32.	Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	At least 3 drakes and 2 females were present on a lake near Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.
33.	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Seen on 5 dates at scattered locations.
34.	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Seen on 4 dates.

35.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Seen on 4 dates and in good numbers.
36.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen on 5 dates in the lowlands.
37.	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
38.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
39.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Seen on 4 dates.
40.	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Single observed at Okhla, plus a few present at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.
41.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Only seen at Okhla Barrage.
42.	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Only seen twice – at Dibru-Saikhowa and a large flock of 30+ on the Brahmaputra River as we returned to Saikhowa Ghat from the Mishmi Hills
43.	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Ever present on the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri.
44.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Just a few of this classy raptor seen across the Assamese lowlands.
45.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>	Seen in Delhi, Guwahati and Tinsukhia.
46.	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Seen at the same places as the previous species, but noticeably commoner in the north-east.
47.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Singles seen on 3 dates.
48.	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Singles seen at Nameri and Mishmi Hills.
49.	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>	A recent split from Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> . Seen on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills.
50.	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Quite common at Nameri & Kaziranga.
51.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Single observed along the floodplain beside the Brahmaputra River as we left the Mishmi Hills was the only sighting.
52.	Mountain Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	A couple seen on 28 Feb as we drove up towards Mayodia Pass. The first one appeared out of the mist and low cloud beside us and rode a thermal up over us and disappeared.
53.	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus limnaeetus</i>	A relatively recent split with Crested Hawk-eagle <i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i> found in Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Seen on several occasions at Nameri and Kaziranga.
54.	Indian Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Several seen in the Mishmi Hills.
55.	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	A couple good views in Kaziranga on 2 dates.
56.	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	After a distant individual at Okhla, a few were observed in the Mishmi Hills on 3 dates.
57.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Observed on 4 dates at varied locations.
58.	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	Several pairs present in the Central & Western Ranges at Kaziranga National Park.
59.	Pallas' Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	This awesome bird was a regular sighting at both Nameri & Kaziranga National Park. Several occupied nests were seen.
60.	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Single observed at Okhla on our first day.
61.	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	We had very close views of a lone bird perched on the track in front of us as we drove to Saikhowa Ghat on our way to the Mishmi Hills and another was seen in a distant tree at the same spot. As we left the Mishmi Hills on 3 March a couple flew over as we made our way along the north bank of the Brahmaputra River.
62.	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	A recent split from what was formerly known as Slender-billed Vulture. First seen in Kaziranga NP on 20 Feb. A tree full of this endangered species was then observed as we drove to Saikhowa Ghat on 24 Feb.
63.	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Quite common this year in Kaziranga, with some very close views.

64.	Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Decent views of a couple birds soaring above us in the Mishmi Hills on 27 February.
65.	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	A cracking male flew away from us as we sailed along the Dibru River, with a 2 nd calendar year male seen later the same day.
66.	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Spectacular males were seen at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks.
67.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	At least 3 were observed at Okhla, followed by another couple at Kaziranga on 21 February.
68.	Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>	After much searching a superb individual was scoped at the top of a huge <i>Bombax</i> tree at Nameri National Park.
69.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen on 8 dates at various sites.
70.	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>	A surprise sighting of a single bird flying over us as we left the Mishmi Hills. The distinctive underwing pattern proved the identification beyond doubt.
71.	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>	The nesting pair at Nameri Eco-Camp showed very well every day.
72.	Red-headed Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	Jo spotted a perched bird as we approached Roing on our way to the Mishmi Hills.
73.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Seen on 7 dates at various locations.
74.	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	A pair were seen at Okhla on our first day.
75.	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Heard at Dibru-Saikhowa and seen well in Kaziranga.
76.	White-cheeked Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila atrogularis</i>	One of the major finds of the tour as we found a small group at Panbari Forest, which showed to a lucky few!
77.	Chestnut-breasted Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila mandellii</i>	Heard a couple of times in Mishmi Hills.
78.	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	A couple were flushed from one of our Elephants during our early morning ride at Kaziranga NP.
79.	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Seen well at Nameri and Kaziranga.
80.	Sclater's Monal	<i>Lophophorus sclateri</i>	This mythical beast was heard below Mayodia Pass one morning.
81.	Grey Peacock-pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	Heard on 2 mornings on the lower slopes of the Mishmi Hills but were non-responsive.
82.	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos lathami</i>	Seen on a couple of occasions at Kaziranga NP.
83.	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Only seen at Okhla Bird Sanctuary on our first day.
84.	Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	Two prolonged flight views of a male during our early morning Elephant ride in the Central Range at Kaziranga NP was one of those moments none of us will ever forget.
85.	Brown Crake	<i>Amaurornis akool</i>	Whilst watching a pair of Swamp Francolins, a single bird walked out of the Elephant grass and proceeded to feed out in the open giving great views to everyone.
86.	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	A common sighting in the first half of the tour.
87.	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Only seen at Okhla & Dibru-Saikhowa this year.
88.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen on 4 dates in small numbers.
89.	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Only seen at Okhla & Dibru-Saikhowa this year.
90.	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	We counted 13 during our rafting excursion along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri. One of the star birds of the tour and we were privileged to have very close views.
91.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	Only seen at Dibru-Saikhowa.
92.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Seen on 3 dates.

93.	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Seen at Kaziranga & Dibru-Saikhowa.
94.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	A few present at Dibru-Saikhowa NP.
95.	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	A daily sighting along the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri. During our rafting trip there we grounded our rafts on a shingle bank and had outstanding views of a colony where we estimated at least 500 birds were present and giving outstanding views at very close quarters..
96.	Great Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>	Another of our target birds during our rafting, a pair were quite close as we sailed by them.
97.	Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus coromandelicus</i>	A recent split from Eurasian Thick-knee. An out of place pair were scoped in the middle of the river at Nameri.
98.	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Common during the first half of the tour.
99.	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus duvaucelii</i>	Seen every day at Nameri National Park.
100.	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	One of the key birds at Kaziranga, and fortunately quite common there.
101.	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	Just a single seen at Okhla.
102.	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Small flocks were present at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks.
103.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
104.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Several seen at Dibrus-Saikhowa and on both river crossings to the Mishmi Hills.
105.	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	2 seen whilst rafting down the Jai-Bhorelli River.
106.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Single observed on the banks of the Brahmaputra as we returned from the Mishmi Hills.
107.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	A regular sighting during the first half of the tour.
108.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	A few seen during the first half of the tour.
109.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	A few seen during the first half of the tour.
110.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common – seen on 10 dates.
111.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	A couple were found at Kaziranga.
112.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	Scarce this year, and seen on just 3 dates.
113.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	A few present in Kaziranga.
114.	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Only seen at Okhla.
115.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Seen on 6 dates at scattered lowland sites.
116.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Just a few seen in the lowlands of Assam.
117.	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	A small flock at a roadside marsh below our lodge at Kaziranga were the only definite ones.
118.	Great Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	4+ at Dibru-Saikhowa and seen on both crossings of the Brahmaputra River.
119.	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	Only seen at Okhla.
120.	Common Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Only seen at Okhla.
121.	Steppe Gull	<i>Larus barabensis</i>	Several large gulls at Okhla were probably this species, but none were seen close enough to confirm the identification.
122.	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Regularly seen at Nameri, Kaziranga & along the Brahmaputra.
123.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Only seen at Kaziranga National Park.
124.	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
125.	Green Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	A few seen at Nameri, Kaziranga & Panbari.
126.	Mountain Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Seen on 6 dates at various sites during the tour.
127.	Oriental Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Only seen this year at Nameri NP.
128.	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Our last trip tick as we returned to Delhi airport for the flight home.
129.	Red Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Only seen at Okhla and Kaziranga.
130.	Eurasian Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Only seen in Delhi on our first day.

131.	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
132.	Barred Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	Seen on 4 dates in the Mishmi Hills, with a few coming regularly to a fruiting tree.
133.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Pretty common this year and seen most days in the Mishmi Hills and also at Kaziranga.
134.	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron p. phoenicoptera</i>	First seen at Okhla and observed daily at Nameri and Kaziranga National Parks in small numbers.
135.	Vernal Hanging-parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	Particularly common this year at Nameri with numerous sightings along the riverside trail.
136.	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>	Just a couple seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga National Park.
137.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	A common sight and sound during the first half of the tour in the lowlands.
138.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Seen daily at Kaziranga National Park.
139.	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	The commonest <i>psittacid</i> at Nameri and Kaziranga and observed in good numbers there. The views at Nameri Eco-Camp were superb!
140.	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis someratii</i>	Good views of a lone bird in a large Bombax tree at Nameri National Park.
141.	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Amazingly, only heard this year at Nameri.
142.	Large Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococyx sparverioides</i>	Just a single seen one evening in Mishmi Hills.
143.	Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	Seen extremely well on several occasions during our jeep safaris at Kaziranga NP.
144.	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Seen in the last hour of daylight in the Central Range at Kaziranga.
145.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Seen on 4 dates at various sites.
146.	Brown Hawk-owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	The call of this bird at Nameri Eco-Camp can really drive you nuts! We saw it 2 nights running and then heard several near our lodge at Kaziranga National Park.
147.	Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	Singles observed along the Jai-Bhorelli River during our rafting excursion and in the Central Range at Kaziranga National Park.
	Himalayan Wood-owl	<i>Strix nivicola</i>	A recent split from Tawny Owl. Heard near our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
148.	Oriental Scops-owl	<i>scops sunia</i>	An amazingly responsive bird at Nameri Eco-Camp fluttered over our heads before circling us twice and landing in a 1 metre high sapling one evening. Another below our lodge at Kaziranga came in to the tape but kept just a metre or so off the ground and seemed to be hunting amidst the tall vegetation.
149.	Mountain Scops-owl	<i>Otus spilkocephalus</i>	A non-responsive bird called continuously one night below our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
150.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Day roosting birds seen at Okhla & Kaziranga.
151.	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Easily seen at Kaziranga and Nameri.
152.	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	We eventually tracked down a calling bird in the Mishmi Hills to a roadside tree, seconds before a flock of Beautiful Nuthatches appeared. Tracey found our second one below Tewarigaon.
153.	Hodgson's Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomos hodgsoni</i>	An unresponsive bird called briefly one night in the Mishmi Hills.
154.	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Heard a couple of nights before flying over Nameri Eco-Camp.
155.	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensi</i>	Regularly seen during the first half of the tour.
156.	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>	A couple large flocks seen in the Mishmi Hills.
157.	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	One of our last trip ticks seen in Delhi on our last morning of the tour.
158.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	A large flock was present at Dibru-Saikhowa.

159.	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.
160.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Seen on a couple of occasions during our jeep safaris in Kaziranga and also, quite oddly, in the Mishmi Hills on 26 February.
161.	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	Good views of 2 pairs in the Mishmi Hills.
162.	Ward's Trogon	<i>Harpactes wardi</i>	We scoped a superb female in the pouring rain of the Mishmi Hills, oblivious to the male behind us until we saw him flying away! A true Eastern Himalayan speciality and one of the birds of the trip. Another was heard a few kilometres below Mayodia Pass a few days later.
163.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Singles present at Kaziranga & Dibru-Saikhowa.
164.	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Common and seen on 13 dates.
165.	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Amazingly seen on 9 dates. Apart from the Jai-Bhorelli River it was almost a daily sighting on the small lake below our lodge in Mishmi Hills.
166.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Seen on 10 dates at various sites.
167.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common and seen on 13 dates. One morning it was perched next to a Crested Kingfisher below our lodge in the Mishmi Hills and looked tiny!
168.	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	A small group present in the grassland at Nameri Tiger Reserve were the only ones seen.
169.	Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Seen on 6 dates in small numbers at various sites.
170.	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	Pairs seen at Nameri and Kaziranga.
171.	Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	An Eastern Himalayan speciality. After first hearing and getting brief views in the Mishmi Hills, we had superb flight views of a pair skimming the tree tops and away across the valley below us in the early morning light – an amazing sight indeed. Also heard a few more times as well
172.	Great Pied Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Very good close views on 5 dates at Nameri and Kaziranga National Parks.
173.	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	First seen from the dining room of our lodge at Kaziranga and then in Panbari Forest the following day.
174.	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	A flyover pair showed really well as we walked through the grasslands at Nameri.
175.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Seen just once at Kaziranga.
176.	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates.
177.	Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	Seen on 4 dates in the Mishmi Hills.
178.	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	Just a few seen at Nameri & Kaziranga.
179.	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen by a few of the group during breakfast at the roof garden of our hotel in Delhi on the last morning.
180.	Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	THE sound of the Himalayas. A daily sighting in the Mishmi Hills.
181.	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	Regularly seen at Nameri and Kaziranga.
182.	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	Seen on 6 dates at various lowland sites.
183.	Stripe-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos atratus</i>	Seen in the Mishmi Hills and was something of a surprise being west of its usual range.
184.	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>	Brief views below Mayodia Pass on 28 Feb.
185.	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	Single observed well in Kaziranga.
	Greater Yellownappe	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	Frustratingly only heard at Nameri this year.
186.	Lesser Yellownappe	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	Seen at Nameri and near our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.

187.	Grey-faced Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	Seen several times in the grounds of our lodges at Kaziranga & Mishmi Hills.
188.	Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	Usually a tough bird to see well, but the confiding bird in the gardens of our lodge in Mishmi Hills obviously hadn't read the script!
189.	Pale-headed Woodpecker	<i>Gecinulus grantia</i>	Heard in 2 different areas of Bamboo in the Mishmi Hills but did not respond to the tape, although we came pretty close on both occasions.
190.	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Seen just once in the Central Range at Kaziranga.
191.	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Subject of a recent split with the Sri Lanka birds now deemed an endemic separate species. Seen on 5 consecutive days at Nameri & Kaziranga.
192.	Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	Heard distantly in the Mishmi Hills on 27 Feb but failed to respond to the tape.
193.	Blue-naped Pitta	<i>Pitta nipalensis</i>	5 calling birds heard in Kaziranga on 19 Feb. If it wasn't for the surprise appearance of a rather aggressive male Indian Elephant which forced us to move away quickly, we would have had the good views a following vehicle had 5 minutes later!
194.	Bengal Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	A couple were present in the dried fields as we approached the Eastern Range at Kaziranga.
195.	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	A few seen as we drove to Roing.
196.	Sand Lark	<i>Calendrella raytal</i>	A daily sighting beside the Jai-Bhorelli River at Nameri and also seen at Dibru-Sikhowa.
197.	Dusky Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	Only seen at Indira Ghandi International Airport on arrival in Delhi.
198.	Common Sand-martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	A couple were seen at Okhla.
199.	Grey-throated Sand-martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>	A split from Plain Martin. A common bird of all rivers visited during the tour.
200.	Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>	Seen in small numbers on 3 dates whilst in the Mishmi Hills.
201.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen on 10 dates.
202.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla Flava thunbergi</i>	Seen at Okhla and Kaziranga.
	<i>Syke's Wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla flava beema</i>	Single seen at Dibru-Saikhowa on 23 February.
203.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Singles observed in the Mishmi Hills on 3 dates.
204.	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Frequently encountered during the first half of the tour.
205.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alboides</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
	<i>Amur White Wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla lugens leucopsis</i>	Seen on 9 dates.
206.	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madarapatensis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Single found during rafting at Nameri.
207.	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Several small parties were present along the Roing-Hunli Road in the Mishmi Hills.
208.	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	Seen at Nameri, Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa and during our ferry crossing of the Brahmaputra.
209.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi rufulus</i>	Just a few seen at Kaziranga and beside the Brahmaputra River as we left Mishmi Hills.
210.	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Seen in small numbers at Nameri & Kaziranga.
211.	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	Reasonably common at Kaziranga.
212.	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Seen just the once at Nameri.
213.	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>	One of the recent splits from the Ripley Guide with Malabar Woodshrike <i>Tephrodornis sylvicola</i> now being recognised from South West India. A flock was present during one of our walks in Nameri and a small group greeted our arrival in the Mishmi Hills.

214.	Pied Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	Seen a couple of times in the Mishmi Hills.
215.	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Quite common this year and seen several sites.
216.	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	A few seen at Nameri and Kaziranga.
217.	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	Seen several times at Nameri, where usually found in mixed feeding flocks.
218.	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	Also present at Nameri and Mishmi Hills.
219.	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	A recent split, with Orange Minivet <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i> now being found in South India and Sri Lanka. Regularly seen throughout the tour.
220.	Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	A small flock in the Mishmi Hills on 25 Feb was our only sighting this year.
221.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Seen most days.
222.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates.
223.	Himalayan Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	Another recent split, with Square-tailed Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i> being found in S India and Sri Lanka. A common sight and sound from Nameri to the Mishmi Hills.
	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus leucothorax</i>	A pair of this white-headed race of Black Bulbul was present on the last morning at our lodge in the Mishmi Hills. Associating with a mixed flock in a flowering <i>Bombax</i> tree they were present for 10 minutes before leaving with the majority of the bulbul flock never to be seen again. An exceedingly rare find and only the 3 rd record for India.
224.	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>	First seen in small numbers at Nameri before becoming quite common in Mishmi Hills.
225.	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mcclllandii</i>	Seen on 3 consecutive dates in the Mishmi Hills.
226.	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaveolus</i>	Flocks seen at Nameri, Panbari and the lower slopes of the Mishmi Hills.
227.	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>	Subject of a 3 way split according to the Ripley Guide, with endemics now in W Ghats & Sri Lanka. Fairly common at Nameri this year.
228.	Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	Several large flocks present in the Mishmi Hills.
229.	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia ciphia</i>	Singles present on 2 dates at Nameri.
230.	Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis h. hardwickii</i>	First seen at Nameri and then a daily sighting in the Mishmi Hills in small numbers.
231.	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis a. aurifrons</i>	Seen on 4 dates at Nameri and Kaziranga.
232.	Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Several present in Panbari Forest on 22 Feb.
233.	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates at various sites.
234.	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	Common and seen on 13 dates.
235.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Singles at Okhla, Kaziranga and near Roing.
236.	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea styani</i>	Just one sighting in Kaziranga but also heard on a couple of occasions as well.
237.	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	Fairly common at Nameri and seen frequently in the Mishmi Hills.
238.	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Taxonomic status unclear with Peninsular India birds possibly warranting full species status. Seen or heard at most sites visited.
239.	Green Cochoa	<i>Cochoa viridis</i>	Always a frustrating bird and birds heard in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga and at Panbari Forest failed to respond to the tape and were in areas we could not access to track them down – as always seems to be the case!
240.	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Seen daily at Nameri and also once in the Mishmi Hills as well.
241.	Blue Whistling-thrush	<i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	Common. Seen on 10 dates mainly along the river at Nameri and in the Mishmi Hills most days.

242.	Tickell's Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>	Brian & Jo's vehicle saw this nice thrush just after Roing on our return to Assam.
243.	Black-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>	This exquisite <i>turdus</i> showed very well at Nameri feeding in the leaf litter 2 days running.
244.	Plain-backed Thrush	<i>Zoothera m. mollissima</i>	The commonest <i>zoothera</i> species and seen on 4 dates in the Mishmi Hills. We had a couple of good scope views.
245.	Long-tailed Thrush	<i>Zoothera dixonii</i>	Single bird observed feeding in the road as we drove up to Mayodia Pass. Everyone had good scope views despite the mist and showed off its ear covert patches and wing bars. The previous species was also seen within half an hour of this cracker allowing us to note the differences easily.
246.	Lesser Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx leucophrys</i>	At Panbari we had this and the following species calling either side of the path along a dried up stream at the same time. This bird showed briefly on a number of occasions for those that persevered. It didn't help when a Streaked Wren-babbler <i>Napothera brevicaudata</i> and a possible Spot-throated Babbler <i>Pellorneum albiventre</i> appeared at the same spot to distract us!
247.	Rusty-bellied Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx hyperythra</i>	Seen by a few lucky observers one morning in Nameri and also at Panbari forest with the previous species.
248.	Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>	A recent split from the more northerly species. Seen most days along the Roing-Hunli Road in the Mishmi Hills.
249.	Rufous-breasted Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i>	This beautiful bird frequents the roadside verges in the Mishmi Hills and was seen on 4 consecutive days in small numbers.
250.	White-browed Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus</i>	A non-responsive bird was heard calling from the roadside as we walked down from Mayodia Pass.
251.	Himalayan Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	Heard 3 days in a row in the grassland of Nameri and Kaziranga but never really showed well enough for us to count it on our lists.
252.	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>	A nice male was seen near Nameri Eco-Camp.
253.	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Just a single seen at Nameri this year.
254.	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
255.	White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	A pair was seen along the Roing-Hunli Road in the Mishmi Hills.
256.	Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	A pair was ever present at the lake below our lodge in the Mishmi Hills with the next species.
257.	Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	First seen at one of the forest ponds in Nameri Tiger Reserve, and then seen every day on the lake below our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
258.	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	Seen on 3 consecutive days in the Mishmi Hills.
259.	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	Seen a couple times along the Jai-Bhorelli River.
260.	Hodgson's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>	A pair frequented the Jai-Bhorelli River and gave good views.
261.	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	A regular sighting in the Mishmi Hills this year.
262.	Plumbeous Water-redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	A common bird along fast-flowing rivers in the region.
263.	White-capped River-chat	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Not seen until we got to the Mishmi Hills, with a regular pair present on the lake below our lodge.
264.	Brown Rock-chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Only seen in Delhi at either end of the tour.
265.	Pied Buschat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	Just a couple seen at Okhla on our first day.

266.	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata maura</i>	A regular sighting during the first half of the tour.
267.	White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucura</i>	A superb male flew in and landed below the watchtower at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
268.	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	Scarce this year and seen only on 2 dates.
269.	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	Very nice views at Nameri this year.
270.	White-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula monileger</i>	After a singing bird failed to respond to the tape, we had a very obliging individual beside the road in Mishmi Views which gave walk-away views.
271.	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>	A female of the <i>aestigma</i> eastern race gave us a few headaches before obliging with some decent scope views at Nameri.
272.	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	A recent split from Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i> . Seen every day in Kaziranga.
273.	Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula s. strophciata</i>	Some nice views on 4 dates in the Mishmi Hills.
274.	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula h. hyperythra</i>	A male showed quite well beside the road in the Mishmi Hills.
275.	Pale-chinned Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis polioyenys</i>	Great views of a single bird in Nameri this year.
276.	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	Quite common at Nameri this year.
277.	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	A couple of males were seen at Nameri.
278.	Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>	Nice scope views of a perched male in the Mishmi Hills.
279.	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	Seen on 4 dates at Nameri and the lower sections of the Mishmi Hills.
280.	Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>	Males seen on 3 dates in the Mishmi Hills.
281.	Blue-winged Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax squamatus</i>	A feeding party beside the Roing-Hunli Road in the Mishmi Hills lingered and allowed everyone to get excellent views.
282.	Scaly Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax subunicolor</i>	Only heard in the Mishmi Hills this year.
283.	Red-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>	Also known as Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush. Here of the <i>nigrimentum</i> race and seen a couple of times in the Mishmi Hills. A pair just below Mayodia Pass showed very well.
284.	Red-faced Liocichla	<i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>	Found by Brian P just below the small village of Tewarigaon and seen briefly by a few in the group. Also heard calling a few days later.
285.	Rufous-necked Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ruficollis</i>	A flock of 10+ were seen just above our lodge on arrival in the Mishmi Hills. Also a flock of 6+ were found beside the Brahmaputra River as we returned to Assam on 3 rd March.
286.	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax affinis</i>	Unfortunately only heard in the Mishmi Hills this year.
287.	Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>	A daily sighting in the Mishmi Hills.
288.	Grey-sided Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax caerulatus</i>	A small flock were present beside the road on our drive up to Mayodia Pass one morning and showed quite well foraging in the leaf litter.
289.	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	Small flocks seen on 3 dates in the Mishmi Hills.
290.	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	First seen by Derek in the gulley below our lodge at Kaziranga, followed by a pair beside the bamboo a few kilometres further up the road above our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
291.	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	A small flock passed below the Roing-Hunli Road in the Maishmi Hills, followed by a large feeding flock in the gardens of our lodge there a few days later.
292.	Jerdon's Babbler	<i>Chrysomma altirostre griseigulare</i>	This classy babbler showed well in the tall grasslands of Dibru-Saikhowa giving really nice views.

293.	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>	After only hearing this grassland specialist in Kaziranga, we had cracking views at Dibru-Saikhowa on numerous occasions.
294.	Striped Tit Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>	A common bird at Nameri and Panbari and also heard on the lower slopes of the Mishmi Hills.
295.	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>	A regular sight and sound in the Mishmi Hills.
296.	Rufous-fronted Babbler	<i>Stachyris rufifrons</i>	Brief views of a calling bird at Kaziranga.
297.	Golden Babbler	<i>Stachyris chrysie</i>	Seen most days in the Mishmi Hills.
298.	Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	Seen just once in a mixed flock in the Mishmi Hills.
299.	Slender-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides longirostris</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. This grassland specialist was scoped from one of the watch towers at Kaziranga.
300.	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	Small groups showed well at Okhla and Dibru-Saikhowa this year.
301.	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudata</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A couple seen at Okhla this year.
302.	Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Xiphirhynchus superciliaris</i>	Stunning views were had this year of an extremely approachable bird amidst the Bamboo below Mayodia Pass.
303.	Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	Good views of an obliging individual in the higher parts of the Mishmi Hills on 27 th Feb in close proximity to a flock of Grey-sided Laughingthrushes <i>Garrulax caerulatus</i> as well as a couple others heard calling a few days later.
304.	White-browed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>	Seen at the Tea Gardens and also behind our lodge at Kaziranga. Heard in Mishmi Hills as well
305.	Large Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus hypoleucos</i>	Heard on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills, and also seen briefly by the leaders.
306.	Long-billed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps</i>	A couple were present in a mixed flock with Indian White-hooded Babblers <i>Gampsorhynchus rufulus</i> and Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis atosuperciliaris</i> in the Bamboo zone near our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
307.	Fire-tailed Myzornis	<i>Myzornis pyrrhoura</i>	A good find at Mayodia Pass of a male in a mixed flock during a snow storm, with another seen briefly by the leader later the same day.
308.	Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	Quite common in the Mishmi Hills with several flocks present.
309.	Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality and seen well on a couple of occasions in the Mishmi Hills.
310.	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	Only seen once this year, in the lower areas of the Mishmi Hills.
311.	Striated Yuhina	<i>Staphida castaneiceps</i>	A common bird in the Mishmi Hills.
312.	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	A daily sighting in the Mishmi Hills, usually in company with the previous species.
313.	White-naped Yuhina	<i>Yuhina bakeri</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Several groups seen very well in the Mishmi Hills.
314.	Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	Seen on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills, usually in mixed feeding flocks.
315.	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>	A common bird in the higher elevations of the Mishmi Hills.
316.	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>	Seen on 2 dates in the Mishmi Hills.
317.	Yellow-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe cinerea</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen well in the Mishmi Hills on 4 dates.
318.	Golden-breasted Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe chrysotis</i>	Several small groups of this stunning bird were seen in the Mishmi Hills.
319.	Brown-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe ludlowi</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen at Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills on several occasions this year.

320.	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!
321.	Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Quite common on the lower slopes of the Mishmi Hills this year.
322.	Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	Very common and seen daily in the Mishmi Hills.
323.	Streak-throated Barwing	<i>Actinodura walderi</i>	A small flock were present beside the road as we walked down from Mayodia Pass.
324.	Rufous-backed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia annectans</i>	Seen on a couple of occasions in the Mishmi Hills
325.	Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen well in the Mishmi Hills on 3 dates.
326.	Beautiful Sibia	<i>Heterophasia pulchella</i>	A common bird in the Mishmi Hills.
327.	Indian White-hooded Babbler	<i>Gampsorhynchus rufulus</i>	A pair present behind our lodge at Kaziranga was only the 2 nd record for the area. 3 were also found in a quality mixed feeding flock in the Bamboo zone near our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
328.	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyanouoptera</i>	Several small flocks were observed below 300m in the Mishmi Hills.
329.	Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	Only seen once in the Mishmi Hills – but still a very nice view!
330.	White-browed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	A fine male was present in the huge mixed species feeding flock on 1 st March in company with our first Beautiful Nuthatch and the following species.
331.	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.
332.	Himalayan Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	After a single bird flying over our heads, we had decent scope views of a calling bird in the Mishmi Hills.
333.	Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>	Single observed by a few of the group creeping through a drainage pipe, just before a flock of Beautiful Nuthatches were discovered.
334.	Pygmy Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	After hearing a few we found several birds present in the grounds of our lodge in the Mishmi Hills. One bird was even creeping around the lawn beside the lake!
335.	Mishmi Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis badeigularis</i>	An Indian endemic. After a frustrating day when we had a close singing bird that failed to show very well, the following day produced 2 confiding individuals which gave good views.
336.	Spotted Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis formosus</i>	Only heard this year in the Mishmi Hills.
337.	Bar-winged Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis troglodytoides</i>	Here of the race <i>Souliei</i> . We found an extremely obliging individual below Mayodia pass.
	Eye-browed Wren-babbler	<i>Napothera epilepidota</i>	Possibly the first record for the Mishmi Hills, albeit of an unseen, calling bird.
338.	Streaked Wren-babbler	<i>Napothera brevicaudata</i>	Several birds seen feeding on the forest floor at a few sites in Panbari Forest.
339.	Long-billed Wren-babbler	<i>Rimator malacoptilus</i>	Usually this is a hard to see species, but this year we were privileged to see at least 5 different individuals on the same day in the Mishmi Hills.
340.	Cachar Wedge-billed Wren-babbler	<i>Sphenocichla roberti</i>	We found this species to be surprisingly common this year, with sightings of perhaps 14 individuals at 3 different locations in the Mishmi Hills. The calls of these birds are very different to other populations from China.

341.	Marsh Babbler	<i>Pellorneum tickelli</i>	Endemic to India. Only heard at Dibru-Saikhowa
342.	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i>	Very good views were had at Nameri and Panbari Forest.
343.	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	Seen well at Kaziranga National Park.
344.	Grey-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis gularis</i>	Seen briefly near our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
345.	Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris</i>	A good find in the quality mixed flock of the Bamboo zone near our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
346.	Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis</i>	Single bird observed at 900m in a mixed feeding flock in the Mishmi Hills.
347.	Black-breasted Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis flavirostris</i>	An Indian endemic. Eventually had superb views of 3 confiding birds at Dibru-Saikhowa.
348.	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	A common sight and sound during the first half of the tour.
349.	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Only seen at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
350.	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	Small numbers present at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks.
351.	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	This wet grassland specialist was seen at Okhla and Dibru-Saikhowa in small numbers.
352.	Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Single bird observed at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
353.	Swamp Prinia	<i>Prinia cinerascens</i>	An Indian endemic. One bird came right in to the tape at Dibru-Saikhowa although only seen by a few fortunate members of the group.
354.	Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>	Also called Hume's Bush-warbler. A single bird observed below Mayodia Pass.
355.	Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes</i>	Now called Strong-footed Bush-warbler by some authorities. A vocal bird responded rapidly to the tape as we had lunch one day in the Mishmi Hills and gave outstanding views.
356.	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>	A skulking bird at Nameri never really showed well enough to count on our lists.
357.	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	Seen at Nameri, Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa.
358.	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	A common bird throughout the tour.
359.	Black-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>	Seen by the leader only in the Mishmi Hills.
360.	Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cuculatus</i>	A calling bird showed briefly in the Eastern Range at Kaziranga.
361.	Slaty-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia olivea</i>	After a calling bird at Nameri failed to show we were pleased to add this species to our garden list on our last day in the Mishmi Hills.
362.	Chestnut-headed Tesia	<i>Tesiastaneocoronata</i>	Fantastic views of a singing bird beside the road in the Mishmi Hills, plus another view later the same day of a different individual.
363.	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Seen on 8 dates at various sites.
364.	Black-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>	Several small groups were seen on 3 different days in the Mishmi Hills.
365.	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Present in small numbers in the Mishmi Hills, and a garden bird there for our group.
366.	Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. Seen on our last morning at Nameri in a mixed group of warblers, and heard at Panbari Forest a few days later.
367.	Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>	A few seen in the Mishmi Hills.
368.	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistus</i>	Frequently seen at Nameri and the Mishmi Hills.
369.	Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>	Single bird observed in the Mishmi Hills.
370.	White-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus affinis</i>	Seen twice in the Mishmi Hills this year.

371.	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Common and recorded on 12 dates.
372.	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	Singles observed at Okhla and Nameri.
373.	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	Seen well at Nameri and Kaziranga, plus a few others heard during the tour.
374.	Tickell's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	Several seen at Nameri, Kaziranga and on the north shore of the Brahmaputra River.
375.	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Several seen at Nameri and Panbari Forest.
376.	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	Only seen at Okhla on our first afternoons birding
377.	Blyth's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	A few present during our walk in Panbari Forest.
378.	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Several seen at various sites during the tour.
379.	Buff-barred Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	Scarce this year, with just a few seen on one date in the Mishmi Hills.
380.	Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	Only seen in the mixed warbler flock at Nameri.
381.	Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	A common sighting in the upper elevations of the Mishmi Hills.
382.	Yellow-vented Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	Seen a few times in Nameri.
383.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca halimodendri</i>	Heard at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
384.	Grey Tit	<i>Parus nubicola</i>	A recent split from Great Tit <i>Parus major</i> . Regularly seen during the first half of the tour.
385.	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	A few seen in the Mishmi Hills.
386.	Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	Nice views on consecutive dates in Mishmi Hills
387.	Yellow-cheeked Tit	<i>Parus spilonotus</i>	Also called Black-spotted Yellow Tit. Only seen on one day in the Mishmi Hills.
388.	Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	This delightful bird was seen several times in the Mishmi Hills this year.
389.	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	A couple feeding beside the Jai-Bhorelli River were oblivious to our presence and allowed a close approach.
390.	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	Several inquisitive birds present in the Mishmi Hills.
391.	Beautiful Nuthatch	<i>Sitta formosa</i>	One of the most wanted birds in the Eastern Himalayas and we had fabulous views of a flock containing 5 birds in a roadside tree at around 900m in the Mishmi Hills. An earlier view in a large mixed feeding flock was also pretty good!
392.	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. Present at a number of forested sites during the tour.
393.	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i>	Subject of a recent split, with Nilgiri Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum concolor</i> being restricted to W Ghats. Scoped at the top of a dead tree at Nameri Tiger Reserve.
394.	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	Regularly encountered in the Mishmi Hills.
395.	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes singalensis</i>	One bird seen in the lowlands of Assam by one of our vehicles.
396.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	A few present at Okhla were the only ones seen.
397.	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Subject of a recent split, with Vigors's Sunbird <i>Aethopyga vigorsii</i> restricted to W Ghats. Common at Nameri this year.
398.	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>	An eclipse male bird was present just below Mayodia Pass on our second visit.
399.	Black-breasted Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	Seen on 5 dates in the Mishmi Hills.
400.	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills, especially around our lodge.

401.	Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>	A conspicuous bird at Nameri and around our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
402.	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	We encountered several small groups feeding beside the Roing-Hunli Road.
403.	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>	A single bird was observed by Brian C in the Mishmi Hills.
404.	Dark-breasted Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i>	Several birds observed below Mayodia Pass.
405.	Spot-winged Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodopeplus</i>	A few were present in the upper areas of the Mishmi Hills this year.
406.	Dark-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>	Seen very well in the Mishmi Hills.
407.	Scarlet Finch	<i>Haematospiza sipahi</i>	A male seen feeding on some berries overhanging the road at 300m was much lower down in altitude than would normally be expected. Derek also found a flock of 3 birds in the grounds of our lodge the following day.
408.	Maroon-backed Accentor	<i>Prunella immaculata</i>	Common in the Mishmi Hills this year and seen on 4 dates there.
409.	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	A leader only sighting at Dibru-Saikhowa NP.
410.	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	A few seen between Roing and our lodge in the Mishmi Hills.
411.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Just a few seen this year.
412.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus indicus</i>	Seen on 8 dates.
413.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Regularly seen at Kaziranga.
414.	Eastern Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus burmanicus</i>	A potential split – see Ripley Guide. Several small groups seen at Kaziranga and en-route to the Mishmi Hills.
415.	Finn's Weaver	<i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. A scarce and hard to find bird anywhere, we had pretty good views in Kaziranga for the second successive year.
416.	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	Seen on 6 dates at scattered locations.
417.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Regularly seen and heard during the first half of the tour.
418.	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	A common bird of the lowlands.
419.	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus hopwoodi</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates.
420.	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	Seen at most forested areas visited.
421.	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	First seen at Nameri and then a few more times in the lower elevations of the Mishmi Hills.
422.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Regularly seen at forested areas.
423.	Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
424.	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. Apparently they have been quite scarce this season, but we managed to locate several flocks.
425.	Grey-headed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	One of the 2 splits from what was formerly called Chestnut-tailed Starling. Regularly seen during the first half of the tour.
426.	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Seen on 9 dates at various sites.
427.	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Only seen in Delhi.
428.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	A common sighting during the first half of the tour.
429.	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates.
430.	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres cinereus</i>	Regularly seen in the lowlands.
431.	Common Hill-myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	One of the recent splits from the Ripley Guide. Only seen at Nameri and Kaziranga.
432.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendensponensis</i>	Seen on 7 dates.

433.	Eastern Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus leuillanti</i>	A recent split from what was formerly known simply as Large-billed Crow. Common and seen on 9 dates.
434.	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus japonensis</i>	Just a flyover pair observed in the Mishmi Hills.
435.	Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	A shy bird which was seen at Kaziranga and a few times in the Mishmi Hills.
436.	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	Stunning views on our second visit to Mayodia Pass with up to 5 birds present. We had only heard one and had distant glimpses on our first visit.
437.	Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	Seen by the leader only but a calling bird was not responsive to the tape. Surprisingly present lower down in the Mishmi Hills than is usual.
438.	Collared Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta frontalis</i>	An Eastern Himalayas speciality. A single bird showed well in the gardens of our lodge at the base of the Mishmi Hills.
439.	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Seen on 8 dates at various sites.



Ibisbill on the Jai-Bhorelli River, Nameri.

OTHER SIGHTINGS

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
H	Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>
1.	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
2.	Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>
3.	Capped Langur	<i>Presbytis pileata</i>
4.	Sambar	<i>Cervis unicolor</i>
5.	Eastern Swamp Deer	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>
6.	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjai</i>
7.	Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>
8.	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>
9.	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
10.	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
11.	Indian One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>
12.	Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>
13.	Fishing Cat	<i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i>
14.	Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>
15.	Yellow-throated Marten	<i>Martes flavigula</i>
16.	Northern Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>
17.	Himalayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>
18.	Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>
19.	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>
20.	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
21.	Ganges River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>
22.	Northern House Gecko	<i>Heidacylus flaviviridis</i>
23.	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>