

India

Jan 14th to Feb 10th 2012

Introduction

My wife, Jane, and I had been interested in visiting India for some time but never got round to it, then this year Jane had the opportunity to take extra leave which meant we could do a four week holiday and so we decided that India was the place to go! It was also my 50th birthday in January and I thought it might be great to enjoy my birthday while birdwatching and hoping to see Tiger so that helped us decide on the date.

We had met Harsh and Manoj Vardan of IGT Tours at the British Birdwatching Fair as we had shared accommodation in Oakham. They have a stand there and I man the Speyside Wildlife stand every year as I am one of their guides. Having become friends they were the obvious choice to organise the holiday for us sorting out accommodation, transport, guides, meals and every last detail. The organisation was superb and never was there a moment when we weren't being looked after. We were met off every train and put onto each train by our guide or driver, no-one was ever late to meet us and every single thing that we were down to do on our itinerary we did. All the accommodation was good or excellent and the whole trip suited our needs perfectly with some nice surprises thrown in! Many thanks to them both for their excellent help and for inviting us to stay at their house for part of the trip and accompany us on some of the days - it was wonderful to be in such good hands.

Itinerary

Jan 14. Arrive New Delhi approx 0645 am. Afternoon birding at Okhla Dam. Evening board train to Ramnagar at 10.40pm

Jan 15 – 16. Ramnagar. Arrive Ramnagar at 4.55 am. Birding northern, eastern and southern periphery of Corbett National Park, for Ibisbill, Forktails and Fish Owls etc

Jan 17 – 18. Corbett. Drive into Corbett National Park, two nights in core of park - birding and chance of elephants, tiger and other mammals.

Jan 19 – 21. Nainital. Visit Corbett Museum then drive to Nainital birding en route. Three days birding various sites around Nainital should produce a great list of Himalayan birds

Jan 22. Nainital/Ramnagar/Train. Birding near Nainital, transfer to Ramnagar for train to Delhi

Jan 23. New Delhi/Agra. Reach New Delhi 3.55 am transfer to another station to board train at 6.15 am to Agra. Visit to Taj Mahal and Red Fort.

Jan 24. Agra/Birding at Chambal River/Bharatpur. Drive to Chambal River (Dholpur region) for boat trip - Indian Skimmer, Gharial, Mugger Crocodile, River Dolphin and numerous birds. Visit Van Vihar, Urmila Sagar and Talab-i-Shahi for more birding. Drive to Bharatpur.

Jan 24 - 25 – 26 Bharatpur. Three days birding in the famous reserve in grassland, scrub and wetlands for ducks, geese, waders, raptors, storks and owls - and Siberian Rubythroat!

Jan 27. Bharatpur/Agra/Train. Morning birding. Visit Fatehpur Sikri. Board train at Agra to Umaria

Jan 28 – 29 - 30. Bandhavgarh. Three days with jeep safaris during morning and afternoon with guide – total of six safaris. Birds, Tiger and other mammals.

Jan 31. Bandhavgarh/Katni/Train. Final safari then train from Katni to Kota

Feb 01. Kota. Arrive Kota - boat safari on the Chambal River to observe Vultures, Eagle Owls, Thick-knee etc Afternoon visit palace.

Feb 02. Kota/Bundi/Jaipur. Visit Step-Well in Bundi followed by palace. Drive to Jaipur birding en route

Feb 03 - 04. Jaipur. Visit city including Stone Observatory and City Palace. Visit Man Sagar lake, venue of Indian Birding Fair, birding in nearby northern or eastern hilly forest areas.

Feb 05. Jaipur/Tal Chhapar/Bikaner. Drive to Tal Chhapar to see larks, pipits, eagles and wild Blackbucks Drive to Bikaner birding en route.

Feb 06. Bikaner/Phalodi. Visit Jor Beed municipal dump for vultures and eagles. Visit Rat Temple, return to city, visit Junagarh Palace. Drive to Phalodi

Feb 07. Phalodi/Jodhpur. Visit Demoiselle Crane feeding site at Kheechan. Birding local area. Drive to Jodhpur birding en route

Feb 08. Jodhpur/Train. Morning birding at nearby water body, also Blackbucks and Gazelles. Visit Mehrangarh Fort. Drive to Jajawal Sand Dunes see Indian Gazelles protected by Bishnoi community here and learn about their sustainable living. Return Jodhpur, train to New Delhi.

Feb 09. New Delhi. Arrive New Delhi visit New Delhi markets etc and Okhla Dam reserve

Feb 10. New Delhi/London.

Highlights

January 14. Arrived New Delhi early morning, went to hotel for a short rest. Late morning/afternoon birding at Okhla Dam. Evening, boarded train to Ramnagar at 10.40pm

After a long flight we arrived at New Delhi around 7am and gawped at the astonishing sights of day to day life as we travelled to our hotel to catch up with a little sleep before going out birding. Perfectly ordinary street scenes in India were simply astonishing to us, the shops, the crazy driving, animals everywhere, the colourful clothing, even an elephant being ridden along the main road with all the cars just going round it, it is chaotic and fabulous!

Surprisingly our first bird was actually Bank Myna followed seconds later by Common Myna We were too excited to spend too long resting and after a couple of hours met up with our driver and local guide heading out to Okhla Dam Nature Reserve. This was a great place to start our adventure with a very nice selection of birds including large flocks of ducks on the water, hundreds of Black Kites and plenty of birds flitting around the bushes. A flock of Painted Storks flew over and soon we were adding new bird after new bird. Our guide for today was not a birder and I thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into the identification of a whole load of new birds and sometimes new families of birds! The path was lined with bushes and here we found a lot of nice birds including Indian Robin, Ashy Prinia, Plain Prinia, Purple Sunbird, Common Hawk-Cuckoo, Common Tailorbird, Taiga Flycatcher, Black Drongo, Greenish Warbler and Oriental White-eye. On the lake were hundreds of common ducks plus our first Spot-billed Ducks, but we also found on the edges Indian Pond Heron, Greater Coucal, Red-wattled Lapwing, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Citrine Wagtail, Purple Swamphen, White-throated Kingfisher, Black-crowned Night Heron and White-breasted Waterhen. The White-throated Kingfishers were particularly exciting as they seemed to be incredibly tame and allowed us very close views – what stunning birds they are.

After a look round part of Delhi and an evening meal back at the hotel we were taken to the railway station for the train to Ramnagar.

Jan 15 - 16. Ramnagar. Arrived Ramnagar at 5am and slept a little while before breakfast. We went birding to the northern, eastern and southern periphery of Corbett National Park. Targets for me included Ibisbill, any of the Forktails, Brown Fish Owl and anything else we might find

Jan 15th We arrived at Ramnagar in the dark at around 5am and were met by our guide for the next week or more - Karen Singh. He was very friendly and proved to be an excellent guide with an excellent knowledge of birds and where to see them. We went straight to bed and slept until breakfast time

After a delicious breakfast we set off for some birding but even around the hotel and in Ramnagar we added Blue Whistling-Thrush, Large-billed Crow, Brown Rock Chat, Jungle Myna and Dusky Martin,

We made stops at places along the roadside to check out flocks of birds spotted as we were driving and also at places that Karen knew were good for birds and soon we had amassed a large list. Some flocks were quite astonishing and it was all we could do to keep up with identifying birds before spotting the next one.

The following birds were seen in these flocks over the first couple of hours... White-bellied Drongo, Ashy Drongo, Himalayan Flameback, White-browed Fantail, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Lemon-rumped Warbler, Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher, Himalayan Bulbul, Oriental Magpie Robin, Jungle Babbler, Jungle Owlet, Lineated Barbet, Brown-headed Barbet, Scarlet Minivet, Common Iora, Crested Serpent Eagle, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Grey-crowned Woodpecker, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Common Woodshrike, plus our first monkeys - Rhesus Macaque and Barking Deer

We then arrived at the Kosi River. We parked the jeep and walked down towards the river where Karen explained we would be looking for Ibisbill. I felt very excited as this was a bird I was very keen to see on this trip. I was well aware that this could be a tricky species and know several people who have looked for this bird and failed. Karen was just explaining that sometimes the search can take a long time and that we may have to walk some distance up and down the river when suddenly he shouted, "Oh my - there is one there!!" We felt very lucky indeed to find one almost as soon as we arrived at the river and close too! We enjoyed full frame scope views for as long as we wanted - just superb!!

As well as the Ibisbill there were several other species of interest here including River Lapwing, White-capped Water Redstart, Plumbeous Water-Redstart, Blue-throated Barbet, Plain Martin, Pied Kingfisher, Crested Kingfisher, Nepal House Martin, Crested Tree Swift, Himalayan Swiftlet and Asian Pied Starling

We eventually dragged ourselves away - me wondering whether I will see Ibisbill ever again and started up a road into the forest. We came across many flocks of birds as we travelled through the woodland and along the small streams nearby and at times the number of birds and variety of species made the birding almost frenetic! New birds included Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Steppe Eagle, White-browed Wagtail, Bronze Drongo, Collared Falconet, Scarlet Minivet, surprising numbers

of Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, a stunning Rufous-bellied Niltava, Grey-breasted Prinia, Hume's Warbler and White-rumped Needletail.

We reached our lunch spot and enjoyed lunch with a Brown Fish Owl roosting in the trees above our heads! In the surrounding bushes and trees were Yellow-breasted Fantail, Slaty-Blue Flycatcher, Black-headed Oriole, Golden Spectacled Warbler, Grey-headed Woodpecker

After lunch we walked along a small fast flowing stream and I was absolutely thrilled to find a Spotted Forktail - another of the birds I was keen to see. What an absolutely gorgeous bird this is and we enjoyed fantastic close views as it potted around the edge of the water like an overgrown wagtail. In this area we also saw Grey Treepie, Puff-throated Babbler, Brown Dipper, White-crested Laughing Thrush, Common Green Magpie, Mountain Hawk-Eagle and plus our first Spotted Deer and Sambar. It had been an astonishing days birding and everything I had hoped for.

Jan 16th My Birthday! I almost wished that my birthday had been yesterday as I could not a better day birding and Ibisbill, my first Forktail and Brown Fish Owl on my birthday would have been perfect!! As it turned out today was also very bird filled and checking out the river in Ramnagar and nearby provided some fantastic birding. There were obviously many birds we had already seen but that was fine and new birds for the trip included Red-rumped Swallow, the black-backed race of Citrine Wagtail which was stunning, Plum-headed Parakeet, Little Cormorant, Grey Bushchat, lots of Ruddy Shelducks on the river, Little Swift, Spangled Drongo, Black Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Bonelli's Eagle, White-backed Vulture, Black Vulture, Changeable Hawk-Eagle and White-browed Wagtail.

Following the road beside the river at one spot we had wave after wave of birds flying across the road and the number of species was simply astonishing. We followed one flock of birds into the bushes beside the river and experienced one of the most exciting if nerve-wracking moments of the trip!! While checking through the birds Karen suddenly said that there were lots of Tiger tracks in the sand here!! Not only were there lots of tracks but it had been raining earlier and these tracks had clearly been made after the rain!!! Then he spotted a kill - a dead Sambar Deer in the bushes - still bleeding!!!! We beat a very hasty retreat back to the vehicle and drove slowly up and down the road peering into the bushes as our heart beats returned to normal. Sadly we never saw the tiger but I am pretty certain it saw us and wow - it certainly got the adrenalin pumping!!

The birds included Black-chinned Babbler, Brown-capped Woodpecker, Small Minivet, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Lesser Yellownape, Small Niltava, Rufous-georgetted Flycatcher, Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Speckled Piculet, Grey-hooded Warbler, Common Woodshrike, White-throated Fantail, Lemon-rumped Warbler, Common Iora, Blue-throated Barbet and Rufous Treepie amongst others.

We spent the afternoon birding along another stretch of river, fields and woodland. It was quite well wooded in some areas and proved good for hornbills included the enormous Great Hornbill - certainly the bird of the day! Amongst the trees we found Great and Grey Hornbills, our first of many Peacocks, Long-tailed Shrike and Ashy Drongo plus an incredible bees nest. Out in the more open fields around a small village scanned the fields and fence posts to find Long-billed Pipit, Grey and Pied Bushchats, Indian Roller, Brahminy Starling, Common Babbler, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark,

Paddyfield Pipit, Hoopoe, Oriental Magpie Robin, Indian Robin, Oriental Skylark, Striated Grassbird, Alexandrine Parakeet and Yellow-wattled Lapwing

We finished the day with a wonderful meal and a birthday cake all brought to at a table set up outside our cabin. It was lit by a light strung up in the tree above us. They brought over a small brazier and burned a pile of wood to keep us warm and the food was simply wonderful if you like Indian food – which I absolutely love!! It was a birthday I shall remember for ever.

Jan 17 - 18. Drive into Corbett National Park for two nights in the core of the park - birding and hoping to see elephants plus maybe tiger and other mammals.

After breakfast we set off for Dikala in the core area of Corbett National Park. Birding along the way we drove past people picking crops, loading tractors and trailers with sugar cane, villages alive with busy people and animals, school children walking to school in smart uniforms and painted elephants at the road side. There is always something to see and the people look happy with open smiles and wave as we pass in our open jeep.

We arrived at the entrance to the Park and after doing the necessary paperwork are soon driving the dirt tracks that wind through the trees and high above the beautiful river. We stop to check any birds as we go and have soon amassed more new birds... Long-tailed Minivet, Chestnut-headed Tesia (after much effort!), Aberrant Bush-warbler and White-tailed Rubythroat. I can't leave mention of that bird without saying just how special that was! WE stopped to check some birds in the low bushes beside some brambles and suddenly this vision just hopped out into the open and vanished again just a quickly leaving us with jaws a-gape! Simply stunning! We saw Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Black-necked Storks by the river, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Red-headed Vulture, Greater Yellownape and lots of Stonechats! There were a few birds I was very keen to see which we saw this morning including Tawny Fish Owl, Red-billed Blue-Magpie (they look like something from a Japanese painting!), Red jungle Fowl and best of all Pallas's Fish Eagle. This must be one of the most beautiful raptors there is – far more elegant and beautiful than I expected. We also saw a lovely group of Smooth-coated Otters in the river which we followed as they searched for fish for some distance and lots of deer

After lunch we went for a drive into the marsh-land not far from the accommodation. Here we saw large numbers of Stonechat while searched for Hodgeson's Stonechat, which we found eventually. We got poor views of Rosy Pipit and Red Avadavat and found a nice perched Lesser Fish Eagle. There were several Hog Deer in the marshes which are apparently a rare species

As we were birding we suddenly heard someone in the distance make a loud 'whoop' and our guide explained that this means someone has found a tiger! We raced over and found several vehicles parked watching a path of scrub but after some time nothing had appeared. Then another 'whoop' went up and we drove down one of the tracks until we arrived at the place where they could see it stalking some Spotted Deer. We could see the top of its back and its ears and at times its tail as it walked through the long grass. It might not have been the best view of a tiger ever but it was our first and very exiting! This was despite our driver getting the vehicle stuck in the mud and all the local guys jumping out excitedly to stick wood under the wheels and get it moving again!

We drove back at a pace to get back inside the gates before they were closed, then after our evening meal we took a torch round the lodge grounds and found a lovely little Barred Owllet.

Jan 18th We started out in the marshes again hoping for another tiger sighting. We had not been there long when a passing jeep informed us that one had been found and we drove to the area and waited for some time. Nothing happened and we tried driving as little way up one of the tracks. Suddenly a Hog Deer shot across the track followed by a Tiger!! It was so fast it was gone in a second but you could where it was bounding through the grass, its tail swishing above the grass-heads but little more of it visible.

We drove round other tracks hoping we might find it appearing further on and soon came across more jeeps waiting at a crossroads where one of the guides said they thought a Tiger was approaching. After a few minutes we could tell they were seeing something approaching through the vegetation and moments later it appeared on the track walked straight across and into the vegetation on the other side. Another rather brief encounter but by far the best view so far.

We drove down the track hoping for further sightings but never saw it again, our attention gradually being taken over by the birds here which included a few new species such as Maroon Oriole, White-capped Bunting, Baya Weaver and a nice flock of Red-breasted Parakeets in the tree tops near the lodge. Also, as we drove back towards the lodge we found our first wild Indian Elephant - a lovely female with a young one at her side - but not always easy to see in the long grass. And all before breakfast!

After another delicious Indian breakfast we set out again driving the roads and tracks in search of birds. There were plenty to see and new species included Yellow-eyed Babbler, Buff-barred Warbler, Red-billed Leothrix, Scaly-breasted Woodpecker, White-necked Stork, Grey-hooded Warbler and Black-rumped Flameback. This list does not do justice to the sheer number of birds though and we must have seen at least fifty species on this drive with more great views of Pallas's Fish Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Puff-throated Babbler, Black-headed Oriole, Mountain Hawk-Eagle and another wonderful White-tailed Rubythroat.

In the afternoon we enjoyed more fabulous birding with excellent views of Himalayan Griffon, Red-headed and Black Vultures, 2 Pallas's Fish Eagles, Red Jungle Fowl and a Red-breasted Flycatcher with a red breast amongst other things.

Jan 19th Dikala to Nainital. Birding through Corbet Nat Park to the entrance then visit to Corbett Museum before heading up to Nainital birding en route.

With thick fog in the marshy areas near the lodge we chose to forget searching for tigers and spend the early morning birding the woodlands where the fog was not a problem. We had a great time and found some good birding with mixed warbler flocks including lots of Lemon-rumped, Hume's and Grey-headed Warblers. We found a secretive flock of Olive-backed Pipit and also Streak-throated Woodpecker, Brown Shrike, Greater Flameback, Kalij Pheasant and got some great views of Pallas's Fish Eagle

We returned for breakfast then headed back out to the entrance of the park along the same route. We were delighted to pause at a tower and from where we scanned the lake and discovered a lovely

group of wild Indian Elephants on the far side which looked wonderful through the scope. There were also Gharials on the edge of the lake and we watched a Pallas's Fish Eagle flying below us. Further on we found large groups of Langur Monkeys in the trees and big flocks of Plum-headed Parakeets and we saw the Smooth-coated Otters again

We drove down to Ramnagar where we had lunch. After lunch we drove up to Nainital - quite a long drive high into the hills during which it became very cold indeed!! We ended up wrapped in blankets and with cold noses as we arrived in Nainital! We saw some good birds on the way including our first Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, Striated Laughing Thrush and Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush

Jan 20 – 21. Nainital. Two days birding a variety of excellent sites around Nainital heading higher to see the Himalayas and into various habitats including hillsides, villages, woodland and streamsides.

Jan 20th We spent the day birding the area around Nainital pausing at lots of places and visiting some very nice woodlands and open areas. The whole area had loads of birds including lots of Red-billed Leothrix, Grey Bushchat, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Rufous-bellied Niltava, and a nice Oriental Turtle Dove. New birds including Blue-capped Redstart, Russet Sparrow, Green-backed Tit, Red-flanked Bluetail, Rufous Sibia, Mountain Bulbul, Black-throated Tit, Steppe Eagle, Black-headed Jay, Rufous-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler and Black-lored Tit. We saw a flock of Red-billed Blue Magpies, Common Rosefinch, Small Niltava, White-tailed Rubythroat and Brown-fronted Woodpecker.

We took a lovely short walk through some woodland which was full of birds with large numbers of warblers including Grey-hooded, Golden Spectacled and amazing numbers of Lemon-rumped Warbler. There were also big flocks of laughing thrushes chasing across the paths and gathering in noisy flocks and we enjoyed watching them as they are very active birds. They were mostly White-throated Laughing Thrush but also a few White-crested which are spectacular! In this woodland we also saw White-tailed and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, White-bellied Yuhina, Rusty-tailed Flycatcher, Speckled Piculet, Slaty-blue Flycatcher, Long-tailed Minivet, Red-flanked Bluetail, White-throated Fantail, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Buff-barred Warbler, Olive-backed Pipit, Long-billed Thrush, Blue-fronted Redstart and got excellent views of the elusive Chestnut-headed Tasia.

On the way back we stopped to check another flock of birds. There were no different birds here but we were absolutely thrilled to see two Yellow-throated Martens!! They are absolutely beautiful animals and looked like a Pine Marten coloured like a Siamese Cat! Oddly the throat was not really yellow - the whole animal was beautifully marked with deep brown and silvery white merging gently and smoothly like they do on a Siamese cat, they were one of the most beautiful animals I have ever seen!

21st Jan Today we headed higher into the hills passing through various small villages where we paused to check out birds beside the road. In one village we stopped to look at a Great Barbet, and while we were stopped Rufous Sibilias and both Grey-winged and White-collared Blackbirds flew into the bushes beside us and started eating berries. We were astonished when a Chestnut Thrush dropped in with them - a rare bird indeed here and a new bird even for our guide!

Eventually we came to a point in the road where we had the most spectacular view across to the Himalayas. It really was beautiful with a line of snowy peaks along the horizon and blue sky above. Our guide pointed out the highest mountain in India and some of the other peaks and we spent a while just staring and taking it in - superb! When we set off again we had not gone far at all when we found there was snow beside the road! We paused at various bits of woodland and found Spot-winged Tit, Himalayan Woodpecker, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and high above us a Black Eagle.

We stopped at the village of Vinayak where we enjoyed the views and also watching the children who were all playing and despite being out in the middle of the mountains and apparently living in what appeared to be virtually mud huts – they all had mobile phones! We saw Striated Prinia here plus Black Bulbul, Black-headed Jay and another surprise bird - Collared Grosbeak which according to the book was some distance from where it should be.

We drove higher up into the mountains with astonishing views down the terraced slopes and we were amazed to see women collecting grass for the animals high up on these incredibly steep slopes. We got great views of Himalayan Griffon Vultures here and also a flock of over 100 Altai Accentors!

We stopped on the way back down at the village of Pangot where again there were plenty of birds including another Black Eagle, Blue-fronted Redstart, Pink-browed Rosefinch, Common Rosefinch, Buff-barred Warbler, Black Redstart and Yellow-breasted Greenfinch.

22nd Jan Birding on our way back down from Nainital to Ramnagar where we caught the train to Delhi in the evening.

We started working our way back down the road from Nainital pausing here and there to check out birds at the roadside. We saw Striated Laughing-Thrush, Maroon Oriole, Rock Bunting, Kalij Pheasant, a nice flock of Black-throated Tits, Bar-tailed Treecreeper and Blue-capped Redstart amongst other birds.

Eventually we arrived at the Mongoli Valley where we went for a lovely walk and stopped to talk to local villagers. They were just delightful people and were more than happy to pose for photos for Jane, even running off to bring members of the family to join in and soon we had the whole extended family in on picture from Grandad to tiny children! We walked down to a river and discovered that sadly it was being ruined by lots of soil dumped in it while they build a new road. We were shocked and also saddened as this is where we were hoping to see another Forktail. In the end we worked our way down the stream until we got away from all the mess and eventually came to some nice stretches of water and were delighted to find Slaty-tailed Forktail and our second Spotted Forktail. We had lots of Nepal House Martins overhead and Dusky Crag Martin plus plenty of other birds we have seen before.

We then travelled back down to Ramnagar pausing here and there to scan for birds and even added three new ones - Green-tailed Sunbird, Blue-bearded Bee-eater and Pale-billed Flowerpecker. WE stopped to look at a Common Green Magpie, a superb looking bird and our best view so far then while we were watching that a Goral appeared amongst the trees – a rather goat-like animal I imagined would be out on the mountain tops! Before we reached the main road we made a stop at the Jim Corbett Museum which was very interesting. In the evening I went through the book and

worked out that this first part of the holiday has racked up more than 250 species of birds - an absolutely fantastic stat to the trip! There is plenty more to come but I am well aware the pace will slow down from now on as we will be doing a bit more sight-seeing and the number of species won't be as high anyway – but there is still plenty to come.

We caught the train to Delhi in the evening travelling overnight and arriving in Delhi at around 4am then catching a train on to Agra at around 6am

Jan 23rd Train from Ramnagar overnight to Delhi then a second train to Agra arriving in the morning.

The last part of our overnight train journey to Agra was in daylight and we watched the world go by through the train windows. There were marshes full of Black-necked Stilts and loads of waders of many species plus a few Woolly-necked Storks, Painted Storks and hundreds of Black Kites.

We spent the day in Agra, spending part of the morning relaxing and then visiting the astonishing Taj Mahal at about 11am. I always wondered whether it would be as impressive as everyone says it is - well, it is!!! We were hugely impressed by the sheer elegance and beauty of this astonishing building and enjoyed our visit enormously. It is impossible to try and describe the place and everyone knows what it looks like so it seems pointless to add my words to the pile, but if you are trying to decide whether to visit or not then quite simply - do! We then visited the Red Fort which was also impressive though nothing like as beautiful, though it did allow a view across to the Taj which looked beautiful also from a distance. There were huge numbers of Three-striped Squirrels here – or at least that is what we think they are – but in the book it seems surprisingly hard to tell Three-striped from Five-striped.

We decided to finish the day down at the riverside on the other side from the Taj Mahal and watch the sun set. It was superb and very relaxing to just stand and enjoy the scene. There was some people on the far bank lighting candles and floating them down the river adding another touch to the lovely view. There were even a few birds on the river bank including many waders such as Ruff, Redshank, Greenshank, Temminck's Stint and Green Sandpiper plus Spoonbill, Desert Wheatear, Ruddy Shelduck, River Lapwing and hundreds of Common Mynahs and House Crows. I became quite fascinated by the variations in the White Wagtails which I think represented three sub-species.

Jan 24th Picked up by guide and driver and taken to Chambal River for a boat ride then lots of birding en route to Bharatpur

We were met by our guide and driver and headed down to the Dolphur area where we took a boat ride on the Chambal River. We saw Desert Wheatear, Crested Lark and River Lapwing before we even got into the boat. Birding was excellent with a good selection of birds including Intermediate Egret, Black-necked Stork, lots of Ruddy Shelduck, about 30 or so Indian Skimmer, Lagger Falcon, Comb Duck, Lesser Whistling Duck, Dalmatian Pelican, Spotted Owlet, Spot-billed Duck, Egyptian Vulture and Black Ibis. We also saw Mugger Crocodiles and a nice group of surprisingly large Gharials - wonderful looking animals with long thin snouts. We spent a while looking out for River Dolphins but it was really hard to spot them as they surface so quickly they are gone before you can turn and spot them! The result is that everyone has to spot their own and trying to point one out

just results in frustration. They also seem to travel a long way under the water so you couldn't even watch the same place hoping it would come up again!

After we had finished the boat trip we set off in the direction of Bharatpur but there were loads of lakes and small ponds to stop at along the way and we took our time birding the whole way there and had a fabulous time! There were loads of waders of lots of species and also ducks, grebes, kingfishers and - well just loads of birds including Indian Bush Lark, Bay-backed Shrike, Woolly-necked Stork, Black-shouldered Kite, Southern Grey Shrike, Bar-headed Goose, Asian Openbill, Jungle Prinia, Brown-headed Gull, Black-headed Ibis, Black-bellied Tern, River Tern, Indian Spotted Eagle, Large Grey Babbler, Tawny Pipit, Jack Snipe, Isabelline Wheatear, Bronze-winged Jacana, Comb Duck, Rufous-tailed Lark, Sarus Crane, Darter, Indian Cormorant, White-eared Bulbul, Grey Francolin, Rufous-tailed Lark, Marsh Sandpiper, Yellow Wagtail, Citrine Wagtail, Blyth's Reed Warbler and Yellow-wattled Lapwing.

We were also just agog at the street scenes as we pass through the villages and towns and just loved the journey. There were so many people and animals everywhere! We were astonished by the way the lorries were decorated in all kinds of colourful banners, paintings and even ferns strapped onto the top of the cabins. Even tractors were all decorated and it was amazing to see all the animals wandering the streets - dogs, goats, elephants, camels, cows and pigs - we even had to stop and drive round a dog sucking her pups in the middle of the road! The women were beautifully dressed in colourful saris and bangles and along the road sides were stalls selling all kinds of things including a huge variety of fruit and vegetables, cooked nuts and other foods - it was quite mesmerising and just fabulous. We finally arrived at Bharatpur, settled into our rooms and enjoyed another very tasty evening meal.

Jan 25 – 26 Bharatpur. Two days birding the wetlands, scrub, woodlands and grasslands of this world famous reserve.

Before we had even finished breakfast we had spotted a Golden Jackal outside the window! We started with a great selection of birds as we walk first towards the entrance to the park and stop to look at a Collared Scops Owl. Then we had the deliberation about whether or not to wait for a Siberian Rubythroat which had not been seen for some time and they were unsure if it was still around. This was one of the birds I was most keen to see on this trip and I felt I did not want to miss the chance but how long to give it when there is so much else to see!! We were just trying to decide when it appeared and what an absolute beauty!! This was just as stunning a bird as I had always hoped it would be. We were then taken through the bushes in search of owls, flycatchers and all kinds of things... and soon we had a great list of birds including some tricky species like Tikkel's and Orange-headed Thrushes. We walked through to where a Dusky Eagle Owl was being hounded by some crows and managed some good views before it flew. We saw Verditer Flycatcher, Coppersmith Barbet, Pallid Harrier, Indian Robin, Oriental Magpie Robin, Paddyfield Warbler, Black-rumped Flameback, Baya Weaver, Greenish Warbler and a superb and very large Indian Rock Python sunbathing on a grassy patch.

We continued after lunch with more birding around the wetlands and saw Chestnut-shouldered Petronia, Indian Silverbill, Greater Spotted Eagle, Indian Spotted Eagle, Painted Snipe, Little Swift, White-browed Fantail, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Painted Stork, Bluethroat, Grey Hornbill,

Spotted Owlet, Bay-backed Shrike, Red-wattled Lapwing, lots of Bar-headed Geese, Citrine Wagtail and White-tailed Lapwing. We also saw plenty of mammals with lots of Spotted DEwer, Golden Jackal, Indian Hare and we got a brief view of a Jungle Cat!

Jan 26th We started the day with a cycle rickshaw ride down one of the longest tracks then walking back via various looping tracks through a variety of dry scrubby bush and large wetland areas. Even on the rickshaw ride we added two new birds - Yellow-footed Green Pigeon and Long-tailed Nightjar! There were enormous numbers of birds including many, many species we had seen before and few new ones but it was a wonderful morning's birding with huge numbers of geese, ducks, egrets, darter, shrikes, warblers, babblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers, parakeets, raptors, vultures, storks, owls etc etc It is hard to know whether a full list would be worth doing as it would be very long and include mainly species already mentioned in this report but it is tempting just because it is so impressive! Some of the highlights, either because they were new birds, particularly good views, much better views than previously or because they were particularly numerous included... Greater Coucal, White-fronted Waterhen, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Bay-backed Shrike, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, White-tailed Lapwing, Sarus Crane, Bar-headed Goose, Citrine Wagtail, Large Grey Babbler, Shrikra, Greater Spotted Eagle, Common Woodshrike, Streak-throated Swallows, Painted Stork, Black Ibis, White Wagtail (see below), Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Lesser Whistling Duck, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Little Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Booted Eagle, Spotted Owlet, Black-necked Stork, Golden Oriole and Hoopoe.

The wagtails are of interest as there seem to be a huge variety of races. There are certainly two races of Citrine Wagtails including the grey backed *Montacilla citreola citreola* and the black backed *M c Calcarata*. I found the Yellow Wagtails much harder to ascertain to sub-species as many looked rather dull, but more of a surprise was to see so many variations of White Wagtail! Over the holiday so far I think we have seen *Montacilla alba dukhunensis*, *M a alboides*, *M a personata*, *M a leucopsis* and perhaps more! Some of these have an almost completely black head with just some white around the eyes and onto the forehead. Very striking birds and called in some books Black-backed Wagtail

Jan 27th A lazy morning getting sorted and then travelling to Agra to catch the train to Bandavgarh in the afternoon.

We enjoyed a relaxed morning getting ourselves sorted out as our luggage had become a complete mess and we felt we needed it! It was hard to not continually keep peeping out of the window though and we saw Yellow-footed Green Pigeons, Black Drongos, Peacocks, Grey Francolins, Indian Robins, Purlpe Sunbirds, Rufous Treepie, White-eared Bulbul and plenty more

After lunch we set off for Agra to catch the train to our next destination - Bandavgarh. We made a stop at Fatapur Sikri en route but to be honest although it was a very impressive place we did not have enough time to take it in properly and it all felt a bit rushed. Our guide was not brilliant either as he seemed rather keen to make sure we did some shopping (no doubt it brings him money via commission)

It was still daylight when we set off on the train and the journey passed through an astonishing eroded landscape and passing back over the Chambal River. We saw a few birds, especially waders in small shallow pools, but little new or worthy of mention, though I have not really given the

impression of the birds when you travel yet and I probably should mention the regular sightings of Indian Roller on the wires and Black Drongos. Eventually it got dark and we set up our buks and slept. It is actually quite astonishing how well you sleep on these overnight trains despite the noise, rocking and fact you are sharing the cabin with several other people. I found it an enjoyable experience and a nice chance to meet people.

Jan 28th – 31st Bandavgarh, mainly driving around the reserve in jeeps looking for Tigers and birding around the lodge gardens and surrounding area on foot.

We arrived at Bandavgarh as the sun was just rising and had missed the morning safari so had a relaxed morning settling into our room, enjoying breakfast and a snooze and birding around the lodge. There were plenty of birds around and of note were Oriental Turtle Dove, Oriental Magpie Robin, Common Tailorbird, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Greenish Warbler and Purple Sunbird.

In the afternoon we went on our first safari full of anticipation and soon spotted Red Jungle Fowl, and new birds such as Asian Palm Swift, Red Spurfowl and Long-billed Vulture. After some time we arrived at a spot where there were lots of very noisy deer and Langur Monkeys and we thought – wow this has to be a Tiger! We waited with bated breath and then out of the vegetation came a cat - a big spotted one!! It was a Leopard and we were very surprised as they are generally considered much harder to see than Tigers. We were thrilled but - well - we wanted to see a Tiger! This sounds very ungrateful for our good fortune in seeing a Leopard but I can't help it - I have seen several Leopards before and our Tiger sightings at Corbett had been rather frustrating.

We saw more good birds as we drove and one was the bizarre looking Lesser Adjutant but we came back without any Tiger sighting. Our guide told us not to worry as he said that most people see a Tiger even if they only do a couple of safaris, we are doing six so a Tiger is guaranteed! I hate it when guides say that!!!

Jan 29th - 31st Bandavgarh was to prove a touch frustrating to be honest as we spent a huge amount of time searching for Tigers. They proved very elusive which does not seem to be most people's experience here. Almost everyone you talk to about this place says Tigers are very easy to see and our guide said that we should get good views of tiger within the first couple of trips out and then we could focus on seeing birds. We spent six safaris driving round and round and waiting and searching and scanning and listening for alarm calling deer and racing around again and most of this time we weren't seeing much at all. It became immensely frustrating. This went on for two days with two safaris per day and we were told the best way to see a Tiger was to keep driving around and that is what we did! I started to look forward to the times when we were back at the lodge so I could at least do some birding. It was tempting to suggest forgetting looking for Tiger and just going birding but we were of course really keen to see a Tiger and if we then didn't see one by the time we left we would have felt we had not tried hard enough.

There were however some other great highlights and these included an astonishing prolonged view of a Wolf! This is a much more difficult animal to see than a Tiger so I really should be much more pleased with this. We also got fabulous views of at least two Jungle Cats which are beautiful if slightly strangely proportioned animals. There were lots of deer, Wild Boar, Langur Monkeys etc and

quite a lot of birds including the following on the safaris... Brown-headed Barbet, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Alexandrine Parakeet, Collared Scops Owl, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Red-headed Vulture, Oriental Turtle Dove, White-eyed Buzzard, Lesser Cuckoo Shrike, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Olive-backed Pipit, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Grey Hornbill, Crested Serpent Eagle, Jungle Owlet, Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Plum-headed Parakeet, Stone Curlew, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch etc

Birding around the lodge and on short walks outside the lodge in the surrounding countryside produced plenty of birds including... Orange-headed Thrush, Puff-throated Babbler, Hume's Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Ashy Drongo, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Spotted Dove, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Common Iora, White-naped Flameback, Long-tailed Shrike (race L s tricolor), Brahminy Starling, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Tickell's Thrush, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Bonelli's Eagle, Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Verditer Flycatcher, Crested Tree Swift, Jungle Bush Quail, Emerald Dove and more

We finally got to see a Tiger during the last hour of the final safari! Someone on elephant back had found a Tiger well fed and resting in the bamboo amongst the trees away from the track and they set it up so that two Elephants ferried people the short distance off the track to see it. You go in four at a time and we got two minutes with the Tiger from the back of the elephant. It was a superb animal, a bit sleepy and it barely had the enthusiasm to raise its head and look at us. Also on an elephant you have four people - two looking one side two the other, so the mahout kept turning the elephant so we could all get a chance to look. I was thrilled to see this wonderful looking animal at last but I can't quite shake off the frustration of the experience - but perhaps I should stop sounding like a spoilt child and be pleased with what I have seen!! I imagine if someone else was telling me this story I would tell them exactly that!!

In the evening we went to the railway station and caught the train to Kota

Feb 1st Arrived at Kota then after a rest took a boat trip on the Chambal River. Visited Palace in Kota and later a large wetland behind the Abhede Palace

Dawn saw us still travelling towards Kota on the overnight train and soon enough we were watching the birds from the train as we passed countless small ponds and rough areas where birds appeared to abound! There were plenty of waders mainly of the common species like Greenshank, Redshank, Spotted Redshank, Green Sandpiper etc plus Red-wattled Lapwing, Black-winged Stilt and loads of egrets and herons including Indian Pond Heron and Glossy Ibis. There were plenty of mynas, parakeets, White-throated Kingfisher, Indian Roller, Bay-backed Shrike, a lovely Pallid Harrier, Black-shouldered Kites, Ruddy Shelduck and lots more

Arriving in Kota we were met by our guide and after settling in to our hotel we were taken down to the Chambal River to go for another boat ride.

The list of birds was soon long and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing a wide range of species. These included Open-billed Stork, River Tern, Little Cormorant, Bronze-winged Jacana, Indian Cormorant, Green Bee-eaters, Intermediate Egret, Wire-tailed Swallow, Wryneck and excellent views of a

booted Eagle. We saw crazy numbers of Black Kites and enjoyed watching big flocks of them wheeling round above the shoreline and cliffs. There were Mugger Crocodiles on the bank here and there including some very large ones. We got excellent view of a Peregrine and two superb Eurasian Eagle Owls followed very quickly by two Dusky Eagle Owls! We also saw lots of Long-billed Vultures including some nesting on the cliff and some flying round in synchronised flying pairs. On the way back I spotted a Great Thick-knee which was a lovely surprise and we saw three Grey Mongoose running along the bank.

In the afternoon we looked round the palace here which was stunning with beautiful architecture and the most astonishing detailed wall paintings. The river below the palace was teeming with birds including lots of Lesser Whistling Ducks, Open-billed Storks, Painted Storks, Bronze-winged Jacana and a new bird, Cotton Pygmy Goose.

We finished the day with our driver, Om, taking us to a great place - a wetland behind Abhede Palace. There were simply hundreds of ducks and waders here plus many Black Kites, egrets, herons, etc etc. Highlights included Sarus Cranes, Black-headed Ibis, Ferruginous Duck, Bluethroat, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Crag Martin, Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, lots of Garganey, Painted Stork, Wire-tailed Swallow, Pied, White-throated and Common Kingfishers, Shikra, lots of Comb Ducks and lots of waders including Little Ringed Plover and Temminck's Stint.

Feb 2nd Travel from Kota to Jaipur

Today was a travelling day with our journey from Kota to Jaipur punctuated with stops for birding. We also made a stop at Bundi where we wanted to visit a step well. This proved very interesting indeed and we had an excellent guide who did a great job of showing us round two Step-wells and Bundi Palace which we weren't expecting - but which was well worth the visit. It was sad to see the step wells are completely dried up - something our guide told us would never have happen when he was young. The palace was full of astonishing paintings of parades, daily life, hunting scenes and all sorts – just superb and full of incredible detail. There was a bit of wildlife here too and we saw Brown Rock- Chat, lots of squirrels (we are still struggling to decide whether these are Three-striped or Five-striped!) There was a group of large strange looking bats in one entrance way and we later identified them as Naked-rumped Tomb-Bats

The rest of the drive to Jaipur was through dryer and dryer habitat with regular Black-shouldered Kites, Indian Rollers, Black Drongos etc on the wires. We paused at a shallow pool where we added both Little and Temminck's Stints, Avocets and lots of Marsh Sandpiper and I spotted four Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse in flight

We arrived at Harsh and Manoj's house in the early evening and it was lovely to see them and meet the family

Feb 3rd Full day around Jaipur We spent the first part of the morning catching up with Harsh and Manoj and relaxing and sorting out our washing and all kinds of general organising type things. Our visit, by chance, happened to coincide with the Indian Birdfair which is an event that Harsh organises and we spent latter part of the morning at the Birdfair which takes place at Man Sager Lake. We had a delightful morning showing the birds to classes of school children who were very

polite and appeared to very much enjoy looking through the telescopes to see the birds and use the identification guide created by Harsh and Manoj to identify the birds. Jane even took part in a question and answer session! The lake had many typical wetland species and we learned how it used to be badly polluted with sewage before Harsh campaigned for the sewage to be piped elsewhere so the lake could be clean. There were plenty of birds to show the children and many herons, egrets, cormorants, etc proved the most popular.

After we left the Birdfair we visited the Amber Palace and Fort which were spectacular and the scenery and views were superb. There was a whole group of older children who were going to perform some dances for a VIP who had not arrived yet but it was wonderful to see them all dressed up in their astonishingly colourful costumes.

Feb 4th Visit to the Galata (Monkey) Temple, Stone Observatory and evening at Kamota Dam

Today we were tourist for most of the day and visited a couple of very nice places. We went first to the Galata Temple which is also known as the Monkey Temple since it has dozens if not hundreds of Macaques that live around the buildings. You can even buy food at the entrance to feed them if you want. It was a beautiful temple and many people were making a pilgrimage there and were washing in the waters of the temple garden. The whole place was alive with Macaques and they were running around and bathing and swimming in the waters and also on the hillsides. I am slightly embarrassed to confess that despite my love of all things wildlife I am not taken with Macaques - they are rather aggressive and found them a bit un-nerving as occasionally one would stand up to you and bare its teeth but I guess they feel this place is theirs! Anyway it was a lovely temple and the scenery nice and although birding was rather quiet we got very good views of Rufous Treepie, Lesser Whitethroat, Brown Rock-chat and Red-vented Bulbul as well as the rather strange looking Grey Mongoose.

We went for a rather luxurious lunch in Jaipur before visiting the famous Stone Observatory which was absolutely fascinating. I felt the guide here might have been better at explaining what the various instruments did and how, but I found it astonishing to realise how accurate some of the instruments are and how interested the powerful people of past times had been in the stars and planets - the observatory dates back to the 1720s.

We returned to the house with Manoj and in the evening went with Harsh to a nearby wetland called Kamota Dam where we did a bit of birding. There were plenty of ducks, Little grebes, herons and egrets, Black-tailed Godwits, Snipe and Ruff plus Plain Martin, White-eared Bulbul, Greater Coucal and a lovely mixed flock of mynas and Rosy Starlings. We also got good views of a Golden Jackal as we left.

Feb 5th Travelled from Jaipur to Bikaner stopping at Tal Chapar en route. This was another day of travelling with quite a distance to cover but our driver was now becoming used to our keenness to stop and check out birds. I have to say I was very impressed with him. He was not a birder, but he quickly realised we did not want to stop for everything, and if it was a bird we had seen plenty of already we would not want to stop but something new would be of interest to us. As I said he is not a birder but with incredible speed he was soon able to pick out Rollers, Black-shouldered Kites, Black Drongos, Bay-backed Shrike, Common Mynas etc and realise we had seen these before, while

noticing other birds and asking if we wanted to stop! Birds of interest seen en route included Long-legged Buzzard, Steppe Eagle, Indian Silverbill, Laughing Dove and Rosy Starlings.

We had lunch at a very good roadside café which served delicious food and then continued to a reserve called Tal Chapar. This tiny grassland reserve is mainly for Blackbucks and there are indeed hundreds of them here. They are really beautiful animals especially the males which are black with a white area round the eyes and long slightly spiralled horns. We were pleased to find there were plenty of birds too including a big surprise! We knew there might be larks but we were astonished to see flocks of hundreds if not thousands of Bimaculated and Short-toed Larks! There were lots of Steppe Eagles and several Pallid Harriers, Laggar Falcon, Grey Francolin, Desert Wheatear and our first Demoiselle Cranes in flight. We spent while enjoying all this before driving round towards a Tawny Eagle nest. The nest had a couple of well grown chicks in it but there was no sign of the parents. This is considered by some a separate species - Indian Tawny Eagle - but this is not accepted by all yet. This area was good with more Pallid Harriers, White-eared Bulbul, Rosy Starlings, (Indian) Hoopoe and Variable Wheatear of two colour morphs, one all black with white vent and the other with a completely white belly and chest. We were pleased to see Desert Warbler here too and lots of little animals that look like gerbils called Desert Jurds. There were astonishing numbers of Peacocks around here!

We had a very pleasant surprise when we arrived at our accommodation. We had been told in our tour notes this would be a 'modest place' but when we arrived we found it was an old palace with the most stunning carved woodwork and gorgeous rooms.

Feb 6th Bikaner, Jor Beer Municipal Dump, Karni Mata - the Rat Temple, then drive to Phalodi

We enjoyed our stay at the hotel in Bikaner, but started early with a visit to the Jor Beer Municipal Dump which from what we could see was where they dumped the bodies of cows after they had died and after they had removed the skins for leather. There were, in places, piles of carcasses and rib cages. This attracts enormous numbers of eagles and vultures and the whole scene was quiet astonishing! There were hundreds of Egyptian Vultures and masses of Eurasian Griffon Vultures too. The ground was covered in vultures and the trees too and we were astonished with one scan of the binoculars to count over a hundred Steppe Eagles and hundreds of Black Kites. It was quite a scene but not somewhere you could really walk round or anything due to the presence of rather vicious looking dogs.

After taking a stupid number of photos we decided to visit Karni Mata, a place known as the Rat Temple. This was another astonishing experience!! This temple is beautifully carved with white marble(?) entrance covered in carved snakes, lizards, rats and other animals. The surround to the door frame is a solid line of carved rats and they are considered sacred here. As a result you can buy food to give the rats as you enter – and inside there are hundreds of them! There are huge trays of milk put out for them to drink as well often with a line of rats round the edge drinking. In one corner there was just a mass of them and they seemed to be two layers deep! You are apparently considered lucky to see a white one and we shown a white one by several people - but to be honest the thing we found the most disconcerting was the condition of many of the rats - they really did not look good, some with open wounds others looking very ill and just sat fluffed up and looking most poorly. The white one did not move the entire time we were there. We seemed to have hit on a

special day of worship when hundreds of people were visiting to worship and there was a big queue to place gifts on the shrine making everything seem all the more chaotic but also all the more fascinating and the whole experience was one we will surely never forget!

We were also impressed by the decorated camels outside which tow a kind of cart with huge wheels. The wheels are apparently from old broken down planes and the carts have the nickname of Desert Aeroplanes.

The rest of the day was spent driving from Bikenir to Phalodi and our driver proved very useful again picking out birds to stop for on the wires including Rufous-tailed (Isabelline) Shrike, Crested Lark, Bay-backed Shrike, Variable Wheatear etc. We also saw Desert Warbler and got great views of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and Laggar Falcon

Feb 7th Visit to Khitchan Demoiselle feeding station, then birding en route to Jodpur

Today was the main reason to come this far west for me as I had been very keen to visit the Demoiselle feeding place that is pretty famous over the world. I had been very keen to include it in the itinerary and I started the day feeling nervous - what if it didn't live up to expectations. We drove from Phalodi to Khichan and at first it seemed hard to be sure what was going on as there appeared to be a lot of Demoiselle Cranes flying over the feeding site we were watching to a different one. The food was still being put out at our site and we were worried that this was putting the birds off coming down! But we should not have worried. Shortly birds started to drop into the field the other side of the wall from the compound where the food was being spread. The numbers built up and up and we walked down the road a short distance to take photos. The birds were remarkably tame and I was already thrilled by what we had seen but this was nothing!

After a while the first birds started entering the compound where the food was laid out for them and we watched as gradually the number increased to perhaps a total of three thousand birds. We were on a raised wall and enjoying fantastic views! Through the scopes you could enjoy full frame views of individual birds while a carpet of birds fed. At times their backs were like a rolling sea of grey feathers, then a neck and head would lift up and call before dropping back down to feed. It was simply wonderful and we enjoyed talking the guy who instigated all this and spent time fighting for the cranes against power lines etc. But most astonishing was when a cat entered the compound and suddenly we had three thousand Demoiselle Cranes battling to get airborne in a chaotic mass of wings and calling birds. They came straight at us and flew low overhead which was an incredible experience then gained height and wheeled around above us for ages before finally plucking up the courage to return. The whole experience lived up to my hopes and was just brilliant

The rest of the day was taken travelling to Jodpur with plenty of birding on the way. Birds seen from the road side including several Pallid Harriers, plenty of Black-shouldered Kites, Green Bee-eaters, Steppe Eagles and a single Tawny Eagle, Long-legged Buzzards, Variable Wheatears, Common Babbler, Pied Bushchat and our first Indian Gazelles. We passed through a superb area of real desert where we also saw more gazelles but no birds.

We made a brief stop at a Jain Temple looking round a small part of it beside the road and the carvings were astonishing. It was a beautiful temple and the locals place food out for doves here.

There were hundreds if not thousands of Collared Doves and scanning through them we picked out a few Red Collared Doves.

We arrived at our accommodation at a little Bishnoi Village, a nice collection of mud huts with thatched roofs and after enjoying a delicious evening meal we decided to take a short walk down the road. It was dark and scanning around with a torch we found very little until on the way back we spotted some eye-shine on the road and were delighted to discover they belonged to a Syke's Nightjar - a species we were not expecting at all!

Feb 8th We started the day with a walk in the surrounding area of our accommodation. This was rather scrubby and arid habitat with fields and bushes and we found a nice selection of birds including a large flock of Bimaculated Larks and Short-toed Larks. We saw Grey Francolin, lots of Tawny Pipits, a lovely group of Green Bee-eaters, a nice male Pallid Harrier and new birds including Rufous-fronted Prinia and a superb pair of Red-necked Falcons.

After breakfast we continued on our way towards a Bishnoi Village where we were going to meet the priest and see how the village manages sustainable living and includes feeding of Gazelles and other wildlife in the area. En-route we make stops at a few places including some shallow roadside pools. We saw House Bunting briefly and various ducks and waders, plus a few Oriental Skylarks and a flock of Ashy-headed Sparrow-Larks, Jungle Prinia, Bluethroat and we got very good views of a few Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse

We made a stop at Gudha Pool where we found a small flock of Demoiselle Cranes, a few waders, Spot-billed and Ferruginous Ducks, Streak-breasted Swallow, Plain Martin and White-tailed Swallow. A flock of vultures flew overhead including mainly Eurasian Griffon Vultures and couple of Black Vultures. There were also both Indian Gazelle and Blackbuck.

We eventually arrived at the Bishnoi Village and met some of the local people. We climbed up onto a flat topped building that overlooks the feeding area and as soon as they put out some grain birds started piling in. Parakeets, Collared Doves and few Red Collared Doves, Peacocks and hundreds of sparrows including quite a few Chestnut-shouldered Petronias covered the ground. A few Indian Gazelles also appeared and a lovely sandy coloured Red Fox that tried to stalk the birds. Walking around the surrounding area we found three Stone Curlews, some Large Grey Babblers, Indian Silverbills and more Indian Gazelles. We were then invited into the temple where we were delighted to have the chance to actually hand feed some of the wild gazelles that have become tame over the years, this was just a lovely thing to do. We were now running out of time and drove to the railway station to catch the overnight train from Jodpur back to Delhi

Feb 9th A day in Delhi and visiting the Okla Dam reserve again

We arrived in Delhi at 6:30am and headed to our hotel for breakfast! We then spent a little while sorting our bags and having a snooze. Later in the morning spend time enjoying the astonishing sights that the middle of Delhi had to offer. The incredible market area was an amazing experience! The people, the stalls, the noise, the animals and everything - it was simply wonderful and surprisingly not at all threatening. We went for lunch then in the afternoon we went to Okla Dam

This is the same reserve where we started the holiday and if anything there were even more ducks than when we first came. Huge numbers of Shovelers, Teal, Wigeon, Pintail, Gadwall and Garganey. This being our last day we were astonished that we might still add new birds to the trip list and even to my life list. White-tailed Stonechat was new as was Striated Babbler plus plenty of other good birds like Pied Bushchat, Hume's Warbler, Shikra, Coppersmith Barbet, Asian Pied Starling, White-breasted Waterhen, Purple Swamphen and a big flock of gulls including quite a few Brown-headed Gulls amongst the Black-headed, and a couple of Caspian Gulls. We also managed to make some sense of the Black Kites realising that there were definitely both Black Kite and Black-eared Kites here when we had them flying round together.

This was a lovely way to finish the trip before we headed for the airport and our flight home. I think our total species list, depending on who's taxonomy you follow, was around 375 species and I personally added more than 230 species to my world list! It was a wonderful holiday and I certainly hope to return to India some time in the not too distant future.

Birds

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerrianus*)
Jungle Bush Quail (*Perdica asiatica*)
Red Spurfowl (*Galloperdix spadicea*)
Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*)
Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*)
Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)
Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)
Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*)
Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*)
Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)
Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)
Cotton Pygmy Goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)
Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)
Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)
Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)
Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)
Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)
Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)
Ferruginous Pochard (*Aythya nyroca*)
Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)
Speckled Piculet (*Picumnus innominatus*)
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos nanus*)
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*)
Brown-fronted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos auriceps*)
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos macei*)
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*)
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos hyperythrus*)
Himalayan Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos himalayensis*)

Lesser Yellownape (*Picus chlorolophus*)
Greater Yellownape (*Picus flavinucha*)
Streak-throated Woodpecker (*Picus xanthopygaeus*)
Scaly-bellied Woodpecker (*Picus squamatus*)
Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*)
Himalayan Flameback (*Dinopium shorii*)
Black-rumped Flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*)
Greater Flameback (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*)
White-naped Flameback (*Chrysocolaptes festivus*)
Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)
Brown-headed Barbet (*Megalaima zeylanica*)
Lineated Barbet (*Megalaima lineata*)
Blue-throated Barbet (*Megalaima asiatica*)
Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*)
Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyeros birostris*)
Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)
Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)
Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)
Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)
Crested Kingfisher (*Megaceryle lugubris*)
Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)
Blue-bearded bee-eater (*Nyctyornis athertoni*)
Green Bee Eater (*Merops orientalis*)
Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*)
Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)
Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*)
Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)
Slaty-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula himalayana*)
Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)
Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*)
Himalayan Swiftlet (*Collocalia brevirostris*)
White-rumped Needletail (*Zoonavena sylvatica*)
Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)
House Swift (*Apus affinis*)
Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)
Alpine Swift (*Tachymarptis melba*)
Crested Treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronata*)
Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)
Eurasian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)
Dusky Eagle Owl (*Bubo coromandus*)
Brown Fish Owl (*Keputa zeylonensis*)
Tawny Fish Owl (*Keputa flavipes*)
Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)
Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium radiatum*)
Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)
Sykes's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus mahrattensis*)
Large-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus macrurus*)
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)
Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)
Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)
Red-collared Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (*Treron phoenicoptera*)
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon (*Treron apicauda*)
Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*)
Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*)
White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)
Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Common Coot (*Fulica atra*)
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)
Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)
Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatalis*)
Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)
Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)
Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)
Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)
Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*)
Eurasian Thick Knee (*Burhinus oedicephalus*)
Great Thick Knee (*Burhinus recurvirostris*)
Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*)
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)
Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)
Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)
Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*)
Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malarbaricus*)
River Lapwing (*Vanellus duvaucelii*)
Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)
White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*)
Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*)
Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*)
Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)
River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*)
Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna acuticauda*)
Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*)
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
Pallas's Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*)
Lesser Fish Eagle (*Ichthyophaga humilis*)
Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)
White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)
Long-billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*)
Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*)
Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*)
Cinereous Vulture (*Aegyptius monachus*)
Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)
Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)
Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)
Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*)
Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)
Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)
Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)
Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)
White-eyed Buzzard (*Butastur teesa*)
Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)
Indian Spotted Eagle (*Aquila hastata*)
Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*)
Indian Tawny Eagle (*Aquila vindhiana*)
Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)
Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)
Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)
Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)
Changeable Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*)
Indian Crested Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus limnaetus*)
Mountain Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus nipalensis*)
Collared Falconet (*Microhierax caerulescens*)
Common Kestrel (*Falco tinniculus*)
Red-necked Falcon (*Falco chicquera*)
Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*)
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)
Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)
Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*)
Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*)
Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)
Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)
Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)
Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)
Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)
Black Ibis (*Pseudibis papilosa*)
Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)
Dalmation Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)
Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)
Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*)
Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*)
Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)
Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*)
Lesser Adjutant (*Leptophilos javanicus*)
Orange-bellied Leafbird (*Chloropsis hardwickii*)
Rufous-tailed Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*)
Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)
Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*)
Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)
Grey-backed Shrike (*Lanius tephronotus*)
Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*)
Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)
Black-headed Jay (*Garrulus lanceolatus*)
Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)
Common Green Magpie (*Cissa chinensis*)
Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta Vagabunda*)
Grey Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae*)
House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)
Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)
Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)
Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*)
Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus traillii*)
Large Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina macei*)
Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*)
Long-tailed Minivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*)
Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)
Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike (*Hemipus picatus*)
Yellow-bellied Fantail (*Rhipidura hypoxantha*)
White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*)
White-browed Fantail (*Rhipidura aureola*)
Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)
Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)
White-bellied Drongo (*Dicrurus caerulescens*)
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus remifer*)
Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)
Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*)
Large Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis gularis*)
Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*)
Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasii*)
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*)
Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)
Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus*)

Orange-headed Thrush (*Zoothera wardii*)
Long-billed Thrush (*Zoothera monticola*)
Tickell's Thrush (*Turdus unicolor*)
Chestnut Thrush (*Turdus rubrocanus*)
White-collared Blackbird (*Turdus albocinctus*)
Grey-winged Blackbird (*Turdus boulboul*)
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscicapa ruficauda*)
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Ficedula strophliata*)
Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)
Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*)
Verdita Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassina*)
Slaty Blue Flycatcher (*Ficedula tricolor*)
Small Niltava (*Niltava macgrigoriae*)
Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*)
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*)
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)
Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*)
White-tailed Rubythroat (*Luscinia pectoralis*)
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)
Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)
Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)
Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicata*)
Blue-capped Redstart (*Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus*)
Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
Blue-fronted Redstart (*Phoenicurus frontalis*)
White-capped Water Redstart (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*)
Plumbeous Water Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)
Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*)
Spotted Forktail (*Enicurus maculatus*)
Hodgeson's Stonechat (*Saxicola insignis*)
Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)
White-tailed Stonechat (*Saxicola leucura*)
Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*)
Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferrea*)
Brown Rock Chat (*Cercomela fusca*)
Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*)
Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*)
Isbelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*)
Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnus malabaricus*)
Brahminy Starling (*Sturnus pagodarum*)
Rosy Starling (*Sturnus roseus*)
Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
Asian Pied Starling (*Sturnus contra*)
Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)
Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*)
Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*)
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castanea*)
White-tailed Nuthatch (*Sitta himalayensis*)
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*)
Bar-tailed Treecreeper (*Certhia himalayana*)

Spot-winged Tit (*Parus melanolophus*)
Great Tit (*Parus major*)
Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*)
Black-lored Tit (*Parus xanthogenys*)
Black-throated Tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*)
Plain Martin (*Riparia paludicola*)
Dusky Crag Martin (*Hirundo concolor*)
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*)
Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)
Streak-throated Swallow (*Hirundo fulvicola*)
Nepal House Martin (*Delichon nipalensis*)
Northern House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)
Red Whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)
White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*)
Himalayan Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*)
Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)
Ashy Bulbul (*Hemixos flavala*)
Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*)
Striated Prinia (*Prinia criniger*)
Rufous-fronted Prinia (*Prinia buchanani*)
Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*)
Jungle Prinia (*Prinia sylvatica*)
Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*)
Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*)
Oriental White Eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)
Chestnut-headed Tesia (*Tesia castaneocoronata*)
Aberrant Bush Warbler (*Cettia flavolivacea*)
Paddyfield Warbler (*Acrocephalus agricola*)
Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*)
Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*)
Striated Grassbird (*Megalurus palustris*)
Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)
Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)
Chifchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
Buff-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus pulcher*)
Lemon-rumped Warbler (*Phylloscopus chloronatus*)
Hume's Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*)
Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)
Golden Spectacled Warbler (*Seicercus burkii*)
Grey-hooded Warbler (*Seicercus xanthoschistos*)
White-throated Laughingthrush (*Garrulax albogularis*)
White-crested Laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*)
Striated Laughingthrush (*Garrulax striatus*)
Streaked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax lineatus*)
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogegens*)
Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*)
Black-chinned Babbler (*Stachyris pyrrhops*)
Tawny-bellied Babbler (*Dumetia hyperythra*)

Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*)
Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudatus*)
Striated Babbler (*Turdoides earlei*)
Large Grey Babbler (*Turdoides malcolmi*)
Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striatus*)
Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*)
White-bellied Yuhina (*Yuhina zantholeuca*)
Rufous Sibia (*Heterophasia capistrata*)
Indian Bushlark (*Mirafra erythroptera*)
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark (*Eremopterix grisea*)
Rufous-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes phoenicurus*)
Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*)
Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)
Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*)
Thick-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum agile*)
Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*)
Purple Sunbird (*Nectarinia asiatica*)
Green-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga nipalensis*)
Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*)
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*)
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (*Petronia xanthocollis*)
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)
White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*)
Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)
Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)
Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)
Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*)
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)
Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*)
Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)
Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)
Rosy Pipit (*Anthus roseatus*)
Altai Accentor (*Prunella himalayana*)
Baya Weaver (*Ploecus philippinus*)
Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)
Indian Silverbill (*Lonchura malabarica*)
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch (*Carduelis spinoides*)
Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)
Pink-browed Rosefinch (*Carpodacus rodochrus*)
Collared Grosbeak (*Mycerobas affinis*)
Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathamii*)
Chestnut-eared Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*)
House Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*)

Mammals

Rhesus Macaque
Hanuman Langur
Sambar

Indian Muntjac
Hog Deer
Spotted Deer
Nilgai
Blackbuck
Indian Gazelle
Goral
Wild Pig
Asian Elephant
Golden Jackal
Wolf
Red Fox
Tiger
Leopard
Jungle Cat
Smooth-clawed Otter
Yellow-throated Marten
Grey Mongoose
Indian Hare
Three-striped Squirrel
Five-striped Squirrel
Indian Desert Jird
Brown Rat
Indian Bush Rat
Naked-rumped Tomb Bat
Blyth's Horseshoe Bat?
Ganges River Dolphin

Reptiles

Mugger Crocodile
Gharial
Water Monitor
Indian Rock Python
Mud Turtle
