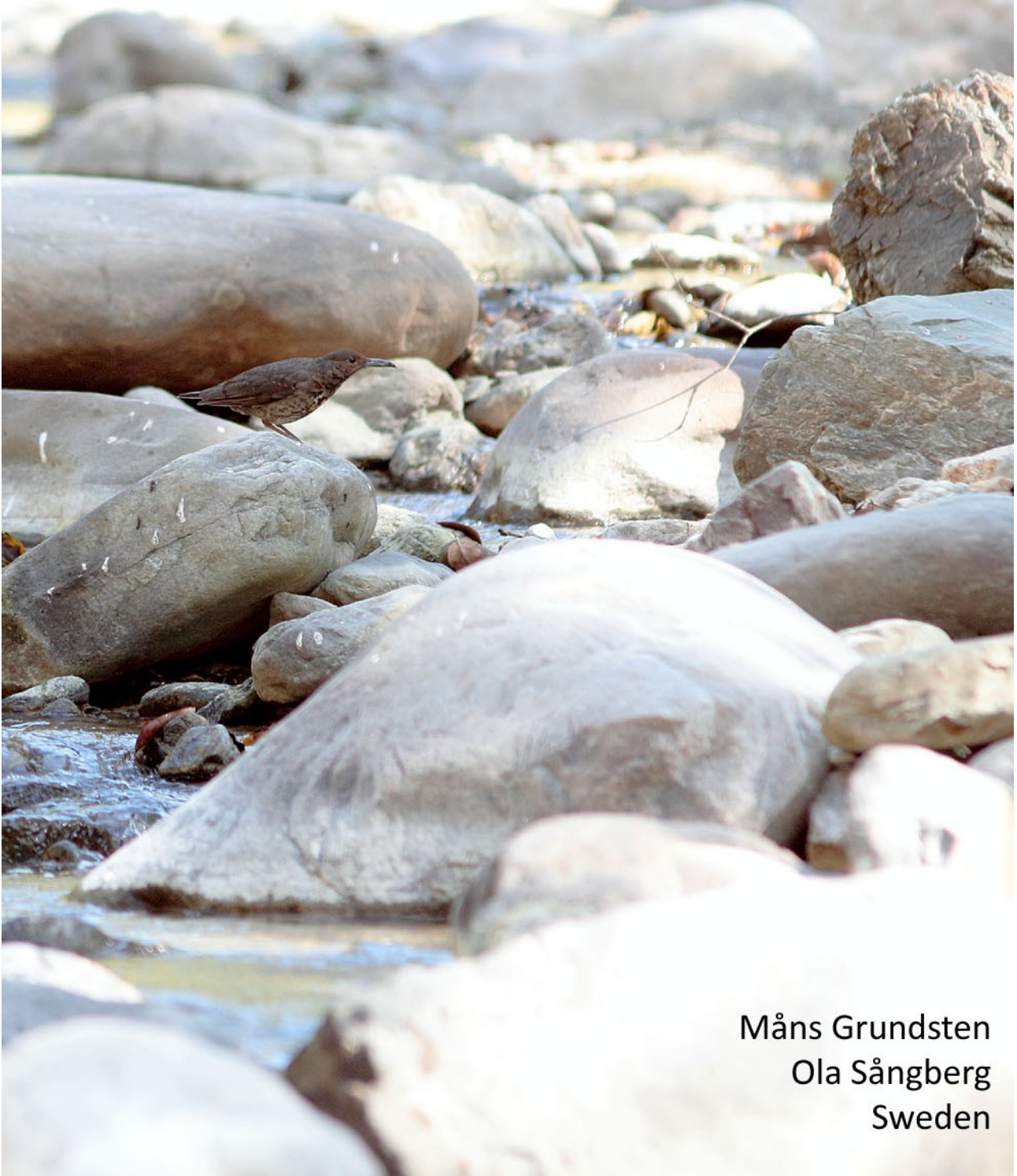


Birding Northern India

Sattal - Pangot - Kosi River - Delhi

February 2018



Måns Grundsten
Ola Sångberg
Sweden

Northern India, February 3rd-11th & 17th-18th 2018

Front cover

Long-billed Thrush, *Zoothera monticola*, secretive inhabiter of Himalayan streams. MG.

Participants

Måns Grundsten mans.grundsten@gmail.com (compiler and photos), Ola Sångberg (photos) from Sweden. More pictures from the trip can be found on Ola's page: http://www.pbase.com/olasan/indien_2018

Highlights

- Torchlight view of Mountain Scops Owl at Sattal.
- A flock of seven Cheer Pheasant slowly working the grassy slopes of Vinayak, Pangot.
- Male Koklass Pheasant close-by at Vinayak.
- Upland Pipit – foraging a vertical slope.
- Long-billed Thrush, White-tailed Rubythroat and Golden Bush Robin along the stream at Timla Pani.
- Colourful male Pink-browed Rosefinch at Pangot.
- Pair of calling Brown Wood Owls in daylight – Sattal.
- Ibisbill at Kosi River.
- Bird-of-the-trip: Rarely encountered West Himalayan Bush Warbler at dusk, Kosi River.
- Nepal Wren-babbler along a damp Mohan stream.
- Little Forktail at Kosi River.
- Close views of wintering Long-billed Pipits and Smoky Warblers, Kosi River.
- Plentiful of waterbirds at Okhla – many White-tailed Lapwings.
- Localized Sind Sparrow at Sultanpur.

General birding and strategy

A classic birding destination. For me it was my second visit, therefore I only had a few realistic targets on this trip, for Ola it was his first trip here. Increasingly popular and crowded out means many traditional sites especially around Nainital have become less productive. We chose not to visit Cheena Peak or Snow View at Nainital. And reportedly, habitat destruction (deforestation) at Mongoli Valley has made that site less birdy. Much is happening. Pangot village is about to get overexploited with lodges. In retrospect we should have planned the route a bit differently staying two nights at Sattal first then move on to Pangot for three nights before transferring to Ramnagar. We chose not to visit Dhikala inside Corbett National Park since White-throated Bush Chat had been absent there the previous winters. And birding from a jeep seemed less appealing.

Logistics

General

Wanting to focus on birding and minimize hassle we chose to organize our trip with a local guide. On recommendation from fellow Swedish birders we made contact with Som GC (ibisbill@aol.com), a Nepalese native who has been running birding trips throughout the Himalayas (and most of India) since many years back. Besides being an excellent birder he's truly humble and genuinely cares about nature conservation. It felt like birding with a friend. Som contacted his Delhi-based companion Sunny Arora who became our driver for the trip – he runs a taxi company in Delhi and was fully reliable throughout. Altogether we were entirely happy with the set-up and the outcome. We warmly recommend going with Som. On our last leg of the trip to Sultanpur we arranged with Sunny only to pick us up at T-1 Delhi Airport and for the return trip the following day.

Accommodation

We booked all accommodation via internet before the trip, probably advisable. However an independent birder going with local transportation could probably easily find accommodation on site. A bit confusing at Sattal since Oak View Resort was the old name of the lodge. And even more confusing at Pangot when Hidden Valley Lodge referred us to Camp Mehi (however a better choice since its proximity to Pangot, Hidden Valley Lodge is further downhill toward Timla Pani (long drive to Vinayak in the mornings...)). We booked triple-rooms for the two of us

and Som.

Sattal: Incredible Birding Camp, Sattal (booked via Agoda.com under the name Oak View Resort!), c. 55 USD (3 pax/1 night). Wifi very slow.

Pangot: Camp Mehi Nature Resort (booked via Agoda.com under the name Hidden Valley Adventure Lodge!), c. 250 USD (3 pax/3 nights). Wifi very slow.

Nainital: Hotel Cloud7 (booked via Agoda.com), c. 40 USD (3 pax/1 night). Wifi didn't work!

Kosi River: Pratiksha River Retreat (booked via Agoda.com), c. 250 USD (3 pax/3 nights). Wifi ok at the lobby.

Delhi Airport: Airport Hotel, T-1 (Domestic) (booked via Agoda.com), c. 32 USD (2 pax/1 night). Wifi ok.

Weather

Fantastic weather with clear skies, not windy, decent temperatures. Misty at Sultanpur early morning but soon cleared.

Literature & Internet

- Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide, Rasmussen PC, Anderton JC. First edition. 2005.
- A Birdwatchers' Guide to India, Kazmierczak K, Singh R. 1998.
- Trip-reports from www.cloudbirders.com (Campbell 2017, Sjöstedt 2014, Dreyer 2011, Meijer 2009, Anderson 2008, Grundsten 2008, Mears 2008, Lopez 2006)
- Ebird.org (hotspots and species maps)

Itinerary

- 3.2 Delhi - Sattal
- 4.2 Sattal - Pangot
- 5.2 Pangot
- 6.2 Pangot
- 7.2 Pangot - Sattal
- 8.2 Nainital – Ramnagar/Kosi River
- 9.2 Kumeria – Mohan – Kosi River
- 10.2 Kumeria – Mohan – Kosi River
- 11.2 Ramnagar - Okhla
- 17.2 Delhi - Sultanpur
- 18.2 Sultanpur - Delhi

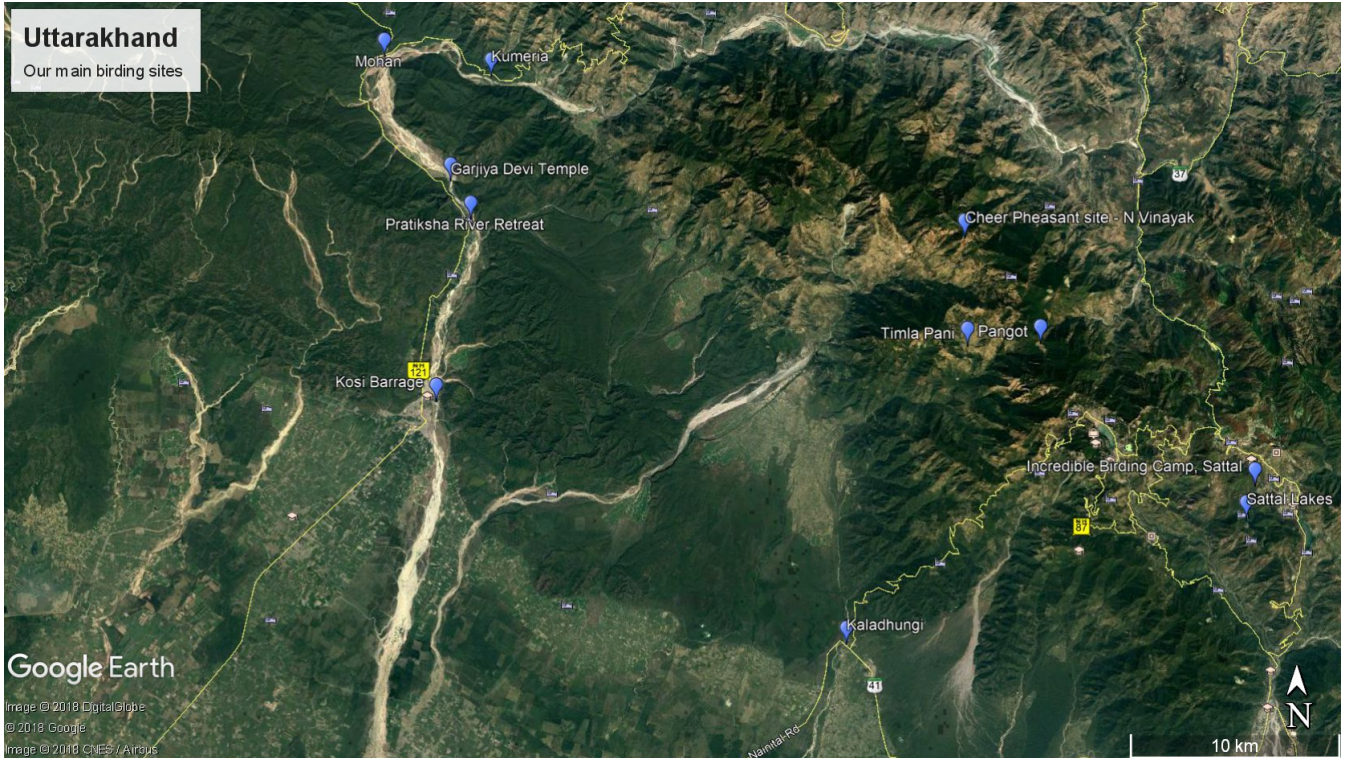


Male Cheer Pheasant, Vinayak, Pangot. MG.



Male Koklass Pheasant, Vinayak, Pangot. MG.

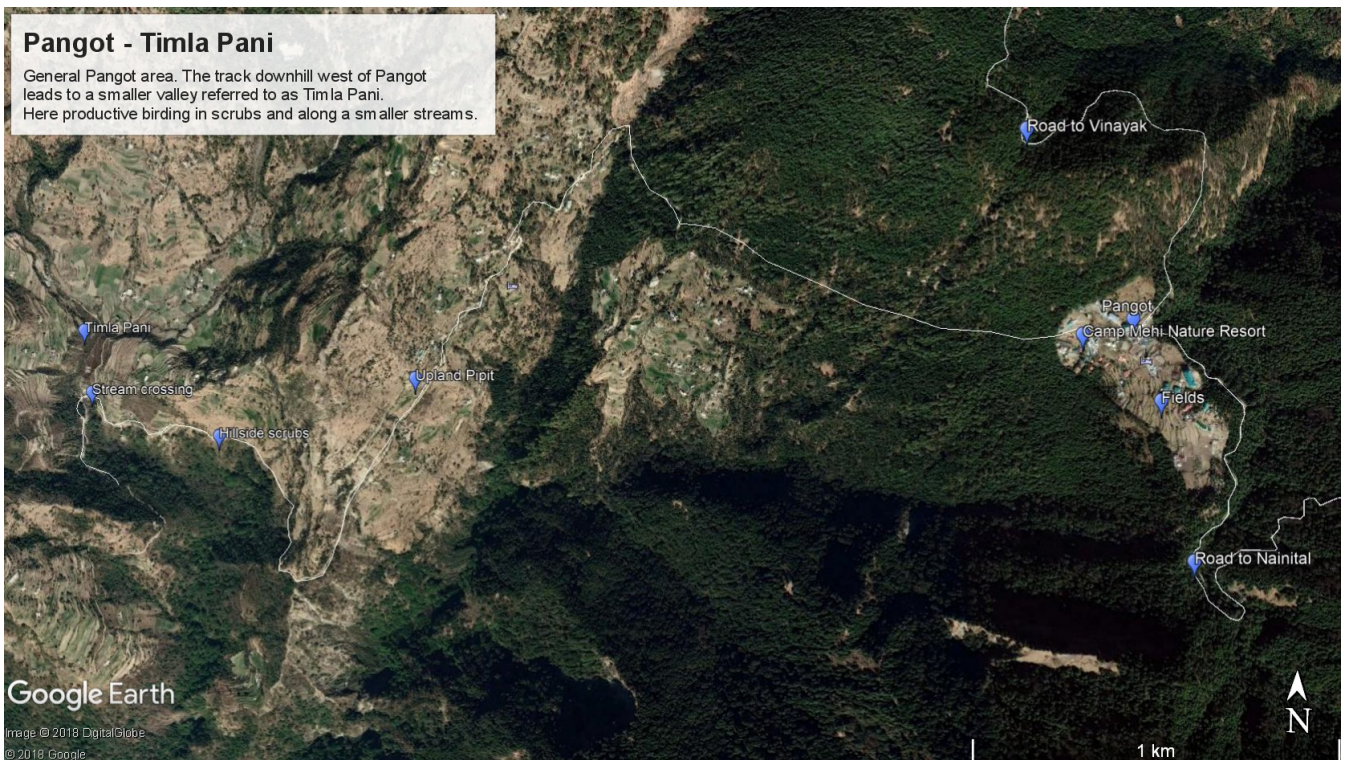
Maps



Map 1. Main sites on classic Himalayan foothills circuit.



Map 2. Sattal.



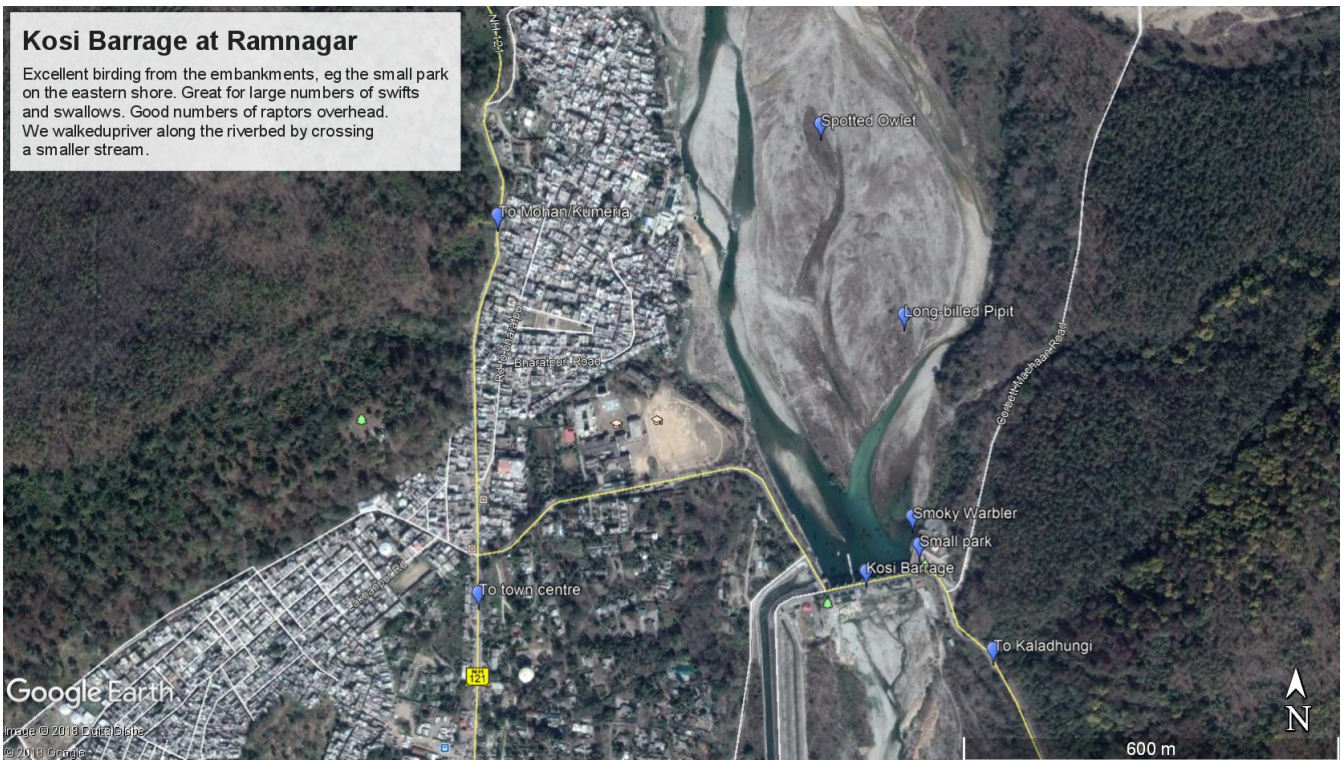
Map 3. General Pangot area.



Map 4. Pangot village.



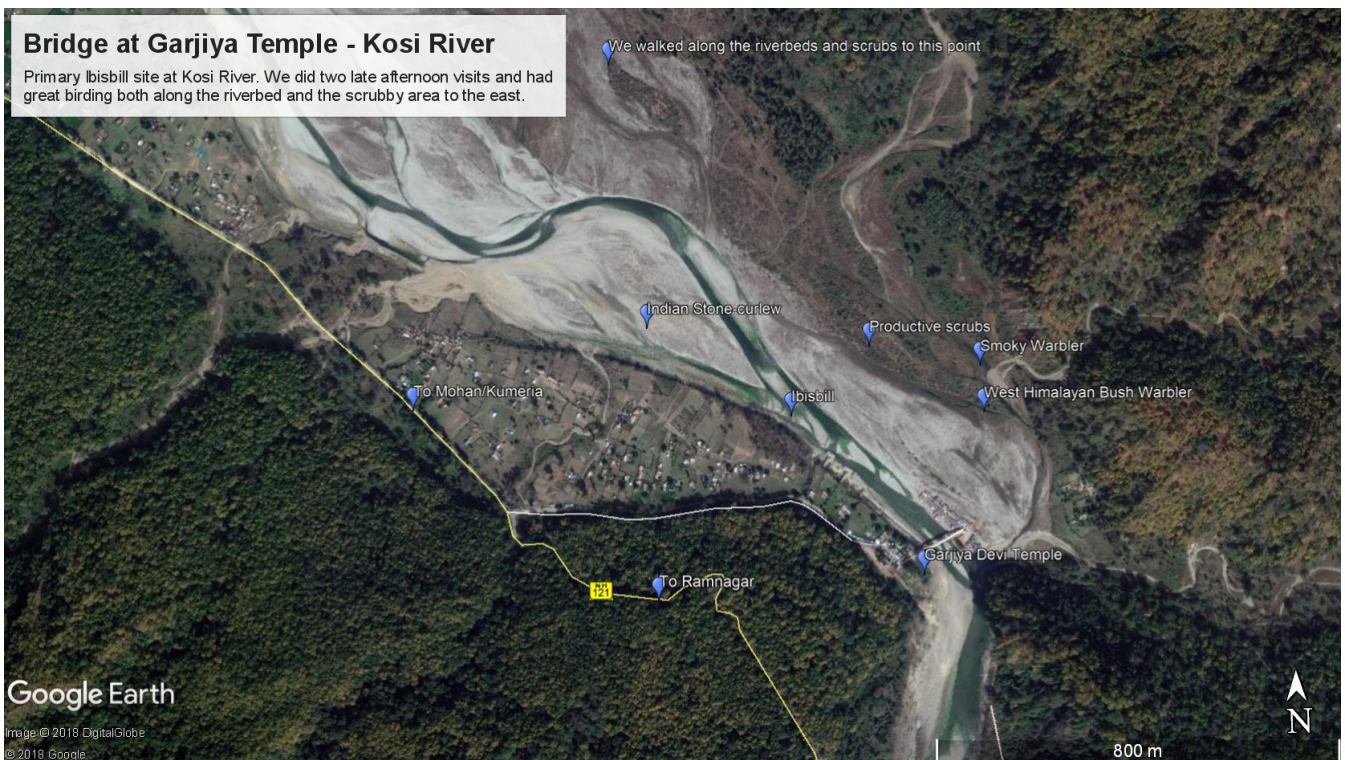
Map 5. N of Pangot and past Vinayak you reach grassy slopes – home of Cheer Pheasants.



Map 6. Kosi Barrage.



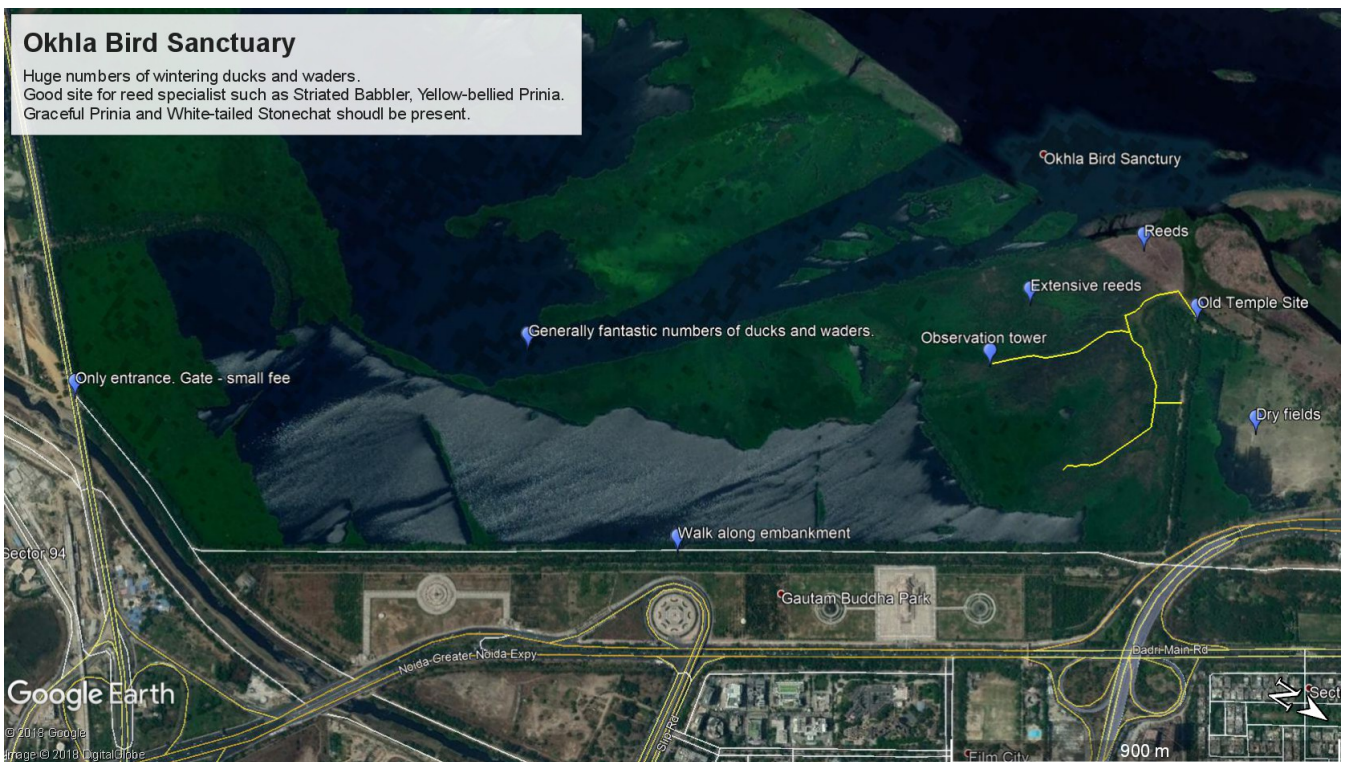
Map 7. Pratiksha River Retreat.



Map 8. Garjiya Devi Temple – bridge over Kosi River.



Map 9. Mohan-Kumeria.



Map 10. Okhla Bird Sanctuary, E Delhi (Note: Map tilted).



Map 11. Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, SW Delhi.

Daily log

February 3rd (Delhi-Sattal)

After a direct flight from Stockholm to Delhi we met Som and Sunny ready to go early morning at Delhi Airport. It was a full day driving (around 10 hours) all the way to Sattal. Sunny chose to drive the way via Kaladhungi and Nainital and not via Haldwani due to road conditions. Traffic was ok throughout the day, around Delhi mostly slow and really bad road conditions though. There were birds along the way all the time. A bit frustrating since many of them were new to Ola. A few of them only seen this way for the entire trip: e.g. Yellow-wattled Lapwing just outside Delhi Airport and Red-naped Ibis just north of Delhi. But we had little time stopping. We had a lunch break halfway to Kaladhungi, and after that only made one real stop as Som spotted a White-eyed Buzzard beside the road. It was already getting dark as we reached Sattal and settled at Incredible Birding Lodge. Before dinner Ola and I walked along the road for a few hundred meters and eventually got a responsive Mountain Scops Owl in the torchlight for a brief view. A species common by voice in Asia but really hard to spot (first time for me!). After dinner we made a short night drive down to Sattal hoping for a roadside Leopard, alas no luck.

February 4th (Sattal-Pangot)

First full day. Eager to start birding we made a pre-breakfast walk along the road from the lodge downward for a couple of hundred meters. A few woodpeckers appeared: Greater Yellownape, Grey-headed Woodpecker and Greater Flameback. After a steady breakfast we continued down to the lakes and walked the valley along the stream to the dried lake and beyond. Good activity and we picked up birds such as Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Rufous-chinned and White-throated Laughingthrush, Whistler's Warbler, Blue-winged Minla, Grey-sided Bush Warbler and a fantastic observation of a duetting pair of Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler. On the way back along the stream we tracked down a high-pitched call: Pygmy Wren-babbler. Himalayan Bluetail, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher were also added. An adult Mountain Hawk-Eagle quickly flew over our heads.

In the early afternoon we went up to the drier scrubs above Sattal where we found a female White-tailed Rubythroat and the first Grey-backed Shrike. Constructions here has eliminated a lot of the scrub habitat. We drove further uphill for two hours all the way to Pangot above Nainital for our next three nights. In the late afternoon we added Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and Asian Barred Owlet along the road to Timla Pani. After a bit of confusion we finally checked in at the newly opened Camp Mehi Nature Resort. The four of us shared a larger cabin. Dinner in the open hall outside meant hat and scarf on as temperature dropped.

February 5th (Pangot)

We left the camp just as first light appeared and drove 40 minutes north beyond Vinayak to the Cheer Pheasant look-out. Along the way an Alpine Thrush made a roadside appearance. In one of very few blooming rhododendrons there was high activity with Eurasian and Black-headed Jay, Rufous Sibia and Himalayan Woodpecker. We spent all morning scanning the grassy slopes but no luck with the pheasant. There were lots of other great stuff to be seen though, Himalayan Griffons and a sole Lammergeier at eye-level, flocks of Altai Accentors and Plain Mountain-Finches and best of all a superb Upland Pipit at close distance.

After lunch back at Pangot we decided to walk downhill to Timla Pani. The road was rough and Sunny didn't want to take his (new) car but that was fine by us. We thought there would be a nice walk and indeed it was, although longer than expected and it took us 1h30minutes of very fast walking to reach Timla Pani. A lot of stops along the way were productive, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Striated Prinia (which really should be treated as a Grass-babbler and not a Prinia, or!?), another Upland Pipit, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes skulking and just before we reached our destination, a female Pink-browed Rosefinch popped up but disappeared too soon. Also Fire-tailed Sunbird here. For the next 1h30min, before dusk we had great birding along a smaller stream with exciting surrounding scrubs added goodies such as a smashing male Golden Bush Robin, Abberant Bush Warbler, Chestnut-headed Tesia and Spotted Forktail. At the small shop where the road crosses the stream Som managed to arrange for a jeep driving us back to Pangot for a small fee. We also arranged for a transport the next afternoon with the same jeep to spare us the long walk.

We had a tasty dinner and rounded off with some whisky, hookah and the latest Punjabi music.



Golden Bush Robin, Timla Pani, Pangot. OS.



Striated Prinia, below Pangot. MG.

February 6th (Pangot)

Time to get those pheasants. Same procedures as last morning with early transport to Vinayak, this time, two different Alpine Thrushes along the road. At the hairpins below the lookout we made a first stop and this time got lucky with first a calling Koklass Pheasant above us and minutes later a male casually feeding for a few minutes along the slope rather close. It was continuously feeding on small bamboo seeds, then ran off. Back at the grassy areas above we once again took place at the look-out and started to scan. It didn't take Som more than 30 minutes before he found the gem. No less than three Cheer Pheasants all motionless, only heads showing, far down the slope. Great spotting skills. We climbed down on the opposite side of the valley to get a better angle, it was steep and dangerously slippery. At closer distance (causing no disturbance) we eventually found seven birds slowly feeding, often not visible when crawling under grass. We watched the birds for at least 30 minutes before climbing up again. What a success.

For the rest of the morning we walked downward along the road back toward Vinayak, it was mostly unfortunately quiet. However we added White-tailed Nuthatch, great views of a male Himalayan Bluetail, a pair of Hill Partridge feeding on ground, Black-faced Warbler (too briefly though). At some flowering rhododendrons further down there was good activity with many Great Barbets and Red-billed Blue Magpies, a single Maroon Oriole, Striated Laughingthrush, a few Fire-tailed Sunbirds and Grey-winged Blackbird.

Back at Pangot we took the loop around the fields before lunch adding our only Blue-fronted Redstarts of the trip, a showy Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush and Rufous-breasted Accentor.

After lunch the same jeep as the day before picked us up and took us down to Timla Pani for a second visit. Golden Bush Robin, Pink-browed Rosefinch (female), male Slaty-blue Flycatcher and at least three White-tailed Rubythroats along the small stream. Then Som flushed a Long-billed Thrush which soon returned and gave close but short views. Another target was Black-throated Accentor, three birds were found but they took off immediately. It was exciting birding all afternoon, maybe a morning visit here would have added something new.

February 7th (Pangot-Sattal)

Last morning at Pangot. Mountain Scops Owl called again before dawn. We took the usual loop around the fields. Not much new until we came back to the lodge, just outside the lodge a inconspicuous 'tack' call revealed a Brown-flanked Bush Warbler. And as we approached a Rosefinch was flushed, turned out to be an absolutely gorgeous male Pink-browed Rosefinch!

After breakfast we checked out and headed back toward Nainital. Originally we had planned to bird around Nainital for the afternoon however Som wasn't too optimistic as most sites are crowded nowadays. After reconsideration we decided to go back to Sattal. On the way we stopped at a soccer field below Nainital for an hour, only Som saw a Siberian Rubythroat, however another nice male White-tailed Rubythroat showed. After lunch we went back to the valley at Sattal. Brown Fish Owl perched at the larger pool, Chetnut-capped Tesia, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, and Velvet Nuthatch along the stream, but no Wren-babblers. At the Sattal Lakes we had a Taiga Flycatcher before we made a longer stop at a small clearing little further up by a smaller lake. Olive-backed Pipits at the clearing at the nearby undergrowth held both Rufous-bellied and Small Niltava.

It was still broad daylight at 4 PM when suddenly a Brown Wood Owl called for a few times! It wasn't too far away we decided to give it a proper try. For almost 45 minutes we carefully scanned every tree in the slope above. It didn't call again but we knew it had to be there. Some trees were rich with mistletoes attracting thrushes. Maybe 10 Grey-winged Blackbirds and a single Tickell's Thrush were found. However the owl was quiet and we had to give up. Just as we were about to get in the car the owl made a single 'hoot'. It was really there somewhere, but now it sounded like further uphill, we quickly took the car up a hairpin and again started to scan. The slope was steep here and mostly bushes not many proper trees. It started to call again, quite close and beneath us. And bam! there it was, perched in a small tree through a hole in the foliage. After just a minute it dropped down to the forest again, we only had it from behind so we thought we'd give it one more try. We met a group of Indian bird photographers who now joined us. Back at the original spot we immediately found the bird again calling, now head on and it was still daylight, what an observation! Cameras went machine-gun-rattling all around. As it went even further down along the road we followed and amazingly found it to be a pair, and got even better views as the pair mated! Absolutely thrilled we headed toward our hotel down town Nainital.

February 8th (Nainital-Kosi River)

After a roadside cup of coffee in Nainital at break of dawn we headed down toward Kaladhungi. We skipped stopping at Mongoli Valley as habitat destruction apparently have made that site less birdy. Along the road downhill we had a couple of Kalij Pheasants and a one spot a party of 16 at a field. At some scrubs a short stop produced a female Dark-breasted Rosefinch. We made a few other random stops along the higher parts of the road down to Kaladhungi, Collared Falconet added.

A bit further down forest grows higher and better. Here we walked longer stretches while Sunny came after with the car. Traffic was a bit annoying but didn't interfere too much. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Plum-headed Parakeet, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Orange-bellied Leafbird and many Himalayan Black-lored Tits were seen. Another highlight was a fine pair of Common Green Magpies. We reached Kosi Barrage at Ramnagar before noon and took a short scan of the river. Lots of swallows and swifts, and a single Wallcreeper flew pass. At a small reed bed immediately close to the park on the eastern bank there was a Smoky Warbler showing incredibly well. And in another reedbed on the opposite side of a smaller creek a Baillon's Crake briefly showed.

We went further north and checked in at our hotel Pratiksha River Retreat at Garjiya. Placed on the shores to Kosi River birding was quite good. While lunch was prepared we walked a short bit north finding lots of River Lapwings, a sole Blue Rock Thrush, Brown Fish Owl and back at the Retreat an unshy Long-billed Pipit!

During the afternoon we stopped at a smaller hanging bridge just to the north where a few Crested Kingfishers appeared as well as Little Pied Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Fantail and Greenish Warbler. After this productive stop we headed to Garjiya Devi Temple a few kilometres to the north. This is the best spot at Kosi River for Ibisbill and it didn't took more than 30 minutes before we found a bird among the pebbles in the stream north of the bridge. Ola and Som got closer to get some photos before a local man crossing the stream frightened the bird. In the nearby scrubs a few Rock Buntings, another Long-billed Pipit, Abberant Bush Warbler, and at a small pool a Stork-billed Kingfisher. At a wetter area there was another Smoky Warbler and high in a tree a White-bellied Drongo. It was almost getting dark when we headed back to the bridge crossing a smaller wet area with sparse reed vegetation. We flushed a suspicious-looking Bush Warbler which we followed for a while, only getting glimpses. Just before getting dark the bird popped up: a rarely-seen West Himalayan Bush Warbler (*Locustella kashmirensis*). Fantastic and very unexpected! Very difficult bird to get and few regular sites. There have been records from Dhikala. This is a split from Spotted Bush Warbler which occurs from Nepal and east.

February 9th (Mohan-Kumeria-Kosi Barrage)

The plan today was slowly birding our way from our hotel via Mohan and Kumeria and stop randomly, plus entering smaller valley searching for Nepal Wren-babbler. Between the entrance gate toward Dhikala and Mohan

we encountered a larger feeding flock. Many White-crested Laughingthrushes, our only Black-crested Bulbul of the trip and amazing Woodpecker diversity. From one single spot where a feeding party passed by we had: Lesser and Greater Yellownapes, Greater and Himalayan Flamebacks, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Grey-headed and Streak-throated Woodpeckers and Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. Further ahead pass Mohan at a smaller gully we followed the creek quite a few bends upstream before turning around. No Fish Owls and no Wren-babblers, but on the return a nice male Snowy-browed Flycatcher.

We stopped and had some packed breakfast along the road where three Great Slaty Woodpeckers suddenly called and showed for a while. East of Mohan where Kosi River makes a marked bend there is a well-known nest of Pallas's Fish Eagle which has been active since many years. We had at least one adult and one younger bird distantly in the scope.

We never went further than Kumeria where we made a longer stop. The large resort here is nowadays called The Den (previously known as Quality Inn). A dirt track leads down to the river, along this track we had a perched Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Crimson Sunbird and just as we got down to the river an adult Lesser Fish Eagle swiftly passed along the water. A bit of surprise here, more often found at Dhikala. At the river bed we eventually found a juvenile Brown Dipper but no forktails.

Our last stop before lunch was back at Mohan where we followed the road up toward Camp Forktail Creek and further on to Marchula. The road follows a stream here, and it was exciting birding all the way, Collared Falconet, Long-billed Thrush, Small Niltava, and large flocks of Red-breasted Parakeets flew by. As we approached the second crossing from Mohan we reached a more damp habitat which seemed very suitable to Wren-babblers and for sure: within a few minutes we did actually find a calling Nepal Wren-babbler! With this difficult target under the belt we went back to Garjiya for a fine lunch.

Some raptors over head as we had coffee, Peregrine Falcon and Red-headed Vulture topping. In the afternoon we had planned to visit Jhirna, an area immediately south of Corbett National Park, some 30-40 minutes west of Ramnagar for some lowland forest birding. Som had been there a couple of years ago with great results. However as we approached the area we found the road gated! We needed a special permit, so sadly we had to turn around. Still a few hours before dark we decided to visit the Kosi Barrage again.

As we stepped out of the car at the bridge we realized the sky was filled with swifts. Hundreds or thousands of Blyth's Swift and soon Alpine Swifts, at least 50 of them hovered above the river bed back and forth. A few Dusky Crag Martins were added. Very distantly a possible White-rumped Spinetail, but too far away to be safely clinched. Among raptors another Red-headed Vulture, and an sub-adult Greater Spotted Eagle was a good find. We walked north a bit along the eastern boundary and went down to the riverbed. At one point we had to take off our shoes to pass a stream up to our knees. Long-billed Pipit again, Aberrant Bush Warbler, and a Spotted Owlet before getting darker and time to head back to the hotel.



West Himalayan Bush Warbler, Garjiya Devi Temple. MG.



Smoky Warbler, Kosi Barrage. OS.

February 10th (Mohan-Kumeria-Garjiya Temple)

Last day at Kosi River. Once again we had packed breakfast. Today we started birding at the Nepal Wren-babbler spot just north of Mohan. Along the main road before Mohan in first light we had a female White-rumped Shama. We followed the same creek as yesterday bed but a bit further upstream. Two Great Hornbills flew in early in the morning and perched albeit distantly. No Wren-babblers today or any other ground-dwellers. A pair of Himalayan Flamebacks showed and also a male Snowy-browed Flycatcher. At one bend of the creek there was a small sandy area with tracks of nice tiger paws...

East of Mohan along a dried out creek we found another large flock of White-crested Laughingthrushes and also some Minivets both Long-tailed and Scarlet. Blyth's Leaf Warbler was added to the list. Another target

for today was Little Forktail and we went back to Kumeria. We got accompanied by a dog from The Den down toward the river, and at one point the dog suddenly ran ahead barking and we soon found out why. A beautiful pair of Yellow-throated Martins ran across the track and quickly up a big trunk disappearing up the slope. After walking along the riverbed for half an hour almost ready to give up we eventually found a Little Forktail right where the track from Kumeria comes down to the river. The same juvenile Brown Dipper was at the same spot as yesterday. On the way back to the car there was a Collared Owlet next to the track, constantly attended by two Black-throated Sunbirds.

After another tasty lunch close to Garjiya, we went back to the temple area at Kosi River. We thought that area had more to offer. We spent from 14.30 until 18.00 in the area walking a fair bit upstream along the riverbed. Scrutinizing scrubs and reeds along the way. No Ibisbill today. A reddish adult 'Shaheen' Peregrine Falcon made an attack on the local Rock Doves who just escaped. In the scrubs we found a gathering of Rock Buntings, a few adults but also some juvenile/1st winter-birds. The latter ones were at first not easy to identify, but after going through all alternatives we concluded them to be Rock Buntings after all. Other birds new for the trip were Zitting Cisticola, Common Babbler, Tickell's Leaf Warbler and a Changeable Hawk-Eagle. We headed out on more barren parts of the river bed and soon found a pair of Indian Stone-curlews and a single Paddyfield Pipit. It was almost dark as we came back to the bridge where Sunny was waiting for us. A great afternoon at a great birding place.



Indian Stone-curlew, Garjiya Devi Temple. OS.



Little Forktail, Kumeria. OS.

February 11th (Ramnagar-Okhla)

A long drive all the way from Kosi River and Ramnagar to Delhi. Again a lot of birds were seen along the road although we did hardly any stops. At one place, early morning just south of Ramnagar there was a fruiting tree just above the road where two Oriental Pied Hornbills fed and we had to make a stop. And as we got out of the car we soon found a few Indian Grey Hornbills in the same tree as well as a very showy Jungle Owlet! New birds for the trip was a fly-by Indian Roller and two different Common Hawk-Cuckoos on wires.

We had lunch in Delhi close to Okhla Barrage before we went into the park from south. There was a small entrance fee and we started to walk the embankment next to the river all the way up to the reeds in the north. It's a fairly long walk but lots of birds along the way. A scope is very useful here. Among thousands and thousands of ducks, geese and waders we found Ferruginous Ducks, Bar-headed Geese, Black-tailed Godwits, a few White-tailed Lapwings, two different Northern Lapwings, Temminck's Stints, Pied Avocets, Marsh Sandpipers and overhead a single Booted Eagle (light morph). It took us at least an hour to reach the reeds. We did find lots of Yellow-bellied, Ashy and Plain Prinias, but no Graceful ditto, a possible Striated Grassbird, no White-tailed Stonechats. And many flocks of Striated Buntlers, a localized elephant grass specialist. Soon we had to go back as the sun was setting. Okhla is a fantastic birdy place and well worth a visit when going to or from Delhi. There is metro station currently under construction close to the sanctuary meaning easier access with public transportation. There were plenty of local visitors at the sanctuary, very different from my visit in 2008 when I was pretty much alone at the site!

Sunny and Som bid us farewell at the Airport Hotel (Terminal 1). We had an early IndiGo flight to Port Blair, South Andaman Island the next day (for the Andamans, see separate report). For our return 6 days later we had arranged with Sunny to pick us up.

February 17th (Delhi Airport-Sultanpur)

We arrived back at Delhi late in the afternoon at T-1, Sunny met us at the airport and was ready to embark on the 65 minute drive to Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary. Traffic was ok, but road conditions were really bad at some

stretches (constructions were ongoing). We had booked a basic twin room at the Rosy Pelican Tourist Complex just next to the gate to the national park. The gate closes at 17.00 so we hadn't time for a visit as we arrived. After checking in we had a short walk around the compounds seeing a few Lesser Whitethroats, Red-breasted Flycatchers, Hoopoe and many Indian Peafowls.

February 18th (Sultanpur-Delhi Airport)

As the gate to Sultanpur opened at 7.00 in the morning we were first in line. We bought a day ticket and quickly started the circle route around the lake. It was pretty foggy and hard to see anything for the first 30-40 minutes as we walked to the right, that is along the western boundary. A local guide suggested us to walk the other direction to get the sun in the back early morning for photography, but we had a special target to catch. We passed two different observation towers and just pass the second one there was more open areas, scrubs and reeds. We found a small flock of pretty Red Avadavats, still too foggy though when we heard a sparrow calling, and for sure it was a Sind Sparrow, a male. With the main target sealed this early we could enjoy the rest of the morning without stress. In very short time at the south-western and southern parts of the reserve we found a nice selection of new birds for the trip such as Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Black-rumped Flameback, Tawny Pipit, Common Woodshrike, Black Redstart. A good find was an Eastern Orphean Warbler and at some larger acacias Brook's Leaf Warbler was found. Too soon we had to start heading back. At the north-eastern parts we reached more wetlands and open water. This was where all the birds were. Lots of ducks, herons and storks. A single juvenile Black-necked Stork and it was very scenic when a pair of Sarus Cranes came flying in calling and landing in the early morning sunlight. A flock of House Swifts appeared over the wetland, our last new bird for the trip. By 9.45 we were back at our room, quickly packed everything and had a sandwich at the restaurant before jumping in our waiting car. To the airport for a direct flight with Air India to Stockholm and the same evening we were back home!



Jungle Owlet, S Ramnagar. OS.



Eastern Orphean Warbler, Sultanpur. OS.



Sind Sparrow, Sultanpur. MG.



Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Garjiya Devi Temple. OS.

List of birds: Northern India, February 3rd-11th & 17th-18th 2018

Following IOC World Bird List 8.1 (January 2018) (www.worldbirdnames.org). In total: 321 species (1 heard only), 22 species on The IUCN Red List for Threatened Species (2014.3). Subspecies notations are foremost literature-based.

- 1 **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*
300+ Okhla (11/2).
- 2 **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser rubrirostris*
1000+ Okhla (11/2), 60 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 3 **Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*
10+ Okhla (11/2).
- 4 **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
150 Kosi Barrage (8-9/2), 50+ Okhla (11/2).
- 5 **Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*
3 Okhla (11/2)
- 6 **Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*
10000+ Okhla (11/2), 200 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 7 **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera strepera*
300+ Okhla (11/2), 300 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 8 **Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*
100+ Okhla (11/2), 40 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 9 **Indian Spot-billed Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*
500+ Okhla (11/2), 2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 10 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
1m Kosi Barrage (8/2), 4 Okhla (11/2).
- 11 **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*
6000+ Okhla (11/2), 40 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 12 **Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*
1000+ Okhla (11/2), 20 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 13 **Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina* **VU**
200+ Okhla (11/2), 2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 14 **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* **NT**
30+ Okhla (11/2), 8 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 15 **Black Francolin** *Francolinus francolinus*
5 Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2), 1m above Sattal (7/2).
- 16 **Grey Francolin** *Francolinus pondicerianus*
1 Okhla (11/2), 10 Sultanpur (17-18/2).
- 17 **Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola*
1 h Vinayak, Pangot (5/2), 2 seen + 1 h Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 18 **Koklass Pheasant** *Pucrasia macrolopha*
1 seen + 1 heard Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 19 **Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus murghi*
1m Kosi River (8/2).
- 20 **Kalij Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos*
1 pair Sattal (4/2), 1m Pangot (5/2), 7 Pangot-Sattal (7/2), 17 Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 21 **Cheer Pheasant** *Catreus wallichii* **VU**
4m+2f Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 22 **Indian Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*
10 er Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 7 Kosi River (8/2), 2 Kosi River (10/2), 10 er Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2), 10 Sultanpur (17-18/2).
- 23 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis albescens*
50+ Okhla (11/2), 8 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 24 **Painted Stork** *Mycteria leucocephala* **NT**
1 er Delhi (3/2), 1 Okhla (11/2), 40 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 25 **Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiohynchus asiaticus asiaticus* **NT**
1 juv Sultanpur (18/2).
- 26 **Black-headed Ibis** *Threskiornis melanoccephalus* **NT**
50 Okhla (11/2), 3 Sultanpur (17-18/2).

- 27 **Red-naped Ibis** *Pseudibis papillosa*
15 er N Delhi (3/2), 20 er N Delhi (11/2).
- 28 **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
15 Okhla (11/2), 2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 29 **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*
20 Okhla (11/2), 8 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 30 **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*
Seen on 7 days.
- 31 **Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*
Seen on 4 days.
- 32 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
50+ Okhla (11/2), 1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 33 **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea manilensis*
2 Okhla (11/2), 2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 34 **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
1 N Delhi (3/2), 50 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 35 **Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*
1 N Delhi (3/2), 2 Kosi River (9/2), 1 Okhla (11/2).
- 36 **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
Seen on 6 days.
- 37 **Little Cormorant** *Microcarbo niger*
5 N Delhi (3/2), 60 Kosi Barrage (8-9/2), 40+ Okhla (11/2), 10 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 38 **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*
Seen on 7 days.
- 39 **Oriental Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster* **NT**
3 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 40 **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*
Singles seen roadside on 5 days.
- 41 **Bearded Vulture** *Gypaetus barbatus barbatus* **NT**
1 imm Vinayak, Pangot (5/2).
- 42 **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* **EN**
2 ad Kosi Barrage (8/2), 2 ad + 1 imm Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 43 **Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis*
1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 44 **Himalayan Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis* **NT**
Seen on 6 days. Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* possibly overlooked.
- 45 **Red-headed Vulture** *Sarcogyps calvus* **CR**
1 Garjiya (9/2), 1 Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 46 **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela cheela*
2 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 2 Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 47 **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus cirrhatus limnaeetus*
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 48 **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus nipalensis nipalensis*
1 ad Sattal (4/2), 1 Vinayak, Pangot (5/2), 1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 49 **Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malaiensis perniger*
1 Vinayak, Pangot (5/2).
- 50 **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Clanga clanga* **VU**
1 3y+ Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 51 **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*
1 light morph Okhla (11/2).
- 52 **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis nipalensis* **EN**
Seen on 5 days in the north. In total around 30 birds.
- 53 **Shikra** *Accipiter badius poliopsis*
2 N Delhi (3/2), 1 Kosi River (10/2), 4 er Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2), 1 Delhi (17/2).
- 54 **Besra** *Accipiter virgatus affinis*
1 Mohan (9/2).
- 55 **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus melaschistos*
1 male Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 56 **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

- 5 Okhla (11/2).
- 57 **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans govinda*
Seen on 9 days. 10000S (100k?!) Delhi (11/2). Possibly overlooked ssp *lineatus*.
- 58 **Pallas's Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* **EN**
1 ad + 2 juv at nest, Kosi River NE of Mohan (9/2), 1 ad Kumeria (9/2).
- 59 **Lesser Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus humilis plumbeus* **NT**
1 ad Kumeria (9/2).
- 60 **White-eyed Buzzard** *Butastur teesa*
1 S Kaladhungi (3/2).
- 61 **Himalayan Buzzard** *Buteo burmanicus*
1 Sattal (4/2), max 3 Vinayak, Pangot (5-6/2).
- 62 **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Seen on 4 days. Mostly roadside.
- 63 **Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*
1 Kosi Barrage (8/2).
- 64 **Grey-headed Swampphen** *Porphyrio poliocephalus poliocephalus*
300+ Okhla (11/2), 10 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 65 **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*
15+ Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 2 Kosi River (8/2), 200+ Okhla (11/2), 50+ Sultanpur (18/2).
- 66 **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra atra*
600+ Okhla (11/2), 50+ Sultanpur (18/2).
- 67 **Sarus Crane** *Antigone antigone antigone* **VU**
2 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 68 **Indian Stone-curlew** *Burhinus indicus*
2 N Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 69 **Ibisbill** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2).
- 70 **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
25+ Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 300+ Ramnagar-Okhla (11/2), 6 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 71 **Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
10 Okhla (11/2).
- 72 **Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
1+1 Okhla (11/2).
- 73 **River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii* **NT**
Max 25 Kosi River (8-10/2), 10 Okhla (11/2).
- 74 **Yellow-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus malabaricus*
3 along road close to Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi (3/2).
- 75 **Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*
Seen on 9 days.
- 76 **White-tailed Lapwing** *Vanellus leucurus*
20 Okhla (11/2), 4 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 77 **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
1 Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 78 **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
1 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 79 **Bronze-winged Jacana** *Metopidius indicus*
3 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 2 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2).
- 80 **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa limosa* **NT**
60 Okhla (11/2).
- 81 **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*
1000+ Okhla (11/2).
- 82 **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
25 Okhla (11/2).
- 83 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
2 Okhla (11/2).
- 84 **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
5 Okhla (11/2).
- 85 **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
5 Okhla (11/2), 1 Sultanpur (18/2).

- 86 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
Singles seen on 5 days.
- 87 **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
Seen on 7 days.
- 88 **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 89 **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*
4 Okhla (11/2).
- 90 **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
1 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 10 Okhla (11/2), 1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 91 **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
1 Okhla (11/2).
- 92 **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
Seen on 6 days.
- 93 **Brown-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*
1 Okhla (11/2).
- 94 **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
100 Okhla (11/2).
- 95 **Pallas's Gull** *Ichthyophaga ichthyophaga*
1 ad Okhla (11/2).
- 96 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus barabensis*
50 Okhla (11/2).
- 97 **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*
200+ Okhla (11/2).
- 98 **Rock Dove** *Columba livia (domestic)*
Seen on 10 days.
- 99 **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*
1 Sattal (4/3), 2 Pangot (5/3), 7 Sattal (7/3).
- 100 **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Seen on 6 days.
- 101 **Red Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 102 **Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis*
1 heard Pratiksha River Retreat (8/2), 1 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2).
- 103 **Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis cambayensis*
3 Delhi (3/2), 3 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2), 2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 104 **Common Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*
3 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 105 **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** *Treron phoenicopterus*
4 Delhi (3/2), 1 Okhla (11/2), 4 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 106 **Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*
Singles seen or heard on 5 days.
- 107 **Common Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx varius*
2 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2), 1 heard Sultanpur (18/2).
- 108 **Mountain Scops Owl** *Otus spilocephalus*
1 seen in flashlight Sattal (3/2), 1 heard Pangot (4/2), 1 heard Pangot (6/2).
- 109 **Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*
1 seen Sattal (7/2), 1 seen Pratiksha River Retreat (8/2).
- 110 **Brown Wood Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*
2 seen late afternoon Sattal (7/2). Mating!
- 111 **Himalayan Owl** *Strix nivicolium* HO
1 heard before dawn Pangot (6/2).
- 112 **Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*
1 seen Sattal (4/2), 2 heard Pangot (4/2), 1 heard Pangot (5-7/2), 1 seen Kumeria (10/2).
- 113 **Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*
1 seen below Pangot (4/2), 1 heard Pangot (5/2), 1 seen Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2), 1 heard Kosi River (9/2), 1 Mohan (10/2).
- 114 **Jungle Owlet** *Glaucidium radiatum*
1 seen S Ramnagar (11/2).

- 115 Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*
100 Kosi Barrage (8/2), 20 Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 116 Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*
50+ Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 117 Blyth's Swift** *Apus leuconyx*
10 Kosi Barrage (8/2), 500+ Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 118 House Swift** *Apus nipalensis nipalensis*
25 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 119 Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*
1 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2).
- 120 Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Pelargopsis capensis*
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2).
- 121 White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Seen on 7 days.
- 122 Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
2 Sattal (4/2), 2 Sattal (7/2), 4 Kosi Barrage (8/2).
- 123 Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*
2 Kosi Barrage (8/2), 3 Garjiya, Kosi River (8/2), 4 Kumeria-Mohan (9/2), 1 Kumeria (10/2).
- 124 Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
5 Kosi Barrage (8/2), 3 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2)
- 125 Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctyornis athertoni*
1 Kumeria (9-10/2).
- 126 Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis orientalis*
2 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 4 Okhla (11/2).
- 127 Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upopa epops*
Seen on 5 days.
- 128 Great Hornbill** *Buceros bicornis* **NT**
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 2 Mohan (10/2).
- 129 Oriental Pied Hornbill** *Anthracoceros albirostris*
2 S Ramnagar (11/2).
- 130 Indian Grey Hornbill** *Ocyroceros birostris*
7 S Ramnagar (11/2), 1 Okhla (11/2).
- 131 Great Barbet** *Psilopogon virens marshallorum*
Seen daily at Pangot and Sattal.
- 132 Brown-headed Barbet** *Psilopogon zeylanicus*
1 Delhi (3/2), 1 heard Kosi Barrage (8/2), 2 Okhla (11/2), 1 heard Sultanpur (18/2).
- 133 Lineated Barbet** *Psilopogon lineatus hodgsoni*
1 heard Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 4 Mohan-Kumeria (9-10/2).
- 134 Blue-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon asiaticus asiaticus*
1 Sattal (4/2), 1 heard daily Kosi River – Kumeria (8-10/2).
- 135 Coppersmith Barbet** *Psilopogon haemacephala indicus*
1 Delhi (3/2), 1 Mohan (9/2), 3 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 136 Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla himalayana*
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 2 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 137 Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Yungipicus canicapillus*
1 Sattal (4/2), 3 Mohan (9/2), 1 Mohan (10/2).
- 138 Brown-fronted Woodpecker** *Dendrocoptes auriceps auriceps*
1 Sattal (4/2), 1 Pangot (5/2).
- 139 Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** *Leiopicus mahrattensis mahrattensis*
2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 140 Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos hyperythrus marshalli*
2 Pangot (4/2), 2 Pangot (5/2), 1 Pangot (6/2).
- 141 Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos macei westermanni*
2 Sattal (4/2), 1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 1 Mohan-Kumeria (9/2), 1 Mohan-Kumeria (10/2).
- 142 Himalayan Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos himalayensis albescens*
Max 3 Vinayak, Pangot (5-6/2).
- 143 Greater Yellownape** *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*
1 Sattal (4/2), 1 Pangot (5/2), 1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 2 Mohan (9/2), 2 Mohan (10/2).
- 144 Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus simlae*

- 2 Sattal (4/2), 1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 1 Mohan (9/2), 1 Mohan (10/2).
- 145 Streak-throated Woodpecker** *Picus xanthopygaeus*
1 pair Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 146 Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus sanguiniceps*
Seen on 6 days Sattal – Pangot – Kosi River.
- 147 Himalayan Flameback** *Dinopium shorii*
1+2 Mohan-Kumeria (9/2), 2+1 Mohan-Kumeria (10/2).
- 148 Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense benghalense*
5 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 149 Greater Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus guttacristatus*
3 Sattal (4/2), 1 Mohan (9/2).
- 150 Great Slaty Woodpecker** *Mulleripicus pulverulentus mohun* **VU**
3 Mohan-Kumeria (9/2).
- 151 Collared Falconet** *Microhierax caerulescens caerulescens*
1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Mohan (9/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 152 Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Singles seen on 4 days.
- 153 Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
1 Sattal (7/2), 1 Kosi River (8/2), 1 Garjiya (9/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2)
- 154 Slaty-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula himalayana*
150+ Sattal (4/2), 5+ Pangot (5-6/2), 30+ Sattal (7/2).
- 155 Plum-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula cyanocephala*
10 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 10 Kosi River (9/2), 4 Mohan (10/2).
- 156 Red-breasted Parakeet** *Psittacula alexandri* **NT**
2 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 200+ Mohan (10/2).
- 157 Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria* **NT**
1 Delhi (3/2), 6 Kosi Barrage (9/2), 5 Sultanpur (17/2).
- 158 Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
20+ Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 2 Kaladhungi (8/2), 40 Kosi Barrage (9/2), 50 Ramnagar-Delhi (10/2), 30 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 159 Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus*
70+ Mohan-Kumeria (9/2), 25+ Mohan-Kumeria (10/2).
- 160 Common Woodshrike** *Tephrodomis pondicerianus*
2 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 161 Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*
Seen on 5 days Sattal-Pangot-Kosi River.
- 162 Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus*
10 Mohan (10/2).
- 163 Bay-backed Shrike** *Lanius vittatus vittatus*
3 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 164 Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*
Singles seen on 5 days.
- 165 Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*
2 Pangot (4/2), 1 Pangot (5/2).
- 166 Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii traillii*
1 imm Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 167 Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Seen on 6 days.
- 168 Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
1 Pangot (6/2), 1 Kosi Barrage (10/2).
- 169 White-bellied Drongo** *Dicrurus caerulescens caerulescens*
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 170 Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*
5 Sattal (4/2), 2 Pangot (5/2), 5 Sattal (7/2).
- 171 Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer tectirostris*
1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 172 Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*
3 Sattal (4/2), 10 Mohan-Kumeria (9-10/2).

- 173 White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*
Max 10 seen on 7 days.
- 174 White-browed Fantail** *Rhipidura aureola*
1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 175 Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
Max 6 Pangot (5-7/2).
- 176 Black-headed Jay** *Garrulus landeolatus*
Max 50 Pangot (5-7/2), 5 Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 177 Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythroryncha occipitalis*
Seen on 5 days.
- 178 Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis chinensis*
2 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 1 Mohan (9/2).
- 179 Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
5 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 4 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2), 2 Sultanpur (17-18/2).
- 180 Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae*
10 Sattal (4/2), 1 Pangot (5/2), 2 Sattal (7/2).
- 181 House Crow** *Corvus splendens*
Seen on 5 days.
- 182 Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Seen on 5 days Nainital – Pangot.
- 183 Indian Jungle Crow** *Corvus culminatus*
Seen on 6 days Ramnagar - Delhi.
- 184 Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus*
6 birds seen Kosi River – Mohan – Kumeria (8-10/2).
- 185 Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
13 birds seen Mohan – Kumeria (9-10/2).
- 186 Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*
10 birds seen Pangot (4-6/2).
- 187 Cinereous Tit** *Parus cinereus*
1 Kaladhungi Road (3/2), 12 Kosi River – Mohan (8-10/2).
- 188 Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*
Seen on 5 days Nainital – Sattal – Pangot.
- 189 Himalayan Black-lored Tit** *Machlolophus xanthogenys*
Seen on 6 days Pangot – Kosi River.
- 190 Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris flaviventris*
1 Mohan (9/2).
- 191 Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Seen on 5 days.
- 192 Himalayan Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
Seen on 8 days.
- 193 Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*
Seen on 10 days.
- 194 Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Seen on 6 days.
- 195 Grey-throated Martin** *Riparia chinensis*
100+ Kosi River (8-10/2), 25 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 196 Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Seen on 6 days.
- 197 Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
5 Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2), 5 Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 198 Dusky Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne concolor*
10 Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 199 Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*
13 birds seen on 5 days Pangot – Kosi River.
- 200 Nepal Wren-babbler** *Pnoepyga immaculata*
1 Mohan (9/2).
- 201 Pygmy Wren-babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla*
1 Sattal (4/2).
- 202 Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps*

- 1 Vinayak, Pangot (5/2).
- 203 Brown-flanked Bush Warbler** *Horornis fortipes*
1 Timla Pani, Pangot (5/2), 1 Pangot (7/2).
- 204 Aberrant Bush Warbler** *Horornis flavolivaceus*
1-2 Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Kumeria (9/2).
- 205 Grey-sided Bush Warbler** *Cettia brunnifrons*
1 Sattal (4/2), 1 Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2), 1 heard Sattal (7/2).
- 206 Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Cettia castaneocoronata*
1 Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2), 1 Sattal (7/2).
- 207 Black-throated Bushtit** *Aegithalos concinnus iredalei*
Seen on 7 days.
- 208 Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*
1 Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2), 4 Kosi River (8-10/2), 30 Okhla (11/2), 4 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 209 Smoky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fulgiventis*
1 Kosi Barrage (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2).
- 210 Tickell's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*
3 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 211 Buff-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*
Max 15 daily Pangot (4-7/2).
- 212 Lemon-rumped Warbler** *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
1 Sattal (4/2), 2 Pangot (4/2), 1 Pangot (6/2), 1 Sattal (7/2), 1 Kumeria (10/2).
- 213 Brooks's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus subviridis*
4 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 214 Hume's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei humei*
Seen on 10 days.
- 215 Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
1 Garjiya, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Okhla (11/2).
- 216 Blyth's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides*
2 Mohan (10/2).
- 217 Grey-hooded Warbler** *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
Max 40+ seen daily on 7 days.
- 218 Whistler's Warbler** *Seicercus whistleri whistleri*
2 Sattal (4/2), 6 Sattal (7/2), 1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 1 Mohan (9/2), 1 Kumeria (9/2), 2 Mohan (10/2).
- 219 West Himalayan Bush Warbler** *Locustella kashmirensis*
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2).
- 220 Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
4 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 221 Striated Prinia** *Prinia crinigera*
1 Vinayak, Pangot (5/2), 2 Pangot (5/2), 2 Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2).
- 222 Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsoni*
Seen on 5 days.
- 223 Yellow-bellied Prinia** *Prinia flaviventris*
5+ Okhla (11/2).
- 224 Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis*
3 Delhi (3/2), 2 Pratiksha River Retreat (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2), 10 Okhla (11/2), 8 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 225 Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*
10 Okhla (11/2), 1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 226 Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*
Seen on 5 days.
- 227 Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrogastrus*
4 Sattal (4/2), 2 Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2), 2 Sattal (7/2).
- 228 Black-chinned Babbler** *Stachyridopsis pyrrhops*
Seen on 6 days.
- 229 Common Babbler** *Turdoides caudata*
3 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 230 Striated Babbler** *Turdoides earlei*
30+ Okhla (11/2).
- 231 Large Grey Babbler** *Turdoides malcolmi*

- 25 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 232 Jungle Babbler** *Turdoides striata*
Seen on 9 days.
- 233 White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*
20+ Mohan (9/2), 10+ Kumeria (10/2).
- 234 Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax rufogularis*
7 Sattal (4/2), 2 Sattal (7/2).
- 235 White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis*
40 Sattal (4/2), 8+ Vinayak, Pangot (5/2).
- 236 Striated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax striatus*
1 Pangot (5/2), 4 Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 237 Streaked Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron lineatum*
Max 25+ on 5 days.
- 238 Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum erythrocephalum*
3 Timla Pani, Pangot (5/2), 1 Pangot (6/2), 10 Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2).
- 239 Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera*
2 Sattal (4/2), 4 Sattal (7/2).
- 240 Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*
50+ Sattal (4/2), 50+ Sattal (7/2).
- 241 Rufous Sibia** *Heterophasia capistrata*
Max 5+ Pangot (4-7/2).
- 242 Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
1 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2), 2 Okhla (11/2), 8 Sultanpur (17-18/2).
- 243 Eastern Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia crassirostris jerdoni*
1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 244 Black-chinned Yuhina** *Yuhina nigrimenta*
10 Sattal (4/2).
- 245 Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*
Seen on 9 days.
- 246 Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamoventris*
Seen on 4 days.
- 247 White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*
1 Pangot (5/2), 4 Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 248 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*
2 Sattal (7/2), 7 Mohan (9/2), 2 Mohan (10/2).
- 249 Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria nepalensis*
1 Vinayak, Pangot (6/2), 1 Kosi Barrage (8/2).
- 250 Bar-tailed Treecreeper** *Certhia himalayana*
Seen on 7 days.
- 251 Bank Myna** *Acridotheres ginginianus*
100+ Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 20 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2), 5 Delhi (17/2).
- 252 Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*
Seen daily.
- 253 Pied Myna** *Gracupica contra*
15+ Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 2 Kosi River (10/2), 40 Ramnagar-Delhi (11/2).
- 254 Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*
4+ N Delhi (3/2), 1 Okhla (11/2), 15 Sultanpur (17/2).
- 255 Alpine Thrush** *Zoothera mollissima*
1 Pangot (5/2), 1+1 Pangot (6/2).
- 256 Long-billed Thrush** *Zoothera monticola monticola*
1 Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2), 1 Mohan (9/2).
- 257 Tickell's Thrush** *Turdus unicolor*
1 Sattal (7/2).
- 258 Grey-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boulboul*
1 female Vinayak, Pangot (6/2), 10 Sattal (7/2).
- 259 Indian Robin** *Copsychus fulicatus*
1 pair W Ramnagar (9/2), 20 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 260 Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*
2 Garjiya (8/2), 1 Okhla (11/2), 5 Sultanpur (17-18/2).

- 261 White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*
1 female Garjiya – Mohan (10/2).
- 262 Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*
Seen on 5 days Sattal – Mohan – Kumeria.
- 263 Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae*
1 Sattal (7/2), 1 Mohan (9/2), 1 Kumeria (10/2).
- 264 Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
1 male Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2), 6 Okhla (11/2), 4 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 265 Himalayan Rubythroat** *Calliope pectoralis pectoralis*
1 University area, Sattal (4/2), 2m1f Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2), 1 male below Nainital (7/2).
- 266 Himalayan Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*
Max 8 seen on 4 days Pangot – Sattal.
- 267 Golden Bush Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaesus*
1 male Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2).
- 268 Little Forktail** *Enicurus scouleri*
1 Kumeria (10/2).
- 269 Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculatus*
1 Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2).
- 270 Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*
Seen on 9 days.
- 271 Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophinata strophinata*
1f Sattal (4/2), 1m Sattal (7/2), 1m Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 1 Mohan (9/2).
- 272 Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*
5 Sultanpur (17-18/2).
- 273 Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*
1 Sattal (7/2), 1 Kumeria (10/2), 1 S Ramnagar (11/2).
- 274 Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*
1m Mohan (9/2), 1m Mohan (10/2).
- 275 Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*
1m Garjiya (8/2).
- 276 Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*
Max 3 seen on 7 days.
- 277 Blue-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus coeruleocephata*
Max 5 seen on 5 days.
- 278 Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*
5 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 279 Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*
3f Pangot (6/2).
- 280 Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
Seen on 6 days.
- 281 White-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
Seen on 8 days.
- 282 Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*
1 Pratiksha River Retreat (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2).
- 283 Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*
1m Timla Pani, Pangot (5/2), 1f Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2).
- 284 Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*
Seen on 5 days.
- 285 Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata*
3 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), 1m Okhla (11/2), 5 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 286 Grey Bush Chat** *Saxicola ferreus*
Seen on 7 days.
- 287 Brown Rock Chat** *Oenanthe fusca*
Seen on 7 days.
- 288 Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*
1 juv Kumeria (9-10/2).
- 289 Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*
1 Mohan (9/2), 2 Mohan (10/2).
- 290 Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*

- 1 pair Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 291 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectus*
1 Sattal (4/2), 4 Pangot (5/2), 1m Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 292 Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus*
1 Delhi (3/2), 5 Okhla (11/2), 10 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 293 Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis*
Seen on 4 days Pangot – Mohan – Kumeria.
- 294 Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata*
1 pair Kumeria (10/2).
- 295 Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*
1m Kaladhungi Road (8/2), 1 pair Kumeria (9/2), 1m Kumeria (10/2).
- 296 Fire-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga ignicauda*
1 Timla Pani, Pangot (5/2), 2 Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 297 House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Seen daily.
- 298 Sind Sparrow** *Passer pyrrhonotus*
1+1+3+1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 299 Russet Sparrow** *Passer cinnamomeus*
10 Pangot (4/2), 30+ Timla Pani, Pangot (5-6/2).
- 300 Red Avadavat** *Amandava amandava*
15 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 301 Altai Accentor** *Prunella himalayana*
Max 50 Vinayak, Pangot (5-6/2), max 10 Pangot (6-7/2).
- 302 Rufous-breasted Accentor** *Prunella strophilata*
1 Vinayak, Pangot (5/2), 1+1 Pangot (6/2), 1 Pangot (7/2), 8 below Nainital (7/2).
- 303 Black-throated Accentor** *Prunella atrogularis*
3 Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2).
- 304 Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
5 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 305 Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*
3 Kosi Barrage (9/2), 200+ Okhla (11/2).
- 306 Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
Seen on 5 days.
- 307 White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Ssp *alba*: Max 5 Kosi River (8-9/2). Ssp *personata*: 3 Delhi-Kaladhungi (3/2), max 10 Kosi River 8-10/2).
Ssp *alboides*: 5 Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 308 White-browed Wagtail** *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
Max 40 Kosi River (8-10/2).
- 309 Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*
1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2).
- 310 Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*
5 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 311 Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*
1 Pratiksha River Retreat (8/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Kosi Barrage (9/2).
- 312 Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
2 Sultanpur (17/2).
- 313 Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
10 Sattal (4/2), 3 Sattal (7/2), 1 Sultanpur (18/2).
- 314 Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseatus*
5 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8/2), 1 Kosi Barrage (9/2), 1 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (10/2), 1 Okhla (11/2).
- 315 Upland Pipit** *Anthus sylvanus*
2 Vinayak, Pangot (5/2), 1 below Pangot (5/2), 2 Vinayak, Pangot (6/2).
- 316 Dark-breasted Rosefinch** *Procarduelis nipalensis*
1f Kaladhungi Road (8/2).
- 317 Plain Mountain Finch** *Leucosticte nemoricola*
Max 50+ Vinayak, Pangot (5-6/2).
- 318 Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*
2 Sattal (4/2), 4 Timla Pani, Pangot (5/2), 1 Kaladhungi Road (8/2).

319 Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rodochroa*

2f Timla Pani, Pangot (5/2), 1f Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2), 1m Pangot (7/2).

320 Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Chloris spinoides spinoides*

1 Sattal (4/2), max 15 Pangot (4-6/2).

321 Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

1 Vinayak, Pangot (5/2), 1 Timla Pani, Pangot (6/2), max 6 Garjiya Devi Temple, Kosi River (8-10/2).

Additional record shots



Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, Pangot. MG.



Pink-browed Rosefinch, Pangot. MG.



White-tailed Rubythroat, below Nainital. MG.



Upland Pipit, Vinayak, Pangot. MG.



Nepal Wren-babbler, Mohan. MG.



Great Slaty Woodpecker, Mohan-Kumeria. MG.



Alpine Swift, Kosi Barrage. OS.



Critically endangered Red-headed Vulture, Kosi Barrage. OS.



The superb observation of Brown Wood Owl, Sattal. OS.



Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, Pangot. OS.



The incomparable Ibisbill, Garjiya Devi Temple. OS.



Female White-rumped Shama, S Mohan. OS.



'Shaheen' Peregrine Falcon, Garjiya Devi Temple. OS.



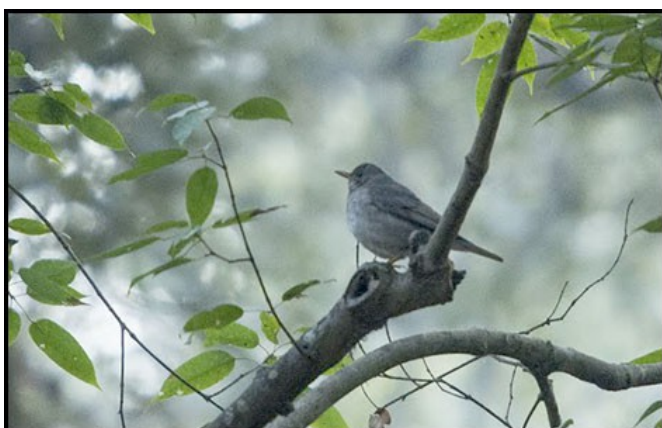
Lesser Fish Eagle, Kumeria. OS.



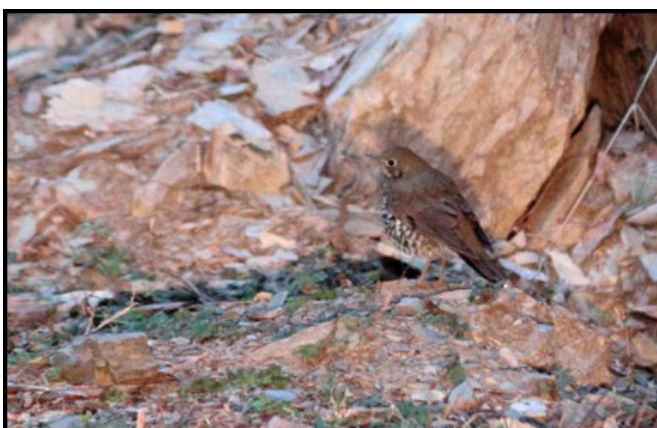
Rock Bunting, 1st winter, Garjiya Devi Temple. OS.



Long-billed Pipit, Pratiksha River Retreat. OS.



Tickell's Thrush, Sattal. OS.



Alpine Thrush, above Pangot. MG.



Streaked Laughingthrush, Pangot. MG.



Female White-tailed Rubythroat, Timla Pani, Pangot. MG.



Himalayan Bluetail, Vinayak, Pangot. OS.



Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Mohan-Kumeria. OS.



White-eyed Buzzard, S of Kaladhungi. OS.



Blue Pansy, Garjiya Devi Temple. MG.

Additional trip shots



Ola does Pheasant-scanning at Vinayak, Pangot. MG.



Som and Måns, Kosi Barrage. OS.



Kosi River at Pratiksha River Retreat. OS.



Som and Sunny at chilly Pangot. OS.



Walking below Pangot down to Timla Pani. MG.



Action at Sattal. Collared Owlet perched. MG.