This short trip report provides an overview of the birds and logistics of a trip centered on EagleNest wildlife sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh in spring 2015. We used the standard route through this area, with other sites visited being Deepor Beel, Kaziranga, Nameri, and the Dirang area (Se La pass and Sangti valley).

Early April is a slightly in-between time to visit this area; many winter visitors have vacated the plains (including Ibisbill at Nameri) but a few summer visitors are yet to arrive in any numbers. Some key species at EagleNest, including Purple Cochoa and Begun Liocichla (for example) are vocal (sometimes) but not especially responsive compared to later in the month. We were quite lucky with the weather (in some respects) having limited rain but a lot of mist caused problems on a couple of days around Bompu Camp. However, weather on the other slope (at Lama) and, very importantly, on the Se La pass was superb.

GETTING THERE CM, TP and OC arrived in Kolkata on 27th March via Abu Dhabi, where we had spent a week birding around the Emirates. It’s simple and easy to get a flight from Heathrow with a short stop over in Abu Dhabi, then flying on to Kolkata. Flights were booked with Etihad for around £600.00 return. We then took an internal flight from Kolkata to Guwahati arriving around lunchtime on Saturday 28th March.

GROUND ARRANGEMENTS Ground arrangements were made through Sumantha Ghosh of Rural Traveller (www.ruraltraveller.com/) who also accompanied us on the trip. If you are interested in future trips from the UK undertaking a similar itinerary then enquiries can be made by contacting Chris Mills of Norfolk Birding on chrismills@norfolkbirding.com.

Images A selection of images by CM and OC are presented here. Other pictures from the trip can be seen by visiting https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153259812561684&type=1&l=51a6db6c24.

BOOKS AND SOUNDS Rasmussen and Anderton’s Birds of South Asia (2011) is the standard reference and incredibly detailed and up to date, although the usual Grimmet & Inskipp guide is ok too. We came well-armed with quite a few sounds from Xeno-canto and also had some fun making recordings – a selection of the best recorded by OC are available at http://www.xeno-canto.org/explore?query=+cnt%3A%22India%22+rec%3A%22campbell%22&pg=2.
ITINERARY and DAILY LOG

Some details of logistical arrangements and birding highlights for each day are noted below. The latter are especially brief as there is an annotated systematic list at the end.

**Friday 27th March** We arrived in the evening at Kolkata airport and transferred to a nearby Hotel. **Overnight Hotel Raj Palace.** This is about a 10min taxi ride from the airport. Clean and convenient, it was perfectly acceptable for a stopover; food in the restaurant next door was very good.

**Saturday March 28th** Morning internal flight from Kolkata to Guwahati, arriving late morning. There are various operators; we flew with Indigo. Beware the very low weight limits for baggage. If your bags exceed 15kgs you will get troubled to pay excess charges, unless you have either the gift of the gab or a particularly argumentative nature (or both)! On arrival at Guwahati airport we met up with Sumantha, who had organized our ground arrangements, plus birding guide Lobsang Tsering – an excellent and very knowledgeable guide who lives close to Lama Camp, EagleNest.

We transferred into a 6-seater jeep and headed straight to the salubrious dump on the edge of Deepor Beel for some wetland birding. This gave us hundreds of Greater Adjutants and enough nasty flies to start an influenza pandemic with. We then headed on to Kaziranga, arriving there by nightfall.

**Overnight Jhupuri Lodge, Kaziranga** Accommodation in thatched bungalows. Comfortable rooms with bathrooms, plus good food and birding from the door, with secondary forest and scrubby paddies surrounding the camp area. Quite good birding right on site, including the likes of White-rumped Shama, Blue-bearded Bee-eater and Brown Hawk-Owl with a noisy but invisible Blue-naped Pitta, audible from the garden.

**Sunday March 29th**

We were up early and birding around the camp by 0445, pre-breakfast. After breakfast we took a morning jeep drive to the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP from 0800 to midday. We lunched then headed to the Western range from 1330 to 1730. Timing of drives in the park is determined by the opening and closing times of the gates, and there are dedicated areas for getting out of your jeep to view some of the best bits. We finished off with a little more birding around the camp area before dinner.

Kaziranga is one of India’s premier birding sites and we also saw lots of big megafauna, most of which was in abundance. Birding highlights included 50+ Spot-bellied Pelicans, several Woolly-necked and Black-necked Storks, both species of adjutant, 16 species of raptor (including Pied Harrier, Greater Spotted Eagle, Pallas’s Fish-Eagle and Red-headed Vulture), good views of Swamp Francolin walking around in the open, Grey-headed Lapwing, Great Hornbill (including attending a nest site) and Rosy Minivet amongst a very wide range of passerines and near passerines.

**Overnight Jhupuri Lodge, Kaziranga.**
Monday March 30th
We took an Elephant ride in the central range of the Park from 0500 to 0600. Bengal Florican are traditionally seen in this area but weren’t looking at all likely during our visit; the terrain was dusty and burnt with limited new growth. We then headed back to Lodge, and birded for an hour around the camp. After breakfast we headed back into the central range for a jeep safari from 0830 to 1200. Birds were broadly similar to the day before, ie pretty damn good.

After lunch we then drove to Namerti Camp arriving there at 1630. We squeezed in an hours birding before dinner at Namerti, walking from the Eco Camp down to the river.

Overnight Eco Camp, Nameri. Accommodation in permanent tents with attached bathroom and toilet, including hot showers. Comfortable with good restaurant area and food. Bring ear-plugs to combat the Asian Barred Owlets and Brown Hawk-Owls on site all night.

Tuesday March 31st
We took an early morning boat across the river to Namerti National Park, complete with a packed breakfast and then birded through the forest, covering around 7-8 km inside the Park. We then headed back for lunch by which time it was pretty hot. Forest birding, as ever at Namerti, was excellent and included plenty of pigeons (many Wedge-tailed and one Thick-billed Green; lots of Barred Cuckoo-Doves etc), Blue-eared Kingfisher, Pale-chinned Flycatcher very close, Sultan Tit and Spot-winged Starling plus good views of White-winged Wood Duck, albeit only in flight.

In the afternoon we took a river raft ride from upstream back to Namerti Eco Camp. Despite an Ibisbill deficiency (none seen for over a week apparently) this was a great way to spend the afternoon and produced a lot of birds, from Pallas’ Fish-Eagles to Wreathed Hornbills, Black Stork and Hen Harrier all flying over, plus groups of Striated Babblers in the river islands in the late afternoon. A sighting of a Gaur on the river bank was also really excellent.

Overnight Eco Camp, Nameri.

Wednesday April 1st
A very long day! We left Namerti at 5am and travelled all the way to Bompu Camp, EagleNest. The journey was broken up with quite a lot of birding en-route; several stops were made along the roadside, especially below Sessa. This is an important day birdwise as the forest in the foothills here hold a number of species that are very unlikely at EagleNest itself, at least without dropping down a long way below Sessni. The suite of species was immediately very different from that on the plains at Namerti. We actually did very well on the early part of this journey, before having lunch in Sessa. A stop on a side track along the river produced not far after the AP entry checkpoint produced Striated Yuhina and Yellow-vented Warbler whilst species further up the hill included Pin-tailed and Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon flying over together, Bay and Pale-headed Woodpecker and the memorable combo of Long-tailed Broadbill, Indian White-hooded Babbler and Pale-billed Parrotbill all virtually simultaneously. On the return journey at the end of the trip, a walk downhill from Sessa, despite the rather busy road, produced fantastic views of two Blyth’s Kingfishers (c 2km below the village).

Overnight Bompu Camp, EagleNest. EagleNest is remote, accessed by basic tracks, many miles uphill from Tenga, the nearest town. Both camps are pretty basic, comprising two-person tents with simple beds and basic mattresses (you might want to double them up if you don’t sleep well on hard surfaces!) Showers and toilets are shared; buckets of hot water are provided. The eating area is pretty industrial, with a canvas over an open window and doorway minus a door! However, the food compensated for the aesthetics and was very good. Temperatures 4-5°C overnight.

Thursday April 2nd
Early morning walk out of Bompu at 0500 with a packed breakfast; we birded the areas up to c6km uphill. Highlights included Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler (very close to Bompu), Broad-billed Warbler seen very well, Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler and a few good flocks. The lowlight was an agonizing tape-duel with Blue-fronted Robin, which we didn’t win, although we rattled the cross bar repeatedly. We returned for lunch, then headed back out again in the afternoon, birding areas lower down below Bompu camp. Birding in the afternoon was difficult and slightly curtailed by low cloud,
some rain and poor visibility in the afternoon. However, we lucked in on our first Cutia and our only Beautiful Nuthatches despite the mist on the way back so all ended well.

**Overnight Bompu Camp.**

**Friday April 3**
Early morning walk out of Bompu camp at 0500 with a packed breakfast; again we birded the higher areas again above the camp in excellent weather but ended up about 7km below EagleNest pass in mist and rain. However, by then we had seen Ward’s Trogon very well and two more highly professional attempts for the robin resulted in stunning views of Common Hill-Partridge and Blyth’s Tragopan crossing the track for a split second. We returned for lunch, then headed back out again in the afternoon, birding areas lower down below Bompu camp towards Sessni. Birding in the afternoon was good today with much better weather and lots of activity, including a mega-flock yielding Long-tailed Broadbills, Red-headed Trogon, our only Rufous-backed Sibia and displaying Cutias at very close range amongst many others. Scaly Thrush and Grey-winged Blackbird on the track seemed wonderful at the time, but were easily eclipsed on the same track next morning...

**Overnight Bompu Camp.**

**Saturday April 4**
Early morning walk out of the camp at 0500 towards and then beyond Sessni with packed breakfast and lunch. Our luck with monster gamebirds continued as we had Rufous-throated Partridge and then a blatant female Grey Peacock-Pheasant on the track in short order! We also saw some great flocks – at times – and these included bar-wings, beyond computation, Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler, White-breasted Parrotbill very close and Rufous-necked Hornbill not far beyond Sessni. Birding was tricky at times with intermittent sunny spells and mixed low cloud in the morning, deteriorating even further by mid afternoon when low cloud was a constant problem although we fluked a calling Long-billed Wren-Babbler that came out to play for a little while on the ascent.

**Overnight Bompu Camp.**

**Sunday April 5**
We left Bompu with a packed breakfast at 0500. We spent the morning birding en-route to Lama camp via EagleNest pass, making several stops en-route, including a long search on the pass itself. Here the masses of flowering rhododendrons looked great for Myzornis and we searched hard but to no avail on two visits here. The best birds included a flock of Spot-winged Grosbeaks near Bompu and a pair of the amazing Spotted Laughing-Thrush seen brilliantly on the descent. We arrived at Lama to be greeted by the ringing calls of Bugun Liocichla in the gully below the camp. The bird was virtually tangible for 10 minutes but then escaped and our best crack by far was over. We later birded down the valley from Lama till dark.

**Overnight Lama Camp.** A slightly more established and comfortable camp than Bompu, with a proper enclosed dining area complete with wood burner. The food here was pretty average though! Washing facilities are comparable to Bompu, i.e. not bad under the circumstances and the Grey Nightjars charging round the camp came at no extra cost.

**Monday April 6**
We birded pre-breakfast from 0500 down the valley from Lama camp. After breakfast we drove from Lama along the track back to EagleNest pass making several stops, returning to the camp for a late lunch. After lunch we then birded the valley around Lama camp again. The valley below Lama is rather higher and a little more temperate than on the south face of hill at Bompu. Notable species included Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie (in the camp at dawn), Gold-naped Finches (behind toilets!), two good woodpeckers (Crimson-breasted and Rufous-bellied) on the dead trees just below the camp and Bhutan Laughing-Thrush (common). Back up the pass we had some good close flocks of sunbirds, minlas, Brown-throated Fulveta plus a Crimson-browed Finch.

**Overnight Lama Camp**
Tuesday April 7th
We again birded pre-breakfast from 0600 to 0730 around the valley of Lama camp. It was bright and sunny and we had some very nice flocks. We then left Lama Camp and headed towards Dirang; we stopped off en-route and birded along the river valley of Rupa in the morning to the tune of Crested Kingfisher and then spent the afternoon birding on the Mandala road. We concentrated on the upper portion, despite the forest being pretty degraded and breezy here. We finally started scoring well in some good forest a few km over the pass. Memorable species included Darjeeling Woodpecker, White-collared Blackbird, another two Spotted Laughing-Thrush, Red-headed Bullfinch and Fire-tailed Sunbird. We arrived early evening in Dirang.

Overnight Pemaling Hotel, outskirts of Dirang. Very comfortable hotel and rooms with hot showers, and, of course, the usual Indian institutions of intermittent electricity and slightly haphazard service. Food was good in the restaurant. This was total luxury after EagleNest!

Wednesday April 8th
Up very early this morning and departed at 0300 hrs for the drive up the Se La pass (2.5 hrs). This is the fifth highest motorable road in the world with the pass situated at 13,700 feet above sea level on the Tawang road. You need to leave early because the road is bad in places and gets clogged up by lots of lorries later. Anyway, birdwise it is important to arrive near the pass around sunrise. Starting a few km below the pass, we birded all day here, including continuing c10km downhill towards Tawang below the military camps. This was an important day with some epic species that were boom or bust here. Luckily, the weather smiled and by breakfast, when we had had Grandalas blowing around like confetti over the reservoir this was obviously going to be easily the day of the trip. Himalayan Monal had appeared on the ridges on the way up (male, and still present in strong sunlight at noon on the way back) and at the turning point on the Tawang side we had great looks at Blood Pheasant and flushed Solitary Snipe. Two species of rosefinch, an Altai Accentor flock, bluetails and both Russet Bush-Warbler and Wallcreeper on the way back down proved we could do no wrong.

Overnight Pemaling Hotel, Dirang

Thursday April 9th
We had a slightly leisurely breakfast at 0600 before heading to Sangti valley and birding this area during the morning. This added species such as Long-billed Plover and Crested Buntings singing but also a few lingering winterers such as Little Bunting, Rufous-breasted Accentor and even Daurian Redstart.

It was then time to head back down to Nameri, stopping a couple of times for birding and scenery shots en-route. The obvious place to break this long drive is in the bamboo forest below Sessa, but we
had heavy rain when we got to the best bits here (see also April 1st, above). We arrived at Nameri late afternoon and walked down to the river for a couple of hours birding before dark. The most memorable encounter on this jaunt was a total of 41 big hornbills, mainly Wreathed, flying to roost.

**Overnight Eco Camp, Nameri.**

**Friday April 10th**
Early morning walk 0500 to 0730 down to the river before departing for Guwahati. In the early afternoon we arrived at Deepor Beel wetland not far from Guwahati airport and spent from 1315 to 1430 birding from the watchtower and along the shores of the lake. Greater Adjutants, Peregrine and lots of Garganey were some of the highlights. We then were transferred to the airport for the same short baggage ding-dong with Indigo (who were a complete push-over compared to that Blue-fronted Robin) before we caught the internal flight back to Kolkata. We arrived in Kolkata early evening.

**Overnight Hotel Raj Palace** – as per 27th March.

**Saturday April 11th**
Our international flight was not until late afternoon so we had pre-arranged to be collected from the Hotel by local bird guide Soumya Kundu (mobile number +919830 284741; email soumyakundu@gmail.com). He collected us at 0530 and took us to Chintamoni Kar bird sanctuary on the southern edge of the city. Here we spent the morning birding. It is a small reserve of woodland and, although it was very hot and humid, well worth the visit with a few new species for the trip being added. Of these, the best was a singing Orange-headed Thrush, amongst nine species not logged in Assam or AP.

We left Kolkata on our international flight, stopping off in Abu Dhabi (OC) and then onbound to Heathrow UK (CM and TP).

**Systematic List** Order and nomenclature below broadly follows Rasmussen and Anderton (2012) Volume 1. Common and / or widespread species (in their preferred habitat) are merely listed; brief details are provided for all more interesting and elusive species. Sites visited and referred to below are Kaziranga (East, West and Central ranges, plus around the Jhupuri resort), Nameri (Eco camp, track to river, one visit to the forest on the East side of the river and rafting), roadside after the Arunachal Pradesh border up as far as Sessa, EagleNest (from below Lama camp to below the old camp at Sessni), Mandala Road (mainly upper reaches), Se La Pass (from 3km on Dirang side to c 10km on the Tawang side), Sangti Valley (near Dirang) and a few roadside stops between Tenga and Sessa on the return journey. In Kolkata we birded only at Chinatomoni Kar Bird Sanctuary for one morning; a handful of species seen only there are highlighted below. A mammal list is given at the end.

1. Little Grebe
2. Spot-billed Pelican Small numbers at Kaziranga
3. Great Cormorant
4. Little Cormorant
5. Oriental Darter
6. Little Egret
7. Intermediate Egret
8. Great Egret
9. Eastern Cattle Egret
10. Grey Heron Small numbers at Kaziranga
11. Purple Heron Small numbers at Kaziranga
12. Indian Pond Heron
13. Black-crowned Night-Heron Five in flight at dusk over Nameri Eco camp
14. Striated Heron Only recorded at Nameri
15. Asian Openbill Common in lowland areas.
16. Greater Adjutant Hundreds at Guwahati Dump and smaller numbers Kaziranga
17. Lesser Adjutant Small numbers at Guwahati Dump and Kaziranga; also recorded Nameri
18. **Black-necked Stork** Several recorded at Kaziranga
19. **Black-headed Ibis** Small numbers at Kaziranga
20. **Bar-headed Goose** Good numbers at Kaziranga and four migrating over the Se La Pass (as illustrated right!)
21. **Greylag Goose** Small numbers at Kaziranga
22. **Lesser Whistling Duck**
23. **Common Shelduck** Small flock flying upriver at Namieri
24. **Ruddy Shelduck** Including two migrants on the lake at Se La Pass
25. **White-winged Duck** Two recorded well in flight, Namieri
26. **Common Teal**
27. **Garganey** Including at least 40 at Deepor Beel
28. **Gadwall**
29. **Eurasian Wigeon**
30. **Northern Pintail**
31. **Northern Shoveler**
32. **Indian Spotbilled Duck**
33. **Common Teal**
34. **Cotton Teal** Several recorded at Deepor Beel
35. **Black-winged Kite**
36. **Shikra** Confirmed only in Calcutta, although Accipiter sp recorded on several occasions.
37. **Crested Goshawk** Poor views at Kaziranga and EagleNest
38. **Buteo sp** One recorded briefly at Se La Pass
39. **Short-toed Eagle** One flying over at Kaziranga
40. **Crested Serpent-Eagle**
41. **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**
42. **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** One recorded well, EagleNest
43. **Black Eagle** Recorded well at EagleNest (several individuals) and also from roadside between Dirang and Sessa
44. **Greater Spotted Eagle** One at Kaziranga
45. **Steppe Eagle** Singles at Deepor Beel and Kaziranga
46. **Osprey** Quite common at Kaziranga and Namieri
47. **Grey-headed Fish-Eagle** Recorded frequently and very well, Kaziranga
48. **Pallas’s Fish-Eagle** Up to five per day, Kaziranga
49. **Himalayan Vulture** Small numbers Kaziranga and several over Se La Pass
50. **Red-headed Vulture** One Kaziranga
51. **Pied Harrier** Female seen well from roadside between Central and Western ranges, Kaziranga
52. **Hen Harrier** Two singles at Namieri
53. **Common Kestrel**
54. **Peregrine Falcon** Singles at Kaziranga and Deepor Beel
55. **Swamp Francolin** Pair recorded feeding out in the open, Kaziranga
56. **Common Hill-Partridge** Pair recorded well above Bompu Camp, EagleNest (and common on voice)
57. **Rufous-throated Hill-Partridge** Single by road, below Bompu, EagleNest. Also head calling.
58. **Red Junglefowl**
59. **Blood Pheasant** Pair, Se La (c10 km down on the Tawang side of the pass)
60. **Blyth’s Tragopan** Two heard around Bompu, EagleNest and one recorded crossing road
61. **Himalayan Monal** Two males recorded several km below Se La pass on the Dirang side. Found at dawn and one still present on return at noon.
62. **Grey Peacock-Pheasant** Common on voice around Sessni, EagleNest and female seen feeding openly on track.
63. **Common Moorhen**
64. **Grey-headed Swamphen**
65. **White-breasted Waterhen**
66. **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**
67. **Bronze-winged Jacana**
68. **Pied Avocet** Several recorded Kaziranga
69. **Great Thick-knee** Two recorded well from rafting canoe, Namieri
70. **Small Pratincole** Locally common along river at Namieri and 100+ seen at dusk
71. **Red-wattled Lapwing**
72. **River Lapwing**
73. **Grey-headed Lapwing** Pair, Kaziranga
74. **Northern Lapwing** Surprisingly common, Kaziranga.
75. **Little Ringed Plover**
76. **Long-billed Plover** One found easily, Sangti Valley
77. Eurasian Curlew One flying downstream, Nameri
78. Common Greenshank
79. Common Redshank
80. Spotted Redshank One recorded, Kaziranga
81. Wood Sandpiper
82. Green Sandpiper
83. Common Sandpiper
84. Temminck’s Stint
85. Snipe sp Several on the ground at Kaziranga seemed closest to this species
86. Solitary Snipe One flushed several times from boggy ground near the Blood
Pheasant site, Se La (see above)
87. Brown-headed Gull Only one, Deepor Beel
88. River Tern Recorded Kaziranga and Nameri
89. Whiskered Tern Only recorded Deepor Beel (two)
90. Feral Pigeon
91. Snow Pigeon Several groups recorded at the Se La Pass, including six close
on ground and later a flyby of 50+
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on ground and later a flyby of 50+
139. **Blue-eared Kingfisher** One seen very well at one of the White-winged Duck pools, Nameri

140. **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**

141. **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**

142. **Rufous-necked Hornbill** Recorded and heard just below Sessni, EagleNest

143. **Oriental Pied Hornbill** Only one seen poorly (Kaziranga)

144. **Great Hornbill** Several recorded, including attending nesting holes, Kaziranga and five in flight at Nameri, where nesting at the Eco camp.

145. **Wreathed Hornbill** Seen well in flight over river at Nameri on two dates, including 35 flying to roost at dusk.

146. **Coppersmith Barbet**

147. **Blue-throated Barbet**

148. **Lineated Barbet** Very common in lowlands

149. **Golden-throated Barbet** Small numbers seen and heard, EagleNest

150. **Great Barbet** Very common on voice anywhere in the hills

151. **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** One at Kaziranga

152. **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** Recorded at Kaziranga

153. **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** One drumming for two mornings on dead trees below Lama, EagleNest

154. **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker** One seen, EagleNest.

155. **Darjeeling Woodpecker** One seen well beyond the village and quarry, Mandala

156. **Streak-throated Woodpecker** Seen very well Calcutta, where nesting

157. **Lesser Yellownape** Recorded in Nameri

158. **Greater Yellownape** Recorded at Lama, EagleNest

159. **Bay Woodpecker** Heard calling quite often at EagleNest and seen well below Lama and from road below Sessa

160. **Pale-headed Woodpecker** One calling and drumming in the bamboo forest below Sessa but seen only in flight

161. **Black-rumped Flameback**

162. **Greater Flameback**

163. **Long-tailed Broadbill** Two small groups recorded below Sessa and one above Sessni, EagleNest

164. **Blue-naped Pitta** One calling on two mornings behind hotel at Kaziranga but in thick scrub

165. **Bengal Bushlark** Best seen at Kaziranga

166. **Oriental Skylark Singing at Kaziranga and Sangti Valley**

167. **Sand Lark** One Recorded, Nameri

168. **Grey-throated Sand Martin**

169. **House Martin sp** One seen briefly at Nameri was probably Asian

170. **Barn Swallow**

171. **Red-rumped Swallow**

172. **Yellow Wagtail**

173. **Grey Wagtail**

174. **Citrine Wagtail**

175. **White Wagtail** Frequent good examples of leucopsis and, especially, alboides

176. **Olive-backed Pipit** Several at Nameri matched yunnanensis whilst those at Lama, EagleNest and singing at Mandala matched the nominate hodgsoni

177. **Rosy Pipit** Common, including displaying and singing at Se La

178. **Paddyfield Pipit**

179. **Ashy Wood-swallow**

180. **Common Woodshrike** One at Kaziranga

181. **Bar-winged (Pied) Flycatcher-Shrike**

182. **Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike a**

183. **Short-billed Minivet Pair seen well, EagleNest (below Lama)**

184. **Scarlet Minivet**

185. **Grey-chinned Minivet**

186. **Rosy Minivet** Male and female seen Kaziranga

187. **Red-vented Bulbul**

188. **Red-whiskered Bulbul**

189. **Himalayan Black Bulbul**

190. **Mountain Bulbul**

191. **White-throated Bulbul** Seen well behind hotel at Kaziranga and at Nameri

192. **Black-crested Bulbul**

193. **Striated Bulbul**

194. **Ashy Bulbul** seen briefly below Sessa

195. **Common Iora**

196. **Orange-bellied Leafbird** Especially common in forest just below Bompu, EagleNest

197. **Gold-fronted Leafbird**

198. **Asian Fairy Bluebird** One female seen, Nameri

199. **Long-tailed Shrike** Surprisingly few!

200. **Grey-backed Shrike** Common and Kaziranga and Nameri

201. **Brown Shrike** Just one, at Nameri near the Eco camp
202. Yellow-bellied Fantail
203. White-throated Fantail
204. Brown Dipper Recorded several times around Tenga and Dirang
205. Purple Cochoa Calling closely but not seen, just below Sessni, EagleNest
206. Grandala A superb display at the Se La Pass where four seen just before the pass, and up to 25
breezing about over the lake and surrounding slopes until about 0900. None on the return at
midday however.
207. Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush Recorded above Bompu and at EagleNest pass
208. Blue-capped Rock-Thrush One seen from the roadside near Dirang
209. Blue Whistling-Thrush
210. White-collared Blackbird Singing strongly at Mandala Road
211. Grey-winged Blackbird Female on track below Bompu
212. Orange-headed Thrush Only recorded in Calcutta, where one singing
213. Plain-backed Thrush Several recorded near EagleNest pass, on track at dusk
214. Scaly Thrush Recorded twice on track near Sessni, EagleNest
215. Blue-fronted Robin One singing strongly one morning above Bompu, EagleNest
216. White-tailed Robin One singing strongly one morning below Bompu, EagleNest
217. Himalayan Bluetail Surprisingly scarce, with just a pair recorded at Se La and none seen at EagleNest
218. Bush-robin sp One near Bompu was probably Rufous-breasted.
219. White-rumped Shama Singing strongly and easy to see in hotel garden,
Kaziranga
220. Oriental Magpie-Robin
221. Spotted Forktail One seen poorly, near Sessni, EagleNest
222. Black Redstart
223. Daurian Redstart Male in Sangti Valley
224. Blue-fronted Water-Redstart Especially common on Se La Pass
225. Plumbeous Water-Redstart
226. Siberian Stonechat
227. Grey Bushchat
228. Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher Mainly at higher elevations at Mandala and
EagleNest
229. Little Pied Flycatcher One recorded near Sessa
230. Taiga Flycatcher Very common in the lowlands
231. Small Niltava Pair near Sessa in bamboo forest
232. Large Niltava Several EagleNest, above and below Bompu
233. Pale-chinned Flycatcher One seen very closely at Namrei
234. Verdure Flycatcher
235. White-crested Laughing-Thrush Heard several times at EagleNest
236. Bhutan Laughing-Thrush Common around Lama, EagleNest
237. Black-faced Laughing-Thrush Recorded only at EagleNest pass
238. Striated Laughing-Thrush Quite frequent, EagleNest
239. White-throated Laughing-Thrush One small group, EagleNest pass
240. Red-headed (Chestnut-crowned) Laughing-Thrush Surprisingly scarce (and
hard to see)
241. Grey-sided Laughing-Thrush Seen well twice at EagleNest, once below Bompu
and then near the pass
242. Spotted Laughing-Thrush Pair recorded between EagleNest Pass and Lama and
another on Mandala Road, in good forest beyond the pass
243. Bugun Liochicha Calling loud and clear at 1200 from the gully below Lama,
EagleNest on one date but never again
244. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler Recorded only at Kaziranga
245. Rufous-capped Babbler Common at EagleNest
246. Rufous-fronted Babbler Recorded behind hotel at Kaziranga
247. Golden Babbler Quite widespread; recorded on several dates
248. Grey-throated Babbler Small groups above and below Sessni, EagleNest
249. Jungle Babbler Recorded only in Calcutta
250. Striated Babbler Two groups recorded at dusk from rafting canoe on grassy
islands at Namrei
251. Chestnut-capped Babbler seen poorly at Kaziranga, on the elephant ride
252. Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler Recorded at Bompu, EagleNest and heard between there and the pass
253. Black-crowned (Coral-billed) Scimitar-Babbler Two sightings, both around Sessni, EagleNest
254. Silver-eared Mesia Groups quite common around Sessni, EagleNest
255. White-bellied Erpornis Just one, one the road below Sessa
256. Black-chinned Yuhina
257. Striated Yuhina Flock along river valley well below Sessa
258. Whiskered Yuhina
259. White-naped Yuhina a
260. Rufous-vented Yuhina Especially common at higher elevations
261. Stripe-throated Yuhina Especially common at higher elevations
262. Rufous-winged Fulvetta a
263. Yellow-throated Fulvetta a
264. Golden-breasted Fulvetta Recorded three times above Bompu, EagleNest
265. Brown-throated Fulvetta Seen well both at EagleNest pass and Mandala
266. Rusty-fronted Barwing Abundant!
267. Streak-throated Barwing Recorded twice; once above Bompu and again below Lama, EagleNest
268. Long-tailed Sibia
269. Beautiful Sibia Especially numerous on the flowering rhododendrons at EagleNest pass, and at Lama
270. Rufous-backed Sibia Only record, in a mixed flock above Sessni, EagleNest
271. Indian White-hooded Babbler Seen well in bamboo forest on the roadside below Sessa
272. Blue-winged Minla
273. Bar-throated (Chestnut-tailed) Minla
274. Red-tailed Minla
275. Blyth's Shrike-Babbler Recorded several times, EagleNest
276. Black-headed Shrike-Babbler A pair seen above Bompu, EagleNest
277. Green Shrike Babbler A pair seen between EagleNest Pass and Bompu, EagleNest
278. Black-eared Shrike-Babbler One seen near Sessni, EagleNest
279. Himalayan Cutia Two sightings, including the second of three calling and displaying above Sessni, EagleNest
280. Eurasian Wren Heard singing at Se La pass
281. Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler One seen very closely above Bompu, EagleNest
282. Pygmy Wren-Babbler Common (on voice) throughout much of EagleNest
283. Long-billed Wren-Babbler One heard and seen in a gully above Sessni, EagleNest
284. Sikkim Wedge-billed Wren-Babbler Singing from the first gully above Bompu, EagleNest but not seen.
285. Abbot's Babbler Only recorded at Namiri
286. Puff-throated Babbler Recorded only at Namiri, where drinking in puddles on track near Eco camp
287. Black-throated Parrotbill Fast-moving flock seen once at EagleNest (above Bompu)
288. Pale-billed (Lesser Rufous-headed) Parrotbill Two seen very well in a roadside bamboo patch below Sessa, along with those obliging White-hooded Babblers.
289. White-breasted (Greater Rufous-headed) Parrotbill Seen well above Sessni, EagleNest
290. Black-throated Parrotbill Seen poorly in a fast-moving flock several km above Bompu, EagleNest.
291. Zitting Cisticola
292. Striated Grassbird
293. Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler Common on voice in clearings around EagleNest, i.e. right below the tents at Bompu.
294. Russet Bush-Warbler Two heard singing on the lower reaches of the road up to Se La pass; one glimpsed and the other seen rather well. Also singing along the road between Tenga and Sessa
295. Blyth's Reed Warbler Recorded only in Calcutta
296. Plain Prinia
297. Common Tailorbird
298. Slaty-bellied Tesia Common on voice around Bompu, EagleNest but not as easy to see as the next species
299. Chestnut-headed Tesia Common throughout EagleNest, especially at higher elevations
300. Broad-billed Warbler Seen and heard very well above Bompu, EagleNest
301. Black-faced Warbler
302. Yellow-bellied Warbler Recorded only at Sessa
303. Chestnut-crowned Warbler
304. Yellow-vented Warbler Recorded only at the river at Sessa, where singing close to the track
305. Grey-hooded Warbler Common at lower elevations
306. Grey-cheeked Warbler
307. Whistler's Warbler
308. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher
309. Dusky Warbler Quite common in the lowlands
310. Tickell's Leaf-Warbler Surprisingly easy to find at Kaziranga, where heard singing and also seen at Nameri
311. Blyth's Leaf-Warbler Common above Bompu and around Lama, EagleNest
312. Greenish Warbler Several seen at Kaziranga
313. Yellow-browed Warbler Common in the lowlands
314. Lemon-rumped Warbler Recorded in small numbers at EagleNest (higher up) and seen well at Mandala
315. Grey-faced (Ashy-throated) Warbler Common at higher elevations
316. Orange (Buff-barred) Warbler Small numbers present at higher elevations at EagleNest, Mandala and Se La
317. Rufous-vented Tit Recorded only at Se La
318. Coal Tit Mainly Mandala
319. Grey-crested Tit Recorded at Recorded Mandala and Se La
320. Cinereous Tit
321. Green-backed Tit Surprisingly scarce, save for around Lama, EagleNest
322. Red-headed (Black-throated) Tit
323. Rufous-fronted Tit
324. Yellow-browed Tit
325. Black-spotted Yellow Tit As for Green-backed, Recorded best at Lama, EagleNest
326. Sultan Tit Recorded only at Namiri
327. Rusty-flanked Treecreeper One seen at Mandala
328. Wallcreeper One recorded at the bottom of the road up to the Se La pass
329. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
330. White-tailed Nuthatch Just a few seen, above Bompu, EagleNest
331. Beautiful Nuthatch Group of three seen well, despite the mist, below Bompu, EagleNest
332. Pale-billed Flowerpecker Recorded only at Calcutta
333. Plain Flowerpecker Recorded only at Namiri
334. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker
335. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker Common at low densities around EagleNest
336. Oriental White-eye
337. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird Seen only in hotel garden, Kaziranga
338. Purple-rumped Sunbird Recorded only in Calcutta
339. Purple Sunbird
340. Crimson Sunbird
341. Fire-tailed Sunbird Recorded at Mandala and Se La pass
342. Mrs Gould’s Sunbird Recorded mainly EagleNest pass but also around Lama
343. Black-throated Sunbird
344. Green-tailed Sunbird Abundant everywhere at EagleNest
345. Streaked Spiderhunter
346. Altai Accentor Small flock seen well beyond the Se La
347. Alpine Accentor One, very tame, at Se La pass
348. Rufous-browed Accentor Seen very closely at Lama, EagleNest and also in the Sangti valley
349. Crested Bunting Two singing in the Sangti valley
350. Little Bunting Recorded at Mandala and in the Sangti valley
351. Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch Small group on Tawang side of Se La pass
352. Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch Several seen at dawn on Dirang side of Se La pass
353. Red Crossbill Flock of 10 recorded from roadside above Lama, EagleNest
354. Crimson-browed Finch Single female at EagleNest pass
355. Scarlet Finch Several seen above Sessni, EagleNest
356. Gold-naped Finch Pair (or three) seen at Lama, EagleNest
357. Red-headed Bullfinch Heard calling and glimpsed Mandala and eventually three seen quite well.
358. White-winged Grosbeak Several seen perching obviously from the road just below the Se La pass
359. Spot-winged Grosbeak Flock found on high ridge just above Bompu, EagleNest
360. House Sparrow
361. Tree Sparrow
362. Russet (Cinnamon) Sparrow Flocks at Mandala and Sangti valley
363. Maroon Oriole Quite common by voice at EagleNest and seen well at Lama
364. Black-hooded Oriole
365. Ashy Drongo Common in hill forest at most elevations
366. Black Drongo
367. Bronzed Drongo Mainly around Sessni, EagleNest
368. Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo Recorded only at Kaziranga
369. Lesser Racquet Tailed Drongo Several seen well at EagleNest around Sessni
370. Hair-crested Drongo a
371. Spot-winged Starling A lucky encounter with a group of three by the path near the ranger station, Namiri
372. Grey-headed (Chestnut-tailed) Starling
373. Asian Pied Starling
374. Common Myna
375. Jungle Myna
376. White-vented Myna
377. Common Hill-Myna
378. Spotted Nutcracker One EagleNest pass and great views a little beyond the pass at Mandala
379. Red-billed Chough Small numbers at EagleNest pass
380. House Crow
381. (Eastern) Jungle Crow
382. Large-billed Crow
383. Common Green Magpie Three sightings, all in low elevation hill forest (Sessa and below Sessni, EagleNest)
384. Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie One around Lama, EagleNest at dawn and small group seen Mandala
385. Grey Treepie
386. Rufous Treepie
Mammals

1. **Arunachal Macaque** Seen below Sessa
2. **Capped Langur** Easy to see at Nameri Eco camp
3. **Asian Elephant** Seen at Kaziranga and droppings everywhere at EagleNest
4. **Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros** Seen easily at Kaziranga
5. **Hog Deer** Common, Kaziranga
6. **Swamp Deer** Common, Kaziranga
7. **Indian Muntjac** One on track below Bompu, EagleNest
8. **Gaur** One seen from rafting trip, Nameri
9. **Water Buffalo** Common, Kaziranga
10. **Hog Badger** One seen from elephant ride, Kaziranga
11. **Otter sp.** Family and one single, Kaziranga
12. **Black Giant Squirrel** Seen at EagleNest
13. **Himalayan Striped Squirrel**
14. **Hoary-bellied Squirrel**