

Trip Report

Bangladesh

February - March, 2016

In early 2016, I traveled for a little more than one month in Bangladesh and about two months in northeast India. Although I had spent six months in India back in 2001, I had never been to Bangladesh, and this little-known country provoked enough curiosity in me to make me want to learn about it first-hand. As a passionate bird and mammal watcher, the search for wild creatures has always been a strong motivation of mine when designing my travels. However, culture, history and food also are of interest to me which was a good thing since Bangladesh is not renowned as a wildlife destination. Nevertheless, there are species of interest that can be searched for, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the country. Bangladeshis are amongst the friendliest people I have ever met, and I was frequently humbled by the appreciation and hospitality bestowed upon me being a visitor to their country.

I hope that by preparing this small report, I can encourage birders to head to the forests of north-east Bangladesh as there are several worthwhile destinations to explore. Although serious foreign listers are unlikely to add Bangladesh to their list of countries to find new bird species, perhaps local Bangladeshis and ex-pats in Dhaka may wish to escape the city for a little while and seek some solace in the parks and reserves near the border with India to search out some interesting wildlife. Thus I have summarized my experiences below. I have not included an account of my time in the Sundarban Forest and on the island of Nijhum Dwip where my attempts at finding some of the most notable bird species in Bangladesh were largely unsuccessful for a number of reasons.

Please feel free to email me to ask about any additional information I can provide at moore_travel@hotmail.com

Mike Moore

Itinerary

- Feb. 29 Morning train to Srimongol. CNG to Nishorgo Nirob Resort outside of town.
- Mar. 1 Lawacharra National Park
- Mar. 2 Lawacharra National Park
- Mar. 3 Adampur Forest and Baikka Beel
- Mar. 4 Around Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort
- Mar. 5 CNG to bus stop in Srimongol. Caught a bus to Shaistaganj. CNG to Kalenga village. Stayed at Nishorgo Ecolodge in village (Tk 1500)
- Mar. 6 Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mar. 7 Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mar. 8 CNG from Kalenga to Shaistaganj. Bus to Sylhet. Night at Hotel Supreme (Tk 1530)
- Mar. 9 Bus from Sylhet to border with India. Crossed border and began my two month trip through the northeast

Sites Visited

Lawacharra National Park

After arriving from Dhaka to Srimongol on the train, I caught a CNG to the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort which is about 5-6 km east of Srimongol on the road to Lawacharra NP. It's easy to find by turning right on to a sideroad off the main road at a junction with the luxurious Grand Sultan Tea Resort. A couple of hundred metres down the sideroad and the ecoresort is on your right. I stayed in a comfortable cabin (Coruai @ 2000 taka/night). Babuai cottage is quite nice and secluded by a little stream. Check out www.nishorgocottage.com/ecoresort/nishorgo-nirob-ecoresort. There is a small but nice garden which attracts some birds like Pale-billed and Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers and Asian Koel.

The manager here was a nice fellow, and as expected, everything was laid back. Food was good, but the choices were limited and thus variety may be an issue if staying for awhile. On my first afternoon, I decided to scout out the park by returning to the main road by the big luxury resort and turning right along the main road. It took about 45 minutes to reach the edge of the park where there is also a road to the right heading to several distant tea estates. (Note that if you walk along this road a short distance, there is a trail heading into the national park

to your left). A short distance further along the main road, I came to what appeared could be the entrance with an abandoned ticket booth and a tiny kiosk selling drinks and snacks. I didn't proceed any further, but decided to return early the next morning. When I did return the next morning at daybreak, nobody was around so I just walked in. After some initial scouting, there appeared to be only one real trail, and I followed it until it petered out. I passed an enjoyable few hours before returning to the "entrance" just before 9:00 where I was met by a fellow who spoke some English who told me that the park does not open until 9:00 and that I must have a guide. A moment later, two fellows happened to walk by who spoke better English and clarified the situation by saying that due to two foreigners being killed in Bangladesh a couple of months ago, the authorities have cracked down on the movement of foreigners and that all foreigners must have a guide with them at all times. (I had already been told yesterday that I wasn't allowed to rent a bicycle and travel around by myself). This smelled of economic opportunism by the local officials, and I was seriously annoyed at the apparent loss of my freedom to explore independently. One of the fellows was a guide named Razbe so I hired his services until mid-day for 500 taka and we had a nice few hours on the trails seeing Hoolock Gibbon and a few birds. I found out that the main entrance to the park is actually about 2 km further along the main road from where I thought it was, making for a rather long walk from the Nishorgo-Nirob Ecoresort.

The next morning, I was met by a woman I had been in communication with before leaving home. She lives in Moulvi Bazar, her name is Tania Khan, and she has done some fieldwork involving birds in the area. She's a really nice person and very knowledgeable about the area. She can be contacted by email at tanibaapi@yahoo.com. We spent a great morning in Lawacharra NP following the trails which might be challenging to navigate on one's own for lack of any kind of signage. Good birds spotted were Asian Stubtail and Ashy Minivet amongst others, and we found Phayre's Langur.

Adampur Forest

Tania and I traveled by CNG for about two hours, with a couple of short stops along the way, to visit this remote forest. We took so many turns and traveled down some very small roads such that it would be impossible to describe how we got there. Six bulbul species were spotted (Black-headed, Ashy and Olive being the most interesting), while Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Van Hasselt's Sunbird and Brown-cheeked Fulvetta were also very noteworthy. We only spent about four hours in the forest before returning to Srimongol and a late afternoon visit to

Baikka Beel. Adampur forest is a worthwhile trip, but only possible to visit with someone who has knowledge of the area. The local people we encountered in the forest who were gathering wood and other resources did not seem all that pleased to see us, so it might not be advisable to go there alone. Guides working around Srimongol may know the particulars of this forest - one who was affiliated with Nishorgo and who might provide some assistance was Russel Alam (www.communityecotour.com; russel@communityecotour.com). The guide by the name of Razbe who I met at Lawacharra can be reached at info@orientecotourism.com

Baikka Beel

My original plan to bicycle out here myself was quashed with the restriction on foreigners traveling around the area independently, so Tania and I came out here late one afternoon. We only had a little over one hour to explore, not enough time to do it justice as the area is actually quite large. There is a watchtower overlooking the beel, the access road coming in passes through good habitat and there is one trail heading out past the watchtower. To access the beel, you must travel north out of Srimongol on the road to Moulvi Bazar (unfortunately I didn't record distances), and then exit left on a road that winds for a couple of km to the beel. The tower gives a great view over the water and this is a good spot for Pallas's Fish Eagle - I saw one unsuccessfully trying to catch fish. Otherwise, birdlife involved mostly common ducks, herons, etc., but a more thorough search may turn up some interesting warblers, rails or crakes as there is lots of suitable habitat.

Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary

From the Nishorgo-Nirob Ecoresort, I caught a CNG for the bus stop in Srimongol, and then a bus to Shaistaganj which is essentially a crossroads on the highway which took about 40 minutes. Apparently you can get a share-CNG from Shaistaganj to Chunaraghat, and from there maybe another share-CNG or if not, a private one to the Nishorgo-Toraf Hill Eco-Cottage in the village of Kalenga, right at the Kalenga entrance to Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary. Instead, I paid 500 taka for a private CNG from Shaistaganj to Kalenga village. I had made a reservation for three nights while I was at Nishorgo-Nirob Ecoresort a few days previously. The tiny village of Kalenga was pretty quiet upon my arrival. At the entrance to the wildlife sanctuary, I ran into a few gentlemen, and upon making an enquiry, one of them called Mr. Abdul Rahman (0731977807), the manager of the ecoresort which is in fact located right outside the entrance to the park, and he

came around to collect me.

Not many people make it to this little corner of Bangladesh which was part of its appeal. Mr. Abdul Rahman was a wonderful man, and very accommodating. I had a simple room in a small cottage (1500 taka/night) with two beds and a washroom with only cold water. The one little thing I could mention was that it took forever for dinner to be served at night, with meals starting as late as 9:30 or 10:00, but the food was always well prepared. I fended for myself at breakfast, and came back for lunch and dinner (250 taka/meal).

Into the forest at 6:00 am and I followed what I guess would be called the main road straight ahead. After maybe 10-15 minutes I found a big green sign that said "Half an Hour Trail/Observation Tower" pointing to the left. These parks in Bangladesh are set up supposedly with three trails: a 30 minute trail, a one-hour trail and a three-hour trail. In theory of course - same with Lawacharra. A few hundred metres after this trail began, several large "former" signs abutted a side trail that went up a hill to the left. Upon cresting the little hill, I could see the observation tower, a roughly six-storey concrete structure that was safe to climb, although the view of the forest wasn't particularly inspiring. I went back out to where the "former" signs were and continued along the main path, and after 100m, I came to a fork at a large pond (which was visible from the tower). I forked right at a concrete bench and this seemed to be the main trail. It eventually came to a natural marsh, and crossing over it, a dry pond or former rice paddy, and beyond that, a clearing. Great birding at the clearing (Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, etc.). I couldn't seem to find a trail continuing beyond the clearing, so I turned back to the main straight road through the park and continued deeper into the park to see if I could find the other trails, and after about 15 minutes, I came to an old, battered metal sign which had "Three-hour trail" scrawled on it. There was also a semi-intelligible map showing that, in theory, all three of the supposed trails connected together as opposed to being independent of each other. I tried to follow the three-hour trail, but it proved challenging with it being overgrown, and the many side trails that led nowhere made it very confusing. Thus I restricted my birding in the park to the area around the 30 minute trail and the main path through the park, and all in all, I'd say the park is worth a nice two-days of birding/nature viewing.

While out walking, I often encountered local Tripura people in the park as there are many villages in and around the park. This is a very conservative corner of Bangladesh, and not many foreigners make it here. Although not meant in an unfriendly way, many of the men I encountered would greet me with a facial expression that conveyed the message "what is this foreigner doing here"? Many

of the children gazed at me with what appeared to be anything from cautious uncertainty to downright fright, and the women would invariably make sure their faces were veiled upon my approach so that my eyes could not catch sight of them. A very interesting experience, but I was not here long enough to develop a deep understanding of local Tripura custom and culture.

References

All birds species in the bird list follow the taxonomy as per "The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World". Included in brackets are alternative names to species as indicated in the field guide I used on my trip which was "Birds of India", published by Princeton and authored by Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp. All mammals in the mammal list follow the taxonomy in the volumes of the "Handbook of the Mammals of the World" that have been published to date. For species not yet covered, a decision was made regarding the use of a seemingly common name. Calls of a large number of bird species were downloaded from www.xenocanto.org to an iPod, and these were occasionally good references for identifying calls.

Bird List

ANATIDAE (Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl)

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Abundant at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Dendrocygna bicolor

Ruddy Shelduck

Two birds flew overhead while I walked the trail in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Tadorna ferruginea

Gadwall

Several were spotted at quite a distance at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Anas strepera

Green-winged Teal

Several were spotted at quite a distance at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Anas carolinensis

PHASIANIDAE (Pheasants, Grouse and Allies)

Red Junglefowl

Gallus gallus

Two males and four females were first spotted along the edge of the main road through Lawacharra National Park from the CNG Tania and I were taking to the park entrance on the morning of March 2. We saw one male on the same road the next day, March 3, as we took a CNG to the Adampur forest. Another male was spotted on the edge of the Lawacharra forest on March 4. On March 6 at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, I heard many birds but only flushed one female, while the next day on March 7, I found a group of four birds and flushed one other.

PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

About 6-7 birds were on Baikka Beel on March 3.

CICONIIDAE (Storks)

Asian Openbill

Anastomus oscitans

A big flock was spotted in a paddyfield on the train from Dhaka to Srimongol on Feb. 29. Fairly common in paddyfields and as flyovers at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 5-7.

PHALACROCORACIDAE (Cormorants and Shags)

Little Cormorant

Phalacrocorax niger

Common at Baikka Beel on March 3.

ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Twenty birds were at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Great Egret

Ardea alba

One flew over Baikka Beel on March 3.

Intermediate Egret

Mesophoyx intermedia

A flock of 10 flew overhead near the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort outside of Srimongol on March 2. Several were at Baikka Beel on March 3. A few were seen in the paddyfields in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

One or two were at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Indian Pond-Heron***Ardeola grayii***

Commonly seen from the train from Dhaka to Srimongol on Feb. 29. On March 3, birds were common on the drive to Adampur forest and also at Baikka Beel. Fairly common in paddyfields in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 5-7.

Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis***

Commonly seen from the train from Dhaka to Srimongol on Feb. 29. One was roadside near Lawacharra National Park on March 1. Several were spotted on the drive to the Adampur forest on March 3.

Yellow Bittern***Ixobrychus sinensis***

One was hiding in a reedbed at Baikka Beel on March 3.

ACCIPITRIDAE (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)**Jerdon's Baza*****Aviceda jerdoni***

A perched bird was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 2, his crest finally visible as he turned his head.

Black Baza***Aviceda leuphotes***

A fantastic close-up sighting of one bird actively hunting in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Oriental Honey-Buzzard***Pernis ptilorhynchus***

A perched bird was spotted in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6. It's relatively small head was quite evident.

Black Kite***Milvus migrans***

One at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Brahminy Kite***Haliastur indus***

One was spotted near the Nishorgo Nirob Ecolodge outside Srimongol on March 2. Two were at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Pallas's Fish-Eagle***Haliaeetus leucoryphus***

One was at Baikka Beel on March 3. It seemed to have its sights on a large fish, repeatedly attempting to pick it up with its talons, only to miss and then fly in a wide circle to come in for another unsuccessful pass. It landed, perhaps for a rest, before re-attempting the hunt, but never did seem to come to success.

Crested Serpent-Eagle***Spilornis cheela***

A perched bird was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 1, and a soaring and calling bird was in the park the next day on the 2nd. Another soaring bird was seen in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on both March 6 and 7.

Shikra***Accipiter badius***

A pair was perched and mating in a tall tree in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

RALLIDAE (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)**Grey-headed Swamphen*****Porphyrio indicus***

Split from Purple Swamphen. Abundant at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Eurasian Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus***

About 25 birds were on Baikka Beel on March 3.

CHARADRIIDAE (Plovers and Lapwings)**Grey-headed Lapwing*****Vanellus cinereus***

A roadside stop at a paddyfield on the way to the Adampur Forest produced one Grey-headed Lapwing on the morning of March 3; another was seen as a fly-by later in the day at Baikka Beel.

Little Ringed Plover***Charadrius dubius***

Two were at Baikka Beel on March 3.

JACANIDAE (Jacanas)**Pheasant-tailed Jacana*****Hydrophasianus chirurgus***

One was at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Bronze-winged Jacana***Metopidius indicus***

Three were at Baikka Beel on March 3.

SCOLOPACIDAE (Sandpipers and Allies)**Wood Sandpiper*****Tringa glareola***

On the way to the Adampur Forest, one was seen in a paddyfield at a roadside stop on March 3. Later the same day, one was also found and seen well at Baikka Beel.

Common Redshank***Tringa totanus***

Three were at Baikka Beel on March 3.

COLUMBIDAE (Pigeons and Doves)**Rock Pigeon*****Columba livia***

Many were found in the rural areas on the road from Srimongol to the Adampur Forest on March 3.

Red Collared-Dove***Streptopelia tranquebarica***

A flock was on the ground in a paddyfield where we stopped for the Grey-headed Lapwing on the way to the Adampur Forest on March 3. One was around the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 4.

Spotted Dove***Streptopelia chinensis***

Commonly seen from the train from Dhaka to Srimongol on Feb. 29. One was near the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 2. On March 3, birds were readily seen on the way to the Adampur Forest and at Baikka Beel. One was around the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 4. About 10 birds were in a paddyfield around Kalenga village on March 5, and small numbers were seen in the area over the following two days.

Emerald Dove***Chalcophaps indica***

While walking a trail in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on the morning of March 7, an Emerald Dove, as they typically do, darted rapidly past, but then landed in a nearby tree giving me a good look.

Ashy-headed Green-Pigeon***Treron phayrei***

Two males and then two females were seen in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Yellow-footed Pigeon***Treron phoenicopterus***

One was seen nicely at the roadside paddyfield where we stopped for the Grey-headed Lapwing on the way to the Adampur Forest on March 3.

CUCULIDAE (Cuckoos)**Large Hawk-Cuckoo*****Hierococcyx sparverioides***

One was perched and seen well in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

Plaintive Cuckoo***Cacomantis merulinus***

One hepatic female and a male were at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Violet Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus***

A male was perched and horribly backlit in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo***Surniculus dicruroides***

A great look at one bird as it calmly flew right up to perch in front of me in a clearing in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Asian Koel***Eudynamys scolopaceus***

Extremely vocal at this time of year, I finally tracked down a male feeding on fruits in a leafy bush in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 2. Presumably the same bird was seen in the garden on March 4. The morning produced a total of three birds in the fruiting bush in the garden at Nishorgo Nirob on March 5, and I saw one at Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary later in the day.

Green-billed Malkoha***Phaenicophaeus tristis***

Along the highway to the entrance of Lawacharra National Park, I found two birds high up in a tree on my first scouting visit on the afternoon of Feb. 29. Good views of four birds in the Adampur Forest on March 3. An interesting observation was made at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6 where a male and female were seen mating, and the male later presenting the female with a large insect snack. Two pairs were found in the sanctuary the next day on the 7th.

Greater Coucal***Centropus sinensis***

Two flew over the road and disappeared while I walked the paved road near the Nishorgo Nirob Resort on March 2.

Lesser Coucal***Centropus bengalensis***

A streaked juvenile reminded me of a neotropical foliage-gleaner as it skulked in the scrub at the edge of the road just up from the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on Feb. 29.

STRIGIDAE (Owls)**Collared Scops-Owl*****Otus lettia***

I taped in one bird at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort from the garden just beyond the little bridge at the river on March 2.

Oriental Scops-Owl***Otus sunia***

Heard at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 4 and in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Asian Barred Owlet***Glaucidium cuculoides***

Birds were quite commonly heard in and around Lawacharra National Park. I did see two birds first along the main road from the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort to Lawacharra NP on Feb. 29, and two more in the forest at the edge of the park on March 4. Two birds were observed in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on both March 6 and 7.

Brown Boobook (Brown Hawk-Owl)***Ninox sumbaensis***

Heard in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

CAPRIMULGIDAE (Nightjars and Allies)

Large-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus

Heard near an open field approximately 100 metres back up the road from the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 4. I then saw one at the entrance to the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary just before dusk on March 5. It had a bare snag that served as a favourite perch from which it called frequently before disappearing after it turned dark. I also saw it in the same spot on March 7.

APODIDAE (Swifts)

Asian Palm-Swift

Cypsiurus balasiensis

Three were seen in Lawacharra National Park on March 2. Small numbers were observed in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 5 and 7.

HOOPOES (Hoopoes)

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

I spotted one from the train from Dhaka to Srimongol on Feb, 29, and another on the drive in the CNG to the Adampur Forest on March 3.

ALCEDINIDAE (Kingfishers)

Common Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

One was at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Blue-eared Kingfisher

Alcedo meninting

Two flew by as we waded a small stream in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

Stork-billed Kingfisher

Pelargopsis capensis

My only sighting was of one bird in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

White-throated Kingfisher

Halcyon smyrnensis

Two were spotted while taking the train from Dhaka to Srimongol on Feb. 29. One was streamside behind the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 2, and two were in the same area on March 4. Singles were seen on March 6 and 7 in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary.

MEROPIIDAE (Bee-eaters)

Blue-bearded Bee-eater

Nyctyornis athertoni

A pair was found at the edge of a clearing in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7. The male was observed feeding the female some unidentifiable insects.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater***Merops leschenaulti***

Three were at the edge of an open field along the road just back from the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 2 and two in the same area on March 4. Up to two birds were found in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6 and 7.

MEGALAIMIDAE (Asian Barbets)**Lineated Barbet*****Psilopogon lineata***

One was found as I walked the main highway towards Lawacharra National Park on Feb. 29. Up to three birds were seen on both March 1 and 2 in Lawacharra National Park. One was in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 4. Common at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 5-7.

Blue-throated Barbet***Psilopogon asiatica***

Singles were seen in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on both March 2 and 4, the one on the 4th giving a great eye-level look.

Blue-eared Barbet***Psilopogon australis***

A silhouette of a tiny, calling bird was spotted in a very tall tree at quite a distance in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7. The bird was horribly backlit and the identification was made by voice.

PICIDAE (Woodpeckers)**Grey-capped Woodpecker*****Dendrocopos canicapillus*****(Grey-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker)**

Two pairs were seen in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7, with one pair actively excavating a nest hole in a dead tree at the edge of a clearing.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos macei***

A pair was in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 4.

Rufous Woodpecker***Celeus brachyurus***

A good look at one bird at the small tower in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Greater Yellownape***Picus flavinucha***

Two birds seen poorly in Lawacharra National Park on March 2. Three birds were found in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Grey-faced (Grey-headed) Woodpecker

Picus canus

A brief head-only view of one bird before it flew away in Lawacharra National Park on March 2. A female was seen briefly but well in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Greater Flameback (Greater Goldenback)

Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus

A pair was found along the edge of the forest of Lawacharra National Park on March 4. At least three birds were spotted in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

PSITTACULIDAE (Old World Parrots)

Red-breasted Parakeet

Psittacula alexandri

Birds were common and active in the tall trees along the highway running through Lawacharra National Park where I saw them on three different days. Strangely unseen during my two visits into the park itself. Common at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from May 5-7.

TEPHRODORNITHIDAE (Woodshrikes and Allies)

Common Woodshrike

Tephrodornis pondicerianus

One was in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

ARTAMIDAE (Woodswallows)

Ashy Woodswallow

Artamus fuscus

Up to six birds frequented an open area along the road near the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort where I saw them on March 2 and 4.

AEGITHINIDAE (Ioras)

Common Iora

Aegithina tiphia

One was in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE (Cuckooshrikes)

Large Cuckooshrike

Coracina macei

Two seen well in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike

Coracina melaschistos

One was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

Rosy Minivet

Pericrocotus cantonensis

One male was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 1. Two birds were found in the park the next day on the 2nd. Finally, a much better look at one male in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Ashy Minivet

Pericrocotus divaricatus

At least three birds were found in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

Scarlet Minivet

Pericrocotus speciosus

One female was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

LANIIDAE (Shrikes)

Brown Shrike

Lanius cristatus

One was seen in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort calling harshly and pumping its tail on Feb. 29 and March 2 and 4.

ORIOLIDAE (Old World Orioles)

Black-hooded Oriole

Oriolus xanthornus

A very vocal species. One was in Lawacharra National Park on March 2 and 4. Common at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 5-7.

Maroon Oriole

Oriolus trailii

An immature bird was in the treetops around the first entrance to Lawacharra National Park on March 1.

DICRURIDAE (Drongos)

Ashy Drongo

Dicrurus leucophaeus

Two were seen as we walked through a stream in the Adampur Forest on March 3. One was found in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Black Drongo

Dicrurus macrocercus

Common and widespread in most if not all non-forested areas.

Bronzed Drongo

Dicrurus aeneus

Two were found in Lawacharra National Park on March 2, and then one a little later was on a nest. One was in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus remifer

Two were seen early in the morning during my first visit to Lawacharra National Park on Mar. 1.

Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo

Dicrurus hottentottus

One was chasing a Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo in Lawacharra National Park on March 1. Another was seen in the park on the 2nd. Four were in the Adampur Forest on March 3. Common in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 6-7.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus paradiseus

Common in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 6-7.

MONARCHIDAE (Monarch Flycatchers)

Black-naped Monarch

Hypothymis azurea

Two were in Lawacharra National Park on March 2, and one in the Adampur Forest on the 3rd.

CORVIDAE (Crows, Jays and Magpies)

Rufous Treepie

Dendrocitta vagabunda

A flock of six birds was in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 5, and three were found there the next day on the 6th, including one with no tail.

Grey Treepie

Dendrocitta formosae

One was seen in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

House Crow

Corvus splendens

Common in Dhaka and in many other towns and cities in Bangladesh.

Large-billed Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos

Some authors split the lowland subspecies as Eastern Jungle Crow, *Corvus levaillantii*, although Clements does not accept this split. Common throughout Bangladesh.

HIRUNDINIDAE (Swallows)

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Numerous at Baikka Beel on March 3.

STENOSTIRIDAE (Fairy Flycatchers)

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher

Culicicapa ceylonensis

One was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 1.

SITTIDAE (Nuthatches)

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

Sitta frontalis

One was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 1. Three were seen nicely in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6 while foraging in a small tree right on the main path through the park.

PYCNONOTIDAE (Bulbuls)

Black-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus atriceps

One was seen in the Adampur Forest on March 3. In the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7, I had a quick view of a pair, and then two more were seen well in a mixed-species flock.

Black-crested Bulbul

Pycnonotus flaviventris

In Lawacharra National Park, four were seen on March 1 and just one the next day on the 2nd. One was found in the Adampur Forest on March 3, one was on the edge of Lawacharra Forest on March 4 and one was in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Red-whiskered Bulbul

Pycnonotus jocosus

Common along the road through Lawacharra National Park and in open areas around the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort from Feb. 29 to March 5. A few were also found in the Adampur Forest area on March 3. Common in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 5-7.

Red-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus cafer

Very common throughout Bangladesh.

Olive Bulbul

Iole virescens

In Lawacharra National Park on March 2, one was seen very well repeatedly attacking a spider's web. A great view was had of one bird taking a bath in a small pool along a stream in the Adampur Forest on March 3. One was in a mixed-species flock in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

White-throated Bulbul

Alophoixus flaveolus

Two birds were found in Lawacharra National Park on March 2, and two more in the Adampur Forest the next day on the 3rd.

Ashy Bulbul

Hemixos flavala

My only sighting was of one bird in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

CETTIIDAE (Bush-Warblers and Allies)

Asian Stubtail

Urosphena squameiceps

In Lawacharra National Park on March 2, a calling bird was located and I got a brief look at the upper half of the bird in the undergrowth before it disappeared.

PHYLLOSCOPIIDAE (Leaf Warblers)

Common Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Two were seen at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Dusky Warbler

Phylloscopus fuscatus

Two were seen in the Adampur Forest on the morning of March 3, and birds were common by voice later in the afternoon at Baikka Beel. One was found in the bushes along the road from the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort to Lawacharra National Park on March 4.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

I found two birds not far along the dirt road running south along the western boundary of Lawacharra National Park, accessed during my walk from the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort to the park on Feb. 29. I also found two birds in Lawacharra National Park itself on both March 1 and 2.

Golden-spectacled (Green-crowned) Warbler

Seicercus burkii

While walking along the dirt road on the western edge of Lawacharra National Park on Feb. 29, I went into the forest on a trail and found one bird. I found two birds in Lawacharra National Park on March 1 and one on the 2nd. One was seen in the Adampur Forest on March 3. One was found at the forest edge of Lawacharra National Park on March 4. Singles were observed in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6 and 7.

White-spectacled Warbler

Seicercus affinis

A good but brief look at one bird in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

ACROCEPHALIDAE (Reed-Warblers and Allies)

Clamorous Reed-Warbler

Acrocephalus stentoreus

One was heard calling from deep within a cluster of reeds at Baikka Beel on March 3, but it remained unseen.

Thick-billed Warbler

Iduna aedon

On the main highway connecting the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort and Lawacharra National Park, there was an open area on the north side of the road that was a little wet. It was here that, after a frustrating search for a bird that just wouldn't show, I got my eyes on a Thick-billed Warbler on Feb. 29.

LOCUSTELLIDAE (Grassbirds and Allies)

Striated Grassbird

Megalurus palustris

Two birds were seen at Baikka Beel on March 3.

CISTICOLIDAE (Cisticolas and Allies)

Common Tailorbird

Orthotomus sutorius

One was in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 1. Two were observed in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on both March 6 and 7.

SYLVIIDAE (Sylviid Babblers)

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta

Alcippe poiocephala

A flock of about five birds was seen in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

ZOSTEROPIDAE (Yuhinas, White-eyes and Allies)

Oriental White-eye

Zosterops palpebrosus

One was found in the Adampur Forest on March 3. One was seen in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 5, and two on the 6th.

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

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler

Macronous gularis

Three were found in the Adampur Forest on March 3. An interesting observation was of one bird taking a bath in the tip of a broken bamboo at the edge of the Lawacharra Forest on March 4.

PELLORNEIDAE (Ground Babblers and Allies)

Abbott's Babbler

Malacocincla abbotti

Common in Lawacharra National Park on March 2 and 3. One was also seen in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on April 6.

LEIOTRICHIDAE (Laughingthrushes and Allies)

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush

Garrulax monileger

Two seen well in Lawacharra National Park on March 1, and one on the 2nd. One was found in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush

Garrulax pectoralis

My first sighting was of one bird along the highway near the first entrance to Lawacharra National Park on Feb. 29, and one was seen in the park on both March 1 and 2. A pair was found in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

IRENIDAE (Fairy-bluebirds)

Asian Fairy-bluebird

Irena puella

Two were spotted high up in the canopy in Lawacharra National Park on March 1.

MUSCICAPIDAE (Old World Flycatchers)

Blue Whistling Thrush

Myophonus caeruleus

A nice surprise was finding one in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Taiga Flycatcher

Ficedula albicilla

Quite common, its presence usually given away by the buzz of its wings on its typically short flights from one perch to the next. One was found in Lawacharra National Park on March 2. One or two were seen daily in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 5-7.

Pale-chinned Blue-Flycatcher

Cyornis poliogenys

A decent look at one bird in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

Oriental Magpie-Robin

Copsychus saularis

Common in non-forested areas throughout Bangladesh.

White-rumped Shama

Copsychus malabaricus

One female was seen in Lawacharra National Park on March 1, and a male in the Adampur Forest on the 3rd.

Black-backed Forktail

Enicurus immaculatus

A great look at one bird we continually flushed as we waded through a small stream in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

Siberian Stonechat

Saxicola maurus

One was seen in a paddyfield on the way to the Adampur Forest on March 3.

TURDIDAE (Thrushes)

Orange-headed Thrush

Geokichla citrina

One was seen in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

STURNIDAE (Starlings)

Common Hill Myna

Gracula religiosa

Two were first seen along the main road before the entrance to Lawacharra National Park on my exploratory walk on the afternoon of Feb. 29. A flock of four was seen in the Adampur Forest on March 3. Two were found on the edge of Lawacharra National Park on the 4th. Common in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from May 5-7.

Jungle Myna

Acridotheres fuscus

Common at Baikka Beel on March 3.

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis

Common in open habitat in Bangladesh.

Asian Pied Starling

Gracupica contra

Very common in open and lightly-forested habitats in Bangladesh. Of note was a pair building a nest in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecolodge near Srimongol.

Chestnut-tailed Starling

Sturnia malabarica

One was at Baikka Beel on March 3. A pair was found in an Indian Coral tree in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on May 7.

CHLOROPSEIDAE (Leafbirds)

Golden-fronted Leafbird

Chloropsis aurifrons

Two were seen from the little tower in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6, and two elsewhere in the sanctuary on the 7th.

DICAEIDAE (Flowerpeckers)

Pale-billed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum hypoleucum

Single birds were found in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 2, 4 and 5. One was spotted in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum cruentatum

Not uncommon in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort with a male seen on Feb. 29 and at least one or two pairs on March 2. Two birds were in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7.

NECTARINIIDAE (Sunbirds)

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird

Chalcoparia singalensis

A pair was seen well in Lawacharra National Park on March 2.

Purple-rumped Sunbird*Leptocoma zeylonica*

One male was seen in Lawacharra National Park on March 1 and single birds were seen in the garden at the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on three of my five days in the area. Pairs were found in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 5 and 6.

Van Hasselt's Sunbird*Leptocoma brasiliana*

Split from Purple-throated Sunbird. One male was found in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

Purple Sunbird*Cinnyris asiaticus*

A female was seen in the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 2. A male was in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Little Spiderhunter*Arachnothera longirostra*

One was seen in Lawacharra National Park on March 2 and two in the Adampur Forest on the 3rd.

MOTACILLIDAE (Wagtails and Pipits)**Olive-backed Pipit***Anthus hodgsoni*

One was first seen at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Citrine Wagtail*Motacilla flaveola*

Just a single bird was spotted at Baikka Beel on March 3.

PASSERIDAE (Old World Sparrows)**House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

Easily seen on the drive to and from the Adampur Forest on March 3, around the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on the 4th and during my stay at the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary.

PLOCEIDAE (Weavers and Allies)**Baya Weaver***Ploceus philippinus*

A flock was found at Baikka Beel on March 3.

ESTRILDIDAE (Waxbills and Allies)**White-rumped Munia***Lonchura striata*

A pair was found as I walked along the main road over from the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort towards Lawacharra National Park on March 4. A small flock was then spotted in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Mammal List

CERCOPITHECIDAE (Old World Monkeys)

Northern Pig-tailed Macaque

Macaca leonina

One big male climbed a small tree near the visitor's centre in Lawacharra National Park on March 2. As we were driving through Lawacharra National Park on the return from our visit to the Adampur Forest on March 3, we saw one troop along the road. I startled one troop in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 7 and only got a poor look at one individual.

Rhesus Macaque

Macaca mulatta

Common in and around Lawacharra National Park where at least one troop per day was seen from Feb. 29 to March 2. One troop was found on both March 6 and 7 in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary.

Capped Langur (Leaf-Monkey)

Trachypithecus pileatus

Just one individual of the subspecies *durga* was seen in the Lawacharra National Park on March 1. One troop was seen very well in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6 and two troops the next day on the 7th.

Phayre's Langur (Leaf-Monkey)

Trachypithecus phayrei

A troop of about seven was seen, three of them very well, in Lawacharra National Park on March 2. Along a little trail on the edge of Lawacharra National Park, there was a large troop, but I only saw one well as it crossed over the path along a large bamboo on March 4. One troop was seen near the tower in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

HYLOBATIDAE (Gibbons)

Western Hoolock Gibbon

Hoolock hoolock

A great look at family of three in Lawacharra National Park on March 1. Heard in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

PTEROPODIDAE (Old World Fruit Bats)

Indian Flying Fox

Pteropus giganteus

On the way back from the Adampur Forest on March 3, we stopped at a big, mostly leafless tree outside a small village where there was a large roosting colony. Three flew overhead near dusk near the Nishorgo Nirob Ecoresort on March 4.

SCIURIDAE (Squirrels)

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel

Dremomys lokriah

Two were seen at the edge of the Lawacharra National Park on Feb. 29 and one in the park itself the next day on March 1. Common in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 6-7.

Irrawaddy (Hoary-bellied Himalayan) Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*

One was seen in Lawacharra National Park on March 1, and then on March 2, they proved common in the park and on the grounds at the Nishorgo Niob Ecoresort. Several were seen in and around the Nishorgo Niob Ecoresort on March 4 as well. Common in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary from March 6-7.

Black Giant Squirrel

Ratufa bicolor

Two were seen very well in the Adampur Forest on March 2. In the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, I saw at least five individuals on March 6, including one that moved rapidly up and down a large trunk with its body pressed close to the trunk. It may have been marking its scent. Just one was found in the sanctuary the next day on the 7th.

Reptile List

Oriental (Common) Garden Lizard

Calotes versicolor

A nice male with a red head was spotted as I walked up along the main trail through the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on March 6.

Keeled Indian Mabuya

Eutropis carinata

(Many-keeled Grass-Skink)

While we sat on a log during a late-morning rest in the Adampur Forest on March 3, one made an appearance and nosed around at our feet.

Amphibian List

Skipper Frog

Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis

Several were seen as we walked through a small stream in the Adampur Forest on March 3.

