



*Field Guides Tour Report*

**Northern India 2017**

Jan 28, 2017 to Feb 17, 2017

Terry Stevenson

*For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).*



*Participant Becky Hansen captured this wonderful image of the striking Crimson Sunbird, one of the more brilliant species we saw on our tour.*

Our 2017 Northern India tour experienced the mildest weather ever we've ever had on this trip. Although this was not exactly what we wanted (severe weather in the Himalayas can bring down an unpredictable variety of high-altitude migrants), we did enjoy a wealth of Northern India's finest birds, including Kalij Pheasant, Sarus Crane, the incomparable Ibisbill, 8 species of owls, Long-tailed Broadbill, Red-billed Blue-Magpie, and Wallcreeper. A visit to Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal were also highlights for most of the group, but perhaps best of all was four Tigers during our very first day at Ranthambhore!

As always, we began in Delhi with a visit to the nearby Okhla Bird Sanctuary. Morning fog somewhat hindered our progress, but we all enjoyed our first Indian birding, with just a few highlights being Bar-headed Goose, Indian Peafowl, Painted Stork, Red-wattled Lapwing, noisy Rose-ringed Parakeets, Yellow-bellied and Ashy prinias, and Asian Pied Starling. We then drove to the railway station and took the 5-hour journey to Ranthambhore, our base for the following three nights.

At this time of year Ranthambhore is a mix of dry woodland, open grassy areas, and several lakes. It's wonderful to be out there on the narrow twisting tracks finding secretive species like Painted Spurfowl and Jungle Bush-Quail -- we had fantastic close looks at both this year. A variety of ducks and other water birds were on the lakes, and several Great Thick-knees along the shores. Bonelli's Eagle and White-eyed Buzzard were amongst the raptors we saw, while the woodlands held doves, Green Bee-eater, our first Black-rumped Flamebacks, Small Minivet, White-browed Fantail, Common Tailorbird, Large Gray Babbler, and Purple Sunbird. Mammals here included a few Common Mongoose and Wild Boar, about 15 Nilgai, 80 Sambar, and several hundred Spotted Deer. Without doubt, though, the highlight for everyone was Tiger! First a female marking her territory along the track, then two large young ones within just feet of the vehicle, and finally another large female resting beside a stream bed -- wow, and all during our first day in this wonderful park!

Taking a short train journey back to the north, we then spent two nights at the world-famous wetland of Bharatpur. Water levels have been low in recent years, but this time was just fantastic, with flocks of hundreds of Graylag and Bar-headed geese, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, the Eurasian form of Green-winged Teal, and lesser numbers of Indian Spot-billed Ducks, Ferruginous Ducks, and Red-crested Pochards. We also saw hundreds of Painted Storks, along with Asian Openbill, Indian Cormorant, Dalmatian Pelican, Black Bittern, Black-headed Ibis, and Eurasian Spoonbill.

Displaying Sarus Cranes were a real treat, and Greater Spotted Eagles were often in the bare trees around the water, while on the floating vegetation we watched both Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed jacanas. Our local guide helped us find Dusky Eagle-Owl at a nest, and Oriental Scops-Owl at a day roost. On a day trip to the Bund Baretha and Bayana area we added the critically endangered Indian Vulture, plus Brown-headed Barbet, our first Wallcreeper, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Orange-headed Thrush, and Red Avadavat. We also saw several hundred Indian Flying-Foxes, and troops of Rhesus Monkeys and Common Langurs that were to become a daily feature of the tour.

From Bharatpur it's just an hour-and-a-half drive to Fatehpur Sikri (where we made a tour of the palaces of Akbar the Great), from which we then continued on to Agra. During two nights there we made a day trip to the Chambal River, where notable additions were Red-naped Ibis, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Black-bellied and River terns, Asian Koel, Brown Boobook, and Blue Rock-Thrush. Huge, basking Marsh Muggers and Gharials were quite wonderful, too! Then, before heading back to Delhi, we had yet another major highlight of the tour -- who could stay in Agra without a visit to the majestic Taj Mahal? Set on the banks of the Yamuna River, this sublime building and the story of its construction are alone worth a visit to Northern India.

The second part of our tour was to the north of Delhi, first into the Himalayan foothills and then to a lower elevation in and around Corbett National Park. The lack of snow at Nainital this year meant numbers of some of the migrants were low; but we still enjoyed our days here with a fantastic vista of the Himalayan snow-covered peaks, and we saw many fabulous birds including Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, Speckled Wood-Pigeon, Great Barbet, Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Lesser Yellownappe, Slaty-headed Parakeet, Bronzed and Hairy-crested drongos, Black-headed Jay, Red-billed Blue-Magpie, Green-backed and Black-throated tits, Chestnut-bellied and White-tailed nuthatches, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Himalayan Bulbul, Buff-barred and Gray-hooded warblers, Rufous-chinned, White-throated, and Chestnut-crowned laughingthrushes, Rufous Sibia, Red-billed Leiothrix, Spotted Forktail, White-tailed Rubythroat, Red-flanked Bluetail, Golden Bush-Robin, Gray-winged Blackbird, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, and Fire-fronted Serin.

Dropping lower to the Corbett area, we spent our time birding both inside the park (where one is restricted to vehicles) and outside (where one can walk anywhere). Again the list was long, but amongst the many 'specials' most notable were several groups of Red Junglefowl and Kalij Pheasant (right on the tracks), Black Stork, Cinereous Vulture, Pallas's and Lesser fish-eagles, a very close Ibisbill, Brown Fish-Owl, Asian Barred and Jungle owlets, Crested Treeswift, Oriental Pied-Hornbill, Crested Kingfisher, Blue-throated Barbet, Greater Yellownappe, Fulvous-breasted and Streak-throated woodpeckers, Himalayan Flameback, Red-breasted Parakeet, Common Iora, Maroon Oriole, Streak-throated Swallow, Black-lored Tit, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Brown Dipper, White-crested Laughingthrush, Plumbeous and White-capped redstarts, Long-billed Thrush, and Crimson Sunbird.

Lastly, we returned to Delhi, where we spent the night before heading for a morning's birding at Sultanpur Jheel. Like a mini version of Bharatpur, the reserve here was wonderful for large numbers of waterbirds, including our one and only adult Greater Flamingo. Other new additions included the tiny Sind Sparrow and a massive Imperial Eagle.

A free afternoon back at our luxury hotel gave us plenty of time to get ready for our night departures for home, but not before the final checklist and one last superb Indian buffet!

My thanks to all for joining me for this great survey of Northern India. I hope to cross paths with you again soon. Until then, good birding!

--Terry

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#### KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: \* = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

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## BIRDS

### Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

**LESSER WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna javanica*) – About 50 at Bharatpur.

**GRAYLAG GOOSE** (*Anser anser*) – One hundred at Okhla Bird Sanctuary, 300 at Bharatpur, and about 40 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**BAR-HEADED GOOSE** (*Anser indicus*) – About 40 at Okhla Bird Sanctuary, 120 at Bharatpur, and 60 at the Chambal River.

**COMB DUCK** (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) – Four at Bharatpur.

**RUDDY SHELDUCK** (*Tadorna ferruginea*) – Five at Ranthambhore, 8 along the Chambal River, and 400+ at Ramnagar.

**GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*) – About 30 at Okhla Bird Sanctuary, 50 at Bund Baretha, 300 at Bharatpur, and 100+ at Sultanpur Jheel.

**EURASIAN WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*) – Two males at Bund Baretha.

**MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – Four males at Bharatpur, and 7 (both sexes) at Sultanpur Jheel.

**INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK** (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) – Widespread on a variety of wetlands throughout the tour; in all we saw about 120.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*) – Eight at Ranthambhore, 400+ at Bharatpur, and 450+ at Sultanpur Jheel.

**NORTHERN PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*) – About 600 at Bharatpur, and 150+ at Sultanpur Jheel.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas crecca*) – The nominate race (also often split and known as Eurasian Teal) was common at Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, and Sultanpur Jheel; in all we saw about 550.

**RED-CRESTED POCHARD** (*Netta rufina*) – Ten at Bund Baretha, 12 at Bharatpur, about 35 at the Chambal River, and 1 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**COMMON POCHARD** (*Aythya ferina*) – Some of the group saw a single male at Bund Baretha.

**FERRUGINOUS DUCK** (*Aythya nyroca*) – Great looks at about 60 at Bharatpur, and 3 at Sultanpur Jheel.

### Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

**INDIAN PEAFAWL** (*Pavo cristatus*) – Common and widespread in both farmland and reserves across the plains, and at a higher elevation at Corbett.

**PAINTED SPURFOWL** (*Galloperdix lunulata*) – Fabulous close looks at two pairs at Ranthambhore.

**JUNGLE BUSH-QUAIL** (*Perdica asiatica*) – Just fantastic long close looks at 2 pairs right next to our vehicle at Ranthambhore.

**GRAY FRANCOLIN** (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) – About 40 at Ranthambhore, 10 at Bharatpur, 2 along the banks of the Chambal River, and heard at Sultanpur Jheel.

**RED JUNGLEFOWL** (*Gallus gallus*) – Two of the group saw 1 briefly at Sitabani, and then we all had fabulous looks at about 50 at Corbett - our most ever!

**KALIJ PHEASANT** (*Lophura leucomelanos*) – We saw a female at Sat Tal, and then about 20 (including at least a dozen males) at Corbett - another highlight of our tour!

*Podicipedidae (Grebes)*

**LITTLE GREBE** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) – Ten at Ranthambhore, 30 at Bharatpur, and 6 at Sultanpur Jheel.

*Ciconiidae (Storks)*

**ASIAN OPENBILL** (*Anastomus oscitans*) – Twenty at Ranthambhore, and 6 at Bharatpur.

**BLACK STORK** (*Ciconia nigra*) – Two singles at Corbett.

**WOOLLY-NECKED STORK** (*Ciconia episcopus*) – Nice looks at 4 at Ranthambhore, and 1 in flight at Corbett.

**BLACK-NECKED STORK** (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) – Two at Bharatpur, 1 at Corbett, and 1 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**PAINTED STORK** (*Mycteria leucocephala*) – At least 300 at Bharatpur were by far the most together, but we also about 85 at Sultanpur Jheel, and small numbers at Okhla and Ranthambhore.

*Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)*

**LITTLE CORMORANT** (*Microcarbo niger*) – Common at wetlands throughout the tour; with a total of about 240.

**GREAT CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Very common at a variety of scattered wetlands; in all we saw about 600.

**INDIAN CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) – Three birds at Bharatpur were close enough for us to see their blue-green eyes.

*Anhingidae (Anhingas)*

**ORIENTAL DARTER** (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – Ten at Ranthambhore, 30 at Bharatpur, and 10 at Sultanpur Jheel.

*Pelecanidae (Pelicans)*

**GREAT WHITE PELICAN** (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) – At least 100 were scoped in the distance at Soorwal Reservoir.

**DALMATIAN PELICAN** (*Pelecanus crispus*) – Good looks at 13 at Bharatpur.

*Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)*

**BLACK BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*) – We saw 1 of these secretive birds in a tree overhanging the water at Bharatpur.

**GRAY HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*) – Fairly common and widespread at a variety of scattered wetlands.

**PURPLE HERON** (*Ardea purpurea*) – One at Ranthambhore, 10 at Bharatpur, and 6 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*) – Twenty at Ranthambhore and 150+ at Bharatpur were the most at specific sites, but we also saw a few others at scattered wetlands.

**INTERMEDIATE EGRET** (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – About 10 at Bharatpur, and 8 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*) – Common and widespread, with a total of about 150.

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Very common and widespread throughout the tour.

**INDIAN POND-HERON** (*Ardeola grayii*) – Very common and widespread throughout the tour.

**STRIATED HERON** (*Butorides striata*) – Three at Ranthambhore, 1 at the Chambal River, and 4 at Ramnagar.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Two at Ranthambhore, about a dozen at Bharatpur.

*Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)*

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Thirty at Bharatpur, and then about 45 (with some in glorious plumage) at Sultanpur Jheel.

**BLACK-HEADED IBIS** (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) – We saw a total of about 40 between Delhi, Ranthambhore and Bharatpur, and then 10 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**RED-NAPED IBIS** (*Pseudibis papillosa*) – Great close looks at 12 along the banks of the Chambal River, and 7 in the Sultanpur Jheel area.

**EURASIAN SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucorodia*) – About 25 at Bharatpur, and 15 at Sultanpur Jheel.

*Pandionidae (Osprey)*

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Two at Bund Baretha, and 2 along the Chambal River.

*Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)*

**BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Small numbers in farmland and open country like around Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, and Corbett.

**LAMMERGEIER** (*Gypaetus barbatus*) – We saw a high flying bird (together with Himalayan Griffons) above Nainital.

**EGYPTIAN VULTURE** (*Neophron percnopterus*) – Six at Bharatpur, 10 in the Chambal River area, and 2 at the Taj Mahal.

**ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD** (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – Some of the group saw 4 at Bharatpur, and then we all saw a single bird at Sultanpur Jheel.

**CINEREOUS VULTURE** (*Aegypius monachus*) – Three at Corbett.

**INDIAN VULTURE** (*Gyps indicus*) – We saw this critically endangered species at Ranthambhore (1) and at the Bayana Cliffs (3).

**HIMALAYAN GRIFFON** (*Gyps himalayensis*) – We saw a total of about 50 in the Nainital and Corbett areas.

**CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE** (*Spilornis cheela*) – One at Ranthambhore, about 15 at Corbett, and 3 at Forktail Creek.

**CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE** (*Nisaetus limnaeetus*) – Three at Corbett, and 1 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**MOUNTAIN HAWK-EAGLE** (*Nisaetus nipalensis*) – One soaring over the forest at Forktail Creek.

**GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE** (*Clanga clanga*) – Eight at Bharatpur.

**BOOTED EAGLE** (*Hieraetus pennatus*) – We saw a single dark morph at Bharatpur.

**TAWNY EAGLE** (*Aquila rapax*) – Two at Bharatpur, and 1 at Sat Tal.

**STEPPE EAGLE** (*Aquila nipalensis*) – Two on the way to Nainital, and about 20 at Sat Tal.



**IMPERIAL EAGLE** (*Aquila heliaca*) – Nice looks at a perched and then flying adult at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**BONELLI'S EAGLE** (*Aquila fasciata*) – One at Ranthambhore.  
**WHITE-EYED BUZZARD** (*Butastur teesa*) – One at Ranthambhore.  
**EURASIAN MARSH-HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*) – One at Okhla, about a dozen at Bharatpur, and 1 at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**SHIKRA** (*Accipiter badius*) – Singles at Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, and Agra.  
**EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter nisus*) – Two single females at Sat Tal and Sultanpur Jheel.  
**BLACK KITE** (*Milvus migrans*) – Very common and widespread, with literally thousands in Delhi (especially over the garbage dump) and many others at scattered sites elsewhere.  
**PALLAS'S FISH-EAGLE** (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) – Nine in the Corbett area were a real treat!  
**WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) – We saw a single immature along the Kosi River.  
**LESSER FISH-EAGLE** (*Ichthyophaga humilis*) – Three between Corbett and Kumeria.  
**LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD** (*Buteo rufinus*) – One in flight from the boat along the Chambal River.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

**WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – We saw about 50 between Okhla, Ranthambhore, and Bharatpur.  
**BROWN CRAKE** (*Zapornia akool*) – Good views of singles at Soorwal Reservoir, Corbett, and Sultanpur Jheel.  
**BLACK-BACKED SWAMPHEN** (*Porphyrio indicus indicus*) – More commonly known as Purple or Grey-headed Swamphen, we saw 10 at Okhla, about 40 at Bharatpur, and 6 at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**EURASIAN MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Common at wetlands throughout the tour with a total of 500+.  
**EURASIAN COOT** (*Fulica atra*) – At least 600 were at Bharatpur, 700+ at Sultanpur Jheel, and a few others on wetlands elsewhere.

Gruidae (Cranes)

**SARUS CRANE** (*Antigone antigone*) – Three from the train on the way to Ranthambhore, and then great looks at 4 at Bharatpur, and finally 8 from the train between Ramnagar and Delhi.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

**EURASIAN THICK-KNEE** (*Burhinus oedicephalus*) – Formerly lumped with the following species; 3 together on the way to Soorwal Reservoir showed extensive yellow on the basal half of the bill, and a more uniform pattern (below the narrow bars) on the closed wing.  
**INDIAN THICK-KNEE** (*Burhinus indicus*) – A close bird at Ranthambhore clearly showed the very limited amount of yellow at base of bill, and broad pale wing-panel. Formerly lumped with the previous species.  
**GREAT THICK-KNEE** (*Esacus recurvirostris*) – About a dozen at Ranthambhore, and a similar number along the Chambal River.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

**BLACK-WINGED STILT** (*Himantopus himantopus*) – Common and widespread.

Ibidorhynchidae (Ibisbill)

**IBISBILL** (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*) – Fabulous close looks at 1 near Ramnagar.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

**WHITE-TAILED LAPWING** (*Vanellus leucurus*) – Four at Bharatpur, and about a dozen at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**KENTISH PLOVER (KENTISH)** (*Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*) – One along the shore at the Chambal River.

Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)

**GREATER PAINTED-SNIPE** (*Rostratula benghalensis*) – Great close looks at a pair near the Soorwal Reservoir.

Jacaniidae (Jacanas)

**PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) – Singles at Bharatpur and Bund Baretha.  
**BRONZE-WINGED JACANA** (*Metopidius indicus*) – About 6 at Bharatpur.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa limosa*) – One at Ranthambhore, and 5 at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**RUFF** (*Calidris pugnax*) – One at Ranthambhore, and 10 at Sultanpur Jheel. [E]  
**TEMMINCK'S STINT** (*Calidris temminckii*) – Two along the Chambal River.  
**COMMON SNIPE** (*Gallinago gallinago*) – Twelve at Ranthambhore, and 2 at Bharatpur.  
**COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – We saw a total of about 7 at a variety of widespread scattered wetlands.  
**GREEN SANDPIPER** (*Tringa ochropus*) – Widespread in small numbers.  
**SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*) – One at Ranthambhore.  
**COMMON GREENSHANK** (*Tringa nebularia*) – Six along the Chambal River, and 2 at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**WOOD SANDPIPER** (*Tringa glareola*) – Two at Ranthambhore, and 12 at Bharatpur.  
**COMMON REDSHANK** (*Tringa totanus*) – Three at Ranthambhore, and about a dozen at Sultanpur Jheel.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

**CASPIAN GULL** (*Larus cachinnans*) – One of the group saw a single bird at Agra.  
**WHISKERED TERN** (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – One at Ranthambhore.  
**BLACK-BELLIED TERN** (*Sterna acuticauda*) – Nice looks at 2 from the boat along the Chambal River.  
**RIVER TERN** (*Sterna aurantia*) – Twelve at Ranthambhore and Soorwal, 3 along the Chambal River, and 8 at Corbett.

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

**PAINTED SANDGROUSE** (*Pterocles indicus*) – About 7 came to drink at dusk near our lodge at Ranthambhore.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) – Common and widespread.

**SPECKLED WOOD-PIGEON** (*Columba hodgsonii*) – Nice scope looks at 1 near Nainital.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) – Fairly common and widespread; in all we saw about 180.

**RED COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) – Two near Soorwal Reservoir, and 1 near Chambal Safari Lodge.

**SPOTTED DOVE** (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Small numbers at Ranthambhore, Agra, and Corbett.

**LAUGHING DOVE** (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) – We saw about 60 at a variety of widespread sites on the plains.

**YELLOW-FOOTED PIGEON** (*Treron phoenicopterus*) – One at Ranthambhore, 12 at Bharatpur, and 8 at Chambal Safari Lodge.

#### Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

**GREATER COUCAL** (*Centropus sinensis*) – We saw a total of about 25 in the lowlands.

**ASIAN KOEL** (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*) – Nice looks at a male at Chambal Safari Lodge.

#### Strigidae (Owls)

**INDIAN SCOPS-OWL** (*Otus bakkamoena*) – Two at Ranthambhore.

**ORIENTAL SCOPS-OWL** (*Otus sunia*) – One at Bharatpur.

**DUSKY EAGLE-OWL** (*Bubo coromandus*) – Two adults, and 2 juveniles in a nearby nest at Bharatpur.

**BROWN FISH-OWL** (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) – One at Corbett.

**ASIAN BARRED OWLET** (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) – One at Corbett.

**JUNGLE OWLET** (*Glaucidium radiatum*) – One at Sitabani, and 2 at Corbett.

**SPOTTED OWLET** (*Athene brama*) – Three at Ranthambhore, and 2 (for some of the group) at Chambal Safari Lodge.

**BROWN BOOBOOK** (*Ninox scutulata*) – Great looks for everyone at Chambal Safari Lodge.

#### Apodidae (Swifts)

**LITTLE SWIFT** (*Apus affinis*) – About 15 at Fatehpur Sikri, and 4 at Ramnagar.

#### Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)

**CRESTED TREESWIFT** (*Hemiproctne coronata*) – Four at Corbett.

#### Upupidae (Hoopoes)

**EURASIAN HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*) – Small numbers at Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, Chambal Safari Lodge, and Sultanpur Jheel.

#### Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

**INDIAN GRAY HORNBILL** (*Ocyroceros birostris*) – We did well this year with a total of about 30 in the plains (including 15 at Bharatpur) and 2 at Forktail Creek.

**ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL** (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) – Two pairs at Corbett.

#### Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

**COMMON KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*) – Four at Ranthambhore, 6 at Bharatpur, and singles at Ramnagar, and Forktail Creek.

**STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER** (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – Some of the group saw 1 during the elephant ride at Corbett.

**WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) – Common and widespread; in all we saw about 60.

**CRESTED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle lugubris*) – Fabulous looks along the Kosi River, and at Corbett.

**PIED KINGFISHER** (*Ceryle rudis*) – Widespread in small numbers.

#### Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

**BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER** (*Nyctyornis athertoni*) – Great looks at the Jim Corbett Museum at Kaladhungi, and then a second bird at Corbett.

**GREEN BEE-EATER** (*Merops orientalis*) – Six near Soorwal Reservoir, and 2 at Bund Baretha.

#### Coraciidae (Rollers)

**INDIAN ROLLER** (*Coracias benghalensis*) – Four in and around Ranthambhore, 1 near Bayana Cliffs, and 1 at Sitabani.

#### Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)

**COPPERSMITH BARBET** (*Psilopogon haemacephalus*) – Widespread in small numbers; in all we saw about 10.

**GREAT BARBET** (*Psilopogon virens*) – Heard near Nainital, and then 2 seen feeding in a Silk Cotton Tree at Sat Tal.

**LINEATED BARBET** (*Psilopogon lineatus*) – One near Ramnagar, and about 6 in the Nainital and Corbett areas.

**BROWN-HEADED BARBET** (*Psilopogon zeylanicus*) – Two at Bund Baretha, and 3 at Chambal Safari Lodge.

**BLUE-THROATED BARBET** (*Psilopogon asiaticus*) – Four in the Corbett area.

#### Picidae (Woodpeckers)

**BROWN-CAPPED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos nanus*) – One at Ranthambhore, and 6 between Nainital and Corbett.

**GRAY-CAPPED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*) – One at Forktail Creek.

**BROWN-FRONTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos auriceps*) – A female at Sat Tal.

**FULVOUS-BREASTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos macei*) – Some of the group saw 1 at Corbett.

**LESSER YELLOWNAPE** (*Picus chlorolophus*) – Nice looks at 1 at Sat Tal, and then 4 in the Kumeria area.

**GREATER YELLOWNAPE** (*Picus flavinucha*) – Two pairs in the Kumeria area.

**STREAK-THROATED WOODPECKER** (*Picus xanthopygaeus*) – One at Corbett.

**HIMALAYAN FLAMEBACK** (*Dinopium shorii*) – One at Corbett.

**BLACK-RUMPED FLAMEBACK** (*Dinopium benghalense*) – By far the most common flameback; with a total of about 14.

**GREATER FLAMEBACK** (*Chrysocolaptes guttaeristatus*) – Taxonomically a confusing situation with different authors splitting and using different scientific names in several ways. The most recent thoughts are that the pair we saw so well at Kumeria are retained as this 'species', with 'lucidus' used for the form centered on the Philippines.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

**EURASIAN KESTREL** (*Falco tinnunculus*) – One at Bayana Cliffs.

**MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*) – Brief views of a female along the Kosi River.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*) – One from the boat along the Chambal River, and 1 at Corbett.

Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)

**ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula krameri*) – Very common across the plains.

**SLATY-HEADED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula himalayana*) – We saw a total of about 40 in the Nainital and Corbett areas.

**PLUM-HEADED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) – Most common in the lowlands where we saw a total of about 180, but also occurring in higher country around Corbett.

**RED-BREASTED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula alexandri*) – About 20 in the Corbett area.

Eurylaimidae (Asian and Grauer's Broadbills)

**LONG-TAILED BROADBILL** (*Psarismomus dalhousiae*) – Just fabulous this tour, with 5 or 6 together at Corbett - the first time we've recorded this species on the North India tour.

Vangidae (Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies)

**COMMON WOODSHRIKE** (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) – Three at Sitabani.

**BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE** (*Hemipus picatus*) – About 40 in the Corbett area.

Aegithinidae (Ioras)

**COMMON IORA** (*Aegithina tiphia*) – Two at Corbett, and 4 at Kumeria.

Campephagidae (Cuckooshrikes)

**SMALL MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*) – Two at Ranthambhore.

**LONG-TAILED MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus ethologus*) – Nice looks at a male in the forest at Sat Tal, and then about another 8 in the Corbett and Kumeria area, and 2 at Sultanpur Jheel.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

**LONG-TAILED SHRIKE** (*Lanius schach*) – Widespread in small numbers.

**SOUTHERN GRAY SHRIKE** (*Lanius meridionalis*) – One at Ranthambhore.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

**BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE** (*Oriolus xanthornus*) – One in flight at Corbett.

**MAROON ORIOLE** (*Oriolus traillii*) – Some of the group saw a male at Corbett.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

**BLACK DRONGO** (*Dicrurus macrocerus*) – Common and widespread.

**ASHY DRONGO** (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – One near Ramnagar.

**WHITE-BELLIED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus caerulescens*) – About 8 at Ranthambhore, and 2 at Corbett.

**BRONZED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus aeneus*) – About 10 at Sat Tal, and 3 at Corbett.

**HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) – Four in a flowering Silk Cotton Tree at Sat Tal, and 2 near Corbett.

Rhipiduridae (Fantails)

**WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura albicollis*) – Two singles in the Ramnagar area, and 2 at Corbett.

**WHITE-BROWED FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura aureola*) – Six at Ranthambhore, 1 at Sat Tal, and 4 at Corbett.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

**EURASIAN JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*) – Two along the Mongoli Trail.

**BLACK-HEADED JAY** (*Garrulus lanceolatus*) – One briefly at Snow View, and then fabulous close looks at a tame bird feeding in a food stall at Sat Tal.

**RED-BILLED BLUE-MAGPIE** (*Urocissa erythroryncha*) – We saw about 5 of these really gorgeous birds at Sat Tal, and 2 at Kumeria.

**RUFOUS TREEPIE** (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) – Common and widespread.

**GRAY TREEPIE** (*Dendrocitta formosae*) – One in the farmlands near Ramnagar.

**HOUSE CROW** (*Corvus splendens*) – Very common and widespread.

**LARGE-BILLED CROW (LARGE-BILLED)** (*Corvus macrorhynchos japonensis*) – Common in the Himalayan foothills; in all we saw about 120.

**LARGE-BILLED CROW (INDIAN JUNGLE)** (*Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus*) – Very common and widespread in the lowlands.

Alaudidae (Larks)

**INDIAN BUSHLARK** (*Mirafra erythroptera*) – Two at Ranthambhore, and 2 at Soorwal Reservoir.

**ORIENTAL SKYLARK** (*Alauda gulgula*) – Two in the grasslands at Corbett.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

**GRAY-THROATED MARTIN** (*Riparia chinensis*) – About 30 at Bharatpur, 10 along the Chambal River, and 50 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**BANK SWALLOW** (*Riparia riparia*) – About 20 at Bharatpur.

**DUSKY CRAG-MARTIN** (*Ptyonoprogne concolor*) – Six at Ranthambhore, and 20 along the Bayana Cliffs.

**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*) – Fifty at Bharatpur, 6 near Ramnagar, and 6 at Corbett.

**WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW** (*Hirundo smithii*) – Singles at Bharatpur, and along the Chambal River.

**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*Cecropis daurica*) – One at Sat Tal.

**STREAK-THROATED SWALLOW** (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*) – About 75 at Ramnagar.

Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)

**YELLOW-BELLIED FAIRY-FANTAIL** (*Chelidorhynch hypoxantha*) – About 10 in the Kumeria and Corbett area.

**GRAY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER** (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) – Small numbers in the lowlands.

Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)

**COAL TIT (BLACK-CRESTED)** (*Pariparus ater melanolophus*) – This distinctive form is often split as Black-crested Tit; we saw about 10 in the Nainital area.

**GREEN-BACKED TIT** (*Parus monticolus*) – About 12 around Nainital, and 8 at Sat Tal.

**CINEREOUS TIT** (*Parus cinereus*) – Two at Ranthambhore, 1 at Chambal Safari Lodge, and 6 in the Corbett area.

**BLACK-LORED TIT** (*Machlolophus xanthogenys*) – One as we climbed the road towards Nainital, and 1 at Kumeria.

Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)

**BLACK-THROATED TIT** (*Aegithalos concinnus*) – About 20 in the hills above Nainital.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta cinnamoventris*) – Good looks at 4 in the Nainital area, 2 at Sat Tal, and 1 at Corbett.

**WHITE-TAILED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta himalayensis*) – Two in the Kilbury area.

**VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta frontalis*) – Two singles at Kumeria.

Tichodromidae (Wallcreeper)

**WALLCREEPER** (*Tichodroma muraria*) – Great looks this year, firstly at Bayana Cliffs for some of the group, and then good long looks for everyone at Ramnagar.

Certhiidae (Treecreepers)

**BAR-TAILED TREECREEPER** (*Certhia himalayana*) – Six in the Nainital area, and 2 at Sat Tal.

Cinclidae (Dippers)

**BROWN DIPPER** (*Cinclus pallasii*) – We watched a pair repeatedly flying back and forth to a nest along the Kosi River.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

**RED-VENTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus cafer*) – Common and widespread in the lowlands.

**RED-WHISKERED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) – About 20 near Ramnagar, and another 20 in the Kumeria and Corbett area.

**WHITE-EARED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) – About a dozen at Bharatpur.

**HIMALAYAN BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*) – Very common from Ramnagar to Corbett, and in the hills below Nainital.

**BLACK BULBUL (PSAROIDES GROUP)** (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus psaroides*) – Eight near Ramnagar, and 1 at Kumeria.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)

**COMMON CHIFFCHAFF** (*Phylloscopus collybita*) – About a dozen at the Okhla Bird Sanctuary, and 2 near Nainital.

**SULPHUR-BELLIED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus griseolus*) – Nice looks at 1 working the rock face at Bayana Cliffs.

**BUFF-BARRED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus pulcher*) – About 40 in the Nainital area, and 10 at Kumeria.

**ASHY-THROATED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus maculipennis*) – One along the Mongoli Trail.

**HUME'S WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus humei*) – One at Bharatpur.

**GRAY-HOODED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*) – Fairly common in the Nainital and Corbett areas, and 3 at Sat Tal.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

**ZITTING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola juncidis*) – One in the tall grasses along the banks of the Chambal River.

**COMMON TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus sutorius*) – Widespread in small numbers in the lowlands.

**GRAY-BREASTED PRINIA** (*Prinia hodgsonii*) – We saw a total of about 20 in the Ramnagar to Corbett and Kumeria areas.

**YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA** (*Prinia flaviventris*) – Nice looks at a single bird in the reeds at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

**ASHY PRINIA** (*Prinia socialis*) – Small numbers at Okhla, Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, and Sultanpur Jheel.

**PLAIN PRINIA** (*Prinia inornata*) – Widespread in small numbers.

Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** (*Sylvia curruca*) – Four at Bund Baretha, and 2 at Sultanpur Jheel.

Paradoxornithidae (Parrotbills, Wrenit, and Allies)

**YELLOW-EYED BABBLER** (*Chrysomma sinense*) – Two at Ranthambhore.

Zosteropidae (White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies)

**ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE** (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) – Common and widespread.

Timaliidae (Tree-Babblers, Scimitar-Babblers, and Allies)

**BLACK-CHINNED BABBLER** (*Cyanoderma pyrrhops*) – One near Ramnagar, and 1 near Nainital.

**RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (*Megapomatorhinus erythrognys*) – Heard near Nainital, and then 3 seen (1 very well) at Sat Tal.

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes and Allies)

**COMMON BABBLER** (*Turdoides caudata*) – Two in the scrubby vegetation along the bottom of Bayana Cliffs.

**LARGE GRAY BABBLER** (*Turdoides malcolmi*) – About 40 at Ranthambhore, 25 at Bharatpur, and 20 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**JUNGLE BABBLER** (*Turdoides striata*) – Very common and widespread on the plains, and at Corbett.

**WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Garrulax leucolophus*) – Great looks at these attractive laughingthrushes in the Mongoli Valley and at Kumeria.

**RUFOUS-CHINNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Ianthocincla rufogularis*) – Great looks at 1 of these secretive laughingthrushes at Sat Tal.

**WHITE-THROATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Ianthocincla albogularis*) – Good close looks at about 40 at Sat Tal, and 30 along the Mongoli Trail.  
**STREAKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Trochalopteron lineatum*) – Common around Nainital; in all we saw about 60.  
**CHESTNUT-CROWNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*) – Two in the dense undergrowth at Sat Tal.  
**RUFOUS SIBIA** (*Heterophasia capistrata*) – Nice looks at 2 on the way to Nainital, and 8+ at Sat Tal.  
**RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX** (*Leiothrix lutea*) – About 40 at Sat Tal.

*Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)*

**INDIAN ROBIN** (*Copsychus fulvicatus*) – Small numbers in open country and scrubland in the lowlands.  
**ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** (*Copsychus saularis*) – Widespread in across the plains; with a total of about 30.  
**RUFOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA** (*Niltava sundara*) – Nice looks at a male near Kumeria.  
**BLUETHROAT** (*Luscinia svecica*) – Two at Ranthambhore, 1 at Bharatpur, and 3 at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH** (*Myophonus caeruleus*) – Common in the Ramnagar, Corbett and Nainital areas; in all we saw about 70.  
**SPOTTED FORKTAIL** (*Enicurus maculatus*) – Super looks along a stream near Kilbury, and then a second bird at Sat Tal, and a third at Forktail Creek.  
**WHITE-TAILED RUBYTHROAT** (*Calliope pectoralis*) – Beautiful close looks of a male at Sat Tal.  
**RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL** (*Tarsiger cyanurus*) – We saw a male and then a female at Sat Tal.  
**GOLDEN BUSH-ROBIN** (*Tarsiger chrysaeus*) – Some of the group saw a female near Nainital.  
**SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula tricolor*) – Good views of a close male at Sat Tal.  
**TAIGA FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula albicilla*) – One at Ranthambhore.  
**RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula parva*) – One at Bund Baretha, and 1 at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**PLUMBEOUS REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus fuliginosus*) – Nice looks at about 40 along the Kosi River.  
**WHITE-CAPPED REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*) – These striking birds were fairly common along the Kosi River where we saw about 35, and also 2 at Sat Tal.  
**BLUE-CAPPED REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus coeruleocephala*) – Four in the Nainital area.  
**BLACK REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) – Small numbers in the lowlands.  
**BLUE ROCK-THRUSH** (*Monticola solitarius*) – Two males from the boat along the Chambal River.  
**SIBERIAN STONECHAT (SIBERIAN)** (*Saxicola maurus indicus*) – Most common at Corbett (30) and a few others at widespread scattered sites.  
**PIED BUSHCHAT** (*Saxicola caprata*) – We saw a male at Okhla, a female at the Chambal River area, and then about 6 at Sultanpur Jheel.  
**GRAY BUSHCHAT** (*Saxicola ferreus*) – About 20 in the Nainital area.  
**INDIAN CHAT** (*Cercomela fusca*) – Two at Ranthambhore, 2 at Sorwal Reservoir, and 4 at Bayana Cliffs.  
**DESERT WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe deserti*) – Two at Sorwal Reservoir.  
**ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe isabellina*) – One with the previous species near Soorwal Reservoir.

*Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)*

**ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH** (*Geokichla citrina*) – Three at Bund Baretha.  
**LONG-BILLED THRUSH** (*Zoothera monticola*) – Great looks at 2 of these uncommon thrushes at Kumeria and Forktail Creek.  
**GRAY-WINGED BLACKBIRD** (*Turdus boulboul*) – Nice looks at a male near Ramnagar, and then 3 at Sat Tal, and 5 in the Corbett to Kumeria area.  
**INDIAN BLACKBIRD** (*Turdus simillimus*) – We saw a single male near Corbett.  
**BLACK-THROATED THRUSH** (*Turdus atrogularis*) – We saw a single female in the farm country below Nainital, and then a second female in the forest at Sat Tal, and 3 more around Corbett.

*Sturnidae (Starlings)*

**EUROPEAN STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – About 30 as we drove to Delhi on our return from Ramnagar.  
**ROSY STARLING** (*Pastor roseus*) – Good looks at an adult at Ranthambhore.  
**ASIAN PIED STARLING** (*Gracupica contra*) – Widespread in the plains; in all we saw about 80.  
**BRAHMINY STARLING** (*Sturnia pagodarum*) – Fifteen at Bharatpur, and 6 near the Chambal River.  
**COMMON MYNA** (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Very common and widespread from the plains to Corbett.  
**BANK MYNA** (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) – Very common and widespread in the lowlands.

*Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)*

**ORANGE-BELLIED LEAFBIRD** (*Chloropsis hardwickii*) – Two males near Ramnagar, and about 12 in the Corbett to Kumeria area.

*Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)*

**PALE-BILLED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*) – Two in the garden at The Wild Crest, near Ramnagar.

*Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)*

**PURPLE SUNBIRD** (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) – Fairly common in gardens and open woodland with flowering shrubs in the plains.  
**CRIMSON SUNBIRD** (*Aethopyga siparaja*) – Three near Ramnagar, and 4 in the Kumeria area.

*Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)*

**WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla flava*) – One at Ranthambhore.  
**CITRINE WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla citreola*) – Singles at Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.  
**GRAY WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla cinerea*) – One at Ranthambhore, and 3 in the Kumeria area.  
**WHITE WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla alba*) – About a dozen along the Chambal River, and 6 at Ramnagar.  
**WHITE-BROWED WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*) – Widespread at a variety of wetlands in the low country.  
**PADDYFIELD PIPIT** (*Anthus rufulus*) – Singles near Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, along the Chambal River, and at Corbett.  
**LONG-BILLED PIPIT** (*Anthus similis*) – Two in the dry rocky country near Soorwal Reservoir.



**TAWNY PIPIT** (*Anthus campestris*) – Three at Soorwal Reservoir, and 1 at Chambal River.

**OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT** (*Anthus hodgsoni*) – One at Bharatpur.

**WATER PIPIT** (*Anthus spinoletta*) – One at Corbett.

**AMERICAN PIPIT (JAPONICUS)** (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*) – A very confusing taxonomic situation; the pipit in our field guide known as Buff-bellied Pipit '*Anthus rubescens japonicus*' is now lumped with American Pipit nominate *A. rubescens* (but with reservations). We saw about a dozen on the grassy plains at Corbett.

*Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)*

**ROCK BUNTING** (*Emberiza cia*) – We saw a single female in the scrubby rock strewn hills below Nainital.

**CHESTNUT-BREASTED BUNTING** (*Emberiza stewarti*) – We saw a female in the dry rocky country below Nainital.

*Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)*

**PINK-BROWED ROSEFINCH** (*Carpodacus rodochroa*) – Nice looks at a male below Nainital.

**YELLOW-BREASTED GREENFINCH** (*Chloris spinoides*) – A male and a female near Nainital.

**FIRE-FRONTED SERIN** (*Serinus pusillus*) – About 10 below Nainital.

*Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)*

**HOUSE SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*) – Common and widespread.

**SIND SPARROW** (*Passer pyrrhonotus*) – Nice looks at a male at Sultanpur Jheel.

**RUSSET SPARROW** (*Passer rutilans*) – Two at Sat Tal, and 6 below Nainital.

**CHESTNUT-SHOULDERED PETRONIA** (*Petronia xanthocollis*) – About 40 at Ranthambhore.

*Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)*

**RED AVADAVAT** (*Amandava amandava*) – We saw a total of 10 in the Bharatpur to Bund Baretha area.

**INDIAN SILVERBILL** (*Euodice malabarica*) – Six at Soorwal Reservoir, and about 20 at Bharatpur.

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## MAMMALS

**INDIAN FLYING-FOX** (*Pteropus giganteus*) – About 200 at Bund Baretha were by far the most, but we also saw about 6 at Ranthambhore, and 20 at Chambal River Lodge.

**RHESUS MONKEY** (*Macaca mulatta*) – Very common in towns and villages throughout the tour.

**COMMON LANGUR** (*Presbytis entellus*) – Common and widespread (but not so much in villages as the previous species); in all we saw about 650.

**INDIAN HARE** (*Lepus nigricollis*) – Two singles in the hills below Nainital.

**PALM SQUIRREL** (*Funambulus pennanti*) – Very common in the lowlands with a total of about 200.

**COMMON JACKAL** (*Canis aureus*) – Three at Bharatpur, 1 from the boat along the Chambal River, and 1 at Sultanpur Jheel.

**EUROPEAN RIVER OTTER** (*Lutra lutra*) – About 10 in the river near Dikhala Rest Camp.

**COMMON MONGOOSE** (*Herpestes smithi*) – Also known as Ruddy Mongoose; we saw 5 at Ranthambhore.

**TIGER** (*Panthera tigris*) – Fantastic on our first day at Ranthambhore; first we saw a female walking along a track and marking her territory, then two half grown young ones, and finally a large female resting along a dry stream bed.

**INDIAN ELEPHANT** (*Elephas maximus*) – Two single males and a young one at Corbett.

**WILD BOAR** (*Sus scrofa*) – One at Ranthambhore, 4 at Bharatpur, and about 10 in the Corbett to Kumeria area.

**MUNTJAC (BARKING DEER)** (*Muntiacus muntjak*) – One in the forest above Nainital, and 4 at Corbett.

**SPOTTED DEER** (*Axis axis*) – At least 300 at Ranthambhore, 60 at Bharatpur, and 250 at Corbett.

**HOG DEER** (*Axis porcinus*) – Some of the group saw 2 during the elephant ride at Corbett.

**SAMBAR** (*Cervus unicolor*) – About 80 at Ranthambhore, 6 at Bharatpur, and 20 at Corbett.

**NILGAI** (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) – Fifteen at Ranthambhore, 40+ at Bharatpur, and about 45 at Sultanpur Jheel.

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## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Reptiles seen on the tour included;

Marsh Mugger; about 30 at Ranthambhore, 30 along the Chambal River, and a dozen at Corbett.

Gharial; we saw these huge fish-eating crocodiles at the Chambal River (40), and Corbett (3).

Monitor Lizard; 2 at Bharatpur.

Checkered Keel-backed Snake; 1 at Ranthambhore.

Indian Soft-shelled Terrapin; about 20 at Bharatpur, and 6 along the Chambal River.

Tent Terrapin; 6 along the Chambal River

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**Totals for the tour: 295 bird taxa and 16 mammal taxa**