



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Northern India

5th - 24th January 2006



Bengal Tiger by Adam Riley

Trip Report Compiled by Tour Leader Keith Valentine

Tour Summary

The many faces of Northern India offer land of enormous contrast. From high Himalayan culture and breathtaking mountain views to humbly standing before the magnificent Taj Mahal and discovering Bengal Tigers by elephant-back, it was an unforgettable adventure.

Beginning in the capital of Delhi we concentrated on the Yamuna River including the famous Okhla Island where we found Striated Babbler, the scarce Jack Snipe, and White-tailed Stonechat.

Huge numbers of waterfowl were also present and along the more open areas views were enjoyed of Brown Crake, White-tailed Lapwing, Bluethroat, Brown Rock Chat, Citrine Wagtail, Red Avadavat, and Indian Silverbill.

The overnight train from Delhi to Ramnagar was a pleasant surprise to all and we immediately began birding the Sal Forest that surround the Kosi River. Birds abounded throughout the day and we found Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Rufous-bellied and Small Niltava, White-crested Laughingthrush, an abundance of woodpeckers including Scaly-bellied and Himalayan Flameback, a pair of Tawny Fish-Owl on a day roost, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Siberian Rubythroat, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, and Nepal Wren-Babbler among many others. Exploration from the edge of the swift Kosi River revealed avian gems such as Wallcreeper allocated to its own monotypic family, White-capped and Plumbeous Water-Redstart, Crested Kingfisher, River Lapwing, Brown Dipper, Spotted Forktail and White-browed Wagtail.

The following day we entered the world famous Corbett National Park where we birded along the open river crossings and extensive grassland adjacent to Dikhala. Here we located excellent species such as Lesser Fish-Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Cinereous and Red-headed Vulture, Black Francolin, the little known and extremely range-restricted Hodgson's Bushchat as well as the magnificent Gharial and Mugger Crocodile. Birds seen in the roadside forests included Kalij Pheasant, a fantastic Brown Fish-Owl on the day-roost, Red-breasted Flycatcher, and Collared Falconet, while the camp at Dikhala overlooks a massive water body and grassland where Great Thick-knee, Black-necked Storks, and graceful River Tern were observed. One of the star attractions of India is the chance of finding one of the world's most magnificent big cats, the Bengal Tiger, and on our first afternoon we were extremely fortunate to catch a distant view of a single tiger from one of the lookout towers that have been strategically placed near Dikhala camp. The next morning climbed onto the backs of elephants and set out into the mists that hung low over the dew-sodden grass. We had almost reached the area where we had sent the tiger the previous day when as quick as a flash a tiger was spotted moving through the long grass. The chase was on and we followed the tiger's general direction until it was seen again standing just over a small rocky stream and we watched in amazement for several minutes before it melted away into the mist. Other mammals that were seen at Corbett included Golden Jackal, Rhesus Macaque, Hanuman Langur, Wild Boar, Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer), Chital (Spotted Deer), Sambar, Hog Deer and three stunning Yellow-throated Martens that scurried by just in front of our vehicle.

Returning to the town of Ramnagar, we visited a local seepage producing a good number of specials including such delights as White-tailed Rubythroat, Tickell's, Dark-throated and Orange-headed Thrush and White-rumped Vulture among others. Along the river we found the striking Common Merganser, Eurasian Wryneck and Indian Gray Hornbill as well as a pair of Collared Scops-Owl. We later began our ascent to the town of Nainital stopping in mid-elevation forest along the way where we located the stunning Long-tailed Broadbill and a fine Rufous-bellied Eagle. Also en route we also visited the Mongoli Valley where we found Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Blue-capped Redstart, Streaked Laughingthrush, Red-billed Leiothrix, Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush, and the scarce Upland Pipit.

The following days were spent birding the forests, streams and grassland habitats of Nainital where splendid arrays of species were observed while enjoying the scenic backdrop of mighty snow-capped Himalayan peaks. Birds located in the forests included Great Barbet, Koklass Pheasant, the incredible Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Hill Partridge, Chestnut Thrush, the beautiful Black-headed Jay, Gray-winged Blackbird, Orange-flanked Bush-Robin, White-tailed Nuthatch, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, and Rufous-naped Tit. Along the forest edge we encountered Blue-fronted Redstart,

Aberrant Bush-Warbler, and White-throated and Striated Laughingthrushes. Mountain species associated with the more open areas included Golden Eagle, Lammergeier, Slender-billed Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Rufous-breasted and Altai Accentors, and Pink-browed and Dark-breasted Rosefinches.

We continued through the Himalayan foothills to Sat Tal, an area of forest and lakes at a slightly lower altitude than Nainital. Before reaching our destination we stopped at a local site producing the scarce Black-throated Accentor and White-capped Bunting. The birding at Sat Tal was fantastic and some highlights included the migratory Red-throated Flycatcher, crippling views of Chestnut-headed Tesia, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, delightful Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler, Green-tailed Sunbird, Rufous-throated Partridge and the incredible Golden Bush-Robin.

We then boarded an overnight train, this time to the world famous Taj Mahal in the city of Agra. The Taj Mahal is truly a magnificent building and is almost overwhelming in its appearance. The gardens around the Taj Mahal are impressive and host a number of birds at the same time that included seven Spotted Owlets sitting in a row, Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon and Pallas's Black-headed Gull.

After another overnight train, we arrived at Bandhavgarh National Park, possibly the most famous tiger reserve in the world. Bandhavgarh was simply incredible for sightings of Bengal Tiger as well as a number of key bird species. Three elephant rides were taken and a phenomenal seven tigers were seen in total, including views from only a few meters away! Another great sighting was that of two Dholes, the wild red dogs of Asia. Bamboo and tall woodland dominate the reserve mixed with isolated patches of marshy grassland and plains. Some special birds that were located in the reserve included the endemic Painted Spurfowl, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Indian Scops-Owl, striking Mottled Wood-Owl, Lesser Adjutant, and Malabar Pied Hornbill.

Our final train ride of the trip was taken to Agra from where we were transferred by bus to the Chambal River. Here a boat cruise allowed us an opportunity to view Indian Skimmer, Red-crested Pochard, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Black-bellied Tern, White-eared Bulbul, Sand and Bimaculated Larks and Long-legged Buzzard. Two other highlights on the cruise were obtaining excellent sightings of Jungle Cat at the waters edge and seeing the strange Gangetic River Dolphin. Afterwards we made our way to Bharatpur where the Keoladeo National Park awaited us the following day.

The Keoladeo National Park was outstanding with outrageous numbers of waterfowl. Hundreds of geese, storks, and ducks vied for our attention along with a whole host of woodland species. A pair of Dusky Eagle-Owl was well seen at their nest and Brown Hawk-Owl and Large-tailed Nightjar were both seen at day roosts. Excellent views were had of the stately Sarus and Common Cranes along with good numbers of waders including Spotted Redshank, Eurasian Thick-knee, and Bronze-winged Jacana. Other great sightings included Black Bittern, Eastern Orphee Warbler, Dalmatian Pelican and Greater Painted-Snipe. The open plains held good numbers of Indian Courser, Water Pipit, a stunning perched Imperial Eagle, Laggar Falcon, and Sirkeer Malkoha.

Northern India is a simply incredible destination and a must for any birder and nature enthusiast alike. A mind-boggling diversity of birds and wildlife are encountered in a wide range of habitats, from the wetlands of Keoladeo to the rivers and forests of the Himalayan foothills, the land of the Bengal Tiger and Taj Mahal is waiting.



Taj Mahal, Rufous-bellied Niltava and Brown Fish-Owl by Adam Riley

BIRD SPECIES LIST

E = Endemic, SE = Sub-continent endemic

Grebes *Podicipedidae*

Little Grebe (Dabchick)

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Our first sighting was of 50 along the Yamuna River in Delhi with further sightings at Keoladeo NP.

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

30 were encountered each day in Keoladeo NP.

Dalmatian Pelican

Pelecanus crispus

Around 20 were seen on each of our days spent in Keoladeo NP.

Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Indian Cormorant

Phalacrocorax fuscicollis

Roughly 100 seen on each day in Keoladeo NP.

Great Cormorant*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Commonly encountered in large numbers at all wetland localities throughout the country.

NOTE: The white-breasted African subspecies of the widely distributed Great Cormorant *P. carbo* is sometimes considered a different species: *P. lucidus*.

Little Cormorant*Phalacrocorax niger*

Seen regularly at most water bodies countrywide.

Anhinga & Darter *Anhingidae***(Oriental) Darter***Anhinga melanogaster*

20 were seen on consecutive days in Keoladeo NP with singles encountered along the Kosi River and at the Taj Mahal.

NOTE: The resident African form *P. rufa* is sometimes lumped with the Asian *P. melanogaster* and the enlarged species called Darter. Clements uses the latter treatment of lumping these forms.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae***Gray Heron***Ardea cinerea*

Seen at most wetland localities, with peak numbers of 10 at Keoladeo NP.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

This sleek heron was sighted at Okhla island in Delhi and at Keoladeo NP.

NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands *A. p. bournei* is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron.

Great (White) Egret*Ardea alba*

A common sight at all wetland areas.

NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World *A. a. egretta* which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret*Egretta intermedia*

Seen at Okhla, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, the Africa Yellow-billed Egret (*E. brachyrhyncha*), Plumed Egret (*E. plumifera*) and the nominate Intermediate Egret (the form we recorded). This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

Encountered countrywide.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef (*E. gularis*) and Madagascar's Dimorphic (*E. dimorpha*) Egret into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

Indian Pond Heron*Ardeola grayii*

A very common species that was encountered almost daily.

Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Commonly recorded throughout Northern India. Seen almost every day.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret (*E. coromanda*). This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron*Butorides striatus*

This global species was only seen at Keoladeo NP.

NOTE: Controversial to some authorities, Clements includes a full twenty-nine subspecies under this species. The only split he recognizes is the Green Heron (*B. virescens*) of North and Central America.

Black-crowned Night-Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Another global species seen at Keoladeo NP only.

Black Bittern*Dupetor flavicollis*

A single bird was well seen while sitting in thick foliage overhanging a pond in Keoladeo NP.

Storks *Ciconidae***Asian Openbill***Anastomus oscitans*

Single birds were found at Okhla Island, Bandavgarh NP and at Keoladeo NP.

Painted Stork*Mycteria leucocephala*

Huge numbers of 500 plus birds were seen at Keoladeo NP, the species was also seen at Okhla Island in Delhi.

Black Stork*Ciconia nigra*

Good numbers of around a dozen were seen on both days in Corbett NP.

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

The most widespread of the storks in India, this species was seen on most days in the lower lying areas.

Black-necked Stork*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

An elegant species of Stork. A pair were seen at the lake edge below Dikhala in Corbett NP, while a further 5 were located at Keoladeo NP.

Lesser Adjutant*Leptoptilos javanicus*

This scarce species was sighted near the entrance gate to Bandavgarh NP, a total of 3 birds were present over the days spent there.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Black-headed Ibis***Threskiornis melanocephalus*

First seen at Okhla in Delhi where a pair were seen, thereafter-larger numbers were located at Keoladeo NP.

Red-naped Ibis*Pseudibis papillosa*

First sighted at Bandavgarh NP where half a dozen were seen each day. This species was seen again at Keoladeo NP.

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

5 birds were seen on each day spent in Keoladeo NP.

Eurasian Spoonbill*Platalea leucorodia*

Good numbers were seen along the Yamuna River in Delhi and at Keoladeo NP.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae**Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus ruber*

20 birds were seen feeding along the Yamuna River in Delhi and a further 2 were sighted at Keoladeo NP.

NOTE: The Greater Flamingo (P. roseus) and the Caribbean Flamingo (P. ruber) are now considered monotypic species according to Clements.

Swans, Geese & Ducks Anatidae**Greylag Goose***Anser anser*

15 were seen along the Yamuna River in Delhi with numbers close to the 150 mark at Keoladeo NP.

Bar-headed Goose*Anser indicus*

First sighting was at a roadside pond on the drive to Bandavgarh NP where 14 birds were found. Numbers close to 100 were seen at Keoladeo NP.

Ruddy Shelduck*Tadorna ferruginea*

Seen regularly along The Yamuna River in Delhi, Corbett NP and Keoladeo NP.

Common Shelduck*Tadorna tadorna*

Our only sighting was 10 birds seen along the Yamuna River in Delhi.

Comb Duck*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Small numbers were found at Keoladeo NP.

Eurasian Wigeon*Anas penelope*

Small numbers were found along the Yamuna River in Delhi and at Keoladeo NP.

Gadwall*Anas strepera*

A pair were seen along the Yamuna River, while numbers of close to 100 birds were found at Keoladeo NP.

Green-winged Teal*Anas crecca*

Commonly seen along the Yamuna River, the lake at Dikhala in Corbett NP and at Keoladeo NP.

Mallard*Anas platyrhynchos*

This species was seen along the Yamuna River, at the lake below Dikhala in Corbett NP and at a lake in the Sattal area.

Spot-billed Duck*Anas poecilorhyncha*

Seen in small numbers along the Yamuna River and at Keoladeo NP.

Northern Pintail*Anas acuta*

Large numbers were encountered along the Yamuna River, at Bandavgarh NP and at Keoladeo NP.

Northern Shoveler*Anas clypeata*

A very common species at both the Yamuna River in Delhi and Keoladeo NP.

Red-crested Pochard*Netta rufina*

A group of 15 birds were found at the Chambal River, west of Agra and a single located at Keoladeo NP.

Common Pochard*Aythya farina*

5 birds found along the Yamuna River in Delhi were the only ones located on the trip.

Ferruginous Pochard*Aythya nyroca*

A scarce species in India, we found a total of 2 birds at Keoladeo NP.

Common Merganser*Mergus merganser*

A group of 14 were located feeding at a stretch of rapids along the Kosi River near Ramnagar.

Osprey Pandionidae**Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

A couple were sighted at the lake below Dikhala camp in Corbett NP as well as along the Chambal River west of Agra.

Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae**Oriental Honey-Buzzard***Pernis ptilorhynchus*

A single bird was sighted flying over our heads at Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite*Elanus caeruleus*

Commonly seen in the grassland areas around Dikhala in Corbett NP and in the Mongoli valley.

NOTE: Clements has split the two species Black-shouldered Kite (Elanus caeruleus) of the Old World and White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus) of the New World. This split is not universally accepted.

Black Kite*Milvus [migrans] lineatus*

Recorded on most days at most sites throughout the tour.

NOTE: This locally breeding form of the Black Kite M. migrans is considered by most authorities as a distinct species, M. parasitus.

Pallas's Fish-Eagle*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

A magnificent species that was seen daily in Corbett NP and along the Kosi River.

White-tailed Eagle*Haliaeetus albicilla*

An extremely scarce bird in India, we were fortunate to find a single bird perched in tall trees along a river in Corbett NP.

Lesser Fish-Eagle*Ichthyophaga humilis*

A total of four birds were seen in Corbett NP.

Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture)*Gypaetus barbatus*

Seven of these awesome birds were seen in the foothills of the Himalayas around Nainital.

Egyptian Vulture*Neophron percnopterus*

A great looking vulture that was regularly seen at various locations throughout the country.

White-rumped Vulture*Gyps bengalensis*

Once a numerous species throughout the Indian Subcontinent the numbers have recently crashed throughout its range. We managed to locate a single bird perched near the town of Ramnagar along the Kosi River.

Long-billed Vulture *Gyps indicus*

This species has also suffered a major decline in numbers throughout the region. We had roughly 15 birds on each day spent in Bandavgarh NP where the birds breed on the cliffs in the reserve.

Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*

A single bird was seen cruising over our heads in the Nainital area.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

Good numbers were seen in the high areas around the town of Nainital.

Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*

Small numbers were encountered while in the Corbett area.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Seen in Corbett NP, highest numbers were 10 in a single day.

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*

Confined to the national parks where small numbers were found in Corbett NP, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

The first 2 birds were found long the Kosi River, thereafter this species was seen again in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Five were found around Okhla Island in Delhi with a couple more seen at Keoladeo NP.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A total of 3 birds were found patrolling the grasslands around Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

The common Accipiter in India that was encountered fairly regularly in woodland habitat throughout the region.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

This species was seen in woodland habitat in Keoladeo NP.

White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*

A total of 3 were found in Bandavgarh NP and another was located at the roadside on the drive between Bharatpur to Delhi.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

A single bird was located in dry scrubby habitat on the boat cruise up the Chambal River.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

A single bird was sighted in Delhi on our first day of birding with further sightings in Keoladeo NP.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

Singles were located at Nainital and on the drive from Bharatpur to Delhi.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Encountered fairly regularly in the Himalayan foothills around Nainital and Sattal, a single was also seen at Keoladeo NP.

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

A superb Eagle with so much presence, we had excellent views in Keoladeo NP.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

A single bird was observed soaring over our heads in the Nainital area.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

A single bird was observed in flight in Bandavgarh NP.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

Singles were seen in Agra and Keoladeo NP.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*

A single bird was seen in flight en route to Nainital.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle*Spizaetus [cirrhatus] linnaeetus*

A total of 3 birds were found in Corbett NP.

[Crested Hawk-Eagle]*Spizaetus cirrhatus*

A single was seen perched in woodland at Bandavgarh NP.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle*Spizaetus nipalensis*

Several birds were seen very well along the Kosi River and in the Himalayan foothills around Nainital.

Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae***Collared Falconet***Microhierax caerulescens*

A tiny falcon, we were fortunate to find a single bird perched near Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Eurasian Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus*

Small numbers were observed in the Himalayan foothills, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Laggar Falcon*Falco jugger*

A great view was had of a single bird perched and in flight in Keoladeo NP.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

Single birds were observed along the Kosi River near Ramnagar and at Keoladeo NP.

Pheasants & Partridges *Phasianidae***Black Francolin***Francolinus francolinus*

Very good views were had of 3 birds in the grasslands near Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Gray Francolin*Francolinus pondicerianus*

The first birds were 3 found along the Kosi River near Ramnagar. This species was very common in Keoladeo NP.

Hill Partridge*Arborophila torqueola*

A single bird was seen briefly in the Nainital area.

Rufous-throated Partridge*Arborophila rufogularis*

We were lucky to find a total of 4 birds near a lake in the Sattal area.

Painted Spurfowl (E)*Galloperdix lunulata*

After much searching we were finally rewarded with a pair in Bandavgarh NP.

Red Junglefowl*Gallus gallus*

This species was seen in Corbett NP and Bandavgarh NP.

Koklass Pheasant*Pucrasia macrolopha*

A single bird was briefly seen in forest above Nainital.

Kalij Pheasant*Lophura leucomelanos*

Small numbers were found in Corbett NP and in the forests around Nainital. Larger numbers of up to 20 birds in a day were seen at Sattal.

Indian Peafowl*Pavo cristatus*

A truly magnificent species that was recorded daily in all the lower lying areas of Northern India.

Buttonquails *Turnicidae***Barred Buttonquail***Turnix suscitator*

A small group were seen in dry scrub at the edge of the Kosi River, further sightings were had at Tughlegabad in Delhi.

Cranes *Gruidae*

Sarus Crane*Grus antigone*

A couple of pairs were seen at Keoladeo NP and on the drive from Bharatpur to Delhi.

Common Crane*Grus grus*

A total of 24 birds were seen at Keoladeo NP.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae**Brown Crake***Amaurornis akool*

First seen at Okhla Island in Delhi where a pair were found, we had another pair on the Chambal River west of Agra.

White-breasted Waterhen*Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Commonly seen at most wetland localities throughout the country.

Gray-headed Swamphen*Porphyrio [Porphyrio] poliocephalus*

First seen at Okhla Island and then again at Keoladeo NP where high numbers were found.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognised as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become Gray-headed Swamphen (P. poliocephalus) Other forms to be recognised may include African Swamphen (P. madagascariensis), Philippine Swamphen (P. pulverulentus) and Eastern Swamphen (P. melanotus).

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

A common bird, encountered at several wetland sites throughout the tour.

Eurasian Coot*Fulica atra*

A very common species that was encountered at most wetland sites in great numbers.

Jacanas Jacanidae**Bronze-winged Jacana***Metopidius indicus*

A stunning bird frequenting wetland habitats. Only 3 birds were found at Keoladeo NP.

Painted Snipes Rostratulidae**Greater Painted-snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

A total of 4 birds were seen at Keoladeo NP.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae**Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

A common species that was encountered at most wetland localities throughout the country.

Pied Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta*

This species was only seen along the Yamuna River in Delhi where 30 were found.

Thick-knees Burhinidae**Eurasian Thick-knee***Burhinus oedicnemus*

Small numbers were located at Keoladeo NP and on the drive from Bharatpur to Delhi.

Great Thick-knee*Escacus recurvirostris*

An impressive species that was encountered at the lake below Dikhala camp in Corbett NP and along the Chambal River to the west of Agra.

Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae**Indian Courser***Cursorius coromandelicus*

Good numbers were seen in flat, dry areas in Keoladeo NP.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Northern Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

A total of 4 birds were seen at the lake below Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

River Lapwing

Vanellus duvaucelii

Seen on all big rivers throughout India, which include the Yamuna, Kosi and Chambal Rivers.

Yellow-wattled Lapwing (SE)

Vanellus malabaricus

A bird of dry, open areas that was encountered in fields outside Bandavgarh NP and also in Keoladeo NP.

Red-wattled Lapwing

Vanellus indicus

A very common species that was encountered almost daily on tour.

White-tailed Lapwing

Vanellus leucurus

Small numbers were located at Okhla Island in Delhi and at Keoladeo NP.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

A few individuals were found at Okhla Island, the lake below Dikhala camp in Corbett NP, the Chambal River and at Keoladeo NP.

Snowy Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

This species was observed on Okhla Island in Delhi and at Keoladeo NP.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus

A single bird was well seen at a marshy patch on Okhla Island in Delhi.

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Small numbers were found at Okhla Island and at Keoladeo NP.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Good numbers of 50 birds were found at Okhla Island and smaller numbers were also seen at Keoladeo NP.

Eurasian Curlew

Numenius arquata

A total of 4 birds were seen at the ponds in Keoladeo NP.

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

A total of 15 birds were found at Keoladeo NP.

Common Redshank

Tringa tetanus

Regularly encountered at most wetland sites throughout India.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

10 were seen at Okhla Island and a single bird was located at Keoladeo NP.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Small numbers were regularly encountered at various water bodies throughout the country.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

A common bird in Northern India, we had sightings almost every day.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

A few were found at Okhla Island and at Keoladeo NP.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Another regularly encountered species at water bodies throughout India.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Small numbers were found at Okhla Island and Keoladeo NP.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Birds were seen at Okhla Island, the Taj Mahal, Chambal River and Keoladeo NP.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

This species was only seen on Okhla Island and at Keoladeo NP.

Gulls *Laridae***Great Black-headed Gull***Larus ichthyaetus*

This species was seen in small numbers along the Yamuna River, at the Taj Mahal and along the Chambal River.

Brown-headed Gull*Larus brunnicephalus*

A few hundred were seen along the Yamuna River in Delhi.

Black-headed Gull*Larus ridibundus*

As with the previous species a few hundred were located along the Yamuna River.

Terns *Sternidae***River Tern***Sterna aurantia*

First seen at the lake below Dikhala camp in Corbett NP and again at the Chambal River and Keoladeo NP.

Black-bellied Tern*Sterna acuticauda*

A total of 4 birds were found on our afternoon spent along the Chambal River.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybridus*

This species was seen frequenting the ponds in Keoladeo NP.

Skimmers *Rynchopidae***Indian Skimmer***Rynchops albigollis*

A total of 36 birds were seen skimming low over the water and on sandbanks on the Chambal River.

Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae***Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse***Pterocles exustus*

A group of roughly 75 birds were seen while on the boat cruise up the Chambal River.

Doves & Pigeons *Columbidae***Rock Pigeon***Columba livia*

Common at every locality throughout the entire tour.

Oriental Turtle-Dove*Streptopelia orientalis*

Small numbers were seen along the Kosi River and at Bandavgarh NP.

Eurasian Collared Dove*Streptopelia decaocto*

This species is very common and was encountered almost daily on the tour.

Red Collared Dove*Streptopelia tranquebarica*

This species was first seen at the Taj Mahal and later on near the Chambal River.

Spotted Dove*Streptopelia chinensis*

Very common at Bandhavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Laughing (Palm) Dove*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Commonly encountered at many localities throughout India.

Yellow-footed Pigeon*Treron phoenicoptera*

Commonly encountered at Bandavgarh NP and at Keoladeo NP, this species was first encountered at the Taj Mahal.

Parrots & Allies *Psittacidae*

- Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*
Small flocks were found regularly at Bandavgarh NP.
- Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
Encountered almost daily throughout Northern India.
- Slaty-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula himalayana*
Small groups were often encountered in forest and woodland throughout the Himalayan foothills.
- Plum-headed Parakeet (SE)** *Psittacula cyanocephala*
Birds were seen along the Kosi River, in woodland in Corbett NP and also at Bandavgarh NP.
- Red-breasted Parakeet** *Psittacula alexandri*
This species was encountered in forest along the Kosi River and also in Corbett NP.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

- Common Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx varius*
A single bird was observed in woodland at Keoladeo NP.
- Sirkeer Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*
While walking through dry, scrubby bush in Keoladeo NP we found a single running along the ground from bush to bush, later on we had crippling views of a single bird perched up in woodland at Tughleabad in Delhi.
- Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopacea*
This species was seen in Delhi, at the Taj Mahal, Chambal river and Keoladeo NP.

Coucals *Centropodidae*

- Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*
Encountered many times throughout the region at most sites.

Typical Owls *Strigidae*

- Indian Scops-Owl** *Otus indicus*
Encountered daily at Bandavgarh NP and also seen at Keoladeo NP.
- Collared Scops-Owl** *Otus bakkamoena*
A pair were seen at a day roost near the town of Ramnagar.
- Rock Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bengalensis*
A single bird was well seen on a telephone pole on a night drive in the Corbett area.
- Dusky Eagle-Owl** *Bubo coromandus*
A pair were well seen at the nest site in Keoladeo NP.
- Brown Fish-Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*
A single bird was observed during the day at Corbett NP, a pair was seen at a lake edge in the Sattal area and a single was found at Bandavgarh NP.
- Tawny Fish-Owl** *Ketupa flavipes*
Cracking views were had of this species during the day in forest along the Kosi River. A pair were located.
- Mottled Wood-Owl** *Strix ocellata*
Up to 4 of these birds were seen at their day roost near the park entrance to Bandavgarh NP.
- Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*
This species was unfortunately only heard in the forest above the village of Nainital.
- Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*
This species was first encountered in the Mongoli valley and again in the Sattal area.
- Jungle Owlet** *Glaucidium radiatum*

Regularly encountered during the day en route to Nainital from Ramnagar, en route to Sattal and at Bandavgarh NP.

Spotted Owl *Athene brama*

First seen at the Taj Mahal where a group of 7 were found, we had them again in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*

A single bird was located at a roost site in the nursery area of Keoladeo NP.

Nightjars *Caprimulgidae*

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

A pair were located at a day roost in the nursery area of Keoladeo NP.

Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*

A total of 3 birds were seen in the evening while driving from the Mongoli valley to Nainital.

Swifts *Apodidae*

White-rumped Needletail *Zoonavena sylvatica*

A group of 30 birds were seen flying along a river in Corbett NP.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*

Numbers of close to 10 birds were noted each day in Corbett NP.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

A seriously large species of swift. Excellent views were had in Corbett NP.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Roughly 50 birds were seen flying around the Taj Mahal and another flock were seen at Keoladeo NP.

Crested Treeswifts *Hemiprocnidae*

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*

Encountered regularly in small flocks around the Kosi River and Bandavgarh NP.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A common species that was seen at most water-bodies throughout the country.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

The regions most common Kingfisher, we recorded this species almost every day.

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris*

Seen daily in the Corbett area and along the Kosi River, this species is confined to large, fast flowing rivers at high altitude.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

This, the world's most widespread kingfisher, was seen regularly on tour at most river sites.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

A delightful species that was found in woodland around Bandavgarh NP and at Tughlegabath in Delhi.

Rollers *Coraciidae*

Indian Roller*Coracias benghalensis*

Seen every day in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Hoopoes *Upupidae***Eurasian (African) Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

A striking species that was encountered at most localities throughout the tour.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar (*U. marginalis*) and Eurasian (*U. epops*). The white-winged African form is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe (*U. senegalensis*) with the fourth species being African Hoopoe (*U. africana*). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.*

Hornbills *Bucerotidae***Indian Gray Hornbill (SE)***Tockus birostris*

A common species which was seen regularly in the lowlands of North India.

Malabar Pied Hornbill*Anthracoceros coronatus*

A pair were beautifully seen in woodland in Bandavgarh NP.

Barbets *Capitonidae***Great Barbet***Megalaima virens*

Good views were had of perched birds that were calling in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

Brown-headed Barbet (SE)*Megalaima zeylanica*

First seen in the town of Ramnagar with further sightings at the Taj Mahal, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Lineated Barbet*Megalaima lineata*

This species was easily seen in forest along the Kosi River.

Blue-throated Barbet*Megalaima asiatica*

Excellent views were had of birds in the Mongoli valley.

Coppersmith Barbet*Megalaima haemacephala*

A common woodland species that was regularly seen at most sites throughout the tour.

Woodpeckers & Allies *Picidae***Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

A single bird was found along the Kosi River and another was seen in dry woodland outside Bandavgarh NP.

Speckled Piculet*Picumnus innominatus*

A single bird was well seen as it mobbed a Jungle Owlet in a forested valley near Nainital.

Brown-capped Woodpecker (SE)*Dendrocopos nanus*

This species was only seen once in woodland outside Bandavgarh NP.

Gray-capped Woodpecker*Dendrocopos canicapillus*

A species of high altitude forest. We found them regularly at Corbett NP, along the Kosi River and around Nainital.

Brown-fronted Woodpecker*Dendrocopos auriceps*

First seen in the Mongoli valley, we found them regularly in forest around Nainital and Sattal.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker*Dendrocopos macei*

Initially located along the Kosi River we enjoyed further sightings in the forests around Nainital.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*

A species of the lower lying areas that was seen in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

A gorgeous species. We had a total of 3 birds while birding the forests surrounding the town of Nainital.

Himalayan Woodpecker *Dendrocopos himalayensis*

Another high altitude forest species that was seen 4 times in total around Nainital.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*

Seen twice on tour, both times on the Kosi River.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*

A fairly common species that was seen at all the high altitude forest sites on tour.

Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus*

Our first bird was located in open woodland in Corbett NP and another was seen in woodland outside Bandavgarh NP.

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus*

A single bird was found in forest along the Kosi River.

Gray-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*

Regularly recorded at all high altitude forests on the tour.

Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*

This species was seen fairly regularly along the Kosi River only.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*

A few birds were encountered along the Kosi River with higher numbers recorded at Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

A total of 5 birds were found in forest long the Kosi River.

Broadbills *Eyrulaimidae*

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

We found a total of 8 birds in a single feeding flock on the drive from Ramnagar to Nainital.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Indian Bushlark (SE) *Mirafra erythroptera*

A total of 3 birds were seen in dry areas outside Bandavgarh NP.

Ashy-crowned Sparrowlark (SE) *Eremopterix grisea*

At least 20 birds were found in open fields on the drive between Bharatpur and Delhi.

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

While on our cruise up the Chambal River we noted a large flock of roughly 50 birds on the bank of the river.

Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*

A single bird was observed feeding in a flat, arid area along the Chambal River

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Our first bird was a single on the banks of the Chambal River, later we had a group of 5 in a field between Bharatpur and Delhi.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

8 birds were seen on our first day in Delhi. Our only to follow was made on the drive between Bharatpur and Delhi.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Plain (Brown-throated) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

Large numbers were found in the skies above Corbett NP and Keoladeo NP.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Hirundo rupestris*

Roughly 10 birds were seen in a valley near the town of Nainital.

Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor*

A total of 10 birds were found around the town of Ramnagar and singles were seen at Bandavgarh NP.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

This species was encountered at most sites throughout the tour.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is found throughout the world and generally regarded as a single species. Some authorities agree that the Old World H. rustica should be split from the New World H. r. erythrogaster. Also, there is an isolated population in the Egyptian delta (H. r. savignii) that some authorities regard as a separate species, the Egyptian Swallow.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo [smithi] filifera*

Our first sight was a single bird on Okhla Island, thereafter we saw this species in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form that would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow that would be H. filifera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Good numbers of 20 birds were seen daily along the Kosi River and Corbett NP, another 10 were seen in Bandavgarh NP.

Streak-throated Swallow *Hirundo fluvicola*

The only time we encountered this species on tour was when we found a group of 5 birds near Okhla Island in Delhi.

Nepal Martin *Delichon nipalensis*

Small flocks were found along the Kosi River and in the Nainital area.

Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

India's most common Wagtail, we found this species nearly every day on the tour.

White-browed Wagtail (SE) *Motacilla madaraspatensis*

Small numbers were found along the Kosi River, Corbett NP, Chambal River and Keoladeo NP.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

First sighting was at Okhla Island where we found 15 birds and enjoyed further sightings at Keoladeo NP.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

This species was seen only twice on tour. First a group of 50 at Okhla Island and then 20 birds in fields between Bharatpur and Delhi.

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

A common species that was seen in small numbers at most localities on tour.

Oriental Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

2 birds seen in open land between Ramnagar and Nainital were our first birds, we had another 10 on the drive between Bharatpur and Delhi.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Large groups of up to 20 were seen in dry scrubby habitat outside of Bandavgarh NP and also at Keoladeo NP.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

5 birds were found on dry, open ground in Delhi and further sightings were had of 2 birds at Keoladeo NP and on the road from Bharatpur to Delhi.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*

1 bird was found in high altitude grassland in Corbett NP.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Birds were encountered on the drive between Ramnagar and Nainital, at Bandavgarh NP and just outside the Uppals Orchid Hotel in Delhi.

Olive-backed Pipit*Anthus hodgsoni*

This species was seen in Corbett NP, Nainital, Sattal and Bandavgarh NP.

Water Pipit*Anthus spinoletta*

15 birds were found in open grassland habitat at the edge of a wetland in Keoladeo NP.

Upland Pipit*Anthus sylvanus*

A single bird was very well seen in the Mongoli valley.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae***Large Cuckooshrike***Coracina macei*

This species was regularly seen in the tall woodland found within Bandavgarh NP.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike*Coracina melaschistos*

A pair found in a feeding flock in Corbett NP was the only birds seen on the tour.

Small Minivet*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

This stunning species was found to be fairly common in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Long-tailed Minivet*Pericrocotus ethologus*

This species was frequently found in feeding flocks along the Kosi River, in Corbett NP and at Nainital.

Scarlet Minivet*Pericrocotus flammeus*

We encountered them frequently along the Kosi River.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike*Hemipus picatus*

Many were seen in the forests along the Kosi River and in Corbett NP.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***Black-crested Bulbul***Pycnonotus melaniterus*

The only birds found on tour were 2 seen in Corbett NP.

Red-whiskered Bulbul*Pycnonotus jocosus*

A few birds were found inside Corbett NP.

White-eared Bulbul*Pycnonotus leucotis*

Our first birds were seen along the Chambal River and we had more sightings in Keoladeo NP and at Tughleabad in Delhi.

White-cheeked Bulbul*Pycnonotus leucogenys*

A very common species that we found every day in the highlands of the country.

Red-vented Bulbul*Pycnonotus cafer*

An extremely common bird that was seen in all habitats and on every day of the tour.

Ashy Bulbul*Hemixos flavala*

This species was recorded in Corbett NP where numbers of 10 and 5 were seen on consecutive days.

Mountain Bulbul*Hypsipetes mcclllandii*

A total of 11 birds were seen in tall forest near the lakes in the Sattal area.

Black Bulbul*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Two large groups were encountered; the first was in forest close to Nainital and the second in the Sattal area.

Leafbirds *Chloropseidae***Blue-winged Leafbird***Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

This good looker was found in woodland around Bandavgarh NP.

Golden-fronted Leafbird*Chloropsis aurifrons*

A single bird was seen en route from Ramnagar to Nainital and another was found in woodland just outside the entrance to Bandavgarh NP.

Ioras Aegithinidae**Common Iora***Aegithina tiphia*

First seen along the Kosi River with further sightings in Bandavgarh NP.

Dippers Cinclidae**Brown Dipper***Cinclus pallasii*

A total of 4 birds were seen along the Kosi River.

Accentors Prunellidae**Rufous-breasted Accentor***Prunella strophiata*

This species was well seen in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

Black-throated Accentor*Prunella atrogularis*

A short stop on the drive from Nainital to Sattal at some fields gave us some great views of 3 birds.

Himalayan Accentor*Prunella himalayana*

While in the Nainital area we came across two large groups of 25 and 30 birds.

Thrushes & Allies Turdidae**Blue-capped Rock-Thrush***Monticola cinclorhynchus*

A single bird was seen in hilly terrain at Bandavgarh NP.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush*Monticola rufiventris*

This species was noted in the Nainital area where a total of 4 birds were located including males and females.

Blue Whistling-Thrush*Myophonus caeruleus*

A very common species that was seen everyday on the Himalayan stretch of the tour.

Orange-headed Thrush*Zoothera citrina*

A gorgeous bird that was first seen in the town of Ramnagar, thereafter we had additional sightings in Bandavgarh NP.

Scaly Thrush*Zoothera dauma*

Excellent views were had of a single bird at a lake edge in the Sattal area.

Gray-winged Blackbird*Turdus boulboul*

A total of 7 birds were found in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

Tickell's Thrush*Turdus unicolor*

This species was first located in the town of Ramnagar, we had additional sightings in the Sattal area and at Bandavgarh NP.

Chestnut Thrush*Turdus rubrocanus*

We found this species in forest above the town of Nainital where 4 birds were seen.

Dark-throated Thrush*Turdus ruficollis*

This species was first seen in the town of Ramnagar, additional sightings were had near Nainital.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

Single birds seen each day in Bandavgarh NP were the only ones seen on the tour.

Golden-headed Cisticola*Cisticola exilis*

A total of 5 birds were found in the grasslands surrounding Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Striated Prinia*Prinia criniger*

This species was seen in valleys around the town of Nainital and in the Mongoli valley.

Rufous-fronted Prinia (SE) *Prinia buchanani*

A pair was located in dry, scrubby habitat at Tughleabad in Delhi.

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*

A total of 4 birds were seen in dry scrub on Okhla Island and surrounds in Delhi.

Jungle Prinia (SE) *Prinia sylvatica*

A single bird was seen in scrubby bush on the banks of the Chambal River.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

3 birds were found at Okhla Island in Delhi.

Ashy Prinia (SE) *Prinia socialis*

A good-looking species that was recorded in Delhi, Corbett NP and Keoladeo NP.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

A very common species that was encountered on nearly every day of the tour.

Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*

A real stunner that was observed in thick bush at lake edges in the Sattal area. A total of 5 birds were seen.

Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia fortipes*

This species was only seen in forest in Corbett NP.

Aberrant Bush-Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea*

On an afternoon spent in the Mongoli valley we managed to find a total of 3 birds.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

This species was only seen at Keoladeo NP where at least 10 birds were located.

Sykes's Warbler *Hippolais rama*

The only bird sighted on the tour was on the first day in Delhi.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

An extremely common species that was sighted on almost every day of the tour.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

A common species that was seen at most localities on tour.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus*

Good views were had of 2 birds in woodland habitat outside Bandavgarh NP.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*

We encountered this species every day while in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

As with the previous species we had views of birds every day in the same localities.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

This species was more common in Corbett NP and along the Kosi River although a few were seen in the Sattal area.

Brook's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus subviridis*

After a bit of searching we managed to locate a single bird in woodland at Keoladeo NP.

Inornate (Hume's) Warbler *Phylloscopus [inornatus] humei*

Commonly seen in the higher areas of Northern India.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

The majority of the sightings were at Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

A single bird was located near the Kosi River and another was seen in a wooded valley near Nainital.

Golden-spectacled (Whistler's) Warbler *Seicercus [burkii] whistleri*

This species was located in forested areas along the Kosi River and in Corbett NP, a single bird was also found out of range in Bandavgarh NP.

- Gray-hooded Warbler** *Seicercus xanthoschistos*
A common species that was seen at all the highland sites visited on tour.
- Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris*
A pair was well seen near Okhla Island in Delhi.
- Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia hortensis*
A single bird was found in thick bush while walking in the Keoladeo NP.
- Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
This species was a common sight at nearly every locality visited on the tour.

Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

- Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophciata*
A beautiful species that was seen every day on the highland section of the tour.
- Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*
This species was first located at Dikhala camp in Corbett NP however greater numbers were seen at Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.
- [Red-throated Flycatcher]** *Ficedula albicilla*
Initially located at Dikhala camp however our best views were in the Sattal area.
NOTE: Clements considers F. albicilla to be a subspecies of F. parva and does not recognise the split that some authorities claim.
- Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*
A stunning bird that was first found in forest along the Kosi River, another bird was also seen in Corbett NP.
- Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*
A single bird was found in woodland in Corbett NP.
- Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula superciliaris*
The only sightings were in woodland just outside Bandavgarh NP where 2 birds were found.
- Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*
This species was well seen along the Kosi River on a few occasions and again in the Sattal area.
- Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassina*
This species was seen once along the Kosi River and twice in woodland outside Bandavgarh NP.
- Small Niltava** *Niltava macgregoriae*
Regularly seen along the Kosi River and in the Nainital and Sattal areas
- Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*
A superb gem of tall forest in the Himalayan foothills. Seen at least 10 times along the Kosi River and 3 times in the Sattal area.
- Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis tickelliae*
A few were seen daily in Bandavgarh NP and the surrounding woodlands.
- Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Fair numbers were found along the Kosi River, Corbett NP, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP
- Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*
A single bird seen along the Kosi River was the only one located on tour.
- White-tailed Rubythroat** *Luscinia pectoralis*
Excellent views were had of a single bird in the town of Ramnagar.
- Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
Good numbers were noted in Delhi and at Keoladeo NP.
- Red-flanked Bluetail (Orange-flanked Bush-Robin)** *Tarsiger cyanurus*
This species was located in the Nainital and Sattal areas.
- Golden Bush-Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
A stunning bird that was only seen once on tour in the Sattal area.
- Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*

A common species that was seen at most localities on the tour.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

A total of 3 birds were seen along the Kosi River and in Corbett NP.

Indian Robin (SE) *Saxicoloides fulicata*

Seen at most localities however especially common at Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*

A fairly common species in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

First sighted in Corbett NP after which we found them to be fairly common in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*

Fair numbers were seen around Nainital and Sattal.

White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

A species that is closely associated with water and was seen on most rivers in Corbett NP, along the Kosi River and at small streams in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

Plumbeous Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*

As with the previous species it is always found close to water and was seen at the same localities.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*

Only a single bird was seen on the tour and that was at the Corbett Falls Reserve.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*

This species was fairly widespread and seen along the Kosi River, streams around Nainital and at Sattal.

White-throated Bushchat *Saxicola insignis*

With a bit of careful searching we managed to locate a pair in the grasslands surrounding Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura*

A common species that was seen on most days of the tour.

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucera*

A total of 6 birds were found in the area around Okhla Island in Delhi.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

This species was first seen at Okhla island in Delhi and thereafter at the Chambal River and Keoladeo NP.

Gray Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*

A common species that was found throughout the higher lying areas.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

A single bird was located in a dry, open area in Keoladeo NP.

Indian (Brown Rock) Chat (SE) *Cercomela fusca*

Birds were located in Delhi, Ramnagar and at the Taj Mahal.

Fantails Rhipiduridae

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*

A striking bird that was first seen along the Kosi River, further sightings were had in Corbett NP and in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

A species that was common at higher elevations and seen daily along the Kosi River, at Corbett NP, Nainital and Sattal.

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*

Replaces the previous species at lower altitude and was seen at Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

A good looker that was well seen in the more forested areas of Bandavgarh NP.

Babblers *Timaliidae*

- White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis*
Often occurs in big groups. We managed to find two flocks, one in the Nainital area and another near a lake edge in the Sattal region.
- White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*
Occurs in groups of up to 10 birds. We recorded this species fairly regularly at all of the high altitude sites on tour.
- Striated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax striatus*
Two pairs were located in total, both in the Nainital area.
- Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax rufogularis*
Fair numbers of around 13 birds were located on two consecutive days in the lake area around Sattal.
- Streaked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax lineatus*
A common species in the more open, bushy areas around Nainital and Sattal.
- Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax erythrocephalus*
3 birds were found in the town of Nainital and another individual, our first, was located in a valley nearby.
- Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*
A striking bird that was found in bushy areas around the Kosi River and at Nainital and Sattal.
- Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga albiventer*
2 birds were found foraging on the forest floor in the lake area of Sattal.
- Immaculate (Nepal) Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga immaculate*
A single bird was found in thick, streamside vegetation along the Kosi River.
- Black-chinned Babbler (SE)** *Stachyris pyrrhops*
A common species that was seen daily along the Kosi River, at Corbett NP and in the Nainital and Sattal areas.
- Tawny-bellied Babbler** *Dumetia hyperythra*
Our first sighting was near Ramnagar on the Kosi River, thereafter we found them to be fairly common in Bandavgarh NP and the surrounding woodland.
- Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense*
First seen in scrubby habitat along the Kosi River near Ramnagar we found this species again only on the last day at Tughleabad in Delhi.
- Common Babbler** *Turdoides caudatus*
5 birds were found at Okhla Island in Delhi. 7 in scrub along the Kosi River and at least 15 birds were seen at Tughleabad in Delhi.
- Striated Babbler** *Turdoides earlei*
Good numbers of 15 plus birds were found in the reedbeds on Okhla island.
- Large Gray Babbler (SE)** *Turdoides malcolmi*
The first birds were located on the drive between Ramnagar and Nainital, thereafter we had more sightings in Keoladeo NP and Tughleabad in Delhi.
- Jungle Babbler (SE)** *Turdoides striatus*
A very common species that was encountered on every day of the tour.
- Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*
This stunning species of the forest edge was fairly easy to locate in the Mongoli valley and around the lakes in the Sattal area.
- White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
A delightful species that was located on two occasions in forest above the town of Nainital.
- Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera*

A bird of the Himalayan forests that was sighted along the Kosi River, around Nainital and in the Sattal area.

Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*

This species was fairly common in mature forest around Nainital and Sattal.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

A group of 5 birds were found together with a mixed flock in the Mongoli valley.

Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalidae*

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*

Good numbers were found in feeding flocks around Nainital and Sattal.

Tits *Paridae*

Black-breasted (Rufous-naped) Tit *Periparus rufonuchalis*

2 birds were seen together with a mixed flock in forest above Nainital.

Black-crested (Spot-winged) Tit *Periparus melanolophus*

A few birds were seen in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

Great Tit *Parus major*

A common species that was regularly encountered throughout the country. Greater numbers however were noted in the highlands.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

A common species that was found in forest around the town of Nainital and the Sattal area.

Black-lored Tit (SE) *Parus xanthogenys*

This good looking species was seen daily along the Kosi River, at Corbett NP, Nainital and in the Sattal area.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*

A total of 10 birds were found in forest above Nainital.

Nuthatches *Sittidae*

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*

This species was found in forest along the Kosi River and in Corbett NP.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*

Seems to replace the previous species at higher elevations and was recorded around Nainital and Sattal.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Fairly common along the Kosi River and the forests in Corbett NP, we also found 2 birds in Bandavgarh NP.

Wallcreeper *Tichidromidae*

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

A stylish species. We had a total of 3 birds in suitable habitat along the Kosi River.

Creepers *Certhiidae*

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana*

Regularly recorded at the higher elevations around Nainital and Sattal.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

Purple Sunbird

Cinnyris asiatica

This species was located in Delhi and Keoladeo NP however it was most common in the woodland around Bandavgarh NP.

Green-tailed Sunbird

Aethopyga nipalensis

Females of this species were found in forest along the Kosi River, however a stunning male was located near a lake edge in the Sattal area.

Crimson Sunbird

Aethopyga siparaja

Another jewel that was seen only once when a male was found feeding in mistletoe at Corbett Falls.

Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae*

Thick-billed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum agile

Good numbers of up to 10 birds in a single day were recorded at Bandavgarh NP and the adjacent woodlands.

Pale-billed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum erythrorhynchus

A single bird found at the Chambal Safari Lodge was the only bird seen on the tour.

White-eyes *Zosteropidae*

Oriental White-eye

Zosterops palpebrosus

A common species that was regularly sighted at most localities on tour.

Old World Orioles *Oriolidae*

Black-hooded Oriole

Oriolus xanthornus

This species was located in small numbers along the Kosi River, in Corbett NP and Bandavgarh NP.

Maroon Oriole

Oriolus traillii

A single female seen together with a feeding flock along the Kosi River was the only sighting on tour.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

Rufous-tailed Shrike

Lanius isabellinus

A single bird was observed in grassland around Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Brown Shrike

Lanius cristatus

Commonly seen in Bandavgarh NP and along the Chambal River.

Bay-backed Shrike

Lanius vittatus

Singles were recorded daily in the woodland outside Bandavgarh NP and larger numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP.

Long-tailed Shrike

Lanius schach

A very common species that was seen almost daily at every locality.

Gray-backed Shrike

Lanius tephronotus

Singles were found on two of the days spent in the Nainital area.

Southern Gray Shrike

Lanius meridionalis

Singles were found along the Chambal River and at Keoladeo NP.

Helmetshrikes and Allies *Prionopidae*

Common Woodshrike*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

A fairly common species that was regularly seen along the Kosi River, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Drongos *Dicruridae***Black Drongo***Dicrurus macrocercus*

The most common Drongo in India that was seen daily in all areas.

Ashy Drongo*Dicrurus leucophaeus*

This species was found in mixed feeding flocks in forest along the Kosi River.

White-bellied Drongo (SE)*Dicrurus caerulescens*

A single was found in Corbett NP, however this species was fairly common in Bandavgarh NP.

Bronzed Drongo*Dicrurus aeneus*

A forest species that was recorded along the Kosi River and above the town of Nainital.

Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo*Dicrurus hottentottus*

A total of 5 birds were found on the drive from Ramnagar to Nainital in forest and woodland.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus paradiseus*

This species was found in the tall woodland within Bandavgarh NP.

Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae***Eurasian Jay***Garrulus glandarius*

Large numbers were found in the forests above Nainital where 30 birds were seen on a single day.

Black-headed Jay*Garrulus lanceolatus*

This beautiful species was well seen in forested areas above and in the town of Nainital and in the Sattal area.

Green Magpie*Cissa chinensis*

A single bird was observed together with a mixed flock in mature forest in Corbett NP.

(Red-billed) Blue Magpie*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

An extravagant bird that always provided great entertainment whenever seen, we found small groups in all the higher lying areas on tour.

Rufous Treepie*Dendrocitta vagabunda*

A common and beautiful species that was seen at every locality almost daily.

Gray Treepie*Dendrocitta formosae*

This species was encountered along the Kosi River, Nainital and Sattal in small numbers.

House Crow*Corvus splendens*

A very common species throughout the country.

Large-billed Crow*Corvus macrorhynchus*

An abundant species that was seen on every day of the tour.

Starlings *Sturnidae***Bank Myna (SE)***Acridotheres ginginianus*

A species that was encountered at most urban centres throughout the country though in smaller numbers than the next species.

Common (Indian) Myna*Acridotheres tristis*

Common in and around urban centres throughout the country.

Asian Pied Starling*Gracupica contra*

A common species that is more often seen around urban centres. Large numbers in Delhi, Agra, Bharatpur and Ramnagar.

Chestnut-tailed Starling*Sturnus malabaricus*

A single bird was observed near the nursery in Keoladeo NP.

Brahminy Starling *Temenuchus pagodarum*

A good looker that was encountered in the town of Ramnagar, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

European (Common) Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Another unwanted alien. Our first birds were seen in Wakkerstroom and then again in the Western Cape where it is very common. It was introduced in the late 1800s.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Widespread and common in urban areas throughout India.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*

This species prefers open areas at high altitude and was recorded in the Nainital area and in the Mongoli valley.

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*

Many were seen in the woodland in and around Bandavgarh NP.

Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*

Scarce and unpredictable, we were fortunate to find a group of around 50 birds on Okhla Island in Delhi.

Bengal (Black-breasted) Weaver (SE) *Ploceus benghalensis*

A total of 4 birds were found in reedbeds on Okhla island.

Waxbills & Allies *Estrildidae*

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

Small groups were seen around Delhi and on the road between Bharatpur and Delhi.

White-throated Munia (Indian Silverbill) *Lonchura malabarica*

Large groups were regularly encountered around Delhi.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

A group of 5 birds were located in the Tughleabad area in Delhi.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies *Fringillidae*

Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis*

2 birds were found together with other finches in the Mongoli valley.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

This species was common in the high areas of Nainital and Sattal.

Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rhodochrous*

A flock of 15 birds were found in a valley near the town of Nainital.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides*

A group of 8 birds were seen in a valley near the town of Nainital.

Buntings *Emberizidae*

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*

A good-looking species, we found 2 birds in the grassland round Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

While in a valley in the Nainital area we had good looks at 2 birds.

Chestnut-breasted (White-capped) Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*

This species was first located in a field on the drive between Nainital and Sattal and we later had another pair along the Chambal River.

MAMMAL SPECIES LIST

Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*

A roost of least 150 strong was found while at the Raganathittu Bird Sanctuary.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

Very common at all localities and along the roads while travelling.

Hanuman Langur *Semnopithecus entellus*

Hares & Rabbits *Leporidae*

Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis*

Seen along the Kosi River and in Corbett NP.

Squirrels *Sciuridae*

Northern Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii*

Common and regularly encountered at most localities.

Mongoose *Herpestidae*

Common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*

A single was seen at Keoladeo NP.

Ruddy Mongoose *Herpestes smithii*

Singles were sighted on each day on game drives in Bandavgarh NP.

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes javanicus*

A single was sighted near the temple in Keoladeo NP.

Weasels, Martens, Otters etc *Mustelidae*

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*

3 of these beautiful creatures were very well seen as they ran along the side of the road for awhile in Corbett NP. We had an additional sighting of a single in forest above Nainital.

Civets *Viverridae*

Himalayan Palm Civet *Paguma larvata*

A single was observed at night in Keoladeo NP.

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Golden Jackal

Canis aureus

A total of 8 were seen in Corbett NP while 3 were sighted in Bandavgarh NP and at least 10 were seen in Keoladeo NP.

Dhole

Cuon alpinus

Excellent views were had of 2 animals walking next to the Jeep for 200 metres while in Bandavgarh NP.

Cats Felidae

Leopard

Panthera pardus

A single was briefly seen as it crossed the road at night while driving to the Mountain Club Hotel in the Sattal area..

Bengal Tiger

Panthera tigris

The essence of India. We were treated to breath-taking views of this great cat. First seen in Corbett NP where singles were found on consecutive days we later had 7 in total on elephant back in Bandavgarh NP.

Jungle Cat

Felis chaus

A single was observed in the late afternoon while on the cruise up the Chambal River.

Pigs Suidae

Wild Boar

Sus scrofa

Good views were had of large groups in Corbett NP, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Deer Cervidae

Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac)

Muntiacus muntjak

This tiny species was observed in Corbett NP, above the town of Nainital and in Bandavgarh NP.

Spotted Deer (Chital)

Cervus axis

Very common in the large national parks of Corbett, Bandavgarh and Keoladeo.

Sambar

Cervus unicolor

Smaller numbers of this huge deer were noted in Corbett NP, Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Hog Deer

Axis porcinus

This localised deer was observed in the grasslands around Dikhala camp in Corbett NP.

Bovids Bovidae

Nilgai

Bosephalus tragocamelus

This massive species was seen along the Yamuna River in Delhi, in Bandavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP.

Dorcas Gazelle

Gazella dorcas

6 were found in dry, open woodland outside of Bandavgarh NP.

River Dolphins Platanistidae

Gangetic Dolphin

Platanista gangetica

A single was observed while on the boat cruise up the Chambal River.

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumper.co.za
Alternative Email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumper.co.za