TRIP REPORT
Northeast India – Assam Plains and the Eastern Himalaya
25th March to 9th April 2018

The Eastern Himalayas represent the richest avifauna in the entire Oriental region, and are perhaps nowhere better explored than in India’s northeast corner. The state of Assam and West Kameng district of neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh present the opportunity to explore a cross-section of this bird-rich environment with relative ease, as the hills climb steeply out of the Brahmaputra floodplain. Our comprehensive birding tour begins at little over 100m asl in hot and humid sub-montane swamp forests before ascending into the Himalayas where we explore the higher reaches of the hills up to the arctic cold of one of the highest motorable passes in the entire Himalayan chain at a little over 4000m asl. At lower elevations swathes of superb, protected montane rainforest merge across the border into Bhutan, while back in the lowlands the vast floodplain of the mighty Brahmaputra River hosts waterbirds and range-restricted grassland specialities.

This itinerary promises exhilarating birding throughout, and this year’s tour was no exception. We were aided by good weather, which is so often unpredictable in this region and particularly so in this pre-monsoon period. Our time in the mountains was pleasant, with warm days and periods of sunshine that seemed to coerce feeding flocks into action. We did experience some rainfall at Nameri where rising river levels which had some impact on our finding one of our target birds, but with the larger part of the seasonal thunderstorms over Kaziranga happening during the night the disruption to our birding schedule here was kept to a minimum. A total of 443 species were recorded over 16 days, with a further 11 heard, which included many of the anticipated Eastern Himalayan specialities and the region’s notorious skulkers, an abundance of birds associating in fast-moving mixed species flocks, and Palaearctic migrants, all accompanied by 24 mammal species including some of the subcontinent’s most iconic.

Sites visited:
Nameri National Park, 25.03-27.03
Dirang (as a base for visits to Sela Pass, the Mandala Road, Sangthi Valley), 28.03-30.03
Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, 31.03-04.04
Kaziranga National Park, 05.04-08.04
Participants:
Nick Burfield, Peter Forbes, Joyce & Terry Grier, Hans-Åke Gustafsson, Raj Patel, Kristian Svensson, Keith Wimbush

Tour leader(s):
Qupeleio (Leio) De Souza & Lakpa Tenzing Sherpa

Species recorded:
444 birds (+ 11 heard) + 24 mammals

Top five birds of the tour, as voted by the group:
1. Beautiful Nuthatch
2. Blyth’s Tragopan
3. Himalayan Cutia
4. White-winged Duck
5. Grey Peacock Pheasant

Outline daily schedule:
(24.3 group arrivals)
25.3 flight from Delhi at 0520h arriving Guwahati 0725h, drive to Nameri NP, birding the park access road
26.3 full day at Nameri NP; morning and afternoon on foot within the reserve
27.3 full day at Nameri NP, morning within the reserve, afternoon rafting along the Jia Boreli River
28.3 drive from Nameri NP to Dirang, birding en-route in Sessa and from Bomdila onwards
29.3 Dirang; birding along drive up to, and back down from, Sela Pass
30.3 Dirang; birding along the Mandala Road to Mandala Pass
31.3 Dirang; birding at Sangthi Valley, followed by drive to Lama Camp, Eaglenest WLS, birding at Aloo Bari
1.4 full day around Lama Camp, Eaglenest WLS; birding above Lama and down to Aloo Bari
2.4 drive from Lama Camp to Bompu Camp, birding at Eaglenest Pass, Sunderview and Bompu
3.4 full day around Bompu Camp, Eaglenest WLS; birding in lower elevations below Bompu down to Khellong
4.4 birding at Sessni before driving from Bompu Camp back to Lama Camp
5.4 birding at Aloo Bari, followed by drive from Eaglenest WLS to Kaziranga NP
6.4 full day at Kaziranga NP; morning and afternoon jeep drives (Central range / Eastern range)
7.4 full day at Kaziranga NP; tea gardens, morning and afternoon jeep drives (Central range / Western range)
8.4 full day at Kaziranga NP; morning and afternoon jeep drives (Eastern range / Central range)
9.4 tea gardens then drive to Guwahati via Deepor Beel, flight from Guwahati at 1525h arriving Delhi 1805h
(10.4 group departures)

Daily log:
25.3 As all group participants had gathered in Delhi the previous day, we left our hotel as a group just before 3am to transfer to Delhi’s domestic airport and connect to our early flight to Guwahati in northeast India’s Assam state. The flight was operating to schedule and with a long drive ahead to our first halt, Nameri National Park, our on-time arrival into Guwahati was welcome. After collecting our luggage we met up with Lakpa and our three tour drivers, and set out in our jeeps for the Baragaon landfill site on the edge of Guwahati. Baragaon offers the incredible and unforgettable spectacle of hundreds of Greater Adjutants, the greater part of the global population, picking their way through the garbage among Lesser Adjutants, kites, egrets, wagtails and Tree Sparrows, all sharing space with cattle and the unfortunate residents for whom this is the only means of livelihood. Heading east out of Guwahati we were soon driving towards Nameri and our lodge, Eco Camp, situated across the Jia Boreli River from the enticing Nameri National Park, part of a larger expanse of wilderness in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya at 105m asl. Arriving at Eco Camp for a late lunch we then had time to bird along the dirt road between the lodge and the river, which proved a fitting introduction to the birds of the area, highlights including a smart male Siberian Rubythroat. After the early start and long day we were all ready for some rest and the first of three comfortable nights under canvas at Eco Camp.
26-27.3 Over these two days at Nameri we spent most of our time birding on foot within the national park, with the exception of an afternoon rafting along the Jia Bhoreli River on 27.03. Nameri is one of few places with the rare ability to make you feel truly detached from civilization, and it is often possible to spend a morning without seeing another person. Its popularity is growing however, and during the first day of our stay was somewhat busy. One of Nameri’s key targets, White-winged Duck, had not been seen for the last few weeks, so knowing that most other visiting birders would be searching known stake-outs of this bird we chose to head away from the disturbance and further into the reserve to walk less-frequented inner trails. This proved a good decision, and resulted in a productive morning’s birding. After lunch back across the Jia Bhoreli at Eco-Camp we spent the afternoon walking the forest edges flanking the river and made a few unsuccessful detours to secluded forest swamps in search of the duck, before returning to Eco Camp at dusk.

A thunderstorm and heavy rain during the night meant the following day was damp and humid, with less people inside the reserve. On crossing the Jia Bhoreli we made straight to one of Nameri’s forest pools, scanning intently until we glimpsed a single White-winged Duck fly out of the far corner. A hasty retreat and quick walk took us to a second pool where we found the bird feeding, giving us prolonged views of a secretive species high on every birders’ wish list. The rest of the morning took us along Nameri’s network of trails, retreating from one to avoid a herd of Indian Elephants. The rain had no doubt contributed to our success with the duck, the downside being that water levels in the river had risen considerably overnight which did not bode well for our search for another of our key targets here, the curious Ibisbill. With Nameri being our best chance of this species we anyway set out on our planned rafting trip along the Jia Bhoreli, and although we enjoyed good views of other riverine species, including both Indian and Great Stone-curlews, it became apparent that the small groups of Ibisbill wintering here had moved on overnight, and would eventually elude us throughout the tour. Walking back to Eco Camp we had excellent views of Brown Hawk Owl at dusk, and Collared Scops Owl during our after dinner owling session outside the lodge.

Highlights during our time at Nameri included the diminutive Pied Falconet, Wreathed Hornbill, both Hodgson’s and Daurian Redstarts, Sultan Tit, Little and Streaked Spiderhunters, the non-descript and skulking Abbott’s Babbler, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Black-throated Thrush, Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Black-naped Blue Monarch, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Ashy Minivet, Ashy and White-throated Bulbuls, Maroon Oriole, Large Woodshrike, Green-billed Malkoha, Blue-eared Barbet, Chestnut-bellied and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Greater Flameback, Common Hawk-cuckoo, Dollarbird, Barred Cuckoo-dove, Thick-billed, Pin-tailed and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeons, Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, Lesser Coucal and Black-backed Forktail with Sand Lark, Black Stork, Great Crested Grebe, Common Merganser, Pintail Snipe, Small Pratincole and River Tern along the Jia Bhoreli and its sandy banks.

28.3 We left Eco Camp after breakfast with a long drive ahead of us from Nameri in the plains of Assam into the Eastern Himalayas to Dirang in West Kameng district of neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh. With major road works along the route we decided not to stop for any en-route birding until we had cleared the disruption, but did manage some roadside birding
at Sessa, where we encountered Small Niltava and Rusty-tailed Flycatcher. We began our ascent into the mountains, stopping for lunch in the town of Tenga and beginning birding in earnest after crossing the town of Bomdila at an elevation of 2217m asl. Being our first foray into the hills a whole new set of species presented themselves and we added a good number to our list this afternoon before arriving at our hotel in Dirang, Hotel Pemaling, at dusk. Highlights today included Mountain Hawk Eagle, Black Eagle, Himalayan Buzzard, Yellow-browed and Yellow-cheeked Tits, Ashy Bulbul, Black-faced, Yellow-bellied and Yellow-vented Warblers, Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, a sizeable mixed flock comprising Buff-barred, Ashy-throated and Lemon-rumped Warblers, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Golden Babbler, a large group of 30+ White-throated Laughingthrushes, Rufous-winged and Golden-breasted Fulvettas, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Mrs. Gould’s Sunbird and Crested Bunting for some.

Red Junglefowl, several seen at both Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP, photo: Kristian Svensson

Wreathed Hornbill (male), a relatively common species within the forests of Nameri NP

Small Niltava, 2 birds seen at Sessa while en-route to Dirang, photo: Kristian Svensson

Mrs. Gould’s Sunbird, several seen in the hills around Dirang, and at Eaglenest WLS

**29-30.3** These two days at Dirang would allow us to explore the mid-elevations surroundings of the town at 1600m asl as well as the higher accessible altitudes of this region as we made our way up to, and back down from, Sela Pass at 4176m asl and along the Mandala Road from 2200m asl to Mandala Pass at 3700m asl.

A 3am start on 29.03 got us just below Sela Pass by 5am where conditions were clear but cold. Sela is one of the highest accessible passes in the Himalayas, and although birds are sparse in the harsh conditions the specialities of this high-altitude environment are enticing. As we approached the pass we encountered pipits, redstarts and accentors along the roadside and in the alpine scrub, and soon caught up with the first of our key targets here, with good views of 1 female and 2 male Blood Pheasants. Further up, we picked out a flock of 6 Snow Partridges on the scree-covered slopes and a well-timed flock of 8 Grandala which flew overhead just as we were about to move on. With the cloud thickening we crossed the pass to scan the alternate side, finding Snow Pigeon in small numbers as we enjoyed our picnic breakfast, and a Solitary...
Snipe further along the road, which gave us good views in flight. A walk in search of Himalayan Monal was sadly unproductive, but we did come across a Little Owl, apparently on breeding territory, a significant record from Sela Pass and a nice addition to the trip list. By mid-morning we began to make our way slowly back to Dirang, stopping for lunch and birding across the altitudinal gradient during our descent.

The following morning we began at a more sensible hour, leaving after an early breakfast to spend the day birding along the Mandala Road. In good weather we made numerous birding halts as we drove towards Mandala Pass, adding plenty of new species and enjoying better views of some seen briefly earlier. Towards the pass 3 stunning Fire-tailed Myzornis were seen well as part of a sizeable mixed feeding flock, though some of the more skulking birds proved difficult, including Bar-winged Wren-Babbler and Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, both of which we heard but could not entice out. Above the pass we narrowly missed one of the most secretive mammals of this region, Red Panda, with one walking past our drivers as they waited by our jeeps. We passed on our location notes to another group we met later in the tour, who managed to find this much sought-after mammal here a few days later. After a picnic lunch the second half of the day was noticeably more quiet than the morning, and we struggled to add many new birds in the roadside habitats of Mandala. Late afternoon we made a stop at a marshy area, where we had superb views of another of our targets here, Black-tailed Crake, and ended the day with two new woodpeckers – Greater Yellownape and Rufous Woodpecker.

31.3 This being our final morning in Dirang we first spent some time at Sangthi Valley before leaving for Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, in search of Long-billed Plover and with an outside chance of the Ibisbill that had eluded us at Nameri. After an early breakfast, and with our jeeps loaded, we drove the short distance to the valley, stopping along the way for Brown Dipper along the river, 3 Crested Kingfishers on overhead wires and Wallcreeper. Along the river that cuts through the
valley we had a fly-past by a pair of Long-billed Plovers, followed by two among the pebbles of the river bank, and found a good few more on scanning.


Making our way southward to Eaglenest, we began birding along the route as we approached Bomdila, and enjoyed an interesting few hours. This being India, our journey was delayed due to an accident on the road, and we stopped for a late lunch in the army town of Tenga, taking the opportunity to refuel and restock before heading off the highway into the quieter back roads taking us to Eaglenest. Approaching Eaglenest we spent a couple of hours birding in the lower elevations, in the abandoned agricultural clearings and of Aloo Bari. In various stages of regeneration, the open scrub habitat and forest fringes here yield some good mixed feeding flocks. One of our main targets in this area was Bugun Liocichla, a recently discovered and highly localised endemic named after the Bugun tribe that inhabits these hills. This afternoon the area was relatively quiet, and there was no sign or sound of the liocichla; we did however find a handful of new birds, and had better views of others seen previously. Continuing to Lama Camp, on the eastern edge of Eaglenest WLS, we arrived in time to familiarize ourselves with our tents, the facilities, the surroundings and spectacular view across the hills towards Bhutan before dusk. Lama Camp at 2350m asl would be our base for the next two nights, exploring the fringes of the sanctuary on the eastern side of Eaglenest ridge.

1.4 After an early cup of tea or coffee we drove back down to Aloo Bari, where the activity was much greater than it had been the previous evening and many new birds were found. After a while we heard the call of a Bugun Liocichla and concentrated our efforts on finding this highly secretive species. We succeeded in finding two individuals, with good views for most of the group though they were certainly trying their best to remain invisible.

After our picnic breakfast the temperatures had risen and bird activity reduced so we drove back up past Lama Camp and hiked up the ‘Tragopan trail’. The conditions were cooler at this elevation, and birds considerably more active. We came across a few interesting mixed flocks, and had superb views of a Common Hill Partridge that had been calling nearby. After lunch back at Lama Camp we walked downhill, picking our way through more mixed flocks. Some of the most elusive birds of these forests are the spectacular montane pheasants, often heard but seldom seen we all, if at all. We could hear a Blyth’s Tragopan calling, and after a lengthy search of what appeared to be very suitable habitat, managed to locate a stunning male at its perch on a fallen tree. After a patient wait of an hour or so it slowly made its way up to the road and flew across in front of us – without doubt a highlight of the trip. More mixed species flocks followed, as well as a small group of 8 Himalayan Cutia feeding in a tree along the roadside.
Additional highlights during these two nights based at Lama Camp included Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Black-eared Shrike Babbler, Yellow-throated Fulvetta, Grey-bellied Tesia, Sikkim Treecreeper, Blue-winged and Red-tailed Minlas, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Pale-billed Parrotbill, Pygmy-Blue Flycatcher, Grey and Red-headed Bullfinches, Scarlet Finch and Grey Nightjar.

2.4 Today we were moving across to the alternate side of Eaglenest ridge into the sanctuary proper, to spend two nights based at Bompu Camp exploring the western part of the sanctuary. The first part of our drive, taking us along the little-used unpaved sanctuary road over Eaglenest Pass at 2780m asl and down towards Sunderview at 2400m asl, was relatively quiet however the high altitude forests, rhododendrons and stands of dwarf bamboo at the pass held a few birds of note, including Chestnut-headed Tesia, Tibetan Serin (previously Tibetan Siskin), Spotted Nutcracker, Darjeeling Woodpecker and Crested Goshawk. The moss-laden primary forests around Sunderview host the sometimes difficult Ward’s Trogon and are perhaps the best part of all Eaglenest for this species. Walking a trail off the main track we heard one call, and with some patience found a female in the canopy that allowed us good views. We also heard another Blyth’s Tragopan, but were not to have a repeat of yesterday’s views, although we did encounter a good selection of other species along the trail. After a picnic lunch we continued our drive downhill, interrupted by some more short walks, to mid-elevation Bompu Camp at 1940m asl. We continued our descent, walking along the forest-flanked road where we encountered a good selection of new additions to our list although activity was subdued, and we did have to work hard for those birds we saw.

Back at Bompu Camp, considerably warmer than Lama Camp due to the drop in altitude, we were all in good spirits and enjoyed a good meal and comfortable night in the relative warm!

[Image: Ward’s Trogon (female), two individuals seen in Eaglenest WLS around Sunderview and Bompu]
[Image: Fire-tailed Myzornis, found along the Mandala Road and again at Eaglenest Pass]

3.4 Today we planned a thorough exploration of the sanctuary’s lower elevations, from Bompu down to Khellong, taking us through the associated transition in habitat types. In the early hours of the morning our drive was quiet, but as dawn broke across the hills Kalij Pheasants and Common Emerald Doves began to appear in our path. At lower altitudes around Khellong the birdlife of the higher hills merges with that of the plains in the lush foothill forests of the foothills, and birding here is often highly productive. Good forest starts around 750m asl, and in particular the large stands of bamboo host some interesting bamboo specialists including Pale-billed Parrotbill and Pale-headed Woodpecker, both of which we saw this morning. Our picnic breakfast along the roadside proved a great birding stop, with a good selection of raptors overhead. We also had good views of a pair of Rufous-necked Hornbills overhead; although this impressive hornbill has a wide distribution its population densities are generally low and this is an uncommon bird throughout its range. We heard a Grey Peacock-Pheasant calling not too far away, and although we did not hold out too much hope of seeing this notorious skulker an adult female with two very young chicks in tow walked out in front of us as we left our picnic spot. Also at these lowest elevations: Silver-eared Mesia, Long-tailed Sibia, White-crested Laughingthrush, Grey-cheeked, Rufous-faced and Broad-billed Warblers, Grey and Collared Treepies, Bay Woodpecker, and two Blyth’s Kingfishers along the river.
With temperatures rising we made our way upslope, birding a few km below Sessni. Here we caught up with numerous wren-babblers, and another target of these hills, Beautiful Nuthatch, although this did play hard to get and some of the group struggled for a good view. A picnic lunch and midday rest were welcome – the weather in these hills is highly unpredictable and often inclement, but today positively tropical! Our afternoon’s birding continued at a slower pace, as we made our way back to Bompu by dusk.

4.4 As we would be heading back to Lama Camp tonight we took the opportunity during our last morning at Bompu to try to catch up with those species we had missed, or that had not been seen well by all, and that were more likely on this side of Eaglenest. Based on our previous sightings, we headed down as far as Sessni. The prospect of accessing such pristine forest across a range of elevations so easily from the jeep track is rare among India’s protected areas and a great part of the Eaglenest’s appeal. We took full advantage of this on our final morning here, when our strategy was to use our jeeps to cover area while briefly birding selected localities on foot. We caught up with a number of species we were missing in various habitats and elevations, including great views of Beautiful Nuthatch for all. We made our way back to Bompu for lunch, and retraced our journey across Eaglenest Pass arriving at Lama Camp by evening.


5.4 Our last morning in Arunachal Pradesh, and we spent a final few hours at Aloo Bari before setting out on the drive back down to the plains. Our main hope here was a better view of Bugun Liocichla, and although that did not materialize we had a productive morning, with Scaly and Bhutan Laughingthrushes, Grey-winged Blackbird, Rufous-bellied and Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers, Scarlet Finch and Maroon-backed Accentor among the more notable species. We continued on through Tenga, and taking an alternate route back to Tezpur spent some time scanning the Tenga River for Ibisbill, to no avail. After a quick stop for lunch in Tezpur we drove on towards Kaziranga National Park, arriving at the edge of the sanctuary by late afternoon. This left us little time for birding, but we made a short halt at a roadside view point where we saw the first of many Indian Rhinoceros and Barasingha and a selection of grassland and wetland birds. We arrived at Wild Grass, our comfortable lodge for the final four nights of the tour, in time for a welcome warm shower, dinner, and a few more home comforts after five nights under canvas in the hills!
Kaziranga lies at just 40-80m asl in the fertile alluvial floodplains of the Brahmaputra and is completely dominated and sustained by the river. Vast marshy grasslands, which become flooded during the monsoon, are the principal habitat, providing refuge to grassland birds, waders and waterfowl, as well as a high density of large mammals. These grasslands are fringed by patches of woodland, adding to the diversity. The presence of potentially dangerous Tiger and Indian Elephant here restricts visitors to jeeps, and so during the three full days we had for exploring Kaziranga we would take morning and evening drives in open jeeps into various ranges of the reserve.

On our first morning (06.04) we took our first jeep drive into the Central (or Kohora) range. This range lies along the southern bank of the Brahmaputra, and with open water, marshy wetlands wooded hills has a rich variation in landscapes and associated wildlife. The morning gave us a wonderful introduction to the park’s birdlife, which included the delightful Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, Striated Babbler, and Blossom-headed Parakeet. This was accompanied by a good selection of mammals such as Indian Boar, Hog Deer, Sambar and Wild Buffalo, most of which we would see regularly throughout our stay, as well as the ubiquitous grazing Indian Rhinoceros and Indian Elephant, and Asian Water Monitor. We had been due to visit the Western (Bagori) range this afternoon but with reports of 3 tigers on a kill elsewhere we changed our plans and after a quick lunch back at Wild Grass we made for the Eastern (Agartoli) range instead, not wanting to turn down the chance of India’s most iconic large mammal. This turned out to be a superb afternoon, with good prolonged views of two Tigers, and plenty of good birding in the most thickly vegetated region of the reserve, with species of note including Rosy minivet, 6 Himalayan Vultures, a lone Slender-billed Vulture, and Black-necked Stork.

The following day (07.04) an early morning start allowed us to spend a couple of hours birding in adjacent tea plantations before setting out on our safari. Patches of remnant scrub and woodland among the regimented rows of tea bushes, as
well as irrigation gullies and leaf litter, attracts some interesting birds and being able to explore on foot here is a bonus for birding and photography. This proved to be a productive few hours, with species of note including Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Bengal Bush Lark and Grey-headed Woodpecker. We spent the remainder of the morning within the Central range where among others we came across Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, White-rumped Shama, Black-necked Tailorbird and Grey-headed Lapwing, with good views of two Swamp Francolins in the Western range in the afternoon.

On our last day (08.04) inside the park we focused on species we were missing, not easy in this vast area. We woke to a dramatic thunderstorm and heavy downpour that delayed our morning start, and we made an unsuccessful search for Blue-naped Pitta close to the lodge before proceeding to the Eastern range. We spent the rest of the morning exploring the Eastern range, where birds included Puff-throated Babbler and Brown Fish Owl at roost, while during a return to the Central range in the afternoon key birds included Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Himalayan Rubythroat, Chestnut-capped Babbler and Hen Harrier.

The vast diversity and sheer numbers of both birds and mammals at Kaziranga made our stay both productive and enjoyable. Highlights during our time here including Indian Cuckoo, Lesser Yellownape, Blue-tailed and Blue-bearded Bee-eaters, White-rumped Shama, Great and Oriental Pied Hornbills, Spotted and Asian Barred Owlets, and a good diversity of birds of prey that included Indian Spotted Eagle, Pallas’s and Grey-headed Fish-eagles, Eastern Marsh Harrier, Western Osprey and Jerdon’s Baza for part of the group. Our list here was dominated by waders and waterfowl in the wetlands, key among these were Grey-headed Lapwing, Greater Painted-snipe, both Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas, Black-crowned Night Heron, Woolly-necked Stork, Black-headed and Glossy Ibis, good numbers of Spot-billed Pelican, Bar-headed Goose, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Ferruginous Duck, Wood and Marsh Sandpipers and grassland specialities that included Striated Grassbird, Yellow-bellied Prinia and Baya Weaver.

9.4 With all group participants flying back to Delhi on a mid-afternoon flight out of Guwahati we had time available for some final birding before setting out on the four-hour drive to the airport. Walking through the tea gardens in thick morning mist we added some new species to our list with highlights including Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo, Small Minivet, Grey-backed Shrike, Rufous-fronted Babbler, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush and Blue-throated Flycatcher. After breakfast at Wild Grass we left for Guwahati. Having made good time along the journey we took a detour to Deepor Beel, an extensive wetland on the outskirts of Guwahati. While we enjoyed our packed lunch we made a thorough scan across the beel, managing a few final additions to our list including a sizeable group of 16 Grey-headed Lapwings, Grey-headed Swamphen, Fulvous and Lesser Whistling Ducks, Tufted Duck, Garganey and Black-bellied Tern, some of which we had not seen elsewhere.

Our flight out of Guwahati was operating to schedule. We arrived in Delhi by early evening for a final dinner as a group, and with group participants departing late tonight and tomorrow morning.

Leio De Souza, 9th May 2018

Brown Fish Owl, a pair seen in Kaziranga NP’s Eastern range

Blue-bearded Bee-eater, small numbers on all days in Kaziranga NP
List of species recorded:

Species endemic to the Eastern Himalaya Endemic Bird Area are marked ‘E’, those endemic to the Assam Plains Endemic Bird Area are marked ‘e’, those endemic to India are marked ‘**’, 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 India. Species which were heard only are marked (H).

BIRDS:

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

1. **Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*
   Two birds seen at Deepor Beel on 9.4

2. **Lesser Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*
   Seen in large numbers at Deepor Beel on 9.4

3. **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*
   Seen on two occasions at Kaziranga NP’s Eastern & Central ranges in groups of 12 and 15 birds on 6.4 and 8.4

4. **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
   Seen on several occasions along the Jia Bhoreli River at Nameri NP on 26.3 & 27.3, and on 13.3, 14.3 & 15.3 in Kaziranga NP

5. **White-winged Duck** *Asarcornis scutulata*
   Good and prolonged views of a single individual at a secluded forest pool in Nameri NP on 27.3

6. **Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*
   8 birds seen in Kaziranga NP’s Eastern range on 6.4, with larger numbers at Deepor Beel on 9.4

7. **Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*
   15 or so birds in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4, and again at Deepor Beel on 9.4

8. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
   Good numbers seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4, plus a few at Deepor Beel on 9.4

9. **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
   3 seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4

10. **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
    A few seen in flight along the Jia Bhoreli River in Nameri NP on 26.3, with 15 or so seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4 and a few again in the Eastern range on 8.4

11. **Indian Spot-billed Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*
    Two seen along the Jia Bhoreli River in Nameri NP on 27.3, and quite a few seen in all the ranges of Kaziranga NP

12. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
    10 birds seen on 6.4 in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP

13. **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*
    A pair was seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4

14. **Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*
    3 birds seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4

15. **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*
    30 birds seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4

16. **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*
    5 birds seen on 9.4 at Deepor Beel

17. **Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*
    5 birds seen on 26.3 and 2 birds seen on 27.3 along the Jia Bhoreli in Nameri NP

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

18. **Snow Partridge** *Lerwa lerwa*
    A flock of 6 birds seen feeding along the road on 29.3 a few kilometers before Sela Pass
19. Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*  
Great views of 2 birds feeding in the Western range of Kaziranga NP on 7.4, followed by a single bird in the Central range on 8.4

20. Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*  
A smart male seen along the Trogopan trail above Lama Camp in Eaglenest WLS on 4.4, calls heard every day while in Eaglenest WLS

21. Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis*  
Great views of two birds along the road below Bompu Camp in Eaglenest WLS on 2.4, heard on several occasions

22. Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*  
Good views of 3 separate individuals (2 males, 1 female) below Sela Pass on 29.3

23. Blyth's Tragopan *Tragopan blythii*  
Superb views of a single male on 1.4 below Lama Camp, heard throughout Eaglenest WLS on several occasions

24. Temminck’s Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii* (H)  
Heard at Eaglenest Pass on 2.4

25. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*  
Several seen at Nameri NP and at Kaziranga NP, heard regularly

26. Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanus*  
Individual bird first seen by part of the group along the road to Mandala on 30.3, later a number of groups of 2-3 birds were seen below Bompu Camp in Eaglenest WLS

27. Grey Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*  
A highly secretive species heard daily at lower elevations while staying at Bompu Camp in Eaglenest WLS, fortunate to encounter one adult with two very young chicks along the Eaglenest Road above Khellong on 3.4

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

28. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Good numbers on 6.4 at Kaziranga NP, and a few at Deepor Beel on 9.4

29. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*  
Single bird seen on 27.3 on the Jia Boreli River at Nameri NP

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

30. Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*  
A very common species seen on all drives through the lowlands

31. Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*  
2 birds seen on 26.3 along the Jia Boreli River at Nameri NP

32. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*  
Seen on every jeep drive within all ranges of Kaziranga NP

33. Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
Seen on every jeep drive within all ranges of Kaziranga NP

34. Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*  
Seen throughout the Assam Plains

35. Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*  
70+ birds seen on 25.3 at Baragaon Garbage Dump in Guwahati, later a few birds seen during jeep drives within Kaziranga NP

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

36. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*  
A few individuals seen on all days at Kaziranga NP, plus 20+ at Deepor Beel on 9.4

37. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis Falcinellus*  
A large flock of around 25 birds seen in Kaziranga NP’s Western range on 6.4, a few seen at Deepor Beel on 9.4
PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

38. **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
   A flock of 15 birds overhead in the evening while in the Central range of Kaziranga NP on 8.4

39. **Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*
   A couple seen at Nameri along the Jia Bholeli River on 26.3 & 27.3, also individual birds seen on 7.4 & 8.4 in the Central range of Kaziranga NP

40. **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*
   Widespread in the lowlands plains

41. **Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*
   Widespread in the lowland plains

42. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
   Common at Kaziranga NP

43. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
   A single bird along the Jia Bholeli River in Nameri NP on 27.3, a few individuals in Kaziranga every day on jeep drives

44. **Great Egret** *Egretta alba*
   A few individuals seen along the Jia Bholeli River in Nameri NP on 27.3 and a few seen daily during jeep drives in Kaziranga NP

45. **Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*
   Seen in the lowland plains in Nameri and Kaziranga

46. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
   Seen in the lowland plains in both Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

47. **Spot-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*
   14 birds seen on 6.4 in the Central range of Kaziranga NP, then seen regularly during the remainder of our jeep drives in Kaziranga NP in all the ranges

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

48. **Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*
   Seen in the lowland plains in both Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

49. **Indian Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
   A few single individuals seen on 6.4 & 7.4 in the Eastern and Central ranges of Kaziranga NP

50. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
   A few seen along the Jia Bholeli River at Nameri NP, and a few seen later within Kaziranga NP

SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

51. **Oriental Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*
   Common in the plains and seen every day in Nameri NP, Kaziranga NP and at Deepor Beel

ACCIPTRIFORMES: Pandionidae

52. **Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
   A few individuals seen in Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

53. **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
   One seen on 25.3 during the drive from Guwahati to Nameri NP, two more individuals seen on 5.4 & 6.4

54. **Crested Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhyncus*
   A few single individuals seen at various sites, one in Nameri on 26.3, one on 2.4 at Eaglenest WLS during the drive from Lama Camp to Bompu Camp, and one while driving on 9.4 at Rupa

55. **Jerdon’s Baza** *Aviceda jerdoni*
1 seen on 7.4 by part of the group at Kaziranga NP

56. **Slender-billed Vulture** *Gyps teniurostris*
   A single individual seen in Kaziranga NP’s Eastern range on 6.4 and again on 8.4

57. **Himalayan Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis*
   A single bird first seen flying below Sela Pass on 29.3, later 6 birds seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4 and again on 8.4

58. **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*
   Seen 1 bird at Nameri on 27.3, 3 at Sessni on 3.4, and 1 bird on 4.4, 1 in the Central range at Kaziranga on 6.4, and 1 in the Eastern range on 8.4

59. **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus cirrhatus* *
   Single bird in Eaglenest WLS on 3.4 below Sessni, one on 6.4 in the Central range and another on 7.4 in the Western range of Kaziranga NP

60. **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus nipalensis*
   Great views on two occasions of two individual birds in the Himalaya, one below Bomdila on 28.3 and another at Rupa along the drive from Eaglenest to Kaziranga on 5.4

61. **Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii*
   3 birds seen in Eaglenest WLS below Sessni on 3.4, and two birds seen again in the same area on 4.4

62. **Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malaiensis*
   Single individual seen at Nameri NP on 28.3, in Eaglenest 3 birds on 3.4 at Sessni and one below Lama Camp on 5.4, great views on all occasions

63. **Indian Spotted Eagle** *Clanga hastata* (*)
   A few birds seen in Kaziranga on 6.4, 7.4 & 8.4

64. **Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*
   Seen in Eaglenest WLS, single bird on 2.4 above Lama Camp and two around Sessni on 3.4

65. **Shikra** *Accipiter badius*
   A single bird seen at Nameri NP on 26.3

66. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
   Two birds seen on 31.3, one on 2.4 and two on 3.4

67. **Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentillis*
   Single bird seen above Lama Camp in Eaglenest WLS

68. **Eastern Marsh Harrier** *Circus spilonotus*
   A single bird seen in the Central range in Kaziranga on 8.4

69. **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*
   A single bird seen in the Central range of Kaziranga NP on 8.4

70. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
   Seen in small numbers at the Baragaon garbage dump in Guwahati on 25.3 and at Deepor Beel on 9.4

71. **Pallas’s Fish-eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
   At least 3 individuals seen every day during jeep drives within Kaziranga NP on 6.4, 7.4 & 8.4

72. **Grey-headed Fish-eagle** *Haliaeetus ichthyaeus*
   A single bird on 26.3 in Nameri NP, and at least 5 birds seen every day during the drives in Kaziranga on 6.4, 7.4 & 8.4

73. **Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*
   Single individual seen on 6.4

74. **Himalayan Buzzard** *Buteo burmanicus*
   Single birds seen in the mountains on all days from 28.3 to 31.3

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

75. **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
   Common in the plains

76. **Black-tailed Crake** *Porzana bicolor*
   Two birds seen on 30.3 in a marshy area along the road to Mandala

77. **Grey-headed Swamphen** (Purple Swamphen) *Porphyrio poliocephalus*
   More than 25 birds at Deepor Beel on 9.4
78. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
   One seen during jeep drive within Kaziranga NP on 6.4

79. **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*
   One seen during jeep drive within Kaziranga NP on 6.4

CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae

80. **Indian Stone-curlew** *Burhinus indicus*
    2 at Nameri NP on 27.3

81. **Great Stone-curlew** *Esacus recurvirostris*
    3 seen at Nameri NP on 27.3

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae

82. **Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
    8 birds seen in the Central range of Kaziranga NP on 8.4

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

83. **River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii*
    A few birds seen in Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

84. **Grey-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus cinereus*
    A single individual seen in the Central range of Kaziranga NP on 7.4, and 16 birds at Deepor Bheel on 9.4

85. **Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*
    Common in the plains

86. **Long-billed Plover** *Charadrius placidus*
    5 birds seen in Sangthi Valley on 31.3

87. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
    A few seen in the plains

CHARADRIIFORMES: Rostratulidae

88. **Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*
    A single female seen in the tea gardens at Kaziranga NP on 7.4

CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae

89. **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
    Quite a few seen in Kaziranga NP and at Deepor Beel near Guwahati

90. **Bronze-winged Jacana** *Metopidius indicus*
    A few birds seen during jeep drives within Kaziranga NP

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

91. **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*
    A few birds seen during jeep drives in Kaziranga NP

92. **Temminck’s Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
    Numerous small groups seen in Kaziranga NP

93. **Solitary Snipe** *Gallinago solitaria*
    A single bird seen in flight at Sela Pass on 29.3

94. **Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*
    5 birds seen in Nameri NP on 26.3

95. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
    Single bird seen in Dirang on 31.3, and a few seen on jeep drives in Kaziranga NP
96. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
   A few birds seen in Nameri NP, 2 in Sangthi Valley, and a few seen around pond edges in Kaziranga NP

97. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
   A few seen during jeep drives in Kaziranga NP

98. **Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*
   A few birds seen on 8.4 in Kaziranga NP’s Central range

99. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*
   A few individuals seen during jeep drives in Kaziranga NP

100. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
    A few birds seen during jeep drives in Kaziranga NP

101. **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
    A few during jeep drives in Kaziranga NP

102. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
    Single bird on 27.3 at Nameri NP, followed by a handful at Kaziranga NP

CHARADRIIFORMES: **Glaeolidae**

103. **Small Pratincole** *Glaeola lactea*
    A few flocks of 50-100 birds along the Jia Bhoreli River at Nameri NP

CHARADRIIFORMES: **Laridae**

104. **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
    A single bird seen in the Central range at Kaziranga NP on 8.4

105. **River Tern** *Sternia aurantia*
    2 seen along the Jia Bhoreli River in Nameri NP on 26.3, followed by 6 birds on 27.3

106. **Black-bellied Tern** *Sternia acuticaudata*
    6 birds seen at Deepor Beel on 9.4

COLUMBIFORMES: **Columbidae**

107. **Snow Pigeon** *Columba leuconota*
    Great views in the Sela Pass area of a flock of 25 birds on 29.3

108. **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*
    Small flocks seen while at Nameri NP, birds in single figures around Dirang and later in Kaziranga NP

109. **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
    A few individuals seen in Kaziranga NP on 6.4 & 8.4

110. **Red Turtle (Collared) Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
    A few seen on jeep drives in Kaziranga NP

111. **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*
    Common in the plains

112. **Barred Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia unchall*
    A few seen in Nameri NP on 26.3 & 27.3, with 3 seen at Mandala on 30.3

113. **Common Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*
    A few birds seen in Eaglenest WLS and at Kaziranga NP

114. **Thick-billed Green-pigeon** *Treron curvirostra*
    12 birds seen on 26.3 and 2 on 27.3 in Nameri NP, single bird in Kaziranga NP’s Eastern range on 6.4

115. **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon** *Treron phoenicopterus*
    Commonly seen in Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

116. **Pin-tailed Green-pigeon** *Treron apicauda*
    24 seen birds on 26.3 and 5 on 27.3 in Nameri NP, 2 birds on 3.4 in Khellong, and a few birds in Kaziranga NP

117. **Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon** *Treron sphenurus*
    20 birds on 26.3 and 8 on 27.3 in Nameri NP, 2 birds in Kaziranga NP on 6.4
118. **Green Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula aenea*  
Common in Nameri NP, a few in Kaziranga NP

119. **Mountain Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula badia*  
A few seen in Nameri NP and in Eaglenest WLS

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

120. **Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*  
Seen on 3 occasions in Kaziranga NP

121. **Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*  
2 in Nameri NP on 27.3, with one in the Central range of Kaziranga NP on 7.4 and 3 in the adjacent tea gardens on 9.4

122. **Green-billed Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus tristis*  
4 birds seen on 26.3, 2 on 27.3 in Nameri, also seen in Kaziranga on the drives and in the tea gardens

123. **Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopaceus*  
Seen regularly in Nameri NP and 2 birds seen on 9.4 in the tea gardens at Kaziranga

124. **Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris*  
A single individual seen in the tea gardens at Kaziranga on 9.4

125. **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx sparverioides*  
Heard on various occasions, 1 seen on 2.4 in Eaglenest WLS below Bompu Camp

126. **Common Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx varius* *  
Single bird seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP

127. **Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*  
Heard regularly around our lodge in Kaziranga, and seen in lodge grounds and the adjacent tea gardens

128. **Himalayan Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*  
Single bird seen on 3.4 in Khellong, heard regularly in Eaglenest WLS

129. **Common Cuckoo (Eurasian Cuckoo)** *Cuculus canorus*  
Seen in Kaziranga NP’s Central range on 8.4

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

130. **Mountain Scops Owl** *Otus spilocephalus* (H)  
Heard in Eaglenest WLS around Lama Camp on 31.3 and again on 2.4

131. **Collared Scops Owl** *Otus lettia*  
Excellent views of a single individual outside the lodge at Nameri NP

132. **Oriental Scops Owl** *Otus sunia* (H)  
Heard calling during the night of 27.3 at Nameri NP

133. **Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*  
A pair seen on 8.4 in the Eastern range at Kaziranga NP

134. **Himalayan Owl (Himalayan Wood Owl)** *Strix nivicolum* (H)  
Heard at Lama Camp in Eaglenest WLS on 31.3

135. **Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*  
1 seen at Mandala on 30.3, several heard at Eaglenest WLS

136. **Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
Seen several at Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

137. **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*  
A single individual seen at Sela Pass on 29.3, a significant record (possibly second/third only) from Sela and from Arunachal Pradesh, which is well outside the known range of this species

138. **Spotted Owlet** *Athene brama*  
A few seen at Kaziranga NP

139. **Brown Hawk-Owl** *Ninox scutulata*  
A single individual seen at Nameri NP on 25.3, also heard in Kaziranga NP

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae
140. **Grey Nightjar** *Caprimulgus jotaka*
   Seen well at Lama Camp at Eaglenest WLS, heard daily there and also at Dirang

141. **Savanna Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis*
   One seen in flight on 8.4 in Kaziranga NP’s Central range

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

142. **Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*
   5 seen on 2.4 at Eaglenest WLS above Lama Camp, and 10+ birds on 3.4 below Bompu Camp

143. **White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*
   5 birds seen at Eaglenest WLS on 3.4 below Bompu Camp

144. **Silver-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus cochin chinensis*
   3 birds seen on 3.4

145. **Brown-backed (Brown-throated) Needletail** *Hirundapus giganteus*
   7 birds seen at Nameri NP

146. **Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
   A few seen on the drive between Guwahati and Nameri NP, and also around Nameri NP

147. **Blyth’s Swift** *Apus leuconyx*
   Quite a few seen throughout the tour

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

148. **Red-headed Trogon** *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
   2 birds seen at Eaglenest WLS below Bompu Camp on 3.4

149. **Ward’s Trogon** *Harpactes wardi*
   1 female below Sunderview and 1 male above Bompu Camp, both on 2.4

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

150. **Indian Roller (Black-billed Roller)** *Coracias benghalensis affinis*
   A common bird seen throughout the lowlands

151. **Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*
   A few birds seen around Nameri NP

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

152. **Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Pelargopsis capensis*
   A couple seen in Kaziranga on all days

153. **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*
   A common kingfisher in the plains

154. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
   Commonly seen

155. **Blyth’s Kingfisher** *Alcedo Hercules*
   Two birds seen in Eaglenest WLS on 3.4 along the river above Khellong

156. **Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*
   3 seen along the river in Dirang on 31.3

157. **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
   Quite a few seen in Nameri NP and again in Kaziranga NP

**CORACIFORMES: Meropidae**

158. **Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctyornis athertoni*
3 birds seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP and 1-2 individuals seen on all days in Kaziranga NP

159. **Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*
   A few seen in Nameri NP, and on all days in Kaziranga NP

160. **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*
   5 birds seen in flight on 8.4 in Kaziranga NP’s Central range

161. **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merops leschenaulti*
   Common in Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

**Bucerotiformes: Upupidae**

162. **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
   Commonly seen throughout the trip

**Bucerotiformes: Bucerotidae**

163. **Great Hornbill** *Buceros bicornis*
   Good numbers in Nameri NP, including a nesting pair at Eco Camp, with a few pairs seen in Kaziranga NP

164. **Oriental Pied Hornbill** *Anthracoceros albirostris*
   Seen at Kaziranga NP, 5 on 6.4 including a pair at the petrol station, with a few more pairs on 7.4 & 8.4

165. **Rufous-necked Hornbill** *Aceros nipalensis*
   4 birds seen in flight on 3.4 at Khellong and 5 birds seen below Sessni on 4.4

166. **Wreathed Hornbill** *Rhyticeros undulatus*
   Seen on all days in good numbers at Nameri NP, relatively common here

**Piciformes: Megalaimidae**

167. **Great Barbet** *Psilopogon virens*
   Commonly seen in Sangthi Valley and again in Eaglenest WLS below Lama Camp and below Bompu Camp

168. **Lineated Barbet** *Psilopogon lineatus*
   A few seen on 25.3 & 26.3 around Eco Camp and inside Nameri NP, also common in Kaziranga NP and seen every day

169. **Golden-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon franklinii*
   Single birds seen in Eaglenest WLS below Bompu Camp on all days

170. **Blue-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon asiaticus*
   A common species in the plains

171. **Blue-eared Barbet** *Psilopogon duvaucelii*
   Good views of 2 birds on 26.3 in Nameri NP

172. **Coppersmith Barbet** *Psilopogon haemacephalus*
   Seen regularly in the plains

**Piciformes: Picidae**

173. **Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus*
   A single individual seen along the Mandala road on 30.3

174. **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Yungipicus canicapillus*
   6 birds seen on 26.3 and 4 birds seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP, 3 birds seen on 7.4 in Kaziranga NP

175. **Crimson-breasted (Pied) Woodpecker** *Dryobates cathpharius*
   2 birds seen on 31.3 at Aloo Bari, with a single bird seen in the same location on 5.4

176. **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
   A single bird seen 30.3 at Mandala and another on 5.4 at Lama Camp

177. **Fulvous-breasted (Pied) Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos macei* (*)
   4 birds seen on 26.3 and 2 birds seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP

178. **Darjeeling (Pied) Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
   2 birds seen on 1.4 above Lama Camp and 1 bird seen on 2.4

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179. **Greater Yellownape** *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*
   2 birds seen on 30.3 at Mandala, 1 seen on 3.4 and another on 4.4 both below Sesni

180. **Lesser Yellownape** *Picus c. chlorolophus*
   2 birds seen at Nameri on 26.3 & 27.3, another seen on 8.4 at Kaziranga NP

181. **Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*
   2 birds seen in Kaziranga NP on 7.4, 2 on 8.4 & a single bird on 9.4

182. **Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense* *
   2 birds in Kaziranga NP on 7.4 & 8.4

183. **Greater Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*
   Seen on two occasions in Nameri NP with 6 birds on 26.3 & 2 birds on 27.3, also 4 birds seen on 6.4 in Kaziranga NP

184. **Pale-headed Woodpecker** *Gecinulus grantia*
   Superb views of a single bird on 3.4 near Khellong

185. **Bay Woodpecker** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
   Heard many times in Eaglenest WLS, one view on 3.4 near Khellong

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

186. **Pied Falconet** *Microhierax melanoleucos*
   Single bird on 26.3 inside Nameri NP

187. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
   2 on 25.03 on the drive between Guwahati and Nameri NP, 1 in Sangthi Valley on 31.3, and 1 in Kaziranga NP on 6.4

188. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrines calidus*
   An individual bird seen at its regular perch in Nameri NP

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae

189. **Blossom-headed (Rosy-headed) Parakeet** *Psittacula roseata*
   2 seen on 6.4 and 7.4 in the Central range, with 1 seen on 8.4 in Kaziranga NP

190. **Red-breasted Parakeet** *Psittacula alexandri*
   A common parakeet in Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

191. **Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*
   Regularly seen while at Kaziranga NP

192. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
   A common bird in the plains

193. **Vernal Hanging Parrot** *Loriculus vernalis*
   6 birds seen on 26.3 and 8 birds seen on 27.3 at Nameri NP

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

194. **Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae* (H)
   Heard on 3.4 and 4.4 below Bompu camp

PASSERIFORMES: Tephrodornithidae

195. **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus*
   5 birds seen on 3.4 at Khellong

196. **Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus*
   4 birds seen on 26.3 and 2 seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP, also a couple seen on 3.4 in Khellong

197. **Common Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
   2 seen on 6.4, with another 5 birds on 7.4, all in Kaziranga NP

PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae
198. **Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*  
A few seen in Nameri NP, also at Kaziranga NP

PASSEERIFORMES: Aegithinidae

199. **Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*  
A few birds seen in Nameri NP and again in Kaziranga NP

PASSEERIFORMES: Campephagidae

200. **Large Cuckooshrike** *Coracina macei*  
Commonly seen in both Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

201. **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** *Coracina melaschistos*  
3 birds seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP, a single bird seen in Aloo Bari on 1.4 and again on 5.4

202. **Rosy Minivet** *Pericrocotus roseus*  
2 seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP, with 1 in Kaziranga NP on 6.4

203. **Ashy Minivet** *Pericrocotus divaricatus*  
2 birds seen well on 27.3 in Nameri NP

204. **Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*  
A small flock of 5 birds seen on 7.4 in Kaziranga NP

205. **Grey-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris*  
2 seen on 2.4, 5 birds on 3.4 & 6 on 4.4 all below Bompu Camp in Eaglenest WLS

206. **Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*  
2 seen on 29.3 in Dirang, and again on 30.3

207. **Short-billed Minivet** *Pericrocotus brevirostris*  
A few seen on the drive to Tenga and then again at Mandala, Dirang & below Sesni

208. **Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus*  
4 seen on 26.3, 2 seen on 27.3 and 2 seen on 28.3 in Nameri NP, with a further 2 seen on 3.4 in Khellong

PASSEERIFORMES: Laniidae

209. **Brown Shrike** *Lanius c. cristatus*  
A few individuals seen around Nameri NP, and 1 on 5.4 in Aloo Bari

210. **Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach tricolor*  
A common bird around Nameri NP, Sangthi Valley and Kaziranga NP

211. **Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*  
A few seen in the tea gardens at Kaziranga

PASSEERIFORMES: Vireonidae

212. **White-bellied Erpornis (White-bellied Yuhina)** *Erpornis zantholeuca*  
A single bird seen on 3.4 in Khellong

213. **Black-headed Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius rufiventer*  
1 bird in Dirang on 29.3 and another heard on 1.4

214. **Blyth's (Himalayan) Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius aeralatus*  
A flock of a good 10 birds seen on 31.3 around Dirang

215. **Green Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*  
1 bird seen on 29.3 and 30.3 around Dirang, with another on 2.4 in Eaglenest WLS

216. **Black-eared Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius melanotis*  
2 seen on 1.4 from Lama Camp

PASSEERIFORMES: Oriolidae
217. **Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*
   Commonly seen in Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

218. **Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii*
   Great views of a few individuals on 26.3 & 27.3 in Nameri NP, and on 3.4, 4.4 & 5.4 in Eaglenest WLS

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

219. **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*
   Common roadside species when driving through the lowlands between Guwahati and Nameri NP on 25.3 and during the drive to Kaziranga

220. **Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
   A common forest drongo

221. **Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*
   A few individuals seen at Nameri NP, Mandala, and Khellong

222. **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer*
   1 bird seen in flight on 3.4, and another 5 birds seen on 4.4

223. **Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*
   A few seen around Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**

224. **White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*
   First seen on the drive back to Dirang from Sela Pass on 29.3, with a few individuals seen later in the trip in Sangthi Valley and within Eaglenest WLS

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

225. **Black-naped Blue Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*
   2 birds seen on 27.3 at Nameri NP

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

226. **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa flavirostris*
   3 birds below Sela Pass, and one individual at Lamp Camp

227. **Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
   A handful seen in the lowlands

228. **Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae*
   1 seen on 4.4 at Khellong and 2 birds seen on 9.4 in the tea gardens at Kaziranga

229. **Collared Treepie** *Dendrocitta frontalis*
   A single bird seen on 3.4 near Khellong

230. **Spotted Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
   2 seen at Mandala on 30.3, 1 seen on 2.4 above Lama Camp

231. **Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
   2 seen in flight on 29.3 in the Sela Pass area

232. **Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus*
   A single bird seen in flight on 29.3 in the Sela Pass area

233. **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*
   A few seen in lowland areas on 25.3 and again on 8.4 & 9.4

234. **Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*
   5 birds seen on 29.3 at Sela Pass, 1 on 30.3 around Dirang, and a few around Sangthi Valley and Bomdila on 31.3

235. **Eastern Jungle Crow** *Corvus levaillantii*
   A few seen in the lowlands

236. **Northern Raven** *Corvus corax tibetanus*
A few seen in the Sela Pass area on 29.3

PASSEIRIFORMES: Stenostiridae

237. **Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Chelidorhynx hypoxantha*
   1 seen in the Dirang area on 30.3, with 10 birds on 1.4 and 5 on 2.4 within Eaglenest WLS

238. **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
   A handful seen in the Dirang area and in lower elevations of Eaglenest WLS

PASSEIRIFORMES: Paridae

239. **Fire-capped Tit** *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*
   A single sighting of a single bird on 4.4 at Sunderview

240. **Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus*
   A handful of individuals seen on 28.3 in Nameri NP, 30.3 in Mandala, and 1.4 & 2.4 below Lama Camp, with 3 at Khellong on 4.4

241. **Sultan Tit** *Melanochlora sultanea*
   A few birds in Nameri NP on 26.3 & 27.3, with a further few on 3.4 & 4.4 at Sessni

242. **Coal Tit** *Parus ater*
   A small flock of 10 birds on 30.3 at Mandala

243. **Grey-crested Tit** *Parus dichrous*
   5 birds within a mixed species foraging flock along the Mandala road on 30.3

244. **Cinereous Tit (Great Tit)** *Parus cinereus*
   2 birds seen on 25.3 in Nameri NP, and a few seen on jeep drives within Kaziranga NP

245. **Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*
   A relatively common bird at higher altitudes

246. **Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Parus spilonotus*
   1 on 28.3 at Bomdila, 2 on 2.4 and 2 more on 4.4 in Eaglenest WLS

PASSEIRIFORMES: Alaudidae

247. **Bengal Bush Lark** *Mirafra assamica*
   2 birds seen on 7.4 while walking the tea gardens at Kaziranga

248. **Sand Lark** *Alaudula raytal*
   2 birds seen at Nameri NP on 26.3

PASSEIRIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

249. **Striated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus striatus*
   Common in the hills, with quite a few seen every day during our stay at Eaglenest WLS

250. **Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris*
   Seen on all days while in Nameri NP, with 2 in Khellong on 3.4

251. **Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*
   A common bulbul in the plains

252. **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*
   A common bulbul, seen throughout the trip on most days

253. **White-throated Bulbul** *Alophoixus flaveolus*
   4 birds seen on 26.3 and 3 on 27.3 in Nameri NP, with a further 2 on 3.4 in Khellong

254. **Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mcclellandii*
   5 birds seen on 3.4 at Khellong, a few more seen over the next two days at Sessni and Aloo Bari

255. **Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos Flavala*
   2 birds seen by some of the group in Nameri NP on 26.3, with 5 birds seen well on 28.3

256. **Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Good numbers seen in Arunachal Pradesh

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

257. **Grey-throated Martin** *Riparia chinensis*
   A few seen along the Jia Bhoreli River in Nameri NP, and at Kaziranga NP
258. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
   A few seen in Nameri NP and again in Kaziranga NP
259. **Asian House Martin** *Delichon dasypus*
   A few birds seen well in Khellong on 3.4
260. **Nepal House Martin** *Delichon nipalense*
   A few on 28.3, big numbers on 31.3 in Sangthi Valley, and a few at Khellong
261. **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
   A couple seen on 7.4 in Kaziranga NP
262. **Striated Swallow** *Hirundo striolata* *
   A few on 6.4 in Kaziranga NP
263. **Streak-throated Swallow** *Hirundo fluvicola* *
   A few seen in Kaziranga NP on 6.4 & again on 8.4

PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepygidae

264. **Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga albiventer*
   A single bird seen on 30.3 along the Mandala road

PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae

265. **Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Abroscopus superciliaris*
   1 seen en-route to Tenga on 28.3
266. **Rufous-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus albogularis*
   5 birds seen in the bamboo brakes of Khellong on 3.4
267. **Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps*
   A few seen in the Dirang area and again in Eaglenest WLS below Lama Camp and around Bompu Camp
268. **Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllergates cuculatus* (H)
   Heard below Bompu Camp on 3.4 & 4.4
269. **Broad-billed Warbler** *Tickellia hodgsoni* E
   1 seen on 4.4 above Lama Camp
270. **Brown-flanked (Strong-footed) Bush Warbler** *Horornis fortipes*
   1 seen on 28.3 in Nameri NP and another single bird seen at Aloo Bari
271. **Himalayan Aberrant Bush Warbler** *Horornis flavolivacea*
   1 seen on 1.4 in Eaglenest WLS
272. **Grey-bellied (Yellow-browed) Tesia** *Tesia cyaniventer*
   A few good sightings in Eaglenest WLS on 1.4, 2.4 & 4.4
273. **Grey-sided Bush Warbler** *Cettia brunnifrons*
   1 seen on 31.3 in the Dirang area
274. **Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Cettia castaneocoronata*
   1 sighting on 2.4 and another on 4.4 in Eaglenest WLS

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae

275. **Black-throated Bushtit (Black-throated Tit)** *Aegithalos concinnus*
   A few sightings en-route to Dirang, along the Mandala Rd, and within Eaglenest WLS

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae
276. **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
   1 seen in Nameri NP on 26.3, and again in Kaziranga NP on 7.4 & 8.4

277. **Tickell’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*
   2 birds at Nameri NP, seen again on 7.4 & 8.4 at Kaziranga NP

278. **Buff-barred (Orange-barred) Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*
   A relatively common warbler at higher elevations

279. **Ashy-throated (Grey-faced) Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
   A few individuals seen on 28.3 along the drive to Dirang, again along the Mandala road on 30.3 and within Eaglenest below Sessni on both days of our stay

280. **Lemon-rumped Warbler** *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
   Good views of a few individuals on the drive to Dirang, along the Mandala road and at Aloo Bari

281. **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus t. trochiloides*
   2 seen on 27.3 at Nameri NP

282. **Blyth’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides*
   A couple seen at Nameri NP on 26.3, and again at Aloo Bari on 1.4

283. **Yellow-vented Warbler** *Phylloscopus cantator*
   A single bird seen on 28.3 along the drive to Dirang

284. **Grey-hooded Warbler** *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
   3 birds seen on 30.3 and 1 on 31.3 in the Dirang area, and on 3.4 & 4.4 at Eaglenest WLS

285. **White-spectacled Warbler** *Seicercus affinis*
   1 bird seen in Eaglenest WLS on 4.4

286. **Green-crowned (Golden-spectacled) Warbler** *Seicercus burkii*
   1 bird seen in Eaglenest WLS on 4.4

287. **Whistler’s Warbler** *Seicercus whistleri* (*)
   1 bird seen on 2.4 and another seen on 4.4, both in Eaglenest WLS

288. **Grey-cheeked Warbler** *Seicercus poliogenys*
   1 bird seen on 3.4 at Khellong

289. **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus castaniceps*
   1 bird seen on 29.3, 2 birds seen on 1.4, 2 birds seen on 2.4, all in Eaglenest WLS

**Passeriformes: Acrocephalidae**

290. **Blyth’s Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
   1 seen on 26.3 at Nameri NP, and another 2 on 6.4 & 7.4 at Kaziranga NP

**Passeriformes: Locustellidae**

291. **Russet Bush Warbler** *Locustella mandellii* (H)
   Heard in the Dirang area on 29.3

292. **Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris*
   4 seen on 28.3, and a few seen later on in the tour at Kaziranga NP

**Passeriformes: Cisticolidae**

293. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* (H)
   A few heard in Kaziranga NP

294. **Black-throated Prinia** *Prinia atrogularis* *
   2 seen on 30.3 at Mandala

295. **Yellow-bellied Prinia** *Prinia flaviventris*
   1 seen in the tea gardens at Kaziranga on 7.4

296. **Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*
   Single individuals seen on 28.3, 31.3 & 8.4
297. **Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis*
   1 seen well on 7.4 in Kaziranga NP

**PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae**

298. **White-browed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* (H)
   Heard in the tea gardens a Kaziranga on 9.4

299. **Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*
   A few individuals seen on 28.3 on the drive to Tenga, others seen in Mandala and below Lama Camp

300. **Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus supercilialis* (H)
   Heard one in the Lama Camp area of Eaglenest WLS on 4.4 but could not entice it to show

301. **Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler** *Spelaeornis caudatus*
   Good views of 2 birds on 2.4 and heard on various occasions

302. **Bar-winged Wren-Babbler** *Spelaeornis troglodytoides* (H)
   Heard on 30.3 along Mandala road

303. **Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigiceps*
   A single sighting below Bompu Camp on 3.4

304. **Rufous-fronted Babbler** *Stachyridopsis rufifrons*
   2 birds seen on 9.4 in the tea gardens at Kaziranga

305. **Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyridopsis ruficeps*
   Seen on 31.3 in the Dirang area, and again on 6.4 at Kaziranga NP

306. **Golden Babbler** *Stachyridopsis chrysaea*
   3 birds seen between Bomdila and Dirang on 28.3

307. **Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** *Macronous gularis*
   Seen in small numbers in Nameri NP, Kaziranga NP and in adjacent tea gardens

308. **Chestnut-capped Babbler** *Timalia pileata*
   2 birds seen on 7.4 & 8.4 in Kaziranga NP

**PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae**

309. **Yellow-throated Fulvetta** *Alcippe cinerea*
   5 birds seen on 1.4 and a few more on 4.4, all in Eaglenest WLS

310. **Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Alcippe castaneiceps*
   2 birds seen on the drive up to Tenga on 28.3, again seen around Lama Camp

311. **Long-billed Wren-Babbler** *Rimator malacoptilus*
   1 seen in Eaglenest WLS on 2.4

312. **Abbott’s Babbler** *Malacocincla abbotti*
   2 seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP, and again on 3.4 in Khellong

313. **Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*
   A couple seen during jeep drives within Kaziranga NP on 6.4 & 8.4, heard regularly

**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

314. **Striated Babbler** *Turdoides earlei* (**)
   2 birds seen in the Central range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4, and again on 8.4

315. **Jungle Babbler** *Turdoides striata* (*)
   3 birds seen in Kaziranga NP

316. **White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*
   3 birds seen at Khellong on 3.4

317. **Spotted Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ocellatus*
   2 birds in Eaglenest WLS on 2.4 below Sunderview

318. **White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis*
   A flock of 30+ birds on 28.3 en-route to Dirang
319. **Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax pectoralis*
   Small flock of 5 birds seen well in the tea garden at Kaziranga

320. **Rufous-necked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ruficollis*
   Flock of 5 birds in the tea gardens at Kaziranga on 7.4

321. **Grey-sided Laughingthrush** *Dyonastes caeruleus*
   Excellent views of 2 birds on 31.3 on the drive from Dirang to Bomdila

322. **Striated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax striatus*
   5 birds seen on 31.3 in the Dirang area and again on 4.4 & 5.4 in Eaglenest WLS

323. **Bhutan (Streaked) Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron imbricatum* (*
   2 birds seen on 29.3 and 1 bird on 31.3 around Dirang, again in Eaglenest WLS on 1.4 and 5.4

324. **Scaly Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron subunicolor*
   2 birds showed well in the hills on 5.4 at Aloo Bari before returning to Assam

325. **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*
   A few birds seen during our stay in Eaglenest WLS, 5 on 1.4, 3 on 2.4 and a couple on 5.4

326. **Himalayan Cutia** *Cutia nipalensis*
   Unbeatable views, 2 small flocks of 8 & 9 birds in Eaglenest WLS on 1.4 & 5.4

327. **Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouoptera*
   A few birds seen in Eaglenest WLS, 1 on 1.4, 2 on 3.4 and a couple on 4.4

328. **Bar-throated (Chestnut-tailed) Minla** *Minla strigula*
   2 birds seen around Dirang on 29.3 and 30.3, again in Eaglenest with 5 birds on 1.4 & 2 on 2.4

329. **Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotincta*
   3 birds seen in Eaglenest WLS on 1.4, with 1 bird seen on 4.4

330. **Bhutan Liocichla** *Liocichla bugunorum* E
   2 birds seen around Aloo Bari on 1.4

331. **Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodura egertoni*
   Two small flocks of 6 & 8 birds seen in Eaglenest WLS on 31.3 & 1.4

332. **Hoary-throated Barwing** *Actinodura nipalensis* E
   3 birds seen in Eaglenest WLS on 4.4

333. **Streak-throated Barwing** *Actinodura waldeni* E
   2 birds seen in Eaglenest WLS on 2.4

334. **Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argentauris*
   Small flocks of 5 & 8 birds seen in Eaglenest WLS on 3.4 & 4.4

335. **Rufous-backed Sibia** *Heterophasia annectens*
   1 bird seen on 2.4 below Bompu Camp

336. **Beautiful Sibia** *Heterophasia pulchella* E
   Seen in good numbers around Dirang and in Eaglenest WLS

337. **Long-tailed Sibia** *Heterophasia picaoides*
   5 birds seen on 3.4 in Khellong, with a few seen again the following day

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

338. **Fire-tailed Myzornis** *Myzornis pyrrhura*
   Superb views of 3 birds along the Mandala road on 30.3, and again at Eaglenest Pass on 2.4

339. **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** *Lioparus chrysotis*
   Excellent views around Dirang and in Eaglenest WLS on 28.3, 2.4 & 4.4

340. **Brown-throated Fulvetta** *Alicpe ludlowi* E
   Seen around Dirang and again in Eaglenest WLS, 2 on 29.3, 3 on 30.3 and a couple on 4.4

341. **Pale-billed (Lesser Rufous-headed) Parrotbill** *Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris*
   3 birds seen on 3.4 in Khellong

342. **White-breasted (Greater Rufous-headed) Parrotbill** *Psittiparus ruficeps*
   Small group of 5 birds on 31.3 at Aloo Bari

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**
343. **Striated Yuhina** *Yuhina castaniceps*  
Small flock of 10 birds seen in Eaglenest WLS on 3.4

344. **White-naped Yuhina** *Yuhina bakeri* E  
6 birds seen among a mixed flock in Eaglenest WLS on 3.4

345. **Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*  
10 birds seen on 31.3 and another 15 birds seen on 4.4 in Eaglenest WLS

346. **Stripe-throated Yuhina** *Yuhina gularis*  
10 seen on 30.3 along Mandala road, 5 on 1.4 in Eaglenest WLS with a couple seen again the following day

347. **Rufous-vented Yuhina** *Yuhina occipitalis*  
Good numbers seen around Sela Pass, Mandala & in Eaglenest WLS

348. **Black-chinned Yuhina** *Yuhina nigrimenta*  
15 birds seen on 1.4 from Lama Camp, with a few seen again the following day

349. **Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*  
A common resident in the region

**PASSEIFORMES: Irenidae**

350. **Asian Fairy-bluebird** *Irena puella*  
4 birds seen on 26.3 at Nameri NP and on 3.4 in Khellong

**PASSEIFORMES: Elachuridae**

351. **Spotted Elachura (Spotted Wren-babbler)** *Elachura formosa* *  
Good views of a lone individual on 4.4 below Bompu Camp, heard calling at length on 5.4

**PASSEIFORMES: Troglodytidae**

352. **Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
2 seen on 30.3 around Mandala

**PASSEIFORMES: Sittidae**

353. **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamoventris*  
2 birds on 26.3 & 27.3 in Nameri NP

354. **White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*  
A couple around Sela Pass and the Mandala area on 29.3 & 30.3, and a few in Eaglenest WLS on 1.4 & 2.4

355. **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*  
A few birds seen in Nameri NP and again in Kaziranga NP

356. **Beautiful Nuthatch** *Sitta formosa*  
Exceptional views of a single bird below Sessni on 3.4, and a further 2 birds on 4.4

**PASSEIFORMES: Tichodromidae**

357. **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria*  
Great views of a single bird in Dirang

**PASSEIFORMES: Certhiidae**

358. **Sikkim (Brown-throated) Treecreeper** *Certha discolor*  
One seen each day on 31.3, 1.4 & 2.4 in Eaglenest WLS

**PASSEIFORMES: Sturnidae**
359. **Common Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa*
   A common species in Nameri NP

360. **Great (White-vented) Myna** *Acridotheres grandis*
   Relatively common in Nameri NP

361. **Jungle Myna** *Acridotheres fuscus*
   Common in lowland plains

362. **Bank Myna** *Acridotheres gingenianus*
   A few birds seen in the Central range of Kaziranga NP among Elephant herds

363. **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*
   Common in lowland plains

364. **Pied Myna (Asian Pied Starling)** *Gracupica contra*
   Common in lowland plains

365. **Chestnut-tailed (Grey-headed) Starling** *Sturnia malabarica*
   Common in lowland plains

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

366. **Alpine Thrush** *Zoothera mollissima*
   A single bird seen at Sela Pass, 4 birds along the Mandala road, 1 at Lama Camp

367. **Long-tailed Thrush** *Zoothera dixoni*
   2 birds seen below Bompu Camp in Eaglenest WLS on 4.4

368. **Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*
   1 bird seen below Bompu Camp in Eaglenest WLS on 3.4

369. **Grandala** *Grandala coelicolor*
   8 birds seen in flight over Sela Pass on 29.3

370. **White-collared Blackbird** *Turdus albocinctus*
   2 birds seen on 30.3 along the Mandala road

371. **Grey-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boulboul*
   1 female seen in Nameri NP, 1 bird seen below Sela Pass on 29.3, and 2 birds seen at Aloo Bari

372. **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis*
   1 at Nameri on 26.3

373. **Dusky Thrush** *Turdus eunomus*
   1 at Mandala on 30.3

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

374. **Oriental Magpie-robin** *Copsychus saularis*
   Common and widespread in the plains

375. **White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*
   1 seen in Nameri NP, but excellent views later in the tour everyday while at Kaziranga NP

376. **Dark-sided Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica*
   Single bird on 27.3 in Nameri NP, later 1 on 2.4 and 2 on 3.4 in Eaglenest WLS

377. **White-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Anthipes monileger*
   1 bird seen on 3.4 in Eaglenest WLS, also heard the previous day

378. **Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*
   A lone bird showed well in Eaglenest WLS on 3.4

379. **Pale-chinned Flycatcher** *Cyornis poliogenys*
   1 seen on 26.3 in Nameri NP and another on 8.4 in Kaziranga NP

380. **Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides*
   1 bird seen on 9.4 on a last walk through the tea gardens at Kaziranga before leaving for Guwahati

381. **Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae*
   2 birds seen at Sessa on 28.3 and further singles on 3.4 & 4.4
382. **Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus*
   Common and widespread

383. **Himalayan (White-tailed) Rubythroat** *Calliope pectoralis*
   A lot of time and effort repaid with superb views of 2 birds in Kaziranga on 8.4

384. **Siberian Rubythroat** *Calliope calliope*
   Excellent views of a smart male within our first hour of birding at Nameri NP on day 1 (25.3)

385. **White-tailed (Blue) Robin** *Myiomela leucura*
   Heard calling on 3.4 at Khellong but could not be located or enticed to show

386. **Himalayan Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*
   A few individuals seen along the Mandala road and at Eaglenest WLS

387. **Golden Bush Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
   1 bird seen from Dirang on 29.3

388. **Black-backed Forktail** *Enicurus immaculatus*
   1 seen at Nameri on 26.3 with a second seen by part of the group at Kaziranga NP

389. **Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*
   A few seen along the roadside during the drive from Nameri towards Dirang, again in Eaglenest WLS and at Kaziranga

390. **Rusty-tailed Flycatcher** *Ficedula ruficauda*
   A single bird seen at Sessa on 28.3

391. **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula straphiata*
   2 seen at Mandala on 30.3, also in Eaglenest WLS at Aloo Bari and below Sessni

392. **Taiga (Red-throated) Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*
   A common bird in Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

393. **Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*
   3 birds seen on 30.3 along the Mandala road, and 2 seen on 3.4 in Eaglenest WLS

394. **Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula superciliasris*
   3 birds seen on 30.3 along the Mandala road

395. **Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*
   1 bird seen on 31.3 at Aloo Bari

396. **Sapphire Flycatcher** *Ficedula sapphira*
   Single bird seen within Eaglenest WLS on 3.4

397. **Pygmy Blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapella hodgsoni*
   3 individuals seen in the area above Lama Camp on 1.4

398. **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*
   Commonly seen in lowland areas, less regular in the hills

399. **Hodgson’s Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*
   Single bird on 26.3 at Nameri NP

400. **White-throated Redstart** *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
   Single bird on the Bompu side of Eaglenest on 4.4

401. **Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus auroreus*
   1 on 26.3 in Nameri NP

402. **Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*
   A few seen in the Sela Pass area, and within Eaglenest WLS

403. **Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Phoenicurus fuliginosa*
   Common along rivers in the plains and in Sangthi Valley

404. **White-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
   Common along the Jia Bhoreli River in Nameri NP

405. **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*
   1 seen along the drive from Nameri towards Dirang, with another in Sangthi Valley

406. **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*
   Seen in the Dirang area with 1 on 28.3 and 2 on 30.3, and in Eaglenest WLS with a further 3 on 1.4 & 2.4

407. **Blue-capped Rock Thrush** *Monticola cinclorhynchos*
   2 seen on 5.4 at Rupa

408. **Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*
A common bird in grasslands of the lowlands

409. **Grey Bushchat**, *Saxicola ferreus*
   A few seen on the drive to from Nameri to Dirang, as well as around Dirang and Mandala and again at Aloo Bari

PASSERIFORMES: *Cinclidae*

410. **Brown Dipper**, *Cinclus pallasi*
   Encountered regularly along mountain streams, with 1 on 28.3, 2 on 31.3, and another single bird on 5.4

PASSERIFORMES: *Chloropseidae*

411. **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, *Chloropsis aurifrons*
   6 birds on 26.3 and 8 on 27.3 in Nameri NP

412. **Orange-bellied Leafbird**, *Chloropsis hardwickii*
   2 on the drive from Nameri to Tenga/Dirang, 3 along the Mandala road on 30.3

PASSERIFORMES: *Dicaeidae*

413. **Yellow-vented Flowerpecker**, *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*
   2 seen on 27.3 in Nameri NP

414. **Plain Flowerpecker**, *Dicaeum minullum*
   Relatively common at Nameri NP, seen here in small numbers on all days

415. **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, *Dicaeum ignipectus*
   Seen in small numbers around Dirang and in Eaglenest WLS, with 1 on 28.3, 2 on 30.3, and 1 on 1.4

416. **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**, *Dicaeum cruentatum*
   A few birds seen well in Kaziranga NP

PASSERIFORMES: *Nectariniidae*

417. **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**, *Chalcoparia singalensis*
   Exceptional views of 5 birds in Kaziranga NP

418. **Mrs Gould's Sunbird**, *Aethopyga gouldiae*
   A good number seen around Sela Pass, Mandala and above Lama Camp

419. **Green-tailed Sunbird**, *Aethopyga nipalensis*
   A common sunbird

420. **Black-throated Sunbird**, *Aethopyga saturata*
   Good views of individual birds at Eaglenest WLS on 31.3, 3.4 & 4.4

421. **Fire-tailed Sunbird**, *Aethopyga ignicauda*
   1 on 29.3 and another on 30.3 around Dirang, exceptional close views of both

422. **Little Spiderhunter**, *Arachnothera longirostra*
   1 bird seen in Nameri on 26.3

423. **Streaked Spiderhunter**, *Arachnothera magna*
   A common bird in Nameri NP, and lower elevations of Eaglenest WLS

PASSERIFORMES: *Passeridae*

424. **House Sparrow**, *Passer domesticus*
   Common in Kaziranga NP

425. **Russet (Cinnamon) Sparrow**, *Passer rutilans*
   Common around Dirang and in Kaziranga NP

426. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, *Passer montanus*
   Common and widespread
PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

427. Baya Weaver *Ploceus p. philippinus*  
20 seen in Nameri NP, and smaller numbers in Kaziranga NP

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

428. Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*  
A sizeable flock seen outside Eco Camp in Nameri NP, with a few seen later in the tour at Kaziranga NP

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae

429. Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*  
2 birds seen on 29.3 at Sela Pass
430. Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana*  
1 bird seen on 29.3 at Sela Pass
431. Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiata*  
A few birds seen around Sela Pass, Dirang and Eaglenest WLS on 29.3, 30.3 and 1.4
432. Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata*  
2 birds seen on 5.4 within Eaglenest WLS

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

433. Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*  
A few individuals seen in Kaziranga NP
434. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*  
100+ birds on 6.4 in Kaziranga NP, with several over the following two days
435. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
1 seen in Nameri NP, 1 in Sangthi Valley, and a couple in Kaziranga NP
436. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
A few seen at Nameri NP, around Dirang, Sangthi Valley, and in Kaziranga NP
437. White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*  
A common wagtail in Nameri NP, Sangthi Valley and Kaziranga NP
438. Richard’s Pipit *Anthus richardi*  
1 bird seen at Nameri NP on 27.3
439. Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*  
A few birds seen in Kaziranga NP
440. Blyth’s Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*  
A single bird seen on 31.3 at Sangti Valley
441. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*  
A few birds seen throughout the tour
442. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*  
A few birds seen below Sela Pass, along the Mandala road and in Kaziranga NP

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

443. White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*  
A group of around 10 birds seen at Sela Pass on 29.3
444. Brown Bullfinch *Pyrhrula nipalensis*  
A single bird seen on 31.3 below Lama Camp
445. Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrhrula erythrocephala*  
2 birds seen at Lama Camp on 1.4
446. Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrhrula erythaca* (*)

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A common bird in Eaglenest WLS

447. **Golden-naped Finch** Pyrrhoplectes epauletta
   6 birds seen along the Mandala road, with a few at Aloo Bari

448. **Plain Mountain Finch** Leucosticte nemoricola
   Good numbers at Sela Pass

449. **Common Rosefinch** Carpodacus erythrinus
   5 birds at Nameri NP on 25.3

450. **Scarlet Finch** Carpodacus sipahi
   First seen at Aloo Bari on 1.4, and again on 3.4 & 5.4

451. **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch** Carpodacus thura
   2 birds seen on 29.3 below Sela Pass

452. **Yellow-breasted (Himalayan) Greenfinch** Chloris spinoides
   A small flock of 15 birds seen on 30.3 along the Mandala road

453. **Tibetan Serin (Tibetan Siskin)** Spinus thibetanus
   10 birds seen on 2.4 in Eaglenest WLS while travelling between Lama and Bompu Camps

**PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**

454. **Crested Bunting** Emberiza lathami
   1 bird seen between Bomdila and Dirang on 28.3, with another 3 birds on 31.3

455. **Little Bunting** Emberiza pusilla
   10 birds seen in Sangthi Valley on 31.3

**MAMMALS:**

**CHIROPTERA: Pteropodidae**

1. **Indian Flying Fox** Pteropus giganteus
   Seen in flight at dusk in Kaziranga NP

**PRIMATES: Cercopithecidae**

2. **Assamese Macaque** Macaca assamensis
   Seen in both Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

3. **Rhesus Macaque** Macaca mulatta
   Seen in small numbers along the road while driving from Guwahati to Nameri

4. **Arunachal Macaque** Macaca munzala E
   One small troop seen at Eaglenest WLS

5. **Capped Langur** Trachypithecus pileatus
   Seen around Eco Camp at Nameri NP, in Eaglenest WLS on 2.4 below Bompu Camp and 5.4 at Rupa

6. **Himalayan Langur** Semnopithecus schistaceus
   One seen on 3.4 on the way down to Khellong

**CARNIVORA: Mustelidae**

7. **Himalayan Yellow-throated Marten** Martes flavigula
   Seen along the Mandal road, and in Eaglenest WLS on three occasions

8. **Smooth Indian (Smooth-coated) Otter** Lutrogale perspicillata
   Two family groups of 8 and 12 individuals seen in Kaziranga NP

**CARNIVORA: Felidae**

9. **Bengal Tiger** Panthera tigris tigris *

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Two seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 6.4, good prolonged views

CETACEA: Platanistidae

10. **Gangetic Dolphin** *Platanista gangetica* *
    A pod of around 5 individuals seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga NP on 8.4

PROBOSCIDEA: Elephantidae

11. **Indian Elephant (Asian Elephant)** *Elephas maximus indicus*
    One seen in Nameri NP on 27.3, numerous throughout Kaziranga NP

PERISSODACTYLA: Rhinocerotidae

12. **Indian (Greater One-horned) Rhinoceros** *Rhinoceros unicornis* *
    Ubiquitous resident of Kaziranga NP, excellent views of numerous individuals on all jeep drives

ARTIODACTYLA: Suidae

13. **Indian Boar (Wild Boar)** *Sus scrofa cristatus*
    A reasonable number seen on jeep drives around Kaziranga NP

ARTIODACTYLA: Cervidae

14. **Hog Deer** *Axis porcinus*
    A common deer seen in large numbers at Kaziranga NP

15. **Barasingha (Swamp Deer)** *Cervus duvauceli* *
    Seen in large numbers in Kaziranga NP

16. **Sambar** *Cervus unicolor*
    1 seen in Nameri NP on 27.3, a few more seen in Kaziranga on 5.4 & 6.4

17. **Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)** *Muntiacus muntjak*
    2 seen on 5.4 and 1 seen on 6.4 at Kaziranga NP

ARTIODACTYLA: Bovidae

18. **Wild Buffalo** *Bubalus arnee*
    Seen in large numbers throughout Kaziranga NP

RODENTIA: Sciuridae

19. **Pallas's (Red-bellied Tree) Squirrel** *Callosciurus erythraeus*
    1 seen at Aloo Bari on 5.4

20. **Irrawaddy (Hoary-bellied Himalayan) Squirrel** *Callosciurus pygerythrus*
    A few seen in Nameri NP and again in Kaziranga NP

21. **Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel** *Dremomys lokria*
    A few seen in Nameri NP and in Eaglenest WLS

22. **Malayan (Black) Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor*
    A few encountered in Nameri NP, and in Khellong

23. **Himalayan Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops mcclellandii*
    Seen at Nameri NP, and again in Eaglenest WLS

LAGOMORPHA: Ochotonidae
24. **Large-eared Pika** *Ochotona macrotis*
   A single individual seen at Sela Pass

**OTHER SPECIES OF INTEREST:**

SQUAMATA: Gekkonidae

1. **Tokay Gecko** *Gekko gecko*
   1 seen in Nameri NP on 26.3

SQUAMATA: Varanidae

2. **Asian Water Monitor** *Varanus salvator*
   A few seen on jeep drives within Kaziranga NP

TESTUDINES: Geoemydidae

3. **Indian Tent Turtle** *Pangshura tentoria*
   A few seen in wetlands of Kaziranga NP’s Central range

4. **Indian roofed Turtle** *Pangshura tecta*
   A few seen in Kaziranga NP’s Central range

TESTUDINES: Trionychidae

5. **Indian Flapshell Turtle** *Lissemys punctata*
   1 seen in Kaziranga NP