



## BIRD LIST

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow Clements, 6th edition updated 2007.

Birds that are marked with (GO) were seen by the guide only.

Birds that are marked with (H) were only heard.

**GREBES: Podicipedidae**

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen on wetlands around Bharatpur.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Just a few seen on Bund Baretha.

**PELICANS Pelecanidae**

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

Incredibly while we standing by a large wetland beyond Bund Baretha, amid a conversation where we were being informed by a couple of locals that it was a little early for these guys, three flew in and landed in front of us!

**CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

Amazingly only recorded the once, near Bharatpur.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Commonly encountered on water bodies throughout the tour.

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

Regularly recorded at many wetland sites.

**ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Seen at Bund Baretha.

**HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNES: Ardeidae**

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Present in small numbers on most wetland sites visited.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Seen on Bund Baretha, and also in Delhi.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Commonly recorded throughout the tour.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

A little less commonly seen than the previous species, although still regularly recorded in a number of different sites.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Present at almost all wetland areas visited on the tour.

Indian Pond-Heron *Ardeola grayii*

Commonly recorded throughout the tour.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

A very common roadside bird throughout northern India.

TAXONOMIC NOTE: Some authors split this form as a separate species, Eastern Cattle Egret *B. coromandus*.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

A few scattered sightings.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A pair were spotlighted feeding alongside a small creek at night, close to our Bandhavgarh resort.

STORKS: Ciconiidae

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

A little scarcer than expected, although we still saw over 60 birds on a large lake beyond Bund Baretha, that saved the day! Another loner was seen at Bharatpur.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

A maximum of 10 were seen on Bund Baretha.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

A single stork was seen gliding over the road as we left Corbett for Delhi right at the end of the tour.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

3 were seen on Bund Baretha, and a further 6 were together on a large lake beyond there, and finally a single was seen at Bharatpur.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

India's finest stork. A beautiful pair were seen in Keoladeo Ghana.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

Four sightings in Bandhavgarh.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Recorded in Delhi and beyond Bund Baretha.

Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A few were seen close to our Bandhavgarh resort, and another lone bird was seen in Delhi.

NB. This is also sometimes referred to as INDIAN BLACK IBIS.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

4 were on Bund Baretha.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

10 were seen at Okhla, and a further flock of 30 was seen on a bird-packed lagoon beyond Bund Baretha.

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

10 birds were seen at Okhla and were our only ones of the trip.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

7 were on Bund Baretha, definitely a poor showing for this species.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

A group of 4 birds found by Pete on a large wetland beyond Bund Baretha, was a real good find as the species is only a vagrant to this area.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Big numbers were on Okhla Barrage and Bund Baretha.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

A large wetland beyond Bund Baretha held over 50 of these great geese.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Recorded at a number of wetland sites.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Just four were seen, a family party, at Bharatpur.

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

Around 10 of these tiny geese were seen on Bund Baretha.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Commonly recorded at a number of spots.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Another commonly recorded wetland species on the tour.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Seen at Okhla, and also at a few sites in the Bund Baretha area.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

A strangely scarce species in this part of the world, we only came across them on one occasion around Bund Baretha.

Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

A strikingly marked duck, first seen around Delhi on our first day, and later seen on Bund Baretha and on wetlands beyond there.

NB. Sometimes called INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

One of the commonest duck species encountered at Okhla and in the Bund Baretha area.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A single bird was picked out on a large wetland beyond Bund Baretha.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

One of the commonest duck species encountered in northern India.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

First seen in Delhi at Okhla, and later at a number of spots around Bund Baretha.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Only recorded on the very first day in Delhi, when a small raft were seen at Okhla Barrage.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

Seen on the Kosi River, a short walk from our hotel in Kumeria.

NB. Sometimes called GOOSANDER.

OSPREY: *Pandionidae*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One was seen by a large waterbody beyond Bund Baretha.

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: *Accipitridae*

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

The dry conditions have led to a scarcity of raptors in general, and this species was a good example of that, only being recorded on one day of the tour in Bharatpur.

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

This sleek kite was a regular bird at both Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh, being seen on most days in those areas.

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans***

The undisputed commonest raptor in India, where thousands were seen on the tour. Passing a large landfill in Delhi provided the spectacle of literally thousands in the air and lining all the available pylons in view, a really incredible sight.

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

Stopping at a known nest site on the banks of the Kosi, on the edge of Corbett NP, we first got the usual, expected, distant views of one bird huddled down on the nest. We waited it out and were thrilled with the sight of a superb bird that flew low over our heads, giving Pete a rare photographic opportunity.

**Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus***

Another fairly common India raptor, with scattered sightings throughout the tour (including within Delhi itself).

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

This critically endangered vulture was seen three times on the tour, once beyond Bund Baretha, another single at Bandhavgarh, and finally a few on the return journey between Kumeria and Ramnagar.

**Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus***

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. Another of India's critically endangered vultures. We had great views of 4 nesting birds at Bayena, and then had a two further sightings of a few birds each time at Bandhavgarh.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: This is a recent split from LONG-BILLED VULTURE, that has now been split into two species - INDIAN and SLENDER-BILLED VULTURES (with the latter supposedly only found north of the Gangetic Plain).

**Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis***

Small numbers were seen around Naini Tal, including in the Vinayak area (our highest point of the tour).

**Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus***

A few were seen on the edge of Corbett, where Cinereous, Red-headed, and White-rumped Vultures were also seen riding the same thermal.

**Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus***

This flying 'barn door' came gliding low past us at Vinayak, giving us excellent eye level views in the process, as it rode a thermal with a bunch of Himalayan Griffons, at Vinayak. Another bird came low over our heads as we making to leave at the end of the trip, between Ramnagar and Kumeria. This latter, vulture rich spot held Cinereous, White-rumped and Red-headed Vultures, in addition to a few Eurasian Griffons.

**Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus***

Another rapidly declining species in India, we picked up a few in both Bandhavgarh and in a vulture-rich area between Kumeria and Ramnagar, on our return journey to Delhi.

**Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus***

One was seen beyond Bund Baretha.

NB. Also known as SHORT-TOED SNAKE-EAGLE.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (H)

Strangely only heard on the tour (at Bandhavgarh), although little effort was put in to seeing them on this custom tour.

Western Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Only recorded on the first day in Delhi, at Okhla.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A female bird came cruising past us at eye-level while we were watching a bunch of vultures at Vinayak.

NB. Also known as HEN HARRIER.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

This pallid accipiter is a fairly common species in India, and was encountered regularly (especially in the Bharatpur area).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One was seen at Vinayak.

Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One cruised over the raptor rich area of Vinayak.

Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastata*

One was found on our first mornings birding in Delhi, and another was added in Bharatpur.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

One of the most regularly recorded raptors in the foothills of the Himalaya.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*

One cruised over our jeep in Bandhavgarh.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatu*

Just one bird was seen in Bandhavgarh, that remained perched on an open snag for some time.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: This race is sometimes split by some authors as CRESTED HAWK-EAGLE.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*

Three separate sightings, at Sat Tal, Vinayak and also near Kumeria.

FALCONS: Falconidae

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Scattered sightings.

PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae

Gray Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*

First seen at the ancient fort of Tughalqabad in Delhi and regularly around Bharatpur.

Jungle Bush-Quail *Perdica asiatica*

A single bird was seen a little too briefly in the Bund Baretha area, although thankfully a small covey was seen much better from our jeep at Bandhavgarh.

Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*

Two sightings were made on the tour, both around Kilbury.

Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. This red-legged fowl put in a surprisingly late morning appearance at Bandhavgarh.

Painted Spurfowl *Galloperdix lunulata*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A pair of these key Bandhavgarh birds were seen during one of our game drives in the park, feeding furtively underneath the bamboo.

Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha*

As dawn broke at Vinayak we heard the harsh crows of many Koklass calling from within the depths of the forest, although sadly none appeared on the edges of the alpine meadows at that time. Later that morning we were driving through the oak woodlands up there and heard one call right beside our car, which had us out in a shot, where we soon picked a superb male trying to sneak away from us down slope.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

The wild ancestor of the domestic chicken.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*

We first saw a covey of these blue and white pheasants running off the side of the road at Vinayak, with further parties at Kumeria and the Bajun Valley.

NB. Also known as KALEEJ PHEASANT.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

India's national bird. Commonly seen around Bharatpur, where they were frequently encountered feeding in the dry fields on the edge of the villages that they use as roost sites.

BUTTONQUAILS: *Turnicidae*

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

A couple were seen in Bandhavgarh.

CRANES: *Gruidae*

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

Only recorded twice on the tour, illustrating the dire water situation around Bharatpur; within the reserve itself, and 5 were also seen on a huge wetland beyond Bund Baretha.

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: *Rallidae*

Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*

A showy, bold pair were seen at Bund Baretha.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Scattered sightings around Bharatpur.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Recorded at a number of spots around Bharatpur and Bund Baretha, although the most impressive sighting was over 100 birds feeding together on an oily slick beside Okhla Barrage.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

A few were seen at various sites around Bharatpur.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Good numbers were seen around Okhla and Bund Baretha.

JACANAS: *Jacanidae*

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*

Surprisingly few were seen, just a couple at several sites around Bund Baretha.

PAINTED-SNIPES: *Rostratulidae*

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

A dirty creek was not the most attractive setting for this striking shorebird, but that is where we saw at least eleven of them, close to our Bharatpur hotel.

## AVOCETS AND STILTS: *Recurvirostridae*

### Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One of the northern India's most common and conspicuous waders, seen at many sites throughout the tour.

### Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A few individuals were seen at Okhla in Delhi, and a few further birds were seen at several sites in the Bund Baretha area.

## PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: *Charadriidae*

### River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*

This superb plover was first noted on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi, and then seen again from Ramnagar Dam, and another site along the Kosi.

### Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus*

A pair were seen feeding just yards away from a local farmer tilling his field (a typical scene in India), on the way to Bharatpur.

### Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

The most common plover in northern India, encountered very regularly throughout.

### White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

Not that easy to come by this year, where they were much thinner on the ground than expected. We first found a few of them feeding in a marshy corner at Okhla, and later saw another near Bund Baretha.

### Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

2 were seen on a huge, shorebird-loaded lagoon beyond Bund Baretha; and others were seen at Ramnagar, and further along the Kosi in Corbett.

### Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A bunch of them were found on a lake that was packed with waders beyond Bund Baretha.

## SANDPIPERS: *Scolopacidae*

### Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Recorded at a number of sites on the first leg of the tour, and one lagoon beyond Bund Baretha contained tens of these snipes feeding along the open edge of the lake.

### Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

10 were seen on our first day in Delhi, and over 50 birds were seen on another large wetland in the Bund Baretha area.

**NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE:** The birds recorded on the tour were of the *limosa* 'form', that is sometimes considered a separate species from the eastern *melanuroides* populations, and subsequently re-named **WESTERN BLACK-TAILED GODWIT**.

### Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Just recorded at the one site, beyond Bund Baretha that turned out to be by far our best site for shorebirds, both in diversity and numbers.

### Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Scattered sightings throughout the first leg of the tour.

### Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Scattered sightings throughout the first part of the tour.

### Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A few were noted at several wetland in the Bharatpur/Bund Baretha area. On one particular wetland, that

was packed with other shorebirds, they were fairly common.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Scattered sightings around Bharatpur and Bund Baretha.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Singles were recorded at a few sites around Bund Baretha and Bharatpur.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Commonly recorded on the first leg of the tour around Delhi and Bharatpur.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

A few recorded in Delhi, and around the Bharatpur area.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Just recorded at the one site, beyond Baretha, that was teeming with shorebirds.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Scattered sightings around Bharatpur, and also recorded at Okhla in Delhi.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Small numbers were seen on a large wetland beyond Bund Baretha.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

5 were seen on our first day in Delhi, and many were seen on a large waterbody beyond Bund Baretha, that held hundreds of shorebirds.

GULLS: Laridae

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

One was seen flying down the Kosi River at Ramnagar, on the edge of Corbett.

NB. This is sometimes also called PALLAS'S GULL.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*

A couple were picked out of a large flock of Black-headed Gulls at Okhla Barrage on the first days birding.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

A large flock of these (with a few Brown-headed thrown in), was seen roosting at Okhla Barrage.

TERNs: Sternidae

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

4 were seen hawking insects over Bund Baretha, and a similar number were seen the following day at a site beyond there.

River Tern *Sterna aurantia*

A few were seen on most of the wetlands around Bund Baretha.

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae

Painted Sandgrouse *Pterocles indicus*

A pair of these well-marked sandgrouse were chanced upon at Bund Baretha, and were watched quietly feeding away at close range.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Many of these 'pure bred' Rock Doves seen throughout the plains.

Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

Scattered sightings around Bandhavgarh, and a few further seen in the Himalayan foothills.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Commonly encountered on the plains, during the first section of the tour.



Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Recorded regularly around Bandhavgarh.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Commonly recorded on the tour.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Just one fly by at Corbett.

Yellow-footed Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus*

A large flock of these handsome green pigeons were crowded in a small fig tree at Okhla; others were seen in Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh.

PARROTS: *Psittacidae*

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

This big-billed parakeet was regularly seen flying around our Bandhavgarh resort, and was also seen within the park itself. A lone bird was seen also on our journey up towards the Himalayan foothills from Ramnagar.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

One of northern India's commonest (and noisiest) birds, encountered regularly throughout.

Slaty-headed Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana*

Only recorded on the one day in the Himalayan foothills, although they were regularly seen throughout our day at Sat Tal, which included some great perched views of these noisy parrots.

NB. Sometimes alternatively called HIMALAYAN PARAKEET.

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

A few scattered sightings were made in the Bharatpur area, although they were more regularly encountered around Bandhavgarh (including within the grounds of our resort).

CUCKOOS: *Cuculidae*

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus varius*

A single bird flew over

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*(H)

A bird was heard at Bandhavgarh, a little unexpected for a summer migrant at this time of year.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

One was seen on our first day at Okhla, that was the only tour sighting.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

A common and conspicuous bird throughout the tour. These birds are strangely showy in India (as many of the species are), quite unlike they are in other parts of their range.

OWLS: *Strigidae*

Indian Scops-Owl *Otus bakkamoena*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A bird was found roosting on our first afternoon in Bharatpur, where the local guides often have a number of night birds lined up at day roosts.

Dusky Eagle-Owl *Bubo coromandus*

This monstrous owl was nesting during our time in Bharatpur, where we visited two separate nests.

Brown Fish-Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*

One of the star birds on our first day in Bandhavgarh, where a roosting bird was seen really well during both our morning and afternoon game drives.

Mottled Wood-Owl *Strix ocellata*

## AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC.

Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica*(GO)

A magnificent pair were seen at a roadside roost spot near Pangot.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* (H)

Despite much effort put into seeing this one, they were strangely silent in our time in the foothills.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*

One was bumped into at Sat Tal, where it was hunting during the day.

Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum*

This noisy little owl was found first within the park at Bandhavgarh, and then a pair were taped in right by our resort restaurant in Bandhavgarh, where they proceeded to glare down angrily at us.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*

These extremely cute birds are fairly common around Bharatpur, and because they are both gregarious and active during the day, they are usually frequently encountered. We saw them on five separate occasions in the Bharatpur area, and also picked one up in a scrubby area bordering the Tughalaqabad Fort in Delhi.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

Gray Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*

One of the regular roosting birds that the park guides have staked out at Bharatpur, was found with ease on our first afternoon's jaunt into the reserve.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: Some authors split this endemic peninsula race, *indicus*, as INDIAN JUNGLE NIGHTJAR.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Another species that Bharatpur's guides often have staked out at day roosts. This cryptic species was found roosting in amongst the leaf litter on the ground, and allowed extremely close approach.

Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*

A bird flew over the jeep at dusk at Bandhavgarh.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

White-rumped Needletail

One of the last additions of the trip was a small party of three birds in an area of Corbett that was also a real boon for vultures, that held Eurasian Griffons, White-rumped, Red-headed and Cinereous Vultures.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

A few scattered sightings.

TREESWIFTS: Hemiprocnidae

Crested Treeswift *Hemiproctne coronata*

This large treetop glider was seen several times in the Kumeria area.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

1 was seen at Bund Baretha; another was seen daily within our resort at Bandhavgarh; and lastly another was seen sharing the Kosi River with a couple of Crested Kingfishers, a Pied Kingfisher, Little Forktail and a Brown Dipper.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

Just the one sighting of a really magnificent bird that was 'frozen' in fishing mode on a branch shortly after entering the reserve at Bandhavgarh.

### White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

This superb kingfisher was seen regularly on the plains, where it was a colorful and welcome daily occurrence.

### Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris*

We first saw a bird a little distantly near the dam at Ramnagar, and then saw several much better, first along a small river near Mohan, and then along the Kosi River near the Quality Inn. A hugely impressive kingfisher.

NB. This species is also sometimes known as HIMALAYAN PIED KINGFISHER.

### Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

A few were seen around Bharatpur.

### BEE-EATERS: *Meropidae*

#### Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

Another of India's gorgeous common species. We watched a pair at length by the weir at Okhla, where they provided fantastic photographic opportunities; and ran into them a number of times thereafter (especially in the Bandhavgarh area, where they were a regular visitor to the resort).

### ROLLERS: *Coraciidae*

#### Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

A regular bird on roadside wires on our journeys in the Bund Baretha area, and also encountered a number of times in Bandhavgarh. Once again, a fairly common species in India that is brilliantly colorful and photogenic (India seems to abound with such species!)

### HOOPOES: *Upupidae*

#### Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Regularly noted during the first section of the tour.

### HORNBILLS: *Bucerotidae*

#### Indian Gray Hornbill *Ocyroceros birostris*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. Scattered sightings around Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh.

#### Malabar Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. This striking endemic was seen on all of our days within Bandhavgarh, with some particular showy and noisy birds seen around the fort there.

#### Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* (H)

Frustratingly only heard in the Mohan area of Corbett.

#### Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*

A pair of calling birds disturbed our tea-stop at a small campsite in Corbett, which were quickly found sitting there a short time later.

### BARBETS: *Capitonidae*

#### Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*

This huge barbet was seen on all of our days around Naini Tal, with big groups seen at both Sat Tal (sharing a tree with a bunch of Blue-throated Barbets also), and Pangot.

#### Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC.

#### Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*

Just a few were seen around a small camp in the Mohan area of Corbett.

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

A barbet fest at Sat Tal, brought us a tree full of barbets, including both a bunch of huge Great Barbets, along with a few of these beauties.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

A few of these striking little barbets were seen around Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh.

WOODPECKERS: *Picidae*

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

A single bird was seen at Okhla Barrage.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*

One of these tiny woodpeckers came through in passing bird wave, within the grounds of the Quality Inn, in Kumeria.

Brown-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis*

This pale-eyed woodpecker was seen in an area of dry acacia scrub at Bharatpur.

NB. This nanus 'race' is sometimes split off as INDIAN PYGMY WOODPECKER.

Gray-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

Just one bird was found on the journey to Corbett from Naini Tal.

NB. Also known as GREY-CAPPED PYGMY-WOODPECKER.

Brown-fronted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos auriceps*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A few were seen in the oak forests within the Himalayan foothills.

NB. Also known as BROWN-FRONTED PIED WOODPECKER.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei*

A NEAR-ENDEMIC SPECIES, that was seen in a large mixed flock at Sat Tal that also held Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Long-tailed Minivet, Black-lored Tit, and Bar-tailed Treecreeper to name a few!

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*

Several sightings of this striking woodpecker were made in the Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh areas.

NB. Also known as YELLOW-FRONTED PIED WOODPECKER.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

This richly-colored woodpecker was found at a known spot for it on the Kilbury Road.

Himalayan Woodpecker *Dendrocopos himalayensis* (H)

Frustratingly only heard on this trip, despite some intensive searches.

NB. Also known as HIMALAYAN PIED WOODPECKER.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*

Singles of this remarkable woody were seen in Snow View, Sat Tal, and Pangot.

Gray-faced Woodpecker *Picus canus*

Just two were seen, one at Sat Tal, and another near Corbett.

Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*

This flashy flameback was found in the Kumeria area, on the edge of Corbett.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*

The most common flameback, that was seen on a regular basis during the Bharatpur leg of the tour.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

One of our final trip additions, during our session of birding around Corbett.

White-naped Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus*

**AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC.** One of the key Bandhavgarh target species, that fell reasonably easily on this tour, being seen on our first afternoon game drive within the park.

**NB.** Also known as **WHITE-NAPED FLAMEBACK.**

**LARKS:** *Alaudidae*

Indian Bushlark *Mirafra erythroptera*

**AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC.** A lone bird was seen feeding at the base of the Indian Vulture cliffs at Bayena.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix griseus*

**AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC.** A group of four and two respectively, were seen on two consecutive days in dry arable fields en-route to Bund Baretha.

**NB.** Also known as **ASHY-CROWNED FINCH-LARK.**

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Just a couple were seen, in a field full of Ashy-crowned Sparrow-larks, en-route to Bund Baretha.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

A couple were found along the banks of the Kosi River, on our last morning.

**SWALLOWS:** *Hirundinidae*

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*

Seen around Okhla, Bharatpur and Bund Baretha.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Regularly recorded on the plains.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

An exquisite clean cut swallow, that was seen hawking insects over small roadside ponds en-route to Bund Baretha, and also seen within our Bandhavgarh resort.

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Just recorded flying over the scenic high alpine meadows of Vinayak, on both of our visits to the site.

Dusky Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor*

Four sightings: at Bayena, Bund Baretha, and twice around the cliffs at Bandhavgarh.

Asian Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Small squadrons were seen on two days flying over the Kilbury Road.

**NB.** Also known as **ASIAN HOUSE-MARTIN.**

Nepal Martin *Delichon nipalense*

1 was seen in a large flock of hirundines flying over the Kilbury Road.

**NB.** Also known as **NEPAL HOUSE-MARTIN.**

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Commonly seen in large flocks in the foothills, although also recorded in the plains around Bharatpur.

Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluviicola*

**AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC.** Very scarce on this trip, with just a single bird found over one of the few wet pans in existence at Bharatpur this year.

**NB.** Also known as **INDIAN CLIFF SWALLOW.**

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS:** *Motacillidae*

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Just one bird found on one of our day trips out of Bharatpur.

Oriental Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Singles were identified on two consecutive days en-route to Bund Baretha.

NB. Also known as PADDYFIELD PIPIT.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*

This distinctive pipit was finally found feeding on the banks of the Kosi on our final mornings birding.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

1 was seen near Okhla Barrage in Delhi on our first day, and another was seen on one of our Bharatpur day trips.

Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus*

We put in a bit of time for this one, around Pangot, when eventually our local guide found one hiding in some long grass, that finally emerged to give us all cracking looks.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

A few were seen in the foothills on the extension.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Numerous sightings in Bandhavgarh.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (H)

One was heard beside a large wetland beyond Bund Baretha.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Many were seen on the first leg of the tour. These included a number of different races. Birds were seen that appeared to be from the personata group, sometimes referred to as MASKED WAGTAIL; individuals from the alboides group were seen, from the BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL group; and finally some seemed to be of the dukhunensis race. Although as many of these are said to freely hybridize it is hard to be certain of racial identity.

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla madaraspatensis*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. Several of these striking wagtails were seen in Delhi on our first day, with others seen in Bharatpur and on daytrips from there.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Seen on a small creek in Bharatpur, and many were seen in the Bund Baretha and wetlands beyond there. All birds seemed to be of the race beema, often referred to as SYKES'S WAGTAIL.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

6 were seen on our first day around Delhi, and others were seen in the Bharatpur/Bund Baretha area.

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Singles were seen at Bund Baretha, Kumeria and in our resort at Bandhavgarh.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES: *Campephagidae*

Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei*

Single birds were seen on three days at Bandhavgarh.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos*

A bird flew in and perched on a dead snag beside a small camp in Corbett where we had decided to stop for a tea break, and came in mid-brew.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

Just a pair were seen of this beautiful minivet, in the grounds of our Bandhavgarh resort.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Three sightings, firstly in Bandhavgarh, then others within feeding flocks at Sat Tal and Pangot.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

Just the one in a flock in Kumeria.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*

Commonly encountered in busy feeding flocks within the Kumeria area of Corbett, including within the grounds of the Quality Inn.

**BULBULS:** Pycnonotidae

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*

One was seen while we waited along the Kosi River, near the Quality Inn, for the Little Forktail to show up.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Seen only on our first day around Okhla, in Delhi.

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*

Just seen on a few occasions within the reserve at Bharatpur.

White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*

A handsome commonly encountered bulbul in the Himalayan foothills.

NB. Also known as HIMALAYAN BULBUL.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*

One of Northern India's commonest birds, encountered very regularly.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii*

A single bird was seen in the Sat Tal area.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*

A small party were found in Sat Tal.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Encountered around Pangot and Sat Tal in the foothills, where it was especially common at the latter site.

**KINGLETS:** Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* (H)

Just recorded along the Kilbury road.

**LEAFBIRDS:** Chloropseidae

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

Seen daily around our Bandhavhargh resort, where a number of flowering trees were in bloom, that were attracting this handsome nectar-feeder.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: This endemic race is often split by authors as JERDON'S LEAFBIRD.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Like the Blue-winged, these were also seen regularly visiting flowering trees within our Bandhavgarh resort.

**IORAS:** Aegithinidae

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

Several Ioras were seen on a few occasions within the very birdy grounds of our Bandhavgarh resort.

**DIPPERS:** Cinclidae

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*

Our final days birding saw us heading down to the river near the Quality Inn for this key bird, that made us wait a while and then appeared just a short time before a Little Forktail also decided to show up.

**ACCENTORS:** Prunellidae

Himalayan Accentor *Prunella himalayana*

A wheeling flock of around 50 birds was found at Vinayak.

NB. Also known as ALTAI ACCENTOR.

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata*

1 was first seen close to a Black-throated Accentor in Pangot, with another group of five birds found at the base of the Bajun Valley.

Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis*

A brilliant bird was found perched up by a small mountain lodge in Pangot.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*

A pair were seen on the fringes of a large mixed feeding flock in Pangot.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

1 was found around the red sandstone ruins of Tughlaqabad Fort in Delhi, and another was around the base of the vulture cliffs at Bayena.

Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

A cool common bird of the Himalayan foothills, where they were a regular sight hopping on and off the road .

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*

This cool thrush frustrated us during our stay at Bharatpur, where the nominate plain-headed race occurs. However, at Bandhavgarh we had superb looks at the much more interesting cyanota race, that has a striking black-and-white 'tiger-striped' face pattern. Amazingly this bird was found feeding in the same area as a Scaly Thrush.

Also known as ORANGE-HEADED GROUND THRUSH.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

Just one was seen, in company with a 'Tiger-headed' race Orange-headed Ground Thrush, at Bandhavgarh.

Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor*

A couple of birds were found feeding furtively in a tiny gully close to a temple in Bharatpur, being seen in the same area on two days.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

One was seen at Okhla Barrage, Delhi.

Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera*

One was found singing by a small mountain lodge up at Pangot in the Himalayas.

Rufous-fronted Prinia *Prinia buchanani*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A special stop was made in an area of good dry 'prinia country', where soon after one responded dramatically to the tape coming in extremely close to check out our recording.

Gray-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Commonly seen in small active parties in the bamboo under storey at Bandhavgarh.

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*

Just the one was seen in the reedbeds of Okhla, in Delhi.

Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica*



AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. One of these white-tailed prinias was found during a day trip beyond Bund Baretha.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

A few were seen around the fringes of the marsh at Okhla.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

One of the commoner prinia species, seen regularly around Bharatpur and also in Delhi

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Another regular prinia, seen around Delhi and Bharatpur on a number of occasions.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS: *Sylviidae*

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*

Voted as BIRD OF THE TRIP. This little sprite danced around us on several occasions. A shy bird was first found in a densely vegetated gully at Sat Tal, that gave good if intermittent views. Then later a real showstopper was seen at the base of the Bajun Valley, and later a final bird was seen in Kumeria. Three sightings of this skulking warbler is a good showing for this undeniably cute species.

Gray-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*

While trying to call out a Tesia in Sat Tal this unobtrusive species appeared right in front of us.

Blyth's Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

A single sighting was made, in a bamboo stand in our Bandhavgarh resort.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

One of these 'beefy' warblers was seen at Bund Baretha.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: Some authors split this *brunnescens* 'race' as INDIAN REED-WARBLER.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Commonly encountered around Delhi, Bharatpur, and Bandhavgarh.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Recorded around Delhi, Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh (where they were especially common around our resort pond).

Tickell's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*

Just one was found in the Bajun Valley.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus*

A few of these ground-dwelling warblers were found on our game drives at Bandhavgarh.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*

One of the most frequently seen warblers in the foothills, where they were recorded daily.

NB. Also known as ORANGE-BARRED LEAF-WARBLER.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

Only recorded around Bajun, during our final afternoons birding of the Naini Tal area.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Another regular bird in the forests of the foothills.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Especially common in the Bandhavgarh area, where their distinctive calls and songs were a regular sound in the morning chorus.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

We first picked this up in Bharatpur, and then a few further sightings were made in Bandhavgarh.

Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* (H)

Just one was heard in the Himalayas.

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*

Three sightings of birds in mixed feeding flocks, firstly in Pangot, then around Bajun, and finally in Kumeria.

Gray-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*

This delightful warbler, with its pastel grey head and bright lemon yellow breast, was a very welcome flock regular in the Himalayan foothills, gracing almost all the large flocks there, (where it was seen on most of the days spent in this area).

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*

On arriving at our first stop on the Kilbury Road beyond Naini Tal, we decided to play the Collared Owlet tape to stir up our first Himalayan passerine flock, and immediately drew a response from ten or so of these wonderful, well-marked warblers. This at the time gave us a very false view they were going to be easy this year, but in the end this first Himalayan flock was the only one we ever found them in, despite countless flocks encountered thereafter!

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* (H)

Most commonly recorded around Bharatpur where they were very frequently seen.

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris*

A lone bird was found by Kishen Mahal, near Bund Baretha.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: *Muscicapidae*

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*

This beautiful flycatcher was seen on several occasions around the Sat Tal valley.

NB. Also known as ORANGE-GORGETED FLYCATCHER.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

This wintering flycatcher was regularly seen in both the Bandhavgarh and Bharatpur areas.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

One pristine male was noted at Bandhavgarh.

NB. Also known as RED-THROATED FLYCATCHER. This is a recent split from Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*

A single female bird was seen near Mohan, near Corbett.

Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris*

A brilliant blue male was found in a mobbing flock of passerines that were trying to displace a Jungle Owlet that was hanging around in the area.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*

Three sightings of single birds, firstly at Pangot, then another female was seen at Sat Tal, and finally another lone bird was seen at Kumeria.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*

A single bird within our Bandhavgarh resort proved to be our only sighting.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*

Just the one sighting of this Himalayan resident: 2 female type birds were found in the Sat Tal valley.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*

Two sightings of this altitudinal migrant in the Himalayas: both were seen in the Sat Tal valley, with first a female; and later a fantastic, full-blown blue-and-orange male.

Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*

Very regularly heard in Bandhavgarh, where it is a common bird. Seen there a few times, including right within our resort.

Gray-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Scattered sightings around Bharatpur, Bandhavgarh, and Kumeria.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: The family placement of this species is unclear, some believing they should not sit within the old world flycatchers at all, and should be separated within their own monotypic family.

White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis*

This charming chat was seen hopping around the flowerbeds of a small mountain lodge garden on our way up to Naini Tal, a real show stopping bird.

NB. Also known as HIMALAYAN RUBYTHROAT.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

This handsome 'sibe' was first seen hopping around some roadside reedbeds en-route to Bund Baretha, and then later seen in a small creek right in the town of Bharatpur.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

These were a much appreciated daily fixture in the Himalayan foothills, if only in small numbers. Some of them were fantastic bright blue male birds.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: Some authors have split the Himalayan and north Asian forms of this species, with rufilatus then being split off as HIMALAYAN RED-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN, (and the other 'race' being named NORTHERN RED-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN).

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

Fairly commonly seen in the Bharatpur area, and also around Bandhavgarh a few times.

Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicatus*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A really pleasant common north Indian species, recorded at a range of sites, including right in the Okhla in the heart of Delhi.

Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus caeruleocephala*

Three sightings in the Himalayas, firstly a male bird in a small village near Naini Tal, then a female at Sat Tal, and finally another in the Bajun Valley.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Wintering birds were regularly recorded around Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh, with a few others also seen higher up in the foothills.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*

A small scenic mountain lodge in Pangot played host to this 'cracking' chat.

White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

First seen at Ramnagar, as we began to ascend into the Himalayas, and seen regularly thereafter around any running, clear water. A cool common Himalayan bird that is possible around any clear waters up there.

NB. Also known as WHITE-CAPPED WATER-REDSTART or RIVER CHAT.

Plumbeous Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*

As with the River Chat, another regular find along any clear water streams and rivers in the Himalayan foothills.

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri*

Our third and final fork-tail of the trip made us wait a few hours until it appeared just moments after the Brown Dipper also finally showed up, close to the Quality Inn.

Slaty-backed Fork-tail *Enicurus schistaceus*

While we were combing the fields at the bottom of the Bajun Valley for passerines feeding in the fertile agricultural fields, we found one of these steely-backed fork-tails working the small clear water stream.

Spotted Fork-tail *Enicurus maculatus*

This, the most spectacular of all these immaculate fork-tails, was encountered daily in the Himalayas, that was a good run for this species.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

Scattered sightings on the first leg of the tour.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

Frequently seen in open dry rural areas on the first part of the tour.

Gray Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus*

A few were first seen in grasslands at Bandhavgarh, and then recorded almost daily in the Himalayan foothills.

Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*

2 were seen on our day beyond Bund Baretha.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

2 were seen on our day beyond Bund Baretha, that brought us all of the three target wheatears we were seeking in quick succession.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

This pallid wheatear was found feeding beside a large bird-packed wetland beyond Bund Baretha.

Indian Chat *Cercomela fusca*

This endemic is fairly common around large sandstone outcrops, and was found around Bund Baretha and the vulture cliffs at Bayena.

NB. Also known as BROWN ROCK CHAT.

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*

This delightful, active little fantail was found in several mixed flocks in the Sat Tal valley.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

Seen a few times in the foothills around Naini Tal and also in Kumeria.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

A pair were seen in a bird wave in the sal forest within Bandhavgarh.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* (GO)

Just one, clean white male bird, was seen dipping into a drinking pool at Bandhavgarh while we were waiting there quietly for any visiting stripy cats.

BABLERS: Timaliidae

White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis*

A couple of flocks were seen in the Himalayan foothills, along the Kilbury Road, and at Sat Tal.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

Two sightings of this, the best of the north Indian laughers, firstly in the Bajun Valley, and then again in Kumeria.

### Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*

A mixed flock of laughers at Sat Tal produced this underrated species, that is way better in life than the pictures suggest.

### Streaked Laughingthrush *Garrulax lineatus*

The commonest of the laughingthrushes, seen daily in the Himalayan foothills.

### Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

These handsome babblers were seen on two game drives at Bandhavgarh, where they were heard on a number of other occasions.

### Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*

This smart babbler was seen very poorly first thing in the morning at Sat Tal, and then in the afternoon (just after a show stopping Himalayan Rubythroat), another appeared just beside us allowing us to soak it up properly on this occasion.

### Indian Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*

One of Bandhavgarh's tougher species. As with most scimitar-babblers a lover of bamboo, the problem at Bandhavgarh is there is no shortage of this! We put in quite some time into trying to get this tricky endemic, and eventually were rewarded with excellent views of a duetting pair that circled our jeep.

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

Two sightings in the Himalayas, firstly a shy bird at Sat Tal that only showed well to the guide; and later another bird performed brilliantly in the Bajun Valley, just meters away from where a Chestnut-headed Tesia had 'danced' for us a little earlier.

### Immaculate Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga immaculata*

This was meant to be one of our toughest birds in the Corbett area, although trying a known spot paid off handsomely with a very responsive and confiding bird by a small river near Mohan. At one time thought to be confined to Nepal, hence the other name for the bird, it was only fairly recently discovered in India.

NB. Also known as NEPAL WREN-BABBLER.

### Black-chinned Babbler *Stachyris pyrrhops*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A few were seen in the Pangot area.

### Tawny-bellied Babbler *Dumetia hyperythra*

A party of three birds were found in a clump of bamboo within the core area of Bandhavgarh.

### Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*

Two small groups were seen en-route to the Bund Baretha area, on both of our day trips to the area.

### Common Babbler *Turdoides caudata*

Two were seen in company with a very vocal group of Striated Babblers at Okhla Barrage; and a few others were seen in the Bharatpur area.

### Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*

One of the key birds for the Okhla area, we found a raucous party in a dense reedbed there.

### Large Gray Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi*

A fairly common babbler of open dry country, which abounds around Bharatpur, and hence was seen regularly in this area.

### Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata*

Frequently encountered at a number of sites, where they were especially common in the jungles of Bandhavgarh.

### Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*

This unique, interestingly-marked babbler was first found moving through the lantana brush with a sizeable flock of White-throated Laughingthrushes at Sat Tal; and another was found at Kumeria.

NB. Also known as PEKIN ROBIN.

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

A pair passed by slowly in a mixed feeding flock at Pangot, that also held Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch and others.

### Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*

A few moved through the lantana brush within a huge mixed feeding flock at Sat Tal.

### Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*

A common and conspicuous resident of the Himalayan foothill forests, frequently encountered on all of our days in this area.

### LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae

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

This is a common component species of Himalayan bird 'waves', that in Northern India often consist of tits, treecreepers, nuthatches and a bunch of warblers, usually dominated by Grey-hooded Warblers. This is the commonest and most widespread 'long-tailed tit' in South Asia, where we ran into this cool species on all of our days in the Himalayas, as they graced nearly all the big flocks up there.

NB. Also known as RED-HEADED TIT.

### CHICKADEES AND TITS: Paridae

#### Black-crested Tit *Periparus melanolophus*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. First seen in short birding walk around Snow View, and later seen twice along the Kilbury Road.

NB. Also known as SPOT-WINGED TIT.

#### Great Tit *Parus major*

Just a couple were seen in the foothill forests of the Himalaya.

NB. Also known as GREY TIT.

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

A regularly encountered tit within the Himalayan bird waves around Naini Tal.

#### Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. A strikingly beautiful tit, encountered in some of the flocks at lower elevations in the Himalayan foothills (i.e. Pangot, Sat Tal and Kumeria).

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

Just one bird, in a bird wave along the Kilbury Road.

### NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

#### Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*

A few were found (in company with a bunch of tits, nuthatches, treecreepers and woodpeckers), in some of the foothill flocks around Pangot, Bajun and Sat Tal.

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

Seemingly higher ranging than the other two regularly occurring Nuthatch species in the foothills, this one being seen along the higher points of the Kilbury Road, and Vinayak, where they were quick to respond to our owl tape.

#### Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Generally only found a little lower than the other two nuthatches, this one was seen once in a feeding flock at Sat Tal, and again in a flock at Kumeria.

**WALLCREEPER:** Tichodromidae

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

Having missed it where we had hoped to pick it up, we were relieved to find one at another site that had apparently not recorded this species for three years, later on the trip, in the Pangot area. We then watched as this crimson-winged beauty flicked in and out of the rocky crevices, before it disappeared in a crag never to return, as only a wallcreeper can!

**CREEPERS:** Certhiidae

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana*

Picked up fairly regularly in the Himalayas, where it was regular flock follower.

NB. Also known as HIMALAYAN TREECREEPER.

**SUNBIRDS:** Nectariniidae

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*

Regularly recorded around Bharatpur, and particularly frequently around our resort in Bandhavgarh; where there was a few significant flowering trees during our stay that were a boon for nectarivores.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*

Just the one was seen in Pangot.

**FLOWERPECKERS:** Dicaeidae

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*

Just the one was seen, shortly after our 'bleary-eyed' arrival from our overnight train, within our Bandhavgarh resort.

Pale-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*

AN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ENDEMIC. These inconspicuous flowerpeckers were seen daily within our resort at Bandhavgarh, where there were a few trees in full flower at the time that were a constant attraction to sunbirds, flowerpeckers, and leafbirds while we were there.

**WHITE-EYES:** Zosteropidae

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Scattered sightings throughout.

**ORIOLES:** Oriolidae

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

A pair was seen on two occasions around Bandhavgarh, including once within the resort.

**SHRIKES:** Laniidae

Rufous-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

2 singles were seen on one of our day trips beyond Bund Baretha.

NB. Also known as ISABELLINE SHRIKE.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Just one of these migrants was found on the edge of our resort in Bandhavgarh.

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*

One or two were seen on most days around the Bharatpur/Bund Baretha area.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

The most frequently encountered shrike, seen in Delhi, around Bharatpur, Bandhavgarh and also in the foothills.

Gray-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

One was hanging around a small mountain lodge in the Pangot area.

Southern Gray Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

3 were seen beyond Bund Baretha, and another was seen in one of the many dry areas within the Bharatpur reserve.

HELMETSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Prionopidae

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

A couple of sightings in the Bharatpur area, and a few further ones in Bandhavgarh.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Commonly encountered throughout the tour, with the most notable viewing being a pair that were very worked up at the sudden appearance of a Mottled Wood-Owl in Bandhavgarh, frequently dive-bombing the victimized owl as it moved from one close perch to another.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

One was seen around the nursery in Bharatpur, and another of these bright red-eyed drongos was seen in Sat Tal.

White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens*

A couple of singles were seen in the sal forests of Bandhavgarh.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Recorded a couple of times in the foothills.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

This spectacular drongo was seen every day in Bandhavgarh, with a few seen on each day there.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A few small groups were seen along the Kilbury Road and in the Sat Tal Valley.

Black-headed Jay *Garrulus lanceolatus*

These were abundant during our stay in Naini Tal, being seen almost every day in the foothill forests around the town, and even being seen on the inward journey before we had even reached this mountain resort.

Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

This massive magpie is truly spectacular, and completely mind-blowing on first looks, with its huge trailing blue-and-white tail, bright carrot-orange bill and striking black hood. A bird that deserved a worthy mention in the trip highlights at the end of the tour. We saw groups of these impressive birds around Sat Tal, Bajun and the Kilbury Road.

NB. Also known as RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE.

Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*

A few of these flashy magpies were seen in the Kumeria area.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

A richly plumaged, colorful common bird in northern India, where we saw them very regularly.

Gray Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* (H)

Frustratingly only heard on several occasions in the foothills.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Very commonly encountered, especially in Delhi where hundreds were seen in this very birdy city.



Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Recorded at a number of sites, although most commonly seen at Bandhavgarh, but also seen up in the foothills. Several different 'races' were involved that some split off as good species.

NB. TAXONOMIC NOTE: The birds around Bandhavgarh were probably of the race *culminatus*, which is sometimes split off as INDIAN JUNGLE CROW.

STARLINGS: Sturnidae

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

Just one was seen on the journey back from Kumeria to Delhi, that was our final trip addition.

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*

Very, very common in northern India, being recorded from Delhi to the foothills in almost all urban areas visited.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

As with the former species a regular and almost daily occurrence throughout the tour.

Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*

Commonly recorded during the first half of the tour.

Brahminy Starling *Temenuchus pagodarum*

This superb starling was recorded on three days of our days in the Bharatpur area, including within the reserve itself and by a large lake that also held a rowdy rabble of Rosy Starlings feeding on its scrubby banks.

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

Only recorded at one site beyond Bund Baretha.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Just one flock was seen, flying around Delhi train station.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Commonly encountered throughout northern India.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*

A few were seen at Sat Tal and Pangot.

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*

6 birds at Bund Baretha were the first sightings of the tour, and then we also saw them on each day in Bandhavgarh.

NB. Also known as YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW.

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

10 were seen at length feeding in a reedbed at Okhla on our first day, and then another 10 were found, also feeding in some reeds, at Bund Baretha.

White-throated Munia *Euodice malabarica*

Recorded on almost all of our days in the Bharatpur/Bund Baretha area, where they were a regular bird of the tall roadside tussocks.

NB. Also known as INDIAN SILVERBILL.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

Just a few of these munias were seen on the fringe of Bandhavgarh park.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

A pair were seen at Ramnagar Dam, near Corbett.

NB. Also known as SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA.

Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca*

Three were seen in Delhi on our first day.

FINCHES, SISKINS AND CROSSBILLS: Fringillidae

Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rodochroa*

A beautiful male was first seen perched on some roadside wires close to a small lodge in Pangot; and then many were found in the fields at the bottom of the Bajun Valley.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides*

Single parties were recorded in Sat Tal, Pangot, and Kumeria.

NB. Also known as HIMALAYAN GREENFINCH.

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*

A single butch bird was found on our first day in the foothills, and another flock of around 10 birds was later seen along the Kilbury Road.

BUNTINGS, SEEDEATERS AND ALLIES: Emberizidae

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

Our two visits to Vinayak produced a single bird in the same area on each visit.

Chestnut-breasted Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*

A pair of these buntings were seen near an abandoned maharajas palace near Bund Baretha.

NB. Also known as WHITE-CAPPED BUNTING.

House Bunting *Emberiza striolata*

A pair were found feeding furtively at the base of Bayena cliffs.

Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata*

This uncommon species was seen at Bajun thanks to a tip-off from a chance meeting with a group of English birders in the area. The bird was incredibly confiding allowing us to approach literally within a few feet as it fed on a narrow path there.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

Two sightings were made en-route to Bund Baretha.

#### MAMMAL LIST

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

Commonly encountered throughout, including right in the heart of Delhi.

Hanuman Langur *Semnopithecus entellus*

Also regularly seen. Especially common in Bandhavgarh, where they are a good look out species for cats, and therefore are often found in company with Chital who are happy to have the treetop langurs as their early warning system for prowling tigers.

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor*

6 were seen in Bharatpur, and then we later picked up a few of them on most of our game drives in Bandhavgarh.

Indian Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjac*

Just a single sighting was made in Bandhavgarh.

Spotted Deer *Axis axis*

A daily feature of our Bandhavgarh game drives, their high pitched alarm calls were used to good effect by the park trackers to home in on prowling tigers.

### Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*

These massive antelopes were seen regularly in the Bharatpur area, and also seen around the ancient fort on our first day in Delhi.

### Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

Scattered sightings in both Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh.

### Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

A few scattered sightings in Bharatpur and Bandhavgarh.

### Tiger *Panthera tigris*

THE TRIP HIGHLIGHT, was unbelievable views of a Tigress that was wandering down the road in front of our jeep, while no one else was around. We continued to watch this well-marked animal as it scent-marked, and then later wandered out right behind our vehicle for heart stopping views of this exceptional mammal. We also had a further two sightings in our short time in Bandhavgarh, that is rightly famous as THE place to get Tiger.

### Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*

A couple of these sleek martens were found in the foothills, in Sat Tal and in the tranquil oak woods of Vinayak.

### Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*

A few were seen around Bharatpur.

### Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes javanicus*

Seen a few times on the Gangetic Plains.

### Northern Palm Squirrel *Fanambulus palmarum*

Very, very common during the first leg of the trip.

### Black Rat *Ratus ratus*

A few were seen around train stations.

### Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*

A large colony of these huge bats was visited near Bund Baretha.

### Short-nosed Indian Fruit Bat *Cyanopterus sphinx*

A small group of these little bats were seen roosting on the underside of some palm leaves, in Bharatpur.