

TRIP REPORT

Bhutan – East Himalayan Birds and Culture

12 April to 29 April 2019



Satyr Tragopan

The Kingdom of Bhutan is a rampart of spectacular Himalayan terrain boasting glorious mountain scenery and some of the most extensive tracts of broad-leaved and subtropical forest that remain in the bird-rich Eastern Himalaya. Bhutan is also home to one of the least disturbed cultures in the world, retaining timeless customs and Buddhist beliefs that promote a traditional respect for nature, which is left undisturbed. Our tour took us on a journey through a rich mosaic of landscapes and habitats in this fascinating country, from mid-altitude forests, to high mountain passes hung with prayer flags, up into alpine meadows with sweeping views to the inner Himalayas, and finally into sub-montane forest adjoining the Brahmaputra floodplain looking for superb regional specialities and with some time spent appreciating the heritage of this fascinating country, visiting its magnificent dzongs and other landmarks throughout our journey.

Tour Leaders:

Leio De Souza and Sherab Dorji

Tour participants:

Phil and Carolyn Hall, Richard and Julia Porter, Pat Lancaster, Mandy Erlenbach, Christine Buckton

Species recorded:

Birds: 327 (+13 heard) / Mammals: 16

Top five birds of the tour, as voted by the group:

1. Rufous-necked Hornbill
2. White-bellied Heron
3. Himalayan Monal
4. Satyr Tragopan
5. Long-tailed Broadbill

Outline itinerary:

- 11.4 *Group arrivals into Delhi*
- 12.4 Druk air flight from Delhi to Paro at 04:45am, arriving 07:15am; visit to Rimpung Dzong, Drugyel Dzong, with birding in Paro and along the Paro Chu river, overnight Gangtey Palace Hotel (Paro, 2 nights)
- 13.4 Birding from Paro to Chele La
- 14.4 Morning visit to Tiger's Nest (Taktsang trail); drive to Thimphu with birding along the Thimphu Chu river, overnight Namgay Heritage Hotel (Thimphu, 2 nights)
- 15.4 Birding at Tango and the western side of Jigme Dorji National Park, later visit Buddha Dordenma statue
- 16.4 Morning birding at Dochu La and the Royal Botanical Park at Lamperi, evening birding along the Phu Chu river, overnight Zhingkhom Resort (Punakha, 2 nights)
- 17.4 Morning birding the eastern side of Jigme Dorji National Park, with afternoon visit to Punakha Dzong
- 18.4 Depart early for the drive to the Phobjikha Valley, birding along the way at Wangdue Phodrang and Nobding, overnight Gakiling Hotel (Phobjikha, 1 night)
- 19.4 Morning birding at Pele La; late afternoon visit Tharpaling Monastery, birding in surrounding area, overnight Chumey Resort (Bumthang, 1 night)
- 20.4 Morning birding around Tharpaling Monastery, later drive to Jakar with local sightseeing, overnight Rinchenling Lodge (Jakar, 1 night)
- 21.4 Birding along drive to Yongkala within Thrumsingla National Park, overnight Trogon villa (Yongkala, 3 nights)
- 22.4 Birding within Thrumsingla National Park
- 23.4 Birding within Thrumsingla National Park
- 24.4 Birding along the drive to Trongsa, overnight Yangkhil Resort (Trongsa, 1 night)
- 25.4 Birding along drive to Tingtibe at Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park, overnight camping (Tingtibe, 3 nights)
- 26.4 Morning birding between Tingtibe and Zhemgang, afternoon in Royal Manas National Park
- 27.4 Morning birding between Tingtibe and Zhemgang, afternoon in Royal Manas National Park
- 28.4 Birding along the drive to Gelephu, overnight Hotel Kingacholing (Gelephu, 1 night)
- 29.4 Drive into India, IndiGo flight to Delhi at 3:35pm, arriving 6:20pm, overnight Hotel Shanti Palace (Delhi, 1 night)
- 30.4 *Group departures from Delhi*

Daily log:

Day 1 – 12 April 2019: Paro

The tour began with an incredibly early start for our flight from Delhi to Paro, made bearable by the thought of what was in store once we arrived in Bhutan. Bhutan is the epitome of Himalayan birding. Magnificent forests of oaks, maples, laurels, magnolias, rhododendrons, and at higher elevation fir, hemlock and spruce, extend to the horizon, blanketing the hillslopes, offering a window into what the Himalayas must once have been throughout their range and the chance to see a host of enigmatic Eastern Himalayan specialties. After a welcome coffee, we made our way to the departure gate where after a 20-minute delay we boarded our Druk Air flight. The views over the Himalayas and Mt. Everest were magnificent, while maneuvering through the hills to the landing strip in Paro, one of the world's most challenging runways with less than two dozen pilots qualified to land here, was an unforgettable experience. On arrival in Bhutan our immediate impression was of a relaxed and happy way of life (thanks to the nation's emphasis on Gross National Happiness), and we were warmly welcomed with smiles. After collecting our bags, we met Sherab and our driver, and drove straight to the Hotel Gangtey Palace where coffee and biscuits were much appreciated. A quick scan around the hotel gardens provided a selection of common species such as Black Bulbul, Green-backed Tit, Russet and Eurasian Tree Sparrows, and Red-billed Cough, with great views of a Black Eagle soaring low overhead. Later in the morning we headed out for an introduction to Bhutan's culture and history, visiting the National Museum of Bhutan and the Paro Rimpung Dzong (fortress), arguably one of the most distinct and important structures of Bhutan and an architectural masterpiece both functional and beautiful. After our first traditional lunch in a city restaurant, we headed to Drukgyel Dzong, birding



Blood Pheasant



Himalayan Monal

around the area where we found our first Speckled Woodpigeons feeding close to the trail. Other key species seen here included Blue Whistling Thrush, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie and Grey Bushchat. Along the road we had good views of the single Wallcreeper of the tour, working its way along a bank. We continued birding along the Paro Chu river, stopping to scan at various points and finding Black-tailed Crake, River Lapwing, Plumbeous Water Redstart, White Wagtail, White-browed Wagtail and finally after a lengthy search a pair of Ibisbill feeding among the boulders in the channel. Back at our hotel we were treated to a delicious dinner and a little traditional dance and folk lore before an early night after a long and tiring first day.

DAY 2 – 13 April 2019: Chele La

Today necessitated an early start to get us to Chele La pass (3890m/12760ft), the highest pass accessible by road in Bhutan, giving us our first opportunity to ascend above the tree line in search of our first high-altitude birds. Despite fog and overcast skies, we soon came across a flock of Kalij Pheasants feeding along the roadside, soon followed by a flock of Yellow-billed Blue Magpies, again feeding on the ground. Towards the pass we met the ground crew who would accompany us for the remainder of the tour for the first of many picnic meals. Our delicious hot breakfast was continually interrupted by a series of new birds appearing through the mist, with highlights including Spotted Nutcracker, the sole Alpine Thrush of the tour, White-collared Blackbird, Blue-fronted Redstart, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush and both Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks. After breakfast we continued our drive towards the pass, but before long we were back out of our minivan for superb views of the multi-hued Himalayan Monal and star-studded Satyr Tragopan, two of our main targets and most spectacular plumages of the tour. Eventually climbing up to and across the pass we added plenty of new species at the varying elevations. Around midday we slowly began our return drive towards Paro, pausing among other tourists at the pass to appreciate the spectacular scenery in the now clear conditions, and for another picnic meal laid out in style under canvas. The highlight of the afternoon, which we spent walking along and birding from the road, was a group of 6 Blood Pheasants that crossed the track to feed in open ground along the roadside. As activity slowed down amidst a light shower we returned to Paro, where we were hosted by our guide Sherab and his family for a Bhutanese meal at their traditional farmhouse. Additional highlights for the day included 21 Snow Pigeons at roost on a mountain ridge, Short-billed Minivet, Rufous-vented and Coal Tits, White-browed Bush Robin, Himalayan Bluetail, Plain Mountain Finch and plenty more widespread species.

DAY 3 – 14 April 2019: Taktsang Monastery (the 'Tiger's Nest') trail and drive to Thimphu

We departed our hotel after breakfast, and despite the light drizzle continued with our plan to visit the impressive Taktsang Monastery or 'Tiger's Nest', perhaps Bhutan's most iconic landmark, a short drive away. From the parking lot at the trailhead we opted to make the climb on horseback, and given the conditions we chose to journey up only as far as the halfway point, where we'd have a better view of the monastery clinging to the cliff face. This was an experience! Our horses squeezing past pilgrims and descending horses on the same narrow mountainside path. At the halfway teahouse we enjoyed the views of the impressive monastery as the mist cleared, as well as some hot tea and biscuits, and some birding in the surrounding forest before we started our descent on foot. Passing through some impressive pine



Fire-tailed Myzornis



Picnic lunch below Tiger's Nest

forest, we came across Darjeeling (Pied) Woodpecker, Long-tailed Minivet, a variety of warblers including Buff-barred, Lemon-rumped, Blyth's Leaf and Green-crowned, Rufous Sibia, White-throated, Black-faced and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes, Bar-throated Minla and Mrs Gould's Sunbird, before arriving back to the trailhead in time for our cooked picnic lunch. After lunch we departed for the drive to Thimphu (2350m/7710ft), Bhutan's capital city along the lateral road. The journey took most of the afternoon, with some brief stops to photograph the spectacular landscape and some historical sites, and for some good views of Nepal House Martins. We arrived early enough for a relaxed walk along the Thimphu River, reviewing some of the more common birds we'd come across over the last few days including a few Ibisbill with one on a nest, and watching a local game of darts. Local sewage ponds, usually a hotspot for some key species, were uncharacteristically quiet, but we did find Common and Green Sandpipers, Eurasian Hoopoe, White-capped Redstart, Grey Wagtail and Rosy Pipit this afternoon.

DAY 4 – 15 April 2019: Thimphu, Tango Buddhist Institute and Jigme Dorji National Park

Another early start, and we were soon on our way to bird a small part of the Jigme Dorji National Park and the surroundings of the Tango Buddhist Institute. Tango is located at a place considered sacred from times immemorial, and the monastery, which dates back to 1689, now serves as the largest Buddhist institute in the Bhutan. Within an hour of leaving Thimphu we were within Jigme Dorji National Park, birding from the quiet road. Following some overnight rain, the birding here was somewhat slower than usual but we slowly added some new species. After a couple of hours, we moved on to explore another area, birding throughout the breakfast set up by our efficient ground crew. After breakfast, we took a short trek off the road towards the monastery, scanning through the mixed feeding flocks that passes in waves before stopping along the river for our picnic lunch. Highlights of the morning included Mountain Hawk-Eagle, the only Grey-winged Blackbird of the tour, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, White-tailed Nuthatch, Short-billed Minivet, Ashy Drongo, Eurasian Jay, Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Whiskered and Stripe-throated Yuhinas, Rufous-fronted and Yellow-browed Tits, colourful Ashy-throated and Chestnut-crowned Warblers, and during our lunch stop a couple of Verditer Flycatchers and both Plumbeous Water Redstart and Brown Dipper in the river, plus Himalayan Goral, a small mountain goat, in the distance around the monastery. After lunch we headed back towards Thimphu, making a return visit to a site we had tried first thing this morning for Solitary Snipe, this time with success. In Thimphu we visited the Buddha Dordenma statue; at 51.5 metres tall this is one of the largest statues of Buddha in the world and is filled with 125,000 8- and 12-inch Buddha statues, all cast in bronze and gilded. Later in the afternoon we walked the road overlooking the Motithang Takin Preserve, giving us some excellent views of Bhutan's odd-looking national animal.

DAY 5 – 16 April 2019: Thimphu to Punakha via Dochu La

This morning we left Thimphu early for the drive to Punakha, climbing into thick mist as we approached Dochu La pass at 3150m (10335ft). At the pass, we spent some time birding the pine forest, rhododendron and evergreen oak, and before long came across what would be, despite the mist, one of the most memorable sights of the entire tour – a spectacular flock of 40+ Fire-tailed Myzornis feeding in bushes just a few feet from us. In better conditions Dochu La permits a



Tawny Fish-owl



Spotted Nutcracker

panorama across the high Himalaya, but we were in no luck today with the low cloud. Birding was productive however and without moving far we came across a good selection of Himalayan species, predominantly new for the tour, with highlights at the pass including Hoary-throated Barwing, Whiskered, Stripe-throated, Rufous-vented and Black-chinned Yuhina, Grey-sided Bush Warbler, Bar-throated Minla, and both Black-faced and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes feeding on the surrounding slopes. Later we began our descent into the Pho Chu valley, pausing for breakfast just outside the Royal Botanical Park at Lamperi. We spent the rest of the morning birding various tracks around the park, adding Barred Cuckoo-dove, Himalayan Cuckoo, Great and Golden-throated Barbets, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Grey-chinned and Scarlet Minivets, Black-eared Shrike-babbler, Maroon Oriole, White-throated and Yellow-bellied Fantails, Red-billed Leiothrix, Brown Parrotbill, Sikkim Treecreeper, Grey-hooded and Whistlers Warblers, Rusty-cheeked and Streak-breasted Scimitar Babblers, Rufous-capped Babbler, Grey-sided and Blue-winged Laughingthrushes, Red-tailed Minla and White-browed Fulvetta. In the afternoon we continued the drive, arriving in Punakha (1200m/3935ft) by early evening with time for a walk along the Pho Chu river past the Punakha Suspension bridge. We spent time scanning the river unsuccessfully for one of our primary targets, the critically endangered White-bellied Heron, but came across a good selection of species both here and along the drive from Lamperi, including Mountain Hawk Eagle, Ibisbill, Himalayan Swiftlet, Blyth's swift, White-throated and Crested Kingfishers, Slender-billed Oriole, Eurasian Jay, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, the only Large Niltava of the tour, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Scaly-breasted Munia, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Striated Prinia, Paddyfield Pipit and Crested Bunting.

DAY 6 – 17 April 2019: Punakha and Jigme Dorji National Park

We woke to light showers at the tail end of a thunderstorm that persisted through most of the night, and as we drove out to spend the morning birding within Jigme Dorji National Park the damage was apparent with debris and small landslips along the road. Activity was subdued initially, but we were soon watching a selection of birds perching in the open to preen after the rain, with good views of Long-tailed and Grey-backed Shrikes, Great and Golden-throated Barbets, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Mountain Bulbul and Oriental White-eye, and of a Little Forktail feeding in a roadside waterfall just a few metres from our breakfast spot. We made a return visit to Lamperi, where birding was less productive than yesterday but we had good views of Black Eagle, Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon, Asian Koel, Asian Emerald and Himalayan Cuckoos, Greater Yellowthroat, Hair-crested Drongo, Grey Treepie, Nepal Fulvetta, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Small Niltava, Black-throated Sunbird and Black-throated Tit, with a pair of Slaty-backed Forktails feeding among the boulders of the fast-flowing river. Back in Punakha, we spent the late afternoon visiting the impressive Punthang Dechen Phodrang, or 'Palace of Great Bliss', the winter home of Bhutan's spiritual leader and over 350 monks. More commonly known simply as Punakha Dzong, this fortress is one of the most beautiful in the country, built in 1637 between the confluence of the Pho Chu and Mo Chu rivers.

DAY 7 – 18 April 2019: Punakha to Nobding and on to Phobjikha

With an early start, and with a great improvement in the weather, we set out from Punakha to spend the day travelling to Phobjikha (2900m/9510ft) with some birding and sightseeing along the way. We took advantage of our early start and



Brown Parrotbill



Rufous-necked Hornbill

began birding at first light in forest patches along the drive until we came across our ground crew and al fresco coffee and breakfast. We stopped at a known site for the secretive Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, joining another group of birders who were already waiting, and were eventually rewarded with excellent views as four birds flew repeatedly to and from the honeycomb. Throughout our time in Bhutan, birding from the roadside was always productive and accompanied by an array of butterflies, flowering plants and spectacular landscapes as we passed through a variety of habitats, and today was no exception. After lunch we visited the Gangtey Gumpa monastery, founded in 1613 and home to some of the finest Bhutanese works of art, and a few handicraft shops in the village. We took a late afternoon walk through pine forest, opening out into the vast glacial valley that hosts Black-necked Cranes in winter months. Highlights of the day included a flock of 12 Himalayan Vultures, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Red Turtle Dove, Barred Cuckoo-dove, Blyth's swift, Crested Kingfisher, Blue-throated Barbet, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike, Scarlet Minivet, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, a selection of laughingthrushes including White-throated, Grey-sided, Striated and Bhutan, Himalayan Cutia, Striated and Black Bulbuls, Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler, Black-faced Warbler, White-collared Blackbird, Blyth's Shrike babbler, Maroon Oriole, Spotted Forktail, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher, Blue-capped Rock Thrush, Spot-winged Grosbeak and Brown Bullfinch.

DAY 8 – 19 April 2019: Pele La and on to Bumthang via Trongsa

After a comfortable night we drove up to the Pele La for some more high-altitude birding at an elevation of 3420m (11220ft). Although we'd already had superb views of Satyr Tragopan at Chele La we waited to see if a calling bird would show, not wanting to miss the opportunity of another look at this special bird, but with no luck we continued our walk and were compensated with an equally impressive Himalayan Monal and some productive mixed flocks. The temperature was noticeably cooler at this altitude and we appreciated the warmth of the sun as the morning progressed, glad to stop for breakfast and a hot cup of coffee before leaving for Bumthang. With a long drive ahead, we started our drive via Trongsa towards Bumthang district (2650m/8695ft). After stopping for lunch, we came across a very close pair of smart Himalayan Cutias, an unequivocal highlight of the tour, and stopped to take in the impressive Trongsa Dzong. The drive took us through the heart of the Black Mountains, making frequent halts to enjoy a good selection of species, some new for the tour. With a few hours of daylight left in Bumthang we drove up to Tharpaling Monastery, where before long we found two Himalayan Monals and enjoyed unbeatable views as they walked within a couple of feet of us. On the drive back down to Bumthang we had equally stunning views of a Satyr Tragopan feeding along the side of the road, seemingly oblivious to our presence. The long list of birds today included a total of two Satyr Tragopans and five Himalayan Monals, White-browed Shortwing from the roadside before Trongsa, Rufous-bellied woodpecker, Short-billed Minivet, a large selection of warblers including Buff-barred, Ashy-throated, Lemon-rumped, Grey-hooded and Green-crowned Warblers as well as Blyth's Leaf Warbler and Grey-sided Bush Warbler, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, Himalayan Cutia, Red-tailed Minla, Yellow-browed, Rufous-vented, Coal and Grey-crested Tits, Rufous Sibia, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Stripe-throated, Rufous-vented and Black-chinned Yuhinas, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Slaty-backed, Dark-sided and Slaty-blue Flycatchers, Blue-fronted Redstart, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Mrs Gould's and Green-tailed Sunbirds, Spot-winged Grosbeak, Gold-naped Finch, Dark-rumped and Himalayan White-browed



Black-eared Shrike-babbler



Black-faced Laughingthrush

Rosefinches, Gold-naped and Crimson-browed Finches, Red-billed Chough and Himalayan Vulture. After dinner we ended the day with a Grey Nightjar sitting on the path back to our rooms, and Himalayan Wood Owl calling in the distance.

DAY 9 – 20 April 2019: Jakar

An early morning start took us back to Tharpaling Monastery for some pre-breakfast birding before leaving for Jakar. In the clear and cold conditions we began birding around the village at the base of the climb looking at Grey-backed Shrike and Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, among others. At the monastery we had repeat views of a male Satyr Tragopan and a few Himalayan Monals, as well as White-winged Grosbeak, Black-faced and White-throated Laughingthrushes, Common Rosefinch, Speckled Wood Pigeon and Spotted Nutcracker. After breakfast we left Bumthang heading towards Jakar, breaking the journey at a small village to visit the local handloom market and again at Jambay Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest monasteries dating back to the 7th century, arriving in Jakar by evening. Some of the more notable birds from the days log included Himalayan Vulture, White-browed Fulvetta, Blue Rock thrush, Grey Bushchat, Rufous-backed Accentor, Common and Beautiful Rosefinch and Olive-backed Pipit.

DAY 10 – 21 April 2019: Jakar to Yongkala via Thrumsing La and Sengor

Another early start and we were on the road to Yongkala (1875m/6152ft). The first part of the drive took us through the Ura Valley where we spent time birding along the road against the spectacular backdrop of Mt. Gangkar Puensum (7550m/24770ft.), Bhutan's highest peak and the highest unclimbed mountain in the world, visible through the mist. From here, we slowly made our way up through firs and rhododendrons to Thrumsing La, the second highest mountain pass in Bhutan at 3780m (12400ft). A high treeline (around 4000m) is a feature of the Eastern Himalayas, and even at its high altitude the pass is shrouded in thick forest that made birding challenging here. We had repeat views of species seen over the past few days, including 12 Blood Pheasants, 5 Satyr Tragopans, 1 Himalayan Monal, Spotted Nutcracker, Himalayan Bluetail, Mountain Hawk-eagle and Blyth's Swift together with a handful of new birds including Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Fire-tailed sunbird and the only Upland Buzzard of the tour. For the rest of the day we explored a range of elevations and habitats as we continued from Thrumsing La to Yongkala, from the coniferous forest and bamboo of the higher slopes to moss-laden forest at lower elevations and eventually open pasture. Thrumsing La marks the start and upper limit of the ornithologically celebrated Lingmethang Road, one of Asia's finest birding sites protected as Thrumsingla National Park, and we were anticipating some excellent birding during our stay in this area. The afternoon did not disappoint and despite the cold weather birding was productive and interesting with a variety of species across the altitudinal gradient, and a welcome campfire at lunch time. We arrived at our hotel, our base for the next three nights, by early evening after a long day with highlights that included a pair of Ward's Trogon, six Rufous-necked Hornbills and good views of a surprise Himalayan Black Bear at a distance. Other species seen today included 2 Kalij Pheasants, Himalayan Vulture, Shikra, Bay Woodpecker, Chestnut-headed Tesia, Bar-throated Minla, Nepal House Martin, Stripe-throated and Rufous-vented Yuhinas, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Grey-headed and Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers, Alpine and Rufous-breasted Accentors and Brown Bullfinch.



Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher



White-browed Scimitar-babbler

DAY 11 – 22 April 2019: Yongkala

We had two full days to explore the Yongkala area and set out early this morning in overcast conditions. In thickening fog and light drizzle we decided to stop for breakfast with the hope that the fog would lift, however the weather continued to deteriorate so we headed back to our hotel to wait it out. Birding around our hotel was productive during the short time that we were, with Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler the most notable bird among several more common and widespread species. Once the fog cleared, we managed a good few hours' birding along the road back towards Thrumsing La before lunch. This afternoon, lower into the valley we had superb views of a Tawny Fish Owl at roost and stopped to watch villagers pressing cornflakes. A productive day's highlights included Sultan Tit, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Striated, Himalayan and Ashy Bulbuls, Black-faced Warbler, Slaty-bellied Tesia, White-breasted Parrotbill, White-naped Yuhina, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Plain Prinia, Grey-throated and Golden Babblers, Nepal Fulvetta, White-crested, Rufous-chinned and Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes, Speckled Piculet, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo, Gold-naped and Scarlet Finches, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, Crested Bunting, Collared Owlet and Asian Barred Owlet.

DAY 12 – 23 April 2019: Yongkala

With the weather looking far better this morning we headed to a new area today. The drive took us through some lush, mid-altitude subtropical broadleaved forest, rich in moss and lichens, with orchids and ferns; ideal habitat for many species characteristic of the Eastern Himalayas in one of the finest birding areas throughout the entire Himalayan chain. In clear skies birding was excellent with lots of activity and a number of our particular targets here including Beautiful Nuthatch, Himalayan Cutia, Red-headed Trogon, Bay Woodpecker and Black-throated Parrotbill, plus Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Mountain Tailorbird, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, White-spectacled Warbler, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Greater and Lesser Yellownapes, Grey-headed and Crimson-breasted Woodpeckers, Long-tailed Broadbill, Grey-chinned Minivet, Kalij Pheasant, Crested Serpent Eagle and Black Eagle. We delayed our return to our hotel this evening, listening for nocturnal birds. We soon heard a Hodgson's Frogmouth too distant to locate but were lucky to see the endemic Bhutan Giant Flying Squirrel before returning for dinner.

DAY 13 – 24 April 2019: Yongkala to Trongsa via Thrumsingla and Bumthang

After two splendid days birding around Yongkala and along the Lingmethang Road we left early for the long journey backtracking along the lateral road to Trongsa (2300m/7545ft) where we would spend the night. The weather this morning was perfect, and birding through fir and spruce was both productive and enjoyable, interrupted only by the picnic breakfast and lunch provided by our crew. We were soon enjoying repeat views of various species seen earlier with a few new, though we noticed these were getting harder to find by now. Arriving in Trongsa early evening we had time to take a drive through the narrow lanes of this small town. Like many of Bhutan's larger towns Trongsa is dominated by its impressive dzong, the ancestral home of the Royal family of Bhutan that once controlled all trade from east to west. The precursor to the lateral road passed through the dzong's courtyard, so closing the dzong's gates effectively cut the country in two. We were all appreciative of an early night in our comfortable hotel overlooking the dzong after a good day with species seen including Blood Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, Himalayan Cuckoo, Blyth's Swift, Eurasian Hoopoe, Black-winged



White-hooded Babbler



White-bellied Herons on nest

Cuckooshrike, Grey-chinned, Short-billed and Scarlet Minivets, Rufous-capped Babbler, Yellow-throated Fulvetta, Striated, Bhutan, Scaly and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes, Blue-winged, Bar-throated and Red-tailed Minlas, Rusty-fronted and Hoary-throated Barwings, White-browed Fulvetta, Hodgson's Treecreeper, Yellow-browed Tit, Spot-winged Grosbeak, Red-headed and Grey-headed Bullfinches, Scarlet Finch, Black-headed and Green Shrike-babblers, Maroon Oriole, and a big selection of warblers.

DAY 14 – 25 April 2019: Trongsa to Zhemgang and Tingtibe

This morning we set out later than usual, with breakfast at our hotel making a change to our usual routine, though the consensus was that our picnic breakfast spreads were better! As soon as we were out of town, we were out of our minibus birding along the road. With pleasant temperatures and strong sunshine birds were active and before long we were working our way through mixed feeding flocks. Today we would detour from the lateral road, heading south to Zhemgang and on to Tingtibe at a mere 720m (2360ft) as we made our way down towards the plains, spending time birding along the road in the moss-draped, mid-altitude broadleaved forests of the foothills across a range of elevations. Much of Zhemgang district is protected as Black Mountain and Royal Manas National Parks, which connect via biological corridors to Thrumshingla National Park and India's Manas National Park, creating a continuous protected landscape encompassing the entire range of natural habitats present here. The road from Trongsa passed through several forested valleys and we spent an interesting morning birding as we travelled to Tingtibe on the boundary of these protected areas – we would be spending the next three nights camping and arrived mid-afternoon to find our camp fully set up by our ground crew, complete with comfortable tents, a dining tent, showers and flushing toilets. With a few hours of daylight left we took a drive along the river to a nest site of White-bellied Heron, one of our primary target species in Bhutan, known to Sherab. At first the nest appeared deserted but before long a single bird flew onto the nest, and incredibly this was closely followed by two more. We watched these critically endangered birds for a while and left them to their battles, birding along the road back to camp. Working through the understorey, stands of bamboo, along streams and scanning the sky overhead we enjoyed a good selection of lower elevation species in some superb habitat, including Kalij Pheasant, Streaked Spiderhunter, Little and Slaty-backed Forktails, Red-breasted and Little Pied Flycatchers, Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher, Blue Rock Thrush, Indian Blue Robin, White-throated Fantail, Hume's Bush Warbler, Red-billed Leiothrix, Striated Yuhina, Grey-sided Bush Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Greenish Warbler, White-hooded Babbler, White-crested Laughingthrush, Lesser Yellownape, Peregrine Falcon, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Great and Rufous-necked Hornbills, Blue-throated Barbet, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, Common Cuckoo, Grey Treepie, White-throated and Silver-backed Needletails, Crested Serpent Eagle and Mountain Hawk-Eagle, with good views of a large troop of endemic Golden Langurs.

DAY 15 – 26 April 2019: Tingtibe, Royal Manas National Park and the Gomphu Road

As we had a further two days at Tingtibe this gave us ample opportunity to explore a range of habitats in the higher elevations towards Zhemgang, the area around Tingtibe and lower down towards Gelephu. This morning we focused on the quiet and little-used road towards Gomphu village, setting out after an early tea/coffee at our camp. In dense forest



White-throated Needletail



Golden Langur

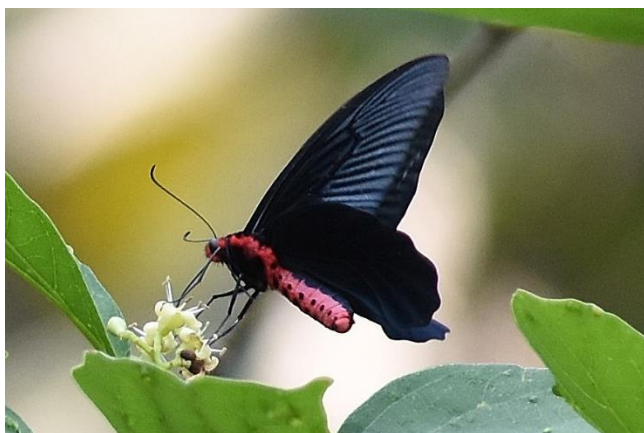
and bamboo covered slopes highlights for the morning included White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Grey-throated Babbler, Nepal Fulvetta, White-bellied Erpornis, White-browed Piculet, Black-naped Blue Monarch, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Black-crested and White-throated Bulbuls, Sultan Tit, Black-throated Prinia, Crimson Sunbird, Grey Wagtail, Large Woodshrike, Ashy Woodswallow, Crested Goshawk, Northern Goshawk, Rufous-bellied Eagle and Collared Owlet. After lunch and a midday break in the warm lowland temperatures we set out again in the afternoon to an area that falls within Royal Manas National Park, though birding was slow compared to the good morning activity with our best finds being Yellow-bellied, Yellow-vented and Grey-cheeked Warblers, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush and Collared Owlet. Evening around the campsite was quiet, although we heard the distant call of a Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, and a thunderstorm broke during the night.

DAY 16 – 27 April 2019: Tingtibe, the Gomphu Road and Zhemgang

This morning we retraced our drive along the Gomphu road, enjoying the freshness in the air and the heightened activity after the storm, both birds and butterflies. In high humidity we took a midday break back at camp, where two Chestnut-winged Cuckoos eventually showed well. Later in the afternoon we headed back along the road to Trongsa, adding a few new species to the tour list. Highlights of the day included Fire-tailed Sunbird, White-rumped Munia, Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Dark-necked Tailorbird, Himalayan Bulbul, Rufous-faced Warbler, Pale-billed Parrotbill, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Crested Kingfisher, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Thick-billed and Pin-tailed Green-pigeons, Collared Owlet. Our final night at the campsite was our last with our ground crew who had all made such a valued contribution to the tour.

Day 17 – 28 April 2019: Tingtibe to Gelephu

Today was our final birding day in Bhutan so after a final breakfast we set out early, despite some light rain, to make the most of the day and the cool early morning hours, leaving our ground crew to dismantle the camp. As the rain subsided we paused to work through a series of mixed feeding flocks making their way through the forest, and while following them for a stretch we enjoyed views of Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Green-tailed, Black-throated and Crimson Sunbirds, Maroon Oriole, Bronzed and Hair-crested Drongos, Square-tailed Drongo-cuckoo, Great and Golden-throated Barbets, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Grey-chinned Minivet, Silver-eared Mesia, Striated, White-naped and Black-chinned Yuhinas, Oriental White-eye, Sultan Tit and Yellow-cheeked Tit, though some species were a challenge, reluctant to drop down from the canopy or out of thick tangles of branches. Driving on we stopped intermittently to bird from the roadside in scenic, low elevation tropical forest as we made our way out of the foothills from Tingtibe to Gelephu at almost sea level. Other species along the drive included Chestnut-bellied and Blue-capped Rock Thrushes, Common Emerald Dove, Indian Cuckoo, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Small Minivet, Golden Babbler, Nepal Fulvetta, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Rusty-fronted Barwing, a whole host of bulbuls including Black-crested, White-throated, Mountain, Ashy and Black, White-rumped Shama, Great Hornbill, Brown-backed Needletail, Common Kestrel and Northern Goshawk. Damage caused by the overnight rain was apparent along the roadside, with some minor landslips



Common Batwing



Oriental Map Butterfly

that made our journey into the plains slower than usual. After our final picnic lunch, we bid farewell to our ground crew and slowly made our way to the border town of Gelephu where we would spend our last night in Bhutan. With a couple of hours before dusk we explored our surroundings. It was evident from the birdlife that we were now well out of the hills, finding species associated with the Brahmaputra plains such as Citrine Wagtail, Lesser Whistling Duck, Lesser Adjutant, Red-wattled Lapwing, Temminck's Stint, Common Snipe, Common and Green Sandpipers, Common Kingfisher, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater and Indian Roller.

Day 18 – 29 April 2019: Gelephu to Guwahati and departure to Delhi

After an early breakfast we set out on the drive into India's Assam state to Guwahati. We almost missed the immigration office at the Bhutan-India border, which could easily have been mistaken for a residence, and being quite early we had to wake the officer on duty, but we soon had our passports checked and stamped and said goodbye to Bhutan. With a mid-afternoon flight out of Guwahati to Delhi we didn't have much time to spend birding along the way, but as we drove through the plains we noted a number of widespread Indian species from the window and on our lunch stop, including Red-vented Bulbul, Alexandrine and Rose-ringed Parakeets, Black-rumped Flameback, Indian Roller, White-throated Kingfisher, Green Bee-eater, Coppersmith Barbet, Yellow-footed Green-pigeon, Brown, Long-tailed and Grey-backed Shrikes, Rufous Treepie, White-breasted Waterhen, Little Cormorant, Striated Heron, Little Swift, Black-winged Kite, Black Kite, House Sparrow and most notably Greater Adjutant, an endangered species now restricted almost exclusively to the plains of Assam. We arrived at the airport in good time, despite heavy traffic in the outskirts of Guwahati. Our InidGo flight to Delhi departed on schedule, and we spent a final night as a group in Delhi before our departures on 30 April.

Leio De Souza, April 2019

List of species recorded:

Species names and order of species follow Gill, F & Donsker, D (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1)

Species endemic to the Eastern Himalaya Endemic Bird Area are marked 'E' and those endemic to the Indian Subcontinent are marked '*'. Near-endemics are indicated in brackets, for example (*) indicates most of the species' range falls within the Indian Subcontinent. Species which were heard only are marked **(H)**.

BIRDS:**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**

1. **Lesser Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*
A small flock overhead at Tingtibi on 28.4
2. **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
2 along the drive to Nobding on 18.4
3. **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
Seen on 18.4 along the drive to Nobding
4. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Seen on 18.4 along the drive to Nobding

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

5. **Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola* **(H)**
Heard within Thrumsingla NP on 22.4 and 23.4
6. **Rufous-throated Partridge** *Arborophila rufogularis*
Heard several times, finally seen at Tingtibi on 28.4
7. **Blood Pheasant** *Ithaginis cruentus*
6 on 13.4 on the way to Chele La, 12 along the drive to Yongkala on 21.4, a further 6 at Thrumsingla on 24.4
8. **Satyr Tragopan** *Tragopan satyra* (*)
1 on the way to Chele La on 13.4, small numbers in Bumthang and at Trongsa, notably 5 in Thrumsingla NP on day 10
9. **Himalayan Monal** *Lophophorus impejanus* (*)
2 on 13.4 on the drive up to Chele La, 5 and then 3 on 19.4 and 20.4 at Tharpaling Monastery, and 1 on 21.4 in Thrumsingla NP
10. **Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus* **(H)**
Heard on 27.4 at Tingtibi
11. **Kalij Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos*
6 on 13.4 on the drive up to Chele La, 2 each on 21.4 and 23.4 within Thrumsingla NP, 2 on 25.4 in Tingtibi

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

12. **Lesser Adjutant** *Leptoptilos javanicus*
1 at Gelephu on 28.4
13. **Greater Adjutant** *Leptoptilos dubius*
1 in India along the drive to the Guwahati on 29.4

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

14. **Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*
1 seen on 28.4 at Gelephu
15. **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*
Seen in Gelephu and in India along the drive to Guwahati
16. **Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*
Seen in Gelephu and in India along the drive to Guwahati
17. **White-bellied Heron** *Ardea insignis*
3 individuals around a nest in the Tingtibe area on 25.4
18. **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
Seen in Gelephu and in India along the drive to Guwahati
19. **Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*
Seen in Gelephu and in India along the drive to Guwahati
20. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
Seen in Gelephu and in India along the drive to Guwahati

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

- 21. **Little Cormorant** *Microcarbo niger*
Common in the lowland plains of India
- 22. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
A couple of birds seen in flight in the Tingtibe area

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

- 23. **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
1 seen in India along the drive to Guwahati
- 24. **Himalayan Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis*
A few around Nobding on 18.4 and at Bumthang on 19.4, again at Jakar and Thrumsingla NP
- 25. **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*
Scattered single sightings from Thrumsingla NP and Tingtibi
- 26. **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus nipalensis*
Ones and twos seen quite regularly throughout the tour
- 27. **Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii*
2 on 26.4 and 1 on 27.4 around Tingtibi
- 28. **Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malaiensis*
Singles seen regularly throughout the tour
- 29. **Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*
A single individual seen on day 26.4 at Tingtibi
- 30. **Shikra** *Accipiter badius*
A single individual seen on 21.4 at Thrumsingla NP
- 31. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
Seen on 16.4 at Dochu La, and again around Nobding and Jakar
- 32. **Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
Seen on 18.4 at Nobding, and around Tingtibi on 26.4 and 28.4
- 33. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
A common bird in the plains of both Bhutan and India, seen on 28.4 and 29.4 in Gelephu and in Assam
- 34. **Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*
Single bird on 21.4 within Thrumsingla NP

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

- 35. **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Common in the lowlands, seen on 28.4 and 29.4 in Bhutan and India
- 36. **Black-tailed Crane** *Porzana bicolor*
Good views of 2 birds along the road in Paro on 12.4, and 1 in Punakha on 17.4

CHARADRIIFORMES: Dromadidae

- 37. **Ibisbill** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
Excellent views of this species with 2 on 12.4 in Paro, 2 on 14.4 in Thimphu (1 on nest) and 1 along the Pho Chu river on 16.4

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

- 38. **River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii* *
A few birds seen over the first few days of the tour
- 39. **Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*
Seen only in the plains of India where common

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

- 40. **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
Single bird seen on 28.4 in Gelephu
- 41. **Solitary Snipe** *Gallinago solitaria*
A single individual seen on 15.4 in Thimphu
- 42. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
One seen at the sewage plant in Gelephu on 28.4
- 43. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers on 14.4 in Thimphu, 17.4 along the Pho Chu river and 28.4 in Gelephu

44. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
2 on 14.4 in Thimphu, and 1 on 28.4 in Gelephu

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

45. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
Seen on all days at lower elevations
46. **Snow Pigeon** *Columba leuconota*
A flock of 21 birds seen on 13.4 on the drive to Chele La
47. **Speckled Woodpigeon** *Columba hodgsonii*
6 birds on 12.4 in Paro, 14 on 14.4 in Jigme Dorji NP, 1 on 20.4 in Jakar
48. **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*
Common and widespread throughout
49. **Red Turtle (Red Collared) Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Seen on drive to Nobding on 18.4 and within Thrumsingla NP on 22.4
50. **Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis*
Seen on most days
51. **Barred Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia unchall*
A couple seen on 16.4 within Jigme Dorji NP and on 18.4 along the drive to Nobding
52. **Common Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*
1 seen at Tingtibi
53. **Thick-billed Green-pigeon** *Treron curvirostra*
Small numbers seen at Tingtibi
54. **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon** *Treron phoenicopterus*
A small flock on 29.4 in Gelephu
55. **Pin-tailed Green-pigeon** *Treron apicauda*
A few on 27.4 in Tingtibi
56. **Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon** *Ducula aenea*
A small flock of 5 birds in Jigme Dorji NP

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

57. **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** *Clamator coromandus*
2 on 27.4 around our campsite at Tingtibi, and another on 28.4 along the drive to Gelephu
58. **Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopaceus*
Seen in a Peepal (fig) tree in the grounds of Punakha dzong
59. **Asian Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx maculatus*
A single bird on 17.4 within Jigme Dorji NP
60. **Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii*
A single bird seen in Tingtibi
61. **Square-tailed Drongo-cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris*
First seen within Thrumsingla NP with another in Tingtibi
62. **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx sparveroides* (H)
Heard on most days but not seen
63. **Common Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx varius* * (H)
Heard within Thrumsingla NP
64. **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx nasicolor*
1 in the outskirts of Trongsa
65. **Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*
1 in Tingtibi
66. **Himalayan Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturates*
1 on 17.4 in Jigme Dorji NP and again on 24.4 in Thrumsingla NP
67. **Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*
1 on 19.4 en-route to Pele La and again on 25.4 in Tingtibi

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

68. **Mountain Scops Owl** *Otus spilocephalus* (H)
Heard at night from our campsite in Tingtibi

69. **Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl** *Bubo nipalensis* (H)
Heard at night from our campsite in Tingtibi
70. **Tawny Fish Owl** *Ketupa flavipes*
1 seen a bird at roost during our stay at Yongkala
71. **Himalayan Owl** *Strix nivicolium* (H)
One heard calling during our stay at Bumthang
72. **Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*
Seen several times at Yongkala and Tingtibi
73. **Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*
Seen at Yongkala

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Podargidae

74. **Hodgson's Frogmouth** *Batrachastomus hodgsoni* (H)
Heard during our night walk in Yongkala

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

75. **Grey Nightjar** *Caprimulgus jotaka*
Seen early morning and evening close to our hotel in Bumthang

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

76. **Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*
Seen a couple of times through the tour
77. **White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*
A few seen during our days in Tingtibi
78. **Silver-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*
A few seen during our days in Tingtibi
79. **Brown-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus giganteus*
Seen along the drive to Gelephu
80. **Blyth's Swift** *Apus leuconyx*
Seen at various sites during the tour
81. **Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Seen in India during the drive to Guwahati on 29.4

TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

82. **Red-headed Trogon** *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
A pair within Thrumsingla NP on 23.4
83. **Ward's Trogon** *Harpactes wardi* E
A pair within Thrumsingla NP on 21.4

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

84. **Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*
Seen only in India, where common

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

85. **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Not a common kingfisher in Bhutan, but a couple seen during the trip
86. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
1 at Gelephu
87. **Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*
Singles seen along the Pho Chu river and along the drive to Nobding

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

88. **Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctyornis athertoni*
2 within Thrumsingla NP with another in Tingtibi
89. **Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*
Seen once in Yongkala

90. **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merops leschenaulti*
Seen in Tingtibi and Gelephu

BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae

91. **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
Several around Paro, and again in Trongsa

BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae

92. **Great Hornbill** *Buceros bicornis*
Seen around Tingtibi
93. **Rufous-necked Hornbill** *Aceros nipalensis*
6 feeding within Thrumsingla NP, with a flock of 13 birds in Tingtibi

PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae

94. **Great Barbet** *Psilopogon virens*
Relatively common throughout the tour
95. **Golden-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon franklinii*
Relatively common throughout the tour
96. **Blue-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon asiaticus*
Relatively common throughout the tour
97. **Coppersmith Barbet** *Psilopogon haemacephalus*
A single bird in Gelephu on 28.4

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae

98. **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide** *Indicator xanthonotus*
Good views of 4 birds along the drive to Nobding on 18.4, and a further 2 on the way to Tingtibi

PICIFORMES: Picidae

99. **Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus*
A single bird seen in Thrumsingla NP on 22.4
100. **White-browed Piculet** *Sasia ochracea*
A single bird seen at Tingtibe on 26.4
101. **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Yungipicus canicapillus*
Seen at Thrumsingla NP on 22.4 and Tingtibe on 26.4
102. **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker** *Dryobates cathpharius*
Seen on 18.4 on the drive to Nobding and 23.4 at Thrumsingla NP
103. **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
Seen on the drive between Paro and Thimphu, at Dochu La and Pele La, and again on the outskirts of Trongsa
104. **Darjeeling Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
A single bird on 14.4 around the coffee shop on the Tiger's Nest trail, and another at Dochu La on 16.4
105. **Greater Yellownape** *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*
Seen at Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4 and at Thrumsingla NP on 22.4 and 23.4
106. **Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*
Seen on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP, on 25.4 between Trongsa and Tingtibe, and at Tingtibe on 27.4
107. **Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*
Seen on 23.4 at Thrumsingla NP and 28.4 on the drive from Tingtibe to Gelephu
108. **Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense* *
A single bird at Gelephu on 28.4
109. **Pale-headed Woodpecker** *Gecinulus grantia* (H)
Heard calling from bamboo stands on 26.4 at Tingtibe
110. **Bay Woodpecker** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
Seen on 21.4 and 23.4 at Thrumsingla NP

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

111. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Several seen in lowland areas (Tingtibe, Gelephu) and around Paro

112. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

2 seen on 25.4 on the drive from Trongsa to Tingtibe

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae

113. **Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

2 seen at Gelephu, and small numbers in India on the drive from Gelephu to Guwahati

114. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Small numbers at Gelephu and in India on the drive to Guwahati

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

115. **Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

3 on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP

PASSERIFORMES: Tephrodornithidae

116. **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus*

Pairs seen on the drive to Nobding on 18.4, on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP, and in the outskirts of Trongsa on 25.3

117. **Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus*

A flock of 5 seen in Tingtibe on 26.4

PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae

118. **Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*

A few in flight around Tingtibe on 26.4 and 27.4

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

119. **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** *Coracina melaschistos*

Small numbers within Jigme Dorji NP on 16.4 and 17.4, and on all days in Thrumsingla NP, again in Tingtibe on 28.4

120. **Grey-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris*

2 on 16.4 around Dochu La, with ones and twos at Thrumsingla on 23.4 and 24.4, and 1 in Tingtibe on 28.4

121. **Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Small numbers in Paro on 12.4, along the Tiger's Nest trail on 14.4, in Jigme Dorji NP on 15.4 and in Thrumsingla NP on 23.4

122. **Short-billed Minivet** *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

4 birds on 13.4 on the way to Chele La, seen regularly for the remainder of the tour

123. **Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus*

Regular throughout the tour, first seen in Jigme Dorji NP on 16.4

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

124. **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*

1 seen in India on the drive from Gelephu to Guwahati

125. **Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*

Commonly seen throughout the tour

126. **Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*

Common, seen most days

PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae

127. **White-bellied Erpornis** (White-bellied Yuhina) *Erpornis zantholeuca*

1 on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP, with small numbers on 26.4 and 27.4 in Tingtibe

128. **Black-headed Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius rufiventer*

2 birds on 22.4 and a single on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP

129. **Blyth's Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius aeralatus*

2 birds seen on 18.4 on the drive to Nobding

130. **Green Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

A single bird on 24.4 at Thrumsingla NP

131. **Black-eared Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius melanotis*

A single bird seen on the way to Dochu La on 16.4

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

132. **Slender-billed Oriole** *Oriolus tenuirostris*

A single bird on 16.4 in the outskirts of Punakha

133. **Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii*

Small numbers in Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4, regularly seen at Thrumsingla NP and around Tingtibe

PASSERIFORMES: Dicuridae

134. **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Seen in Gelephu and in India on the drive to Guwahati

135. **Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

First seen in Thimphu, then regularly throughout the tour

136. **Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*

Seen at Thrumsingla on 23.4 and in the Tingtibe area on 25, 26 and 27.4

137. **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer*

2 on 22.4 and 1 on 23.4 within Thrumsingla NP

138. **Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*

5 in Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4, 2 on 22.4 within Thrumsingla NP, seen daily in the Tingtibe area

PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae

139. **White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*

3 birds around Dochu La on 16.4, seen again at Thrumsingla and Tingtibe

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

140. **Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*

Single bird at Tingtibe on 26.4

141. **Indian Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi*

2 on 26.4 at Tingtibe

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

142. **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

2 on 15.4 in Jigme Dorji NP and 2 at Dochu La on 16.4

143. **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa flavirostris*

Fairly common at sites around Paro, and again at Dochu La

144. **Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis* (H)

Heard on 22.4 at Thrumsingla and on 26.3 at Tingtibe

145. **Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Seen in India on the drive to Guwahati

146. **Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae*

5 in Jigme Dorji on 17.4, seen again in Thrumsingla NP and around Tingtibe

147. **Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica*

Seen on the way to Pele La on 19.4, and around Jakar on 20.4 and 21.4

148. **Spotted Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Seen in all high passes; 10 around Chele La on 13.4, again at Dochu La on 16.4 and at Pele La on 19.4

149. **Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Seen around Paro and again on the drive to Nobding

150. **Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Seen around Paro

151. **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*

Seen around Tiger's Nest

152. **Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Seen often throughout the tour

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

153. **Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus*

5 on 16.4 at Dochu La, again on 19.4 at Pele La and on 22.4 at Thrumsingla NP

154. **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

8 in Jigme Dorji NP on 15.4, seen again in Thrumsingla NP and in Tingtibe

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

155. **Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus*
Small flock of 5 seen on 15.4 at Jigme Dorji NP, again on 16.4 at Dochu La, on 19.4 at Pele La
156. **Sultan Tit** *Melanochlora sultanea*
2 on 22.4 and 23.4 at Thrumsingla, 2 in Tingtibe on 26.4 and 28.4
157. **Rufous-vented Tit** *Parus rubidiventris*
1 on 13.4 on the Tiger's Nest trail, seen again at Pele La on 19.4 and in Thrumsingla NP on 22.4 and 24.2
158. **Coal Tit** *Parus ater*
Fairly common along the Tiger's Nest trail, seen regularly throughout the tour
159. **Grey Crested Tit** *Lophophanes dichrous*
Seen on 19.4 at Pele La and on 21.4 and 24.4 in Thrumsingla NP
160. **Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*
Widespread and common throughout
161. **Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Machlolophus spilonotus*
Small flocks seen on all days at Thrumsingla NP, and again at Tingtibe on 28.4

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

162. **Striated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus striatus*
A few along the drive to Nobding on 18.4, again in Thrumsingla NP on 22.3 and 23.4
163. **Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris*
Small numbers seen on all days at Tingtibe
164. **Himalayan Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucogenys* *
5 birds at Yongkala on 22.4, again at Tingtibe on 27.4
165. **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*
A common bulbul in Thrumsingla NP and Tingtibe
166. **White-throated Bulbul** *Alophoixus flaveolus*
Small numbers seen on all days at Tingtibe
167. **Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mcclellandii*
5 birds seen on 17.4 in Jigme Dorji NP, small numbers in Thrumsingla NP and Tingtibe
168. **Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flavala*
2 in Thrumsingla on 22.4, small numbers around Tingtibe
169. **Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
A common hill species seen in good numbers throughout the tour

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

170. **Nepal House Martin** *Delichon nipalense*
Seen regularly throughout the tour
171. **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
Seen in India along the drive to Guwahati

PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepygidae

172. **Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler** *Pnoepyga albiventer*
Seen along the drive to Nobding on 18.4
173. **Pygmy Wren-babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla* (H)
1 heard at Thrumsingla NP on 21.4

PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae

174. **Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Abroscopus supercilialis*
1 at Tingtibe on 26.4
175. **Rufous-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus albogularis*
1 at Tingtibe on 27.1
176. **Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps*
5 along the drive to Nobding on 18.4, and again in Thrumsingla NP on 21.4 and 22.4
177. **Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllergates cuculatus*
1 on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP
178. **Brownish-flanked (Strong-footed) Bush Warbler** *Horornis fortipes* (H)

Heard along the road to Nobding on 18.4, and again in Tingtibe on 25.4

179. **Hume's Bush Warbler** *Horornis brunescens*
1 on the outskirts of Trongsa on 25.4
180. **Slaty-bellied Tesia** *Tesia olivea*
Heard on 17.4 at Jigme Dorji NP and seen on 22.4 in Thrumsingla NP
181. **Grey-sided Bush Warbler** *Cettia brunnifrons*
Single birds seen on 16.4 at Dochu La, on 19.4 at Pele La and again on 25.4 on the drive to Tingtibe
182. **Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Cettia castaneocoronata*
1 seen well on 21.4 in Thrumsingla NP

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae

183. **Black-throated Bushtit (Black-throated Tit)** *Aegithalos concinnus*
Small flocks on 17.4 at Jigme Dorji NP and again on 25.4 at Tingtibe
184. **Rufous-fronted Bushtit (Rufous-fronted Tit)** *Aegithalos iouschistos*
A small flock on 15.4 at Jigme Dorji NP

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

185. **Tickell's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*
Single birds in Thrumsingla NP on 22.4 and 23.4
186. **Buff-barred (Orange-barred) Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*
Relatively common at higher elevations
187. **Ashy-throated (Grey-faced) Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
Seen on 15.4 while at Jigme Dorji NP, 16.4 at Dochu La, 19.4 at Pele La, and 24.4 in Thrumsingla NP
188. **Lemon-rumped Warbler** *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
A common warbler seen on most days at higher elevations
189. **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Small numbers on 25.4 in the outskirts of Trongsa, and 27.4 in Tingtibe
190. **Large-billed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
1 on 25.4 in the outskirts of Trongsa
191. **Blyth's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides*
Small numbers seen in Paro, Chele La, along the Tiger's Nest trail and at Pele La
192. **Yellow-vented Warbler** *Phylloscopus cantator* E
2 on 26.4 at Tingtibe
193. **Grey-hooded Warbler** *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
Regularly seen throughout the tour
194. **White-spectacled Warbler** *Seicercus affinis*
Seen on 23.4 and 24.4 in Thrumsingla NP
195. **Green-crowned (Golden-spectacled) Warbler** *Seicercus burkii*
Seen along the Tiger's Nest trail and in Jigme Dorji NP on 14.4 and 15.4, Pele La on 19.4 and again in Thrumsingla NP
196. **Whistler's Warbler** *Seicercus whistleri* (*)
Seen on 16.4 at Dochu La, 18.4 on the drive to Nobding, 24.4 and 25.5 in Tingtibe
197. **Grey-cheeked Warbler** *Seicercus poliogenys*
1 seen on 26.4 in Tingtibe
198. **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus castaniceps*
Ones and twos seen on 15.4 at Jigme Dorji NP, 16.4 at Lamperi, again in Thrumsingla NP and in Tingtibe

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

199. **Striated Prinia** *Prinia crinigera*
1 on 16.4 at Punakha, again on 22.4 and 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP
200. **Black-throated Prinia** *Prinia atrogularis* *
1 seen on 25.4 along the drive from Trongsa to Tingtibe
201. **Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*
Individuals seen on all three days in Thrumsingla NP
202. **Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*
Seen once with a single bird on 16.4 in Punakha
203. **Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis*
1 on 27.4 in Tingtibe

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

204. **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus*
 Ones and twos seen on 16.4 at Punakha, 22.4 and 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP, and 27.4 in Tingtibe
205. **White-browed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
 2 birds seen at Tingtibe on 26.4
206. **Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*
 2 at Dochu La on 16.4
207. **Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps*
 2 on 22.4 at Thrumsingla NP, 1 on 26.4 in Tingtibe
208. **Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyridopsis ruficeps*
 2 on 16.4 at Dochu La and on 24.4 at Thrumsingla NP
209. **Golden Babbler** *Stachyridopsis chrysaea*
 2 in Thrumsingla NP on 22.4

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

210. **Yellow-throated Fulvetta** *Alcippe cinerea*
 Small flock seen on 24.4 in Thrumsingla NP
211. **Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Alcippe castaneiceps*
 2 seen on 18.4 on the way to Nobding, again at Pele La on 19.4 and in Thrumsingla on 21.4 and 22.4
212. **Nepal Fulvetta** *Alcippe nipalensis*
 2 in Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4 and in Thrumsingla on 22.4, seen again in Tingtibe on 26.4 and 27.4
213. **White-hooded Babbler** *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*
 Seen in Tingtibe with 6 on 25.4 and 10 on 26.4

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae

214. **White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*
 A group of 10+ on 22.4 and 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP, and again on 25.4 in the Tingtibe area
215. **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax rufogularis*
 2 on 22.4 in Thrumsingla NP
216. **Spotted Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ocellatus* (H)
 Heard on 21.4 while in Thrumsingla NP
217. **White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis*
 First seen on 14.4 along the Tiger's Nest trail with a group of 10+ individuals, then small groups seen almost daily
218. **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax monileger*
 Small groups on all three days in the Tingtibe area
219. **Rufous-necked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ruficollis*
 5 on 22.4 at Thrumsingla NP, followed by 2 on 27.4 in Tingtibe
220. **Grey-sided Laughingthrush** *Garrulax caeruleus*
 5 birds at Lamperi on 16.4, smaller numbers on 18.4 along the drive to Nobding
221. **Striated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax striatus*
 5 birds seen at Lamperi on 16.4, with 2 the following day at Jigme Dorji NP, then small numbers on all days in Thrumsingla NP
222. **Bhutan Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron imbricatum* (*)
 5 birds seen; 1 along the drive to Nobding on 18.4, with a further 2 on 24.4 and 25.4 within Thrumsingla NP
223. **Scaly Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron subunicolor*
 2 on 24.4 at Thrumsingla NP
224. **Black-faced Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron affine*
 A total of 8 seen; 1 at Chele La on 13.4, 1 on the Tiger's Nest trail on 14.4, 1 at Dochu La on 16.4, and 5 on 20.4 at Tharpaling
225. **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*
 Several on the Tiger's Nest trail on 14.4, then again in Jigme Dorji NP, at Dochu La, Pele La and within Thrumsingla NP
226. **Himalayan Cutia** *Cutia nipalensis*
 1 seen along the road to Nobding on 18.4, 2 on the approach to Pele La on 19.4, and a further 2 within Thrumsingla NP on 23.4
227. **Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera*
 1 seen at Dochu La on 16.4, with a few on all three days within Thrumsingla NP
228. **Bar-throated (Chestnut-tailed) Minla** *Minla strigula*
 Small numbers on 14.4 along the Tiger's Nest trail, 16.4 and 17.4 at Dochu La and in Jigme Dorji NP, and later in Thrumsingla NP
229. **Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotincta*
 2 birds seen at Dochu La on 16.4, with a further 2 on 24.4 within Thrumsingla NP

230. **Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodura egertoni*
Small numbers on all three days at Thrumsingla NP, and on 28.4 in the Tingtibe area
231. **Hoary-throated Barwing** *Actinodura nipalensis* E
5 birds seen at Dochu La on 16.4, with a further 2 on 24.4 at Thrumsingla
232. **Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argentauris*
2 birds seen in the lower elevations of Tingtibe on 28.4
233. **Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*
2 birds seen at Lamperi 16.4, with a further 3 in Tingtibe on 25.4
234. **Rufous Sibia** *Heterophasia capistrata*
Seen on most days at higher elevations

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

235. **Fire-tailed Myzornis** *Myzornis pyrrhura*
Good views of 40+ feeding at Dochu La on 16.4, small numbers from the roadside on 17.4 and at Pele La on 19.4
236. **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** *Lioparus chrysotis*
A small flock of 8 birds within Thrumsingla NP on 21.4
237. **White-browed Fulvetta** *Fulvetta vinipectus*
2 birds seen at Chele La on 13.4, 2 at Dochu La on 16.4, 1 at Pele La on 19.4, with small numbers at Jakar and Thrumsingla NP
238. **Brown Parrotbill** *Cholornis unicolor*
10 birds seen at Lamperi on 16.4
239. **Black-throated Parrotbill** *Suthora nipalensis*
A small flock of around 10 birds seen within Thrumsingla NP on 23.4, smaller numbers on 25.4 along the drive to Tingtibe
240. **Pale-billed (Lesser Rufous-headed) Parrotbill** *Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris*
2 birds seen on 27.4 in Tingtibe
241. **White-breasted (Greater Rufous-headed) Parrotbill** *Psittiparus ruficeps*
A small flock of around 10 birds seen within Thrumsingla NP on 22.4

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

242. **Striated Yuhina** *Yuhina castaniceps*
Small numbers on 25.4, 26.4 and 28.4 in Tingtibe
243. **White-naped Yuhina** *Yuhina bakeri* E
4 birds seen on 22.4 in Thrumsingla NP, with a further 1 on 28.4 at Tingtibe
244. **Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*
Common along the Tiger's Nest trail on 14.4, seen again at Dochu La and within Jigme Dorji NP
245. **Stripe-throated Yuhina** *Yuhina gularis*
Commonly seen at higher elevations
246. **Rufous-vented Yuhina** *Yuhina occipitalis*
Commonly seen at higher elevations
247. **Black-chinned Yuhina** *Yuhina nigrimenta*
Regularly encountered throughout the tour
248. **Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*
Widespread in the region and seen at various locations throughout the tour

PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae

249. **Asian Fairy-bluebird** *Irena puella* (H)
Heard on 28.4 in Tingtibe

PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae

250. **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamoventris*
2 birds seen in Thrumsingla NP on 23.4, then seen on all three days in the Tingtibe area
251. **White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*
3 birds seen on 15.4 at Jigme Dorji NP, 1 at Dochu La on 16.4 and 1 along the drive to Nobding on 18.4
252. **Beautiful Nuthatch** *Sitta formosa*
3 birds seen in Thrumsingla NP on 23.4

PASSERIFORMES: Tichodromidae

253. **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria*

1 seen in Paro on 12.4

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae

254. **Hodgson's Treecreeper** *Certhia hodgsoni*

1 seen in Thrumsingla NP on 24.4

255. **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper** *Certhia nipalensis*

1 seen at Pele La on 19.4

256. **Sikkim Treecreeper** *Certhia discolor*

1 seen at Dochu La on 16.4, with a further single on 22.4 in Thrumsingla NP

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

257. **Great (White-vented) Myna** *Acridotheres grandis*

2 on 28.4 in Gelephu

258. **Jungle Myna** *Acridotheres fuscus*

Common in lowland plains; seen at Gelephu on 28.4 and in India along the drive to Guwahati on 29.4

259. **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

Seen in small numbers at Punakha on 16.4 and 17.4, and again in Trongsa on 25.4

260. **Pied Myna (Asian Pied Starling)** *Gracupica contra*

Common in lowland plains; seen at Gelephu on 28.4

261. **Chestnut-tailed (Grey-headed) Starling** *Sturnia malabarica*

2 on 17.4 in Jigme Dorji NP, small numbers on 27.4 in the Tingtibe area

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

262. **Alpine Thrush** *Zoothera mollissima*

A single bird seen at Chele La on 13.4

263. **White-collared Blackbird** *Turdus albocinctus*

A few at Chele La on 13.4, again in Jigme Dorji NP and at Tharpaling Monastery

264. **Grey-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boubol*

1 bird seen within Jigme Dorji NP on 15.4

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

265. **Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*

A common bird seen at various sites throughout the tour

266. **White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*

1 seen along the drive to Gelephu on 28.4

267. **Dark-sided Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica*

2 at Dochu La on 16.4, again in Jigme Dorji NP and Thrumsingla NP

268. **Ferruginous Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ferruginea*

2 birds seen on 23.4 at Thrumsingla NP

269. **Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*

2 birds seen on 23.4 at Thrumsingla NP

270. **Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides*

1 seen on 22.4 at Thrumsingla NP, with individual birds seen on all days in the Tingtibe area

271. **Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*

2 birds seen on 15.4 within Jigme Dorji NP, 1 on 16.4 at Dochu La, and 1 on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP

272. **Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis*

1 bird seen on 16.4 on the drive from Dochu La to Punakha

273. **Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae*

2 birds seen on 17.4 at Jigme Dorji, with a further 1 on 23.4 at Thrumsingla NP

274. **Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus*

A common flycatcher seen on most days

275. **White-browed Shortwing** *Brachypteryx montana*

1 bird seen on 19.4 along the drive up to Pele La

276. **Indian Blue Robin** *Larvivora brunnea*

A single male seen on 25.4 on the drive from Trongsa to Tingtibe

277. **White-browed Bush Robin** *Tarsiger indicus*

A single male seen on 13.4 on the drive down from Chele La

278. **Himalayan Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*
10+ at Chele La on 13.4, 1 at Dochu La on 16.4, and 1 at Thrumsingla on 21.4
279. **Little Forktail** *Enicurus scouleri*
4 birds seen; 1 within Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4, with a further 3 on the drive from Trongsa to Tingtibe on 25.4
280. **Slaty-backed Forktail** *Enicurus schistaceus*
2 birds seen on 17.4 at Jigme Dorji NP, with ones and twos seen regularly in the Tingtibe area
281. **Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculatus*
2 birds seen on the drive to Nobding on 18.4
282. **Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*
Commonly seen throughout the tour
283. **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hodgsoni*
1 bird seen at Pele La on 19.4, followed by 1 on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP
284. **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophitata*
2 birds seen on 15.4 in Jigme Dorji NP, with small numbers on all three days in Thrumsingla NP
285. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*
1 on 18.4 along the drive to Nobding, followed by 1 on 25.4 between Trongsa and Tingtibe
286. **Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*
1 bird seen on the drive between Trongsa and Tingtibe on 25.4
287. **Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula supercilialis*
A male seen on 16.4 along the road to Dochu La
288. **Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*
A single male seen at Pele Lam on 19.4
289. **Pygmy Blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapella hodgsoni*
A male along the drive to Nobding on 18.4, followed by another on 27.4 at Tingtibe
290. **Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*
Restricted to higher altitudes with 2 birds seen on 13.4 on the way up to Chele La, with 1 on 19.4 on the way up to Pele La
291. **Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
Regularly seen in suitable habitats throughout the tour
292. **White-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
Regularly seen in suitable habitats throughout the tour
293. **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*
A single female on 20.4 on the road to Tharpaling Monastery, and a single male on 25.4 between Trongsa and Tingtibe
294. **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*
First seen on 13.4 along the road to Chele La, with singles occasionally for the remainder of the tour
295. **Blue-capped Rock Thrush** *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
5 individuals seen on the drive to Nobding on 18.4, with small numbers in the Tingtibe area
296. **Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*
2 birds seen in Paro, with another in Yongkala
297. **Grey Bush Chat** *Saxicola ferreus*
A few birds seen around Paro, Yongkala and Trongsa

PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae

298. **Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasi*
5 individuals along a river within Jigme Dorji NP on 15.4, with 1 along the Pho Chu river in Punakha

PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae

299. **Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*
2 birds seen in the Tingtibe area on 27.4
300. **Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*
Seen from the road in small numbers along the drive to Nobding on 18.4, again in Thrumsingla NP and in the Tingtibe area

PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae

301. **Plain Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum minullum*
Single birds seen on 22.4 and 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP
302. **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectus*
Singles at Lamperi on 16.4, in Jigme Dorji NP and on all days in Thrumsingla NP
303. **Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae*

Seen on various occasions at the highest passes and in Thrumsingla NP

- 304. **Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis*
Regular throughout the tour at all elevations
- 305. **Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata*
4 birds seen in Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4, singles in Thrumsingla NP and in the Tingtibe area
- 306. **Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*
3 birds, including a beautiful male, at Tingtibe on 26.4, with a single male along the drive to Gelephu on 28.4
- 307. **Fire-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga ignicauda*
2 stunning males seen on the drive to Thrumsingla NP on 21.4, with 1 further male between Trongsa and Tingtibe on 27.4
- 308. **Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna*
Single birds seen in Thrumsingla NP on 22.4 and 23.4, and on all days in the Tingtibe area

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

- 309. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Seen only in India along the drive to Guwahati on 29.4
- 310. **Russet (Cinnamon) Sparrow** *Passer rutilans*
Relatively common at higher elevations
- 311. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*
Commonly seen at various places and at all elevations

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

- 312. **White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*
A single bird seen on 27.4 at Tingtibe
- 313. **Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*
A small flock of 10+ at Jigme Dorji NP on 16.4

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae

- 314. **Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*
2 birds seen on 21.4 on the drive to Thrumsingla NP
- 315. **Rufous-breasted Accentor** *Prunella strophiata*
2 birds seen in Paro, with 1 on 16.4 on the drive up to Dochu La, and 2 on the road to Tharpaling Monastery on 19.4 and 20.4

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

- 316. **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*
A single birds seen at Gelephu on 28.4
- 317. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
1 on 14.4 along the Thimphu River, with 1 in Tingtibe on 26.4
- 318. **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Commonly seen around Paro and Bumthang
- 319. **White-browed Wagtail** *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
Seen in Paro and at Gelephu
- 320. **Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*
2 birds seen in grasslands around Punakha on 16.4
- 321. **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*
1 seen on 23.4 in Thrumsingla NP
- 322. **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
Regularly seen around Paro, Thimphu and within Thrumsingla NP
- 323. **Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseatus*
A single bird seen on 14.4 along the Thimphu River

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

- 324. **Collared Grosbeak** *Mycerobas affinis*
A single bird seen on the drive up to Chele La on 13.4
- 325. **Spot-winged Grosbeak** *Mycerobas melanozanthos*
A single bird seen on the drive to Nobding on 18.4, with a further 2 on the drive to Trongsa on 24.4
- 326. **White-winged Grosbeak** *Mycerobas carnipes*
2 birds seen at Chele La on 13.4, with a further 1 at Pele La on 19.4 and 2 at Tharpaling Monastery on 20.4

327. **Brown Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula nipalensis*
4 birds seen along the drive to Nobding on 18.4, with a further 5 on the drive to Thrumsingla on 21.4
328. **Red-headed Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*
6 birds seen along the drive from Thrumsingla to Trongsa on 24.4
329. **Grey-headed Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula erythaca* (*)
2 birds seen along the drive from Thrumsingla to Trongsa on 24.4
330. **Blanford's Rosefinch** *Agraphospiza rubescens*
4 birds seen on 27.4 in Tingtibe
331. **Gold-naped Finch** *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta*
2 birds seen on the road to Tharpaling Monastery on 19.4, and a few seen on all three days within Thrumsingla NP
332. **Plain Mountain Finch** *Leucosticte nemoricola*
A small flock of 10 birds feeding along the roadside on the way up to Chele La on 13.4
333. **Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*
A single bird seen on 20.4 on the road to Tharpaling Monastery
334. **Scarlet Finch** *Carpodacus sipahi*
5 birds seen on 22.4 with 1 on 24.4, all within Thrumsingla NP
335. **Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch** *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*
5 birds seen on 19.4, and 3 birds on 20.4, all along the road to Tharpaling Monastery
336. **Dark-rumped Rosefinch** *Carpodacus edwardsii*
2 birds seen on 21.4, and 1 on 24.4, all within Thrumsingla NP
337. **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch** *Carpodacus thura*
A single female on 13.4 on the drive up to Chele La, with a male and female on 19.4 at Tharpaling Monastery
338. **Crimson-browed Finch** *Carpodacus subhimachalus* (*)
A nice pair seen on 19.4 at Tharpaling Monastery
339. **Yellow-breasted (Himalayan) Greenfinch** *Chloris spinoides*
A flock of 12 birds seen on 22.4 at Thrumsingla NP

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

340. **Crested Bunting** *Emberiza lathami*
Singles seen along the drive up to Dochu La on 16.4, on the way to Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4, and at Yongkala on 22.4

MAMMALS:

PRIMATES: Cercopithecidae

1. **Assamese Macaque** *Macaca assamensis*
Seen regularly throughout with the exceptions of the highest elevations
2. **Northern Plains Grey Langur** *Semnopithecus entellus*
2 seen on 18.4 along the drive to Nobding
3. **Golden Langur** *Trachypithecus geei*
Seen regularly in sizeable groups in the Tingtibe area
4. **Capped Langur** *Trachypithecus pileatus*
One group of 12 seen in Thrumsingla NP

RODENTIA: Sciuridae

5. **Irrawaddy (Hoary-bellied Himalayan) Squirrel** *Callosciurus pygerythrus*
1 seen on 22.4 in Thrumsingla NP
6. **Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel** *Dremomys lokriah*
1 seen in Jigme Dorji NP on 15.4
7. **Malayan Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor*
Singles seen on 22.4 and 23.4 in Thrumsingla and in Tingtibe on 27.4
8. **Himalayan Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops mccllellandii*
Singles seen on 14.4 along the Tiger's Nest trail, 15.4 in Jigme Dorji NP, and on 16.4 on the drive up to Dochu La

LAGOMORPHA: Ochotonidae

9. **Royle's Pika** *Ochotona roylei*
1 at Dochu La on 16.4

CARNIVORA: Ursidae

10. **Asiatic Black Bear** *Ursus thibetanus*
1 seen well at Thrumsingla NP on 21.4

CARNIVORA: Mustelidae

11. **Back-striped Weasel** *Mustela strigidorsa*
1 at Pele La on 19.4
12. **Yellow-throated Marten** *Martes flavigula*
1 in Jigme Dorji NP on 17.4

CARNIVORA: Herpestidae

13. **Common Mongoose** *Herpestes edwardsii*
1 seen on 28.4 in Tingtibe

ARTIODACTYLA: Cervidae

14. **Sambar** *Cervus unicolor*
A few singles seen in Jigme Dorji NP

ARTIODACTYLA: Bovidae

15. **Takin (Bhutan Takin)** *Budorcas toxicolor whitei*
Seen in the Motithang Takin Preserve in Thimphu
16. **Himalayan Goral** *Naemorhedus goral*
2 seen at Jigme Dorji NP on 14.4

BUTTERFLIES:

LEPIDOPTERA: Papilionidae

1. **Darjeeling (Himalayan) Veined Jay** *Graphium chironides chironides*
2. **Oriental Common Bluebottle** *Graphium sarpedon sarpedon*
3. **Indo-Chinese Common Peacock** *Papilio bianor gladiator*
4. **Common Batwing** *Atrophaneura varuna*

LEPIDOPTERA: Pieridae

5. **East Himalayan Yellow Orange-tip** *Ixias pyrene familiaris*

LEPIDOPTERA: Nymphalidae

6. **Assam Black Prince** *Rohana parisatis parisatis*
7. **Himalayan Great Nawab** *Charaxes eudamippus eudamippus*
8. **Oriental Map Butterfly** *Cyrestis thyodamas thyodamas*
9. **Himalayan Yellow Coster** *Acraea issoria issoria*
10. **Himalayan French Duke** *Euthalia franciae franciae*

