

North West India

13th – 26th November 2022



By Garry.armstrong4ATbtinternet.com

Participants: Garry Armstrong, David Steele, Mark Hannay.

After more than two years of Covid restrictions it was time to get back to foreign birding trips. I had an idea for a trip to northwest India and David and Mark were happy to join in.

On the advice of a birding friend in Northern Ireland I contacted Manoj Sharma at Indian Nature Tours, (indiannaturetours@gmail.com). I outlined the areas that we wanted to visit, and Manoj promptly came back with an itinerary that, with minor adjustments, fitted our requirements. Manoj would arrange our accommodation, transport and guides leaving us to just sort out getting to and from India. Manoj's arrangements were excellent, everything worked out well and we can recommend him if you want to arrange a trip to India.

Our driver, Devender, met us at the airport and was with us throughout the trip, apart from our time at Dhikala in Corbet, where private cars are not allowed. Devender was an excellent driver, careful and diligent, negotiating his way safely through the chaos on the roads and getting us to all the areas we wanted to visit. Having seen the standard of driving in India, we would definitely recommend you use a driver rather than driving yourself.

Flights: The original idea had been to fly from Belfast to Delhi via Heathrow but the chaos at Heathrow over the summer and subsequent restrictions on passenger numbers caused a change of plan. We found flights with Lufthansa that fitted our requirements, leaving Dublin at 5.00am on Saturday 12th November flying via Frankfurt and arriving in Delhi at 1.30am on Sunday 13th. The return flight left Delhi at 2.00am on Sunday 27th flying via Munich and arriving back on Dublin at 10.00am the same day.

Visas: My visa was very straight forward, as an Irish passport holder I was able to apply for an e-visa. The application was a bit long-winded but once completed I was able to upload a copy of my passport and a photograph and had my tourist visa emailed back to me in two days. For David and Mark, as British passport holders, things were not so simple. Britain is not currently part of the Indian e-visa scheme so David and Mark had to complete their applications and then try to get an appointment at a local consulate to complete the process. They both managed to get appointments a couple of weeks before we travelled although Mark was unable to do so anywhere in Scotland where he lives and had to travel to Belfast for his appointment. Following their visits to the consulate they both had their visas within a week.

Covid: We completed the online Covid information form with details of our vaccinations. According to the information before we travelled a percentage of passengers on each arriving plane would have to take a temperature test but we saw no evidence of this at Delhi airport. In fact, there was no Covid checking anywhere during our time in India. We did have to wear a mask on our flight to Delhi but not on the flight back.

Weather: The weather throughout our trip was bright, clear and calm with no sign of any rain. Temperatures around Bharatpur got up to the high 20's during the middle of the day, being a little cooler morning and evening. It was cold at night and early morning in Dhikala, especially in the open topped jeeps. Around Pangot it was warm in the sun but in shady areas and once the sun went down the temperature dropped very quickly requiring a fleece and hat and gloves.

Itinerary:

13th November – Birding Keoladeo Gana, night at Birders Inn.

14th November – Birding Keoladeo Gana, night at Birders Inn.

15th November – Morning birding agricultural area for Indian Courser, afternoon in Keoladeo Gana, night at Birders Inn.

16th November – Morning drive to Chambal River for cruise, birding along the route, birding outskirts of Bharatpur in the evening, night at Birders Inn.

17th November – Morning in Keoladeo Gana, afternoon birding the agriculture area for Coursers, night at Birders Inn.

18th November – All day travelling to Ramnagar near Corbett National Park, night at Forest Roar hotel.

19th November – Birding along the Kosi River, night at Forest Roar Hotel.

20th November – Transfer to Dhikala, birding in Corbett National Park, night in Dhikala.

21st November - Birding in the Dhikala area of Corbett National Park, night in Dhikala.

22nd November – Morning birding around Dhikala, afternoon transfer to Pangot, night in Jungle Lore Birding Lodge.

23rd November – Birding areas above and below Pangot, night in Jungle Lore Birding Lodge.

24th November – Birding areas above and below Pangot, night in Jungle Lore Birding Lodge.

25th November – Morning birding below Pangot, afternoon transfer to Delhi, night in Crowne Plaza.

26th November – Morning birding at Dhanauri Wetlands, afternoon birding Surajpur Wetlands, evening transfer to the airport for flight home.

Daily Log:

Sunday 13th November: Our flight arrived on time and after a long wait at immigration we collected our bags and headed out to meet Devender our driver and headed off on the drive south to Bharatpur. We arrived at our hotel, the Birder's Inn, after 7am, after a quick breakfast of omelette and toast we were ready to go birding. Birding in Keoladeo Gana park is either on foot or by bicycle rickshaw and we had two bicycle rickshaws waiting outside the hotel to take us the few hundred metres to the park. Once in the park we found that our rickshaw drivers were both good birders, picking out birds and recognising calls. We quickly caught up with some of the common birds in the initial, scrubby, area of the park including Black-winged Kite, Long-tailed Shrike, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Yellow-footed Pigeon, Jungle Babbler and House Crow. We also had a nice flock of 20 Alexandrine Parakeets in a tree above the road, a nice comparison with the very common Rose-ringed Parakeets. We were accompanied along the road by the calls of many Lesser Whitethroats and Bluethroats with birds showing occasionally. Our rickshaw drivers lead us a short distance off the road to see 2 Spotted Owlets roosting in a tree, the birds occasionally opening an eye to peer down at us. A foray into the brush got us good views of a couple of Greenish Warblers before our rickshaw drivers produced another couple of cracking birds. On one side of the road was a roosting Jungle Nightjar and close by on the other side was a roosting Indian Scops Owl. We headed back to the hotel for some lunch well satisfied with our mornings birding.



Indian Scops Owl

After lunch we headed further into the park to the wetter areas and a different set of birds. There were large numbers of herons and egrets, Cattle, Little, Intermediate and Great White Egrets, Grey and Purple Herons, Painted Storks and Asian Openbills, Woolly-necked Storks, Black-headed and Glossy Ibis, Indian Pond Herons and Eurasian Spoonbills. Great, Indian and Little Cormorants and Oriental Darters were present in good numbers, but ducks were rather scarce. There were about 50 Lesser Whistling Ducks and 20 Indian Spot-billed Ducks plus a few Northern Pintail and a single Ruddy Shelduck. The wet grasslands had lots of Red-wattled Lapwings and Bronze-winged Jacanas plus a few Grey-headed Swamphens and numerous Wood Sandpipers and a couple of Green Sandpipers. Pied and White-breasted Kingfishers were seen regularly perched up around the wetlands. Careful study of a perched raptor confirmed it as an Indian Spotted Eagle and this was followed by a Crested Honey Buzzard, several Shikras and finally, as we were heading out of the park, a smashing perched up Crested Serpent Eagle. So, the end of a long day and back to the hotel for dinner and a few beers.

Monday 14th November: Today we met up with our guide, Brijendra Singh, and headed into the park again. In the scrubby area near the gate, we saw our first Grey Francolins and smart Pied Bushchats and also a brief Lesser Flameback. A side track took us to an area with a few houses and a pond and one of the smartest birds of the trip, an Orange-headed Thrush. The trees at the back of the pond produced our only Coppersmith Barbet of the trip. Further exploration of the area gave us Taiga and Red-breasted Flycatchers and a few Ashy Drongoes. Another side track had a couple of Clamorous Reed Warblers in the trackside bushes and two Dusky Eagle Owls roosting out in the swamp. We had a packed lunch taken at a picnic area accompanied by Jungle Babblers and Brahminy Starlings. A viewing tower gave views of roosting, Black-crowned Night Herons and lots of ducks, mostly Teal and Pintails but including Garganey and small numbers of Comb Ducks and Cotton Pygmy Geese. We studied several perched eagles and found both Indian Spotted and Greater Spotted Eagles but no other species. After further searching we got good views of one of the few Black-necked Storks in the park and then a female Bunting feeding at the side of the track which turned out to be a White-capped Bunting. As we were heading out of the park Brijendra found a Black Bittern skulking in some waterside bushes, a nice way to end the day.

Tuesday 15th November: Today we headed to an agricultural area to look for Indian Courser. Despite an extensive search there was no sign of any Coursers but good birds that we did find included Desert and Isabelline Wheatears, Tawny Pipits, Ashy-crowned Sparrowlarks, Greater Short-toed Larks and an Indian Bush Lark as well as our first Brown Rock Chats and Black Redstarts. Several Egyptian Vultures were sitting around the area, other vultures may not be doing well in India, but the Egyptian Vultures seemed to be quite common on the plains.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and then back again to Keoladeo Gana. Our time in the park produced lots of the water birds that we had already encountered but two Dalmatian Pelicans were new, and we were able to add Little Swifts, White-browed Wagtail and Olive-backed Pipit to the trip list. We got further good views of perched Greater Spotted Eagles, Black-winged Kites and a Eurasian Hobby. We found what was probably the same Black Bittern as we left the park although the views this time were much better. So back to the hotel for food and beer to celebrate another good day.



Grey Francolin

Wednesday 16th November: After breakfast today, we loaded the car and set off for a cruise on the Chambal River. We made a couple of stops along the way. Our first stop was at a random wet area beside the main road. The area held good numbers of waders including Black-winged Stilts, Greenshanks, Spotted Redshanks, Common Redshanks, Wood Sandpipers and Temminck's Stints plus lots of wagtails. The wagtails included several smart Black-headed Wagtails and good numbers of both Citrine and White-browed Wagtails. Moving on our next stop was at a disused quarry. Immediately we picked up two Blue Rock Thrushes and a nice Bluethroat followed by a male White-capped Bunting only seen by Mark and Brijendra. Walking the area, we had two Long-billed Pipits along with up to ten Paddyfield Pipits, Crested Larks, Citrine Wagtail, Egyptian Vultures, Red Avadavats including several red males, and a Ferruginous Duck with a flock of Tufted Ducks on a small pool.

Arriving at the Chambal River we had a few sightings before our river trip started. An adult Pallas's Gull was flying around close to where we parked before disappearing and being replaced by a sub-adult, River Lapwings were numerous along the shore and several Mugger Crocodiles were hauled out on small islands just offshore. Once our trip on the river began, we did a quick tour of the small islands for closer looks at the Muggers before heading off down river where we soon had close-up views of several Gharials. Our study of the Gharials ended when a Black-bellied Tern was spotted sitting along the shore. Close to where the tern was sitting were a few waders and a Red-naped Ibis. The waders included two Curlew Sandpipers with a small flock of Dunlin, Kentish, Common Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers. Further along the river there was a large colony of Plain Martins nesting in the riverbank, we also managed to pick out two Pale Martins here, and close by a Bonelli's Eagle was perched on a bluff. As the boat turned to head upriver two River Terns appeared but didn't hang around. Further upriver there was a second Black-bellied Tern, identified as a different bird by the ring on its leg. Finally, as we got close to our starting point, we moved close to the opposite shore where a pair of Great Stone Curlews were sitting, showing very well, a

second pair were slightly further along the shore. We returned to shore and had our packed lunch overlooking the river before heading back towards Bharatpur. We stopped again at the wetland area visited early seeing the same species but with the addition of three Sarus Cranes. Our final stop was on the outskirts of Bharatpur which was fairly quiet, just a couple of Common Rosefinches, until we lucked into a pair of Greater Painted Snipe in a small wet area. The birds walked into a small patch of reeds, and they were so well camouflaged that it took a major search to relocate them. We watched the birds until it was almost dark before returning to the hotel.



Great Thicknee

Thursday 17th December: This was our last day of birdwatching at Bharatpur and straight after breakfast we headed back into the park. We did a long walk through a dry area of the park, which was initially quiet, but we soon began to pick up birds. A warbler close to the track turned out to be a Blyth's Reed Warbler, the first of several seen during the morning, followed by a nice close Bluethroat, several Ashy Prinias and two Common Woodshrikes. As we watched the Woodshrikes the only Eurasian Wryneck of the trip showed well for a couple of minutes. A large flock of Indian Silverbills feeding on grass seed heads contained at least six Black-headed Munias. Perched up raptors included Greater Spotted Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Shikra and Eurasian Hobby and a thrush that flew up to sit in a tree turned out to be a female Tickell's Thrush. A short walk off the track into the brush produced at least twelve Indian Thicknees several of which hung around to give excellent views. Heading back towards the main track we were entertained by several Red-breasted Flycatchers before we found a smart male Red-headed Bunting feeding close to the path. Before we got back to the main track we had a nice mixed flock of Wire-tailed and Streaked Throated Swallows plus a couple of close Green Bee-eaters. As we headed out of the park for lunch David picked up a flying White-eyed Buzzard which then landed to give decent scope views.

After lunch we headed back to the agriculture area to try again for Indian Courser. Although we widened our search of the area, we had no luck finding any Coursers. We did however

enjoy the search, scoring several new species for the trip as well as getting further good views of birds we had previously seen in the area. A Southern Grey Shrike give prolonged good views sitting on a wire and two Indian Rollers showed well but two Red Collared Doves only sat up briefly before flying off. Various Siberian Stonechats kept us on our toes while a flock of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse appeared several times but always landed out of view. One length of fence had Long-tailed, Bay-backed and Isabelline Shrikes plus a White-breasted Kingfisher with a couple of Desert Wheatears hopped around on the ground below. We worked this very birdy area until dark and time to head back to the hotel.

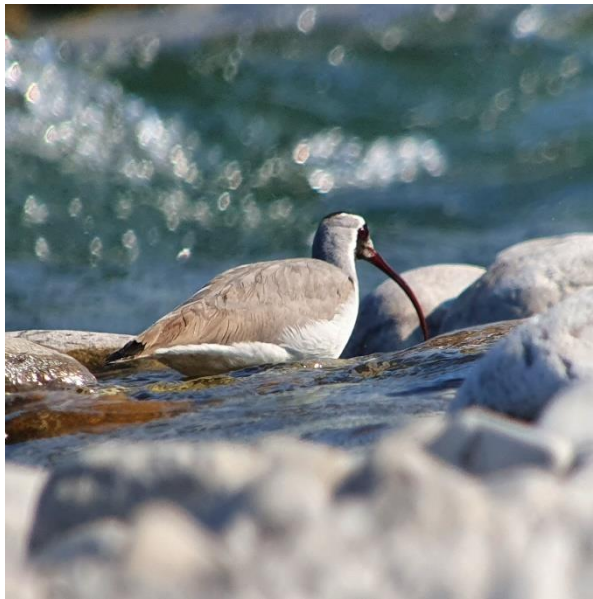


Indian Thicknee

Friday 18th November: Today was a travel day as we moved from Bharatpur to Ramnagar near Corbett National Park. We left straight after breakfast for a drive that would take all day. We did make a few stops along the way including stops at the Yamuna and Ganges rivers which produced a small flock of Avocets among many Black-winged Stilts, and a single Pallas's and several Black-headed Gulls. All the other birds recorded were locally common species such as herons, egrets, mynas and starlings. We arrived at our hotel, the Forest Roar on a tributary of the Kosi River, just before dark. Despite warnings of Leopards being in the area we took a walk along the river, there was no sign of any Leopards and the only birds we saw was a couple of Green Sandpipers. Back to the hotel for dinner and a major disappointment, there was no beer!

Saturday 19th November: Today we would bird the area around the Kosi River with a guide, J P, from Corbett National Park. We crossed the Kosi barrage where there was a flock of about twenty Ruddy Shelducks before heading upriver. Our first stop was at an area where the first Ibisbill of the winter had been reported a few days before. As we walked down to the river, we had excellent looks at both White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts. At the river we scanned carefully, finding plenty of River and Red-wattled Lapwings, Greenshanks and Green Sandpipers but no Ibisbill. A walk along the riverbank gave us good

views of a couple of Tawny Pipits, several Crested Kingfishers, Common Kingfisher and Long-tailed Shrikes. Back where we started a small flock of Grey Bushchats, Black-chinned Babblers and Cinerous and Green-backed Tits were feeding in the undergrowth. David, scanning along the river edge, picked up a bird at extreme range, that could be an Ibisbill. After a tricky walk out over the rocky riverbed we had excellent views of an Ibisbill. Our walk back was interrupted by a Wallcreeper feeding along the riverbank and giving superb views. At a stop along a stream, we found a bird wave feeding in a couple of trees, the flock included Grey-hooded and Lemon Rumped Warblers and several Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches and White-throated Fantails as well as a Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike and a Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo. We would have liked to do a bit more birding in the area but some locals suggested it wasn't safe as there could be a tiger about so we moved on.



Ibisbill

Heading on along the road J P took us to area to look for Collared Falconet which we found sitting on the top of a tall tree followed by brief views of a Blue-bearded Bee-eater. A little further on we did a walk along the road and turned up another Blue-bearded Bee-eater which sat up and showed well. Other birds seen along the road included Grey-breasted Prinias, a Yellow-bellied Fantail and a flock of Long-tailed Minivets. As we headed to our lunch stop a soaring Pallas's Fish Eagle brought us to a quick stop, the bird circling high over the road before drifting off. After having lunch by the river, a short walk had us watching a pair of Brown Dippers, a Crested Kingfisher and then a Spotted Forktail before scope views of a distant raptor sitting in a tree confirmed it was a Lesser Fish Eagle. We drove uphill away from the river and stopped at a spot where a stream crossed the road. J P said it was a good area for Little Forktail and sure enough within a couple of minutes we had found one on the stream just below the road. We birded our way back down the road and found a smart pair of Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush as well as a group of six Red-billed Blue Magpies. With the light going we headed back to the hotel and another beerless dinner.

Sunday 20th November: Today we moved to Dhikala within Corbett National Park although before we left our hotel we had a smart Blue-whistling Thrush singing on the lawn. Private vehicles are not allowed in the park so after breakfast we loaded our bags into one of the parks open topped jeeps for the thirty-kilometre drive to Dhikala along a fairly bouncy track. Before we reached Dhikala we stopped at a spot overlooking the river, it seemed very quiet

but just as we were leaving a pair of Himalayan Flamebacks appeared and gave good views. Further along the track news from another jeep caused a detour, a Spot-bellied Eagle Owl had been found roosting under a bush and we were soon watching this hard-to-find bird. In addition to the Owl, we had excellent views of a pair of Changeable Hawk Eagles sitting in a dead tree before heading to Dhikala to check in, a bit of a long-winded process of form filling.



Pallas's Fish Eagle

The procedure at Dhikala is that the numerous park jeeps head out to look for tigers and other wildlife twice a day, at 6.30am returning at 10.30am, and again at 1.30pm returning as darkness falls. As we had time before our 1.30 jeep safari, we spent some time scanning over the Ramganga reservoir at the back of the compound. There were no ducks on the reservoir but at least twenty River Terns were flying around. At least ten Eurasian Griffon Vultures and a single Red-headed Vulture were soaring in thermals over the hills on the far side of the reservoir.

At 1.30 at least twenty jeeps went roaring off along the tracks hoping to see a tiger, we left at a more leisurely pace, also hoping to see a tiger but certain we would see some good birds. We had one of the camp guides with us, he knew most of the birds and worked hard to find us as many as possible. Within a few minutes we had a soaring Pallas's Fish Eagle giving nice views and then another perched Changeable Hawk Eagle. Although we ended up seeing at least six different Changeable Hawk Eagles today we didn't see any more during the rest of our time in Corbet. Moving on we had a flock of at least twenty Crested Tree Swifts, our first Red-rumped Swallows and a large flock of Plum-headed Parakeets before another soaring raptor caught our attention, a Rufous-bellied Eagle, an unexpected tick for the list. We headed towards the river where two Ospreys were present along with at least two Lesser Fish Eagles and a fruiting tree produced our first Lineated Barbet. A toilet break produced a couple of Rusty-cheeked Simitar Babblers skulking in the undergrowth. Moving on again we had two Lesser Yellownapes in a trackside tree and added to our woodpecker list with sightings of Fulvous-breasted and Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers and we had

our first Himalayan and Black Bulbuls of the trip. With the light fading we headed back for dinner and bed.



Long-tailed Shrike

Monday 21st November: We were well wrapped up in coats, hats and gloves for our 6.30 jeep safari as it was very cold in the open jeep before the sun came up. Initially it was very quiet but as the sun started to appear a flock of Black-throated Thrushes flew over and landed in a nearby tree. As the sun hit the tops of the trees, we found a nice mixed flock moving through. The flock contained Lemon-rumped Warblers, Chiffchaffs, several Chestnut-bellied and Velvet-fronted and a single White-tailed Nuthatch, some Oriental White-eyes and White-throated Fantails and a single Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher. Driving towards the river we had a male and two female Red Jungle Fowl on the track showing very well. We returned to the fruiting tree visited yesterday and it certainly produced the goods again. The tree was still attracting Lineated Barbets along with Black-throated Thrushes, Maroon and Black-headed Orioles. And at least six Ashy Bulbuls. Closer to the river a Stork-billed Kingfisher was perched in a tree and two Black Storks were on the riverbank with an Osprey and at least two Lesser Fish Eagles also present. We returned to the compound at 10.30.

We spent the rest of the morning birding around the compound. A Collared Falconet was giving superb views hunting from a tree in the middle of the compound. While scanning the reservoir we had a Small Niltava in the scrub along the boundary fence followed by a smart Asian Barred Owlet while River Terns continued to patrol over the water.

After lunch we headed out for our afternoon safari. Along the tracks a Greater Short-toed Lark showed well but three Lesser Coucals were more elusive, only showing occasionally in



Asian Barred Owlet

the scrub. An area of reeds held a few Baya Weavers and Scaly-breasted Munias along with Ashy and Plain Prinias. An area of tall trees gave us excellent but brief views of a male Tickell's Thrush and slightly less good views of a couple of Green Magpies. Heading back towards the compound we came across a herd of wild Elephants feeding in the tall grass, only the tops of the heads and backs visible until several walked across the track in front of us. Our final bird of the day was a Common Hawk Cuckoo sat in a tree as the light faded.

Tuesday 22nd November: Our final morning in Corbett and another cool start to our early morning safari. In the cold conditions bird activity was slow to get started but we did have a few Black-throated Thrushes and a flock of Common Iora's. As things warmed up, we had a surprise in the form of a pair of Chestnut-eared Buntings as well as a Yellow-breasted Greenfinch and what was almost certainly the same bird as yesterday, a Greater Short-toed Lark feeding beside the track. After the single bird we found a large flock of Yellow-breasted Greenfinches along with some Plum-headed Parakeets, another Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, a Large Cuckooshrike and six Scarlet Minivets. We headed back to our fruiting tree where at least six Lineated Barbets were present along with Black-throated Thrushes, Maroon and Black-headed Orioles and two new species, a Blue-throated Barbet and several Black-crested Bulbuls. Further on a Red Spurfowl dashed across the track and disappeared into the scrub. At the river we found the small herd of wild Elephants as well as five Black Storks, Osprey and Lesser Fish Eagle. A toilet stop at a small compound produced two Grey-headed Woodpeckers giving very close views. Heading back through thick woodland we had another Green Magpie and Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. After we got back to the compound we packed up and headed back towards the main road only stopping for a bull Elephant that wandered down the track and away.



Yellow-breasted Greenfinch

We returned to the Forest Roar hotel for lunch before setting off on the drive to Pangot. We stopped by a field that was being ploughed as there were six Steppe Eagles soaring overhead, a Crested Honey Buzzard and several Black Kites were also present. We stopped again for a walk near the road when we reached the high ground above Nainital finding two Streaked Laughingthrushes but nothing else. Our final stop was to take in the fantastic view of the Himalayas although we did see a Rufous Sibia in trees by the road. By the time we reached the Jungle Lore Birding Lodge. At almost 7,000 feet the light was fading so no more birding today but we did meet our guide for the next few days, Gajvir Singh, and discussed our plan for the next day.



Steppe Eagle

Wednesday 23rd November: We left early to get to Cheer Point by first light. Arriving before the sun was up it was cold but we were entertained by a large flock of Altai Accentors which were feeding on the bank above the road. Once the sun was up, we started scanning the grassy slopes above and below the road but, despite several hours of searching, there was no sign of any Cheer Pheasants. Driving further up the road we lucked into a male Koklass Pheasant which sat up in a roadside tree before dropping down and disappearing. Further on we stopped by a roadside pool where a pair of Mistle Thrushes were guarding some fruiting trees. A search of the area produced another pair of Koklass Pheasants while the fruiting trees were attracting tits, singles of Yellow-browed and Rufous-vented Tits, and a few each of Spot-winged, Cinerous and Green-backed Tits. Also in the area were five White-tailed Nuthatches, a Blue-capped Redstart, two Bar-tailed Treecreepers and a Himalayan Bush Warbler. We returned to Cheer Point to have our packed breakfast and scan further but there was still no sign of any Cheer Pheasants although there was a surprise in the form of a Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Walking downhill there was a flock of Black-throated Bushtits and a few Grey-hooded Warblers and several flocks of Altai Accentors. Lower down the road we picked up four Himalayan Shrike-babblers and some Eurasian Crag Martins before we hit a nice bird wave which included Black-faced, Lemon-rumped, Grey-hooded and Buff-barred Warblers and a Rufous-bellied Woodpecker. We checked out woodpecker point but there was no sign of any woodpeckers or any other birds for that matter.



The Himalayas

We returned to bird around the Lodge before lunch and picked up some nice birds. A Striated Prinia was sitting on a wire and a several Streaked Laughing-thrushes were around the buildings, both Himalayan and Black-headed Jays were present, a Blue-fronted Redstart showed well, a couple of Buff-barred Warblers were flitting around, some confiding White-throated Laughing-thrushes allowed close approach and finally a Mountain Hawk Eagle soared over the garden area. After lunch as we were getting ready to leave several Striated Laughing-thrushes were near the carpark.



Mountain Hawk Eagle

We drove downhill after lunch and walked the road and a track leading to a village. Along the main road at least one hundred Black Bulbuls were feeding in some fruiting trees along with Black-throated Thrushes and a flock of Slaty-headed Parakeets. A Whiskered Yuhina showed above the road with a few Black-throated Bushtits. The track towards the village was very birdy, there was a flock of Black-chinned Babblers, Himalayan Bulbuls, a Speculated Piculet, two Olive-backed Pipits, Grey-hooded Warblers, a White-browed Scimitar Babbler, a female Black Francolin, a confiding Spotted Forktail by a stream, and a Slaty-blue Flycatcher. Heading back towards the road we had a flock of seven Kalij Pheasants and a couple of Grey Treepies before we headed back to the Lodge. After dinner we did a walk with Gajvir looking for owls but without any luck.

Thursday 24th November: Another early morning start at Cheer Point and several hours of scanning but no Cheer Pheasants although we did have a few new birds. As we watched a few Eurasian Griffons soaring they were joined by a Cinerous Vulture, a Peregrine also soared into our view, a Himalayan Buzzard was picked up in a tree in the valley below, a flock of Nepal House Martins with a couple of Little Swifts were hawking in the valley and an Asian Brown Flycatcher was among the Altai Accentors and Rock Buntings on the hillside above the road. Further up the road a pair of Koklass Pheasants, possibly the same birds as yesterday, showed well near the road and the Two Mistle Thrushes were still guarding their fruiting trees but otherwise it was quiet, just a couple of White-tailed Nuthatches and a Bar-tailed Treecreeper. Heading down we made several stops without seeing many birds, the best was a Grey-winged Blackbird feeding in a bush by the road plus two Brown-fronted Woodpeckers at woodpecker point. We did have a mammal highlight in the form of two Yellow-throated Martens which trotted down the road in front of us for some distance giving superb views. We returned to bird around the Lodge before lunch seeing similar birds to yesterday.



Altai Accentor

After lunch we headed to the same downhill area that we had birded yesterday. The Black Bulbuls and Black-throated Thrushes were still present in large numbers in the fruiting trees. The track towards the village which had been so birdy yesterday was initially very quiet, just a few Himalayan Bulbuls showing, but the Spotted Forktail was still by the stream and a Russet Sparrow was bathing in a puddle. Where the track ran beside the stream more birds started to appear, a Rusty-cheeked Simitar Babbler, the Slaty-blue Flycatcher from yesterday was still present and a Rufous-breasted Accentor appeared on the track before disappearing quickly, before a small wave of birds included Oriental White-eyes, Black-lored, Spot-winged and Green-backed Tits, Black-chinned Babblers and Grey-hooded Warblers appeared. We headed back to the Lodge for dinner and then headed out for another unsuccessful search for owls before retiring for the night.



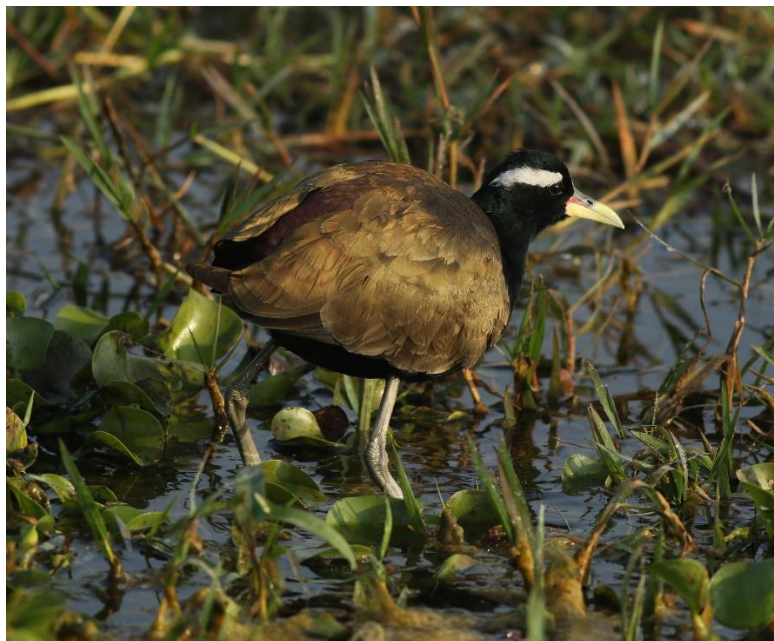
Black-throated Thrush

Friday 25th November: Today we were leaving Pangot to return to Delhi but before we left, we did a couple of hours birding along the road close to the town. It was cold and activity was low and so we had to work hard for our birds. There was a large flock of Black-throated Thrushes and a small bird wave that included single Hume's and Buff-barred Warblers a few each of Lemon-rumped, Grey-hooded and Black-faced Warblers and Yellow-browed, Spot-winged and Green-backed Tits. A calling Maroon Oriole gave prolonged views in an area that also had a Bar-tailed Treecreeper, a couple of White-tailed Nuthatches and several Rufous Sibias. With our birding finished we headed back to the Lodge for breakfast and to pack up and head off on the long drive to Delhi.

The long drive to Delhi was pretty boring with only the commoner birds seen. We made a couple of stops but didn't do any serious birding so only birds like White-breasted Kingfisher, herons, egrets and Black Kites were recorded. We reached Delhi just as the rush-

hour started and found ourselves in the middle of total chaos. We got distant views of the horrific sight of Delhi dump, a massive mound of rubbish several stories high and swirling above it the amazing sight of thousands of Black Kites, possibly as many as five thousand birds. We arrived at our hotel, the Crowne Plaza, ready for dinner and a beer only to find that there are four Crowne Plaza's in Delhi and we were at the wrong one and so we had to head back out into the traffic chaos before finally getting to the right hotel.

Saturday 26th November: We had a quick breakfast and then headed off to find our first destination, Dhanauri Wetlands. To help us find the site we had one of the office workers from India Nature Tours who knew where the site was. It was just as well as the area is not easy to find but is well worth visiting. The wetlands only cover a small area either side of a minor road but were absolutely full of birds and deserved far more time than we could give them. There were large flocks of wildfowl including Greylag Geese, Comb Ducks, Teal, Pintails, Garganey, Spot-billed Ducks and a single Mallard, the only one of the trip. All the common herons and egrets were present in good numbers along with flocks of Spoonbills and Black-naped Ibis plus small numbers of Painted Storks, Asian Openbills, Glossy Ibis and Woolly-necked Storks, a single juvenile Black-necked Stork and five Sarus Cranes. There was a large flock of Black-winged Stilts and numerous Wood Sandpipers and Temminck's Stints. A flock of Black-breasted Weavers were feeding in a small patch of reeds before being flushed by a hunting Shikra. Yellow and Citrine Wagtails were numerous throughout the area and among them we found at least twelve Rosy Pipits, two Tawny Pipits, two Oriental Skylarks and four Bengal Larks. Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas showed well close to the road and Zitting Cisticolas, Plain and Ashy Prinias were common in the undergrowth. After four hours at this superb site, it was time to move on. We had planned to go to Okhla Bird Reserve but a local photographer suggested that work taking place there meant that we probably wouldn't see many birds. He suggested a site which we thought he called Sewage Pool Park and provided our driver with directions to get there. Despite what seemed the rather unsavoury name for the site, we decided to try it but first headed off to get some lunch.



Bronze-winged Jacana

Our approach to Sewage Pool Park down a rutted side street didn't fill us with confidence for this site but once in through the gate we were pleasantly surprised to see, not a stinking sewage pond, but a large lake surrounded by trees and scrub, with no obvious smell at all, we later found that we had misheard the name and it was actually called Surajpur Wetlands. This turned out to be another superb site, the lake was full of birds as was the scrub that surrounded it. There were large numbers of Greylag Geese and among them were at least one hundred Bar-headed Geese, hundreds of diving ducks, Pochard and Tufted Ducks, Pintails, Wigeon and Teal. There were islands in the lake that held large numbers of Ruff and Wood Sandpipers along with two Spotted Redshanks and two White-tailed Plovers. Around the edge of the lake there were many Black-winged Stilts and Grey-headed Swamp Hens. The scrub and trees around the lake held numerous Lesser Whitethroats as well as a few Humes and Blyth's Reed Warblers but most numerous of all were Chiffchaffs. Among the many tristis type Chiffchaffs we found a couple of birds that fitted the description of Mountain Chiffchaff, now split as Kashmir Chiffchaff by some, these birds reacted strongly to the call of Mountain Chiffchaff. We had covered less than half the area but we had run out of time and had leave this brilliant site and get back to our hotel to pack up and head to the airport for our flight home.



Bar-headed Goose

So ended our trip, we had seen 322 species and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The birding was tough at times, a lot of the birds were silent and didn't react to calls, but we enjoyed the challenge of working out what we were seeing.



Birding the Kosi River

Bird List:

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* - Fairly common in Keoladeo Gana.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* – Only seen in Surajpur Wetlands.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, numerous at Dhanauri and Surajpur Wetlands.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* – Seen in small numbers at all wetlands and rivers.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* – A few birds at Keoladeo Gana only.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* – A few at Keoladeo Gana and along the road to Chambal.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana and Surajpur Wetlands.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* – Flocks at Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* – Common at Keoladeo Gana and very common at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* – Common at Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* – Small numbers at all the wetland sites.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* – Very surprised to have only one bird at Dhanauri.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* – Very common at Keoladeo Gana, a few at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Common Teal *Anas crecca* – By far the commonest duck at all the wetland sites.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, 100+ at Dhanauri.



Asian Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* – A few birds at Keoladeo Gana.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* – Very common around Bharatpur and Corbett.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* – Single birds at Dhikala and near Pangot.

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* – Flocks seen regularly in Keoladeo Gana.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* – A male and two females seen well on a track at Dhikala.

Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea* – A single bird dashed across the road in front of us at Dhikala.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* – A pair as we left Dhikala and several flocks around Pangot.

Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha* – Several birds seen on three days above Cheer Point near Pangot.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – Common in the wetland areas.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* – Common across the area.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* – Common everywhere apart from Pangot.

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* – Two perched briefly on wires at the area where we searched for Indian Courser.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* – Common around Keoladeo Gana and Chambal.

Yellow-legged Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus* – Seen in good numbers at Keoladeo Gana.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* – A single bird seen briefly at Dhikala.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* – A small flock seen in the agricultural area while looking for the Coursers.

Jungle Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* – A single bird roosting in Keoladeo Gana.



Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* – Seen daily in small flocks at Dhikala.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* – Seen daily at Keoladeo Gana and two birds seen at Cheer Point.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* – Seen daily around Keoladeo Gana.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* – Three birds seen in scrub at Dhikala.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* – Seen on two days at Keoladeo Gana.

Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius* – Single birds at Keoladeo Gana and Dhikala.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* – Fairly common around wetland areas.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* – Very common at Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* – Noted at Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Common Coot *Fulica atra* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone* – Small numbers seen at Keoladeo Gana, along the road to Chambal and at Dhanauri.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* – Very common at Keoladeo Gana, a few at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* – Very common at Keoladeo Gana, a few at Dhanauri.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* – A total of six seen along the river at Dhikala.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* – Small numbers seen at Keoladeo Gana, Chambal River and Dhanauri.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* – Four birds seen at Keoladeo Gana, two at Dhikala and a single juvenile at Dhanauri.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* – Two birds at Keoladeo Gana.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* – Possibly the same bird seen on two days at Keoladeo Gana.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Colonies at Keoladeo Gana and Surajpur.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* – Seen on three days at Keoladeo Gana.

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* – Very common at all wetland sites.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* – Common around Keoladeo Gana, Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* – Common at all wetland sites.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* – Common at Keoladeo Gana, a few at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* – Common around most wetland sites.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* – Common at Keoladeo Gana and Dhanauri.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* – Small numbers seen at all wetlands.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* – Very common around Keoladeo Gana and Dhanauri.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* – A few at Keoladeo Gana, large flocks along the road to Chambal and at Dhanauri.



Indian Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* – Small numbers seen at Keoladeo Gana, Chambal River and Dhanauri.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, along the road to Chambal and at Dhanauri.

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger* – Fairly common at all wetland sites.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* – Very common at wetland sites.

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* – Common around Keoladeo Gana and the Kosi River.

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* – Common in Keoladeo Gana, a few along the Kosi River.

Indian Thick-knee *Burhinus indicus* – At least twelve in a scrubby area of Keoladeo Gana.

Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris* – Two pairs along the Chambal River.

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* – A single bird along the Kosi River.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* – A small flock seen as we crossed the Ganges.

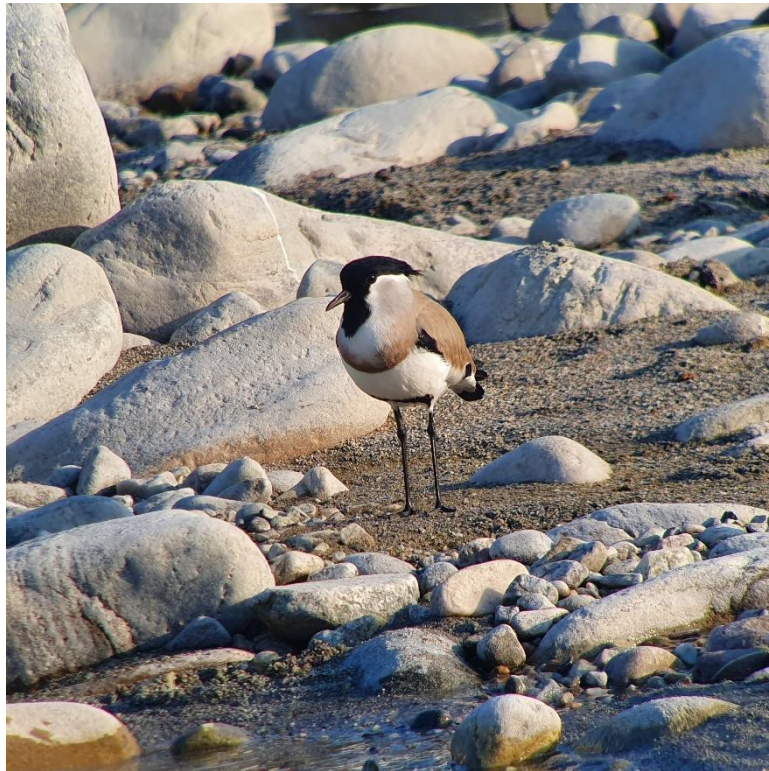
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* – Large numbers along the road to the Chambal River, at the Ganges and Yamuna Rivers and at Surajpur.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* – Single bird at the Chambal River.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* – Several birds at the Chambal and Kosi Rivers.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* – Several birds along the Chambal River.

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii* – Common at the Chambal and Kosi Rivers.



Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* – Common at all wetlands.

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* – Two birds at Keoladeo Gana and two at Surajpur.

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* – Two birds in a reedy pool outside Bharatpur.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana and Dhanauri.

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* – Common at Keoladeo Gana and Dhanauri.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* – Four birds at Dhanauri.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* – Two birds along the Chambal River.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* – A few birds at Keoladeo Gana, numerous at Surajpur.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* – Many along the road to Chambal and good numbers at Dhanauri, a few seen at other wetlands.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* – A few birds at Keoladeo Gana and a single at Dhanauri.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – Reasonable numbers around Chambal and at the Kosi River and a few at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* – Seen in small numbers at all wetlands.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* – Two along the road to Chambal, five at Surajpur.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* – Good numbers around Chambal, a few along the Kosi River.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* – Six along the road to Chambal, three on the drive to Ramnagar.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* – Very common at Keoladeo Gana and Dhanauri.

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* – Six over the Ramganga reservoir at Dhikala.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* – A few birds seen at river crossings on the drive from Bharatpur to Ramnagar.

Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* – Two birds at the Chambal River and a single bird as we crossed the Ganges on the drive to Ramnagar.

River Tern *Sterna aurantia* – Two birds at the Chambal River, at least twenty over the Ramganga reservoir at Dhikala.

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* – At least two birds at the Chambal River, one of the birds had a leg ring.



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* – Three birds around the Kosi River and Dhikala.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* – Fairly common at all the sites visited.

Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* – Single birds at Keoladeo Gana and on the drive to Pangot.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* – Common around Keoladeo Gana and Chambal.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* – Four birds seen at Keoladeo Gana.

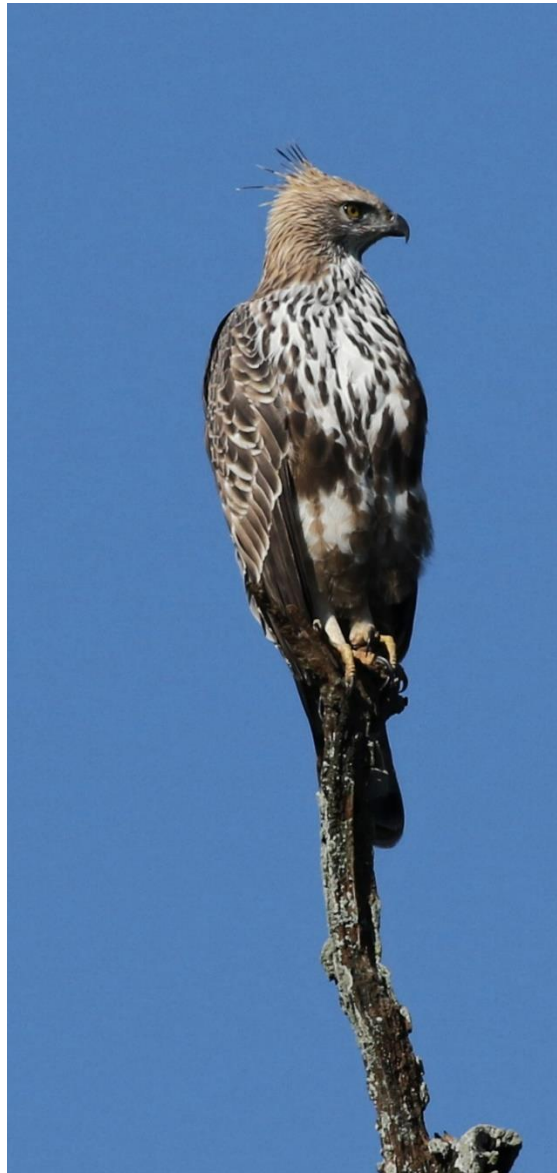
Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* – A single bird soaring with Griffons at the Ramganga reservoir at Dhikala.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* – Seen soaring at Ramganga reservoir, Dhikala and at Cheer Point.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* – A single bird with the Griffons at Cheer Point.

Mountain Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* – Birds seen soaring on two days at Pangot.

Changeable Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* – At least six birds seen on one day around Dhikala.



Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* – A single bird on our first day at Dhikala.

Indian Spotted Eagle *Clanga hastata* – At least five birds seen around Keoladeo Gana.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* – Six birds around Keoladeo Gana and single birds at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* – Single birds at Keoladeo Gana, Dhikala, and Pangot and at least six birds together along the road on the drive from Ramnagar to Pangot.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* – A single bird on a bluff along the Chambal River.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* – Seen in good numbers at Keoladeo Gana and Dhanauri.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* – Seen in small numbers at all sites.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* – Single birds at Keoladeo Gana and Pangot.

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* – A total of at least four birds seen along the Kosi River and at Dhikala.

Lesser Fish Eagle *Icthyophaga humilis* – Seven birds seen along the Kosi River and at Dhikala.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* – Seen in small numbers every day but possibly as many as five thousand over the rubbish dump in Delhi, an amazing sight.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus (migrans) lineatus* – At least one bird of this sub-species was seen well at Keoladeo Gana on the 14th.

White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa* – A single bird at Keoladeo Gana on the 17th.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo refectus* – One bird seen perched and in flight at Cheer Point.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* – A single bird seen along the perimeter fence at Dhikala.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* – At least six birds seen at Keoladeo Gana.



Indian Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena* – A single bird roosting at Keoladeo Gana.

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis* – Very fortunate to see this bird roosting under a bush at Dhikala.

Dusky Eagle Owl *Bubo coromandus* – Three birds seen roosting in Keoladeo Gana.

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* – A few birds seen at Keoladeo Gana and Dhikala.

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops* – Three birds around Keoladeo Gana.

Northern Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* – A single bird in scrub at Keoladeo Gana.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* – One seen on our walk along a village track below Pangot.

Himalayan Flame-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium shorii* – Two birds seen at a stop on our drive into Dhikala.

Lesser Flame-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense* – A single bird seen briefly at Keoladeo Gana.

Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker *Picus chlorolophus* – Two birds seen on two days at Dhikala.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* – Four birds seen on one day at Dhikala.



Brown-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus* – A single bird seen at Dhikala.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei* – Seen on three separate days at Dhikala.

Brown-fronted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos auriceps* – Two birds seen on two days at Pangot.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* – A single bird with a bird wave near Pangot.

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus* – Common around a fruiting tree in Dhikala, a maximum of eight birds seen in the tree at once.

Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiaticus* – A single bird came to the fruiting tree in Dhikala.

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus* – A single bird at Keoladeo Gana.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* – A total of three birds seen near the Kosi River and at Dhikala.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* – Seen on a couple of days at Keoladeo Gana.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* – Surprisingly scarce, only four birds seen, all around Bharatpur.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* – Commonly seen around Keoladeo Gana, Chambal and Dhikala.

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* – Several birds seen along the Kosi River and at Dhikala.

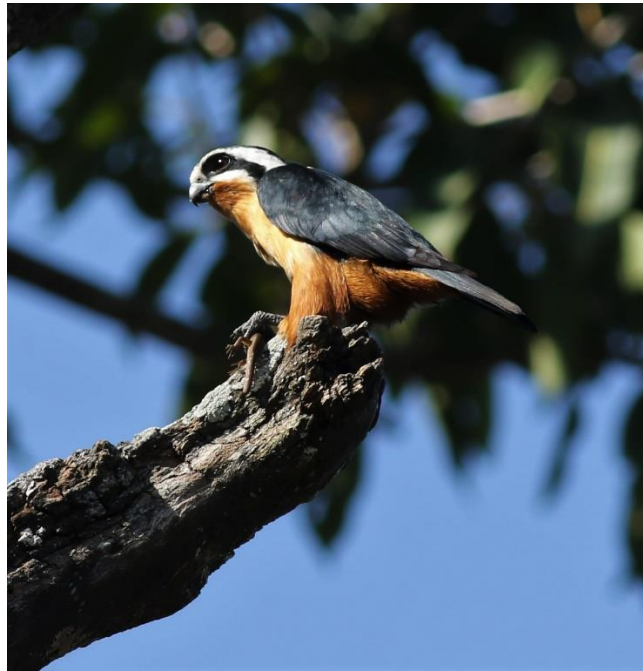
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* – Seen every day at Keoladeo Gana, Kosi River and Dhikala.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* – A single bird along the river at Dhikala.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* – Very common in all areas.



Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens* – seen on four days around Ramnagar and Dhikala.



Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* – Two birds seen around Chambal and Keoladeo Gana.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* – Fairly common around Keoladeo Gana.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – A single bird at Cheer Point.

Slaty-headed Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana* – At least one hundred birds at fruiting trees below Pangot

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala* – Several hundred birds at Dhikala.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* – Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, a few at Dhikala.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* – Very common everywhere apart from Pangot.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* – Several flocks seen around Ramnagar and Dhikala.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* – A small flock seen at Dhikala.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina javensis* – Four birds seen over three days at Dhikala.

Himalayan Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius rileyi* – Four birds seen while walking down the road from Cheer Point.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* – The fruiting tree at Dhikala attracted at least four birds on two days, a single was near Pangot.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* – The Dhikala fruiting tree attracted this species with a maximum count of seven on one day.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* – A single bird was seen near the Kosi River on 19th.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* – Three birds were seen at Keoladeo Gana and a single at Dhikala.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* – A flock of at least twenty was seen at Dhikala.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* – Seen regularly everywhere apart from Pangot.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* – Three birds seen at Keoladeo Gana and a single at Dhikala.

White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens* – At least six seen at Dhikala.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* – A single bird was seen near the Kosi River on the 19th.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* – Seen in small numbers every day at Dhikala and Pangot.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* – A few birds seen at Keoladeo Gana and along the road to Chambal.

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus* – Up to ten birds seen around Keoladeo Gana.



Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* – Common, seen at all sites.

Indian Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* – Three birds seen at the agricultural area while looking for Coursers.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* – Seen in small numbers everywhere apart from Pangot.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* – Two birds seen near Pangot.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* – Seen in small numbers near the Kosi River and at Pangot.

Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* – Three birds seen over two days at Dhikala.

Himalayan Jay *Garrulus bispeularis* – Four birds seen around Pangot.

Black-headed Jay *Garrulus lanceolatus* – At least six birds seen, mostly around the Jungle Lore Birding Lodge, in Pangot.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* – Common in all areas apart from Pangot.

Jungle Crow *Corvus culminates* – Small numbers around Keoladeo Gana, Bharatpur and Dhikala.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* – Seen very day around Pangot.

Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus* – Seen every day around Keoladeo Gana.

Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana* -Several large flocks around Cheer Point on two days.

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata* – A single bird along the village track below Pangot.

Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* – Up to twenty in a small reedbed at Dhanauri.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* – Six birds in a reedbed at Dhikala.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* – Seen in small numbers at Keoladeo Gana, near Chambal and at Dhanauri.

Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica* – Very common around Keoladeo Gana.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* – A few birds seen at Keoladeo Gana, Dhikala and Pangot.

Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca* – Seven birds seen at Keoladeo Gana.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – Small numbers noted at Keoladeo Gana and Pangot.

Russet Sparrow *Passer cinnamomeus* – A single bird along the village track below Pangot.

Chestnut-shouldered Bush Sparrow *Gymnoris xanthocollis* – Two birds at Keoladeo Gana.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* – Single bird recorded at Keoladeo Gana.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* – Single birds at Keoladeo Gana and along the Kosi River, at least six recorded around Pangot.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* – At least twelve birds at Dhanauri.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* – Ten birds seen around the agricultural area while looking for Coursers.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* – Fairly common, seen well at several sites.



Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* – Four birds seen at an abandoned quarry on the way to Chambal.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* – Fairly common at Keoladeo Gana, near Chambal and at Dhanauri.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* – A few seen at wetland sites.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* - Small numbers at Keoladeo Gana and near Chambal, very common at Dhanauri.



White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis* – Common around most wetland sites.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* – Common at Chambal and Dhikala, a few at Dhanauri.

Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina* – Two at the Painted Snipe site near Bharatpur and two near Pangot.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Chloris spinoides* - A large flock at Dhikala and a few above Pangot.

Red-headed Bunting *Granativora bruniceps* – A single bird at Keoladeo Gana.

Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* – A surprise, two on an early morning jeep drive at Dhikala.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* – Three birds recorded at Pangot.

White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* – A female at Keoladeo Gana and a male near the abandoned quarry on the road to Chambal.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus* – Single birds on two days at Dhikala.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* – A single bird in an early morning bird wave at Dhikala.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* – Three birds seen over two days at Pangot.

Spot-winged Tit *Periparus melanolophus* – Seen every day at Pangot in small numbers.

Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubiventris* – A single bird beyond Cheer Point at Pangot.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* – Common around Pangot.

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus* – Small numbers at Dhikala and Pangot.

Black-lored Tit *Machlolophus xanthogenys* – A few birds at Dhikala, common around Pangot.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix griseus* – Common at Keoladeo Gana and the agricultural area.

Bengal Lark *Mirafra assamica* – Four birds at Dhanauri.

Indian Bush Lark *Mirafra erythroptera* – A few at the agricultural area.



Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* – Common at the agricultural area, one or two birds at Dhikala.

Oriental Sky Lark *Alauda gulgula* – Several at Dhanauri.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* – A few at Keoladeo Gana, the abandoned quarry near Chambal and at Dhanauri.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* – A couple of birds at Dhikala, common at Dhanauri.

Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera* – A single bird at Dhikala, several around Pangot.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii* – Seen in reasonable numbers at Dhikala.

Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica* – A single bird seen at Dhikala.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* – Common around the edges of wetland areas.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* – Common around wetland areas.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* – Very common in Keoladeo Gana, a few seen elsewhere.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* – Common around Keoladeo Gana and Surajpur.



Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* – Three birds seen well at Keoladeo Gana.
Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalense* – A flock of up to fifty birds was flying around below Cheer Point.

Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola* – A few seen at Keoladeo Gana.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* – Reasonable numbers at Dhikala, very common at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* – Common around Keoladeo Gana, also on the way to Chambal and at Surajpur.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – Fairly common at all sites.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* – Up to twenty birds seen near Cheer Point.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* – Large numbers seen along the Chambal and Kosi Rivers and at Dhanauri and Surajpur.

Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* – A few birds positively identified along the Chambal River.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* – At least ten birds seen around the fruiting tree at Dhikala.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii* – Two birds seen at Dhikala.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* – Small numbers seen at Dhikala, at least two hundred seen at fruiting trees below Pangot.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus* – At least ten birds visited the fruiting tree at Dhikala on one day.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* – Common around Dhikala.

Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenis* – Common around Dhikala and Pangot.

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* – Common around Keoladeo Gana only.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* – Common at all sites.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Abrornis humei* – Small numbers seen at Keoladeo Gana, Dhikala and Pangot.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *Abrornis chloronotus* – Common around Dhikala and Pangot.

Buff-barred Warbler *Abrornis pulcher* – Seen in small numbers every day at Pangot.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* – Common at all sites.

Mountain Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus sindianus* – At least one bird positively identified as this species at Surajpur.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* – A single bird seen at Dhikala.

Green Warbler *Seicercus nitidus* – One definite bird at Keoladeo Gana, other possibles not definitely confirmed.

Greenish Leaf Warbler *Seicercus trochiloides* – Common around Keoladeo Gana.

Grey-hooded Leaf Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos* – At least six seen at Dhikala, very common at Pangot.



Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* – Seen in two bird waves at Pangot.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* – Single bird seen at Pangot.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* – Common in flocks around Pangot.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca* – Common around wetlands, heard more often than seen.

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* – Five birds seen at Keoladeo Gana.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* – A single bird seen above Pangot.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* – Common around Dhikala and Pangot.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* – A single bird seen near Pangot.

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Erythrogenys erythrogenys* – Two birds seen at both Dhikala and Pangot.

Black-chinned Babbler *Cyanoderma pyrrhops* – Several flocks seen around Pangot.

Striated Laughing-thrush *Grammatoptila striata* – A few birds seen around the Jungle Lore Birding Lodge at Pangot on two days.

Large Grey Babbler *Argya malcolmi* – Common around Keoladeo Gana.

Common Babbler *Argya caudata* – A few seen around Keoladeo Gana.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* – Common at all sites.

White-crested Laughing-thrush *Garrulax leucolophus* – A small flock of birds seen at Dhikala.

White-throated Laughing-thrush *Garrulax albogularis* – Common around Pangot, especially around the Jungle Lore Birding Lodge.

Streaked Laughing-thrush *Trochalopteron lineatum* – Common around Pangot.



Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata* – Common but elusive around Pangot.

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana* – A few seen each day around Pangot.

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea* – Common at Dhikala, a few around Pangot.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* – Two birds at Dhikala, fairly common around Pangot.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* – Six birds seen around Dhikala.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* – A single bird at the Ibisbill site on the Kosi River.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – A flock of sixty birds at Dhanauri.

Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* – Common around Keoladeo Gana and Dhikala.

Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum* – Common around Keoladeo Gana.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* – Common at all sites.

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* – Many birds on the road to Chambal, a few at Keoladeo Gana.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* – Seen in reasonable numbers at Dhikala.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* – Two birds seen along the Kosi River.

Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicatus* – Common at Keoladeo Gana and Dhikala.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* – Very common around Keoladeo Gana.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* – A single bird near Cheer Point on the 24th.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* – A single bird along the perimeter fence at Dhikala.

Asian Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus* – One bird at Keoladeo Gana.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* – Common in wetland areas.

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* – Single bird on a stream above the Kosi River.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* – A single bird at the Kosi River and another single along the village track below Pangot.



Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* – Common around Dhikala and Pangot.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* – Several seen well at Keoladeo Gana.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* – One bird positively identified as this species at Keoladeo Gana.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* – Single bird seen on two days on the village track below Pangot.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Adelura frontalis* – A single bird seen behind the Jungle Lore Birding Lodge.

Blue-capped Redstart *Adelura coeruleocephala* – Several birds seen near Cheer Point.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa* – Very common along the Kosi River.

White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* – Common along the Kosi River.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* – Two birds seen at Keoladeo Gana and a single at Dhikala.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* – At least four birds seen above the Kosi River and a single bird at Pangot.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* – Two birds seen at the abandoned quarry on the road to Chambal.

Eastern Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* – Common around Keoladeo Gana and Dhikala.

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* – Only seen at Keoladeo Gana.

Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus* – A few at Keoladeo Gana, very common at Dhikala and Pangot.



Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* – At least five birds while searching for Coursers at the agricultural area.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* – Common around the agricultural area.

Brown Rock Chat *Oenanthe fusca* – Seen at the agricultural area and on the road to Chambal.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* – Single birds seen on two days at Keoladeo Gana.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* – Two birds seen above Cheer Point.

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul* – A single bird while walking along the road near Pangot.

Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* – A female at Keoladeo Gana and a smart male at Dhikala.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* – Several small flocks at Dhikala, several hundred birds around Pangot.



Red-headed Bunting



Ashy Prinia



Indian Robin



Plum-headed Parakeet



Crested Serpent Eagle



Black-lored Tit



Gharial



Mugger



