Introduction

Ever since I had been to Nepal in 1997, I had wanted to return to the Himalayas. The choice of location was the only challenge and so was the mix of target species. In addition, my wife wanted to see One-horned Rhino. She had not been with me in Chitwan when I had seen them. I had also been intrigued by the Kingdom of Bhutan. Closed until the early 1960s this appeared to be the last bastion against global homogenisation and held the promise of a different cultural destination as well as the desired scenic and wildlife one. So, unlike many of my recent trips this was not a self-guided trip but I opted to join a ready formed Naturetrek trip.

This Naturetrek tour seemed to provide the ideal mix of culture and wildlife and the itinerary mixed the pure wildlife experience with the cultural experience that made the most of the visit.

The Bhutan section concentrated in the western part of the country and concentrated on areas in the elevation range between 2000 - 4000m. We then headed to Darjeeling and a bit of a throw-back to the English Raj and hill station “culture” before finally heading to Kaziranga, one of the few true mega-fauna parks in Asia for a heavy dose of mammal watching.

The tour worked well and was a good mix of experience and wildlife and can be thoroughly recommended.

Itinerary

17th Feb – Left Heathrow on 9:10 flight to Kolkata via Dubai
18th Feb – Arrived Kolkata at 7:40, transferred to Hyatt Regency, rest of the day around the hotel.
19th Feb – 8:15 flight from Kolkata to Paro, transfer to Gangtey Palace Hotel. Afternoon visit to Paro Dzong, river and town.
20th Feb – Early morning trip to Chele La pass, birding on way down. Lunch and afternoon trek to Tiger’s nest monastery. Night at Gangtey Palace
21st Feb - Early morning departure from Paro and road trip to Punakha. Stops at Dochula Pass and the Royal Botanical Gardens, Lamperi. Afternoon visit to Punakha Dzong and then evening outing to Heron site. Night at Zingkham Resort, Punakha.
22nd Feb – Trip to Jigme Dorji National Park and then evening return to the Heron site. Night at Zingkham Resort, Punakha.
23rd Feb – Road trip via Wangdue Phodrang to Phobjika Valley. Night at Dewachen Resort.
24th Feb – Trip to higher reaches of Phobjika valley and to Pele La pass. Afternoon back in the valley floor. Night at Dewachen Resort.
25th Feb – Road trip back to Thimphu. Afternoon visit to the Buddha statue and to Motithang Takin Preserve. Late afternoon wander around Thimphu. Night at Namgay Heritage Hotel, Thimphu.
26th Feb – Morning in Thimphu visiting the Memorial Choten and the textile museum. Road transfer to Phuentsholing. Night at Hotel Druk, Phuentsholing.
27th Feb – Crossed to India and then road transfer to Darjeeling arriving for a late lunch. Afternoon walk to the viewpoint and into Darjeeling town. Night at Mayfair Darjeeling.
28th Feb – Early morning trip to viewpoint and then to Tiger Hill. Afternoon to Himalayan Mountain Institute & zoo. Night at Mayfair Darjeeling.
01st Mar – Early morning to viewpoint and then “Toy train” ride to Ghoom and back. Afternoon visit to Lloyd’s Botanical Garden. Night at Mayfair Darjeeling.
02nd Mar – Morning road transfer to Bagdogra and then flight at 15:30 to Gawahti, Assam. Evening road transfer to Infinity Resort, Kaziranga arriving c 22:00. Night at Infinity resort.
03rd Mar – Morning drive in Central range, Kaziranga and then afternoon in Western range. Night at Infinity resort.
04th Mar – Elephant ride in Central range before breakfast then drive in same range for the remainder of the morning. Afternoon in Eastern range. Night at Infinity resort.
05th Mar – Morning trip beyond Western range for Gibbon etc, then drive in Western range after breakfast. Afternoon drive in Central range. Night at Infinity resort.
06th Mar – Early morning walk to tea plantation and Pitta site. Transfer to Jorhat and 13:55 flight to Kolkata. Night at Hyatt Regency.
07th Mar – Early morning to Kolkata airport. 08:55 Flight to Heathrow via Dubai arriving in UK c 20:00.

Weather

We were travelling outside of high season in Bhutan and at the tail end of winter, and although mostly dry, it could be overcast and cold. Dawn at c. 4000m was cold, but we all wrapped up and it was never unbearable – a factor no doubt was it wasn’t windy. Overnight snow gave a magical appearance at Phobjika and Pele La. The only rain we had was the morning at Jigme Dorji at our lowest point in Bhutan and ironically the warmest area. Mostly days lifted to 10-14°C at most, although the day at Tiger’s Nest seemed warmer.

Darjeeling was about the same, but we suffered from continuous low cloud and mists that meant it seemed colder.

We were expecting warmer weather in Kaziranga, but initially we seemed to be thwarted by low cloud and rain on our first drive in the park. This cleared but stayed overcast until midday on 4th and it was only the 5th where temperatures hid the mid 20°C.
Site Comments

Paro Area

Paro Dzong and River – Paro is a small town built in a river valley. Immediately outside of town itself is the Dzong than dominates the valley side. This provided us with our immediate introduction to both the culture and birding in Bhutan. The boulder-strewn river dominates the valley and the hills were noticeably dry and brown.

We walked around the Dzong, with it flock of wheeling Choughs and the highly decorated interior. The river immediately offered Brown Dipper, Plumbeous Redstarts and White-capped Redstarts. Our guide, Norbu, then took us to an area north of the town where we immediately found Ibisbill and then on to a little marsh where Black-tailed Crakes performed.

Chele La – reputed to be the highest road in Bhutan and a couple of hours from Paro. We headed out before dawn and reached the pass as the sun started to warm the surrounding scrub, before birding our way down through the forest back towards Paro. The view across to Mount Jumolhari was spectacular before the cloud rose and it was time to head lower. It was billed as being special for Pheasants and we managed to see the three targets of Himalayan Monal, Kalij Pheasant and Blood Pheasant. The lower level took us into Pine forest and then into mixed forest. Here we managed to connect with flock of collared Grosbeak and another location with Red Crossbill.

Tiger’s Nest – this historic monastery is just north of Paro and is a well-known tourist attraction. The buildings seem to hang to the cliff face and can be reached after a strenuous few hours walk uphill through mixed forest. The whole area was being prepared for the King’s visit the following day and, in our jet-lagged state, only a few got to the half way café and no one made it the whole way. The forest also had a number of birds including Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie, Green Shrike-Babbler and Bar-throated Minla.
Punakha area

Mo Chu and Po Chu – literally the mother and father rivers that meet by the Dzong. These are typical boulder strewn mountain rivers and are famous for being one of the remaining locations of wintering White-bellied Herons. We certainly tried to find this bird (it appears that it is down to a single one – and the global population may be as low as 60) but were unsuccessful. However, the habitat did offer other highlights in addition to the same species as in Paro. A few Duck were present amongst the swarm of Ruddy Shelduck, including Falcated Duck, Pintail and Gadwall.

In the rocky edges, we found Wallcreeper, River Lapwing and Ibisbill. This site also gave us views of Pallas’s Fish Eagle. The river side agricultural areas also had a few species including Scaly-breasted Munia Blue Rock Thrush, Red-wattled Lapwing, and White-browed Wagtail

Jigme Dorji National Park – this enormous park is north of Punakha following the Mo Chu valley. Although it continues to the highlands and the land of the Bhutanese national animal the Takin, we stayed at low elevation in the initial stages of the Park by the river. Here the woods are a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees. This warmer area brought a wider mix of species including Bay Woodpeckers, mixed warbler flocks and a large flock of Grey-chinned Minivets. The rivers and streams were attractive to Forktails and we shared our breakfast site with a pair of Slaty-backed and later found a pair of Little Forktails.

However, the visit was memorable by the mammals. We found our first Assam Macaques here but it was the Yellow-throated Martens that stole the show. A pair were followed downstream as the hunted and marked their territory along about 1 km of river bank. We were able to watch them from the opposite bank.

Thimphu and the road to the east

Roadside birding – although this road is designated as National Highway 2 and is the only road across the country, it is less like the M1 and more a windy country road. The roadworks are infamous and although they made an impression, it did add to the expeditionary atmosphere. It was clear that birding from the road, as in Central and South America is the way it is done here, and Norbu had a mix of strategies, including known sites, waiting to hit a bird flock and stopping at flowering trees – especially Silk-cottons – that attracted birds including Barbets – both Great and Blue-throated, Starlings and Bulbuls.
We stopped at known Honeyguide locations not only bringing the target bird, but also Bhutan Laughingthrush and Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler. The stops for Ward’s Trogon, had others such as Black-eared Shrike-Babbler, Himalayan Bluetail and Crimson-breasted Woodpecker. Whilst ad-hoc stops brought birds such as Rusty-fronted Barwing and White-breasted Parrotbill.

**Royal Botanical Gardens, Lamperi** – one of our favourite locations and we arrived just as it was opening and had the gardens to ourselves. On the main easterly route beyond Thimphu and below the pass, it covers an area of natural forest and open areas with a nature trail running through a mix of habitats. To a back drop of the natural Daphne fragrance we found a mix of species that would later become familiar to us plus some specials. Highlights included Red-headed Bullfinch, Tibetan Serin, Long-tailed Thrush, Brown Parrotbill, but especially Fire-tailed Myzornis. Personally, I could have spent more time here than the couple of hours allocated.

**Motithang Takin Preserve** – this is effectively a zoo focused on the ungulates found in Bhutan. The Takin is the national animal and this is the more likely way to actually see these bizarre animals. Gorals & Serows are also present. Other birds were seen here, including Rufous-fronted Bushtit and Green Shrike-Babbler.

Phobjika valley and surrounding area.

**Phobjika valley** – this is renowned as the wintering site for Black-necked Cranes and c400 are here until the first week or so of March. Although the valley is around 2,500m it is relatively mild and the area of wetland and surrounding small holdings held a different mix of species.

Phobjika held more than the just the cranes. The lower area agricultural lands had a mix of passerines. A large flock of Plain Mountain finches were highly visible, but more careful searching brought Little Bunting, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch and the only locations for Magpie and Hoopoe.

**Pele La** - The road out of the valley and to the nearby Pele La pass raises to 3,420m and therefore gave access to high altitude species – although the snow on our visit did impact the activity and had obviously driven some of the target species lower. We did try to make the best of our time there picking up our only Snow Pigeons, Alpine Accentors and Wren of the trip.

We also had flyovers from the first of our Himalayan Vultures and our only Northern Goshawks – however it was the view over the mountains that was the most spectacular and will stick in our minds.
Darjeeling

Darjeeling town - this old colonial hill station has grown into a cramped, dirty and noisy metropolis, falling off the hill. The Himalayan Mountain Railway or “Toy train” runs along the crowded main street and on fine days apparently has fine views of Kanchenjunga and even Everest. Unfortunately, we only had heavy cloud and mist. Although the history is strong there is little to make it attractive – even the celebrated Tiger Hill is now a half built tatty construction site.

Even so we managed to find a few typical hill species and the Lloyd’s Botanical Garden was an oasis of calm even if wildlife activity was relatively low. The hotel was in contrast exceptional, and the choice of food meant we all ate far too much. This is not to say that we didn’t see anything new – Crested Goshawk, Grey-winged Blackbird, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Red-billed Leiothrix, Red-tailed Minla and Brown Bullfinch were amongst the species only seen here.

Kaziranga – the National Park on the south bank of the Brahmaputra needs little introduction and was one of the highlights of the trip. It is one of the few places where mega-fauna is on a scale to match the African plains. It is also the first place where the guards have been authorised to shoot on sight any unauthorised people to combat poaching.

The park is typical of all Indian reserves we have visited, with access being limited to morning and evening drives by Gypsy, adapted small jeeps with viewing platforms in the rear. There are also limited Elephant rides that are more for the experience than serious game viewing.

In all we had six game drives in the park and one elephant ride. The park is divided into three ranges: Eastern, Central and Western and each has a specific character. Allocation to the range is by the park authority and it is said that Central is regarded as the best – this is difficult to confirm although the “road” network seemed the most extensive there.

Most of the habitat is grassland and lakes, interspersed with woodland. This makes it excellent for water-birds, however looking for smaller species is a bit hit and miss from a vehicle. You can get out at watch towers and this provided some break from the Gypsies.

Outside the park is also a mix of habitats and in fact the Hoolock Gibbon is best found in this area to the west of the Western entrance. The possibility of other species was shown by the last morning visit to the edge of the tea plantation where both Siberian Rubythroat and Blue-naped Pitta were found, although the latter gave the group the run around.
Guides

**Norbu and crew** - Norbu is one of, if not the most, experienced bird guides in Bhutan and runs a ground agency primarily for birding but also cultural tours. His experience showed through clear decisions and a calm approach to showing everyone the key species in Bhutan. He was ably assisted by Pema, who was ‘learning the ropes’ from a birding perspective but was fully versed in the Buddhist culture and could bring an insight to the Dzongs and other religious sites. Third in the permanent team was Tenzing, our driver and Norbu’s brother. He was an able birder as well, but we were thankful for his approach to the difficult road conditions.

The rest of the crew provided the food and refreshment. We never ceased to be amazed at their ability in remote locations to provide a tasty multi-coursed cooked breakfast and lunch, often with a stunning view to go with it.

**Dhanya Venkatesh** – Dhanya was with us for the full trip, and although she took more of a back seat in Bhutan provided continuity throughout. This is particularly important in India where logistics can be confusing and time consuming. She had the advantage of having done the trip before and supported the full group, especially empathetic to the needs of female half of the group.

In India, she also managed the local guides both Suresh in Darjeeling and Polash in Kaziranga and was important to the success of the trip. Much more of an all-round naturalist she could also assist with the butterflies and an understanding of the whole eco-systems we visited.
Bird Species list

**Bar-headed Goose** (*Anser indicus*) – common around Kaziranga both within the park in all three ranges and also in the buffer zone.

**Greylag Goose** (*Anser anser rubirostris*) – only seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga where c.10 seen on 4th.

**Common Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*) – a single bird was seen on the river between Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang on 27th.

**Ruddy Shelduck** (*Tadorna ferruginea*) – common on the rivers in Bhutan and the numbers around Punakha were spectacular. Also seen daily in Kaziranga.

**Cotton Pygmy Goose** (*Nettapus coromandelianus coromandelianus*) – only seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga where c.6 seen on 4th.

**Gadwall** (*Anas strepera strepera*) – 4 were seen near Punakha on 26th and thereafter seen daily in Kaziranga although in relatively low numbers.

**Falcated Duck** (*Anas falcata*) – a single male was seen with a mixed flock of ducks just south of the meeting point of the Mo Chu and the Pho Chu rivers at Punakha on 26th.

**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*) – only seen at Kaziranga where seen daily with a maximum of c.40 on 4th.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*) – relatively scarce on the rovers around Paro and Punakha in Bhutan and then seen in low numbers in Kaziranga with the maximum of 6 on 5th.

**Indian Spot-billed Duck** (*Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*) – first seen in Kaziranga where it was relatively common with up to 40 seen daily.

**Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) – only seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga, where c20 were seen on 4th.

**Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) – a single female was seen consorting with Gadwall and the Falcated Duck near Punakha on 26th. Thereafter a few seen daily at Kaziranga on each day with highest numbers in the Eastern range.

**Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) – only seen in the Eastern range at Kaziranga with 4 there on the 4th.

**Eurasian Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*) – another species that was seen in the rivers around Paro and Punakha but was very much more numerous in Kaziranga. There it was seen daily with peak count of c40 on 5th.

**Red-crested Pochard** (*Netta rufina*) – a party of five birds were seen between Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd.

**Common Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*) – only one seen, a male in the western range of Kaziranga on 3rd.

**Baer’s Pochard** (*Aythya baeri*) – one of the surprises of the trip. Probably three males present within the Ferruginous duck flock at Kaziranga Eastern range on 4th. There was no attempt made to identify females and there could have been more birds present. A quick review of eBirds suggests that this was a similar location to a single found on 29th Jan 18 and suggests more careful looking for this critically endangered species could yield further records.
**Ferruginous Duck** (*Aythya nyroca*) - relatively common in Kaziranga in the Eastern and Western ranges with a peak count of 40 on the 4th.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*) - only seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga, where c20 were seen on 4th.

**Common Merganser** (*Mergus merganser orientalis*) – a male and two females were just outside Paro on 19th. Larger numbers were seen in the rivers around Punakha.

**Blood Pheasant** (*Ithaginis cruentus cruentus*) – a party of six were seen just below the top of the Chele La pass on 20th.

**Himalayan Monal** (*Lophophorus impejanus*) – on the way up to Chele La on 20th we had a group of three females who showed well. On the way down, we had brief views of two males plus further females although these disappeared very quickly. The intended site of Pele La turned out to be a total no show – Norbu explained that the recent snow fall had probably pushed them to lower altitudes.

**Red Junglefowl** (*Gallus gallus murghi*) – only seen in Kaziranga, where seen daily with up to six seen on any day.

**Kalij Pheasant** (*Lophura leucomelanos melanota*) – also first seen on the trip to Chele la on 20th. They were heard in Lamperi and Pele La as well, with a brief glimpse at the latter.

**Painted Stork** (*Mycteria leucocephala*) – only seen in Kolkata where c10 were seen early morning on 19th on the lake next to the hotel.

**Asian Openbill** (*Anastomus oscilans*) – Over forty were on the lake in Kolkata opposite the Hyatt Regency and thereafter common in Kaziranga with over 100 seen daily.

**Woolly-necked Stork** (*Ciconia episcopus episcopus*) – another species that was regular in Kaziranga and seen daily with up to ten seen.

**Black-necked Stork** (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus*) – a familiar species in Kaziranga and in similar numbers to the previous species

**Lesser Adjutant** (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – first seen as we left Guwahati on the evening of 2nd. Seen daily but in low numbers, the peak count being 4 on 5th.
Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) – this enormous stork is critically endangered and Assam is one of the few locations where it is relatively simple to catch up with. We did not try the rubbish tip at Guwahati – it has been tidied up apparently – however it was seen daily in Kaziranga in low numbers with maximum of 4 on the 4th.

Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) – seen daily in low numbers at Kaziranga with the peak count of 6 on 4th.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*) - although seen at Kolkata on the lake opposite the Hyatt Regency, the only sighting on the trip were 6 at breakfast at Kaziranga as we waited to enter the Western range on 5th.

**Striated Heron** (*Butorides striata javanica*) – the only one seen was a single in the pools at Infinity resort outside Kaziranga during our stay.

**Indian Pond Heron** (*Ardeola grayii*)– although the first were seen on the road transfer from Phuentsholing to Darjeeling on 27th, it was only in Kaziranga that it was truly a common bird. Seen daily on all drives with up to 100 seen each day.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus coromandus*) – first seen in Kolkata on the 19th/20th, it was then only added to our Bhutan list in Phuentsholing on our last morning. It was ridiculously numerous around Kaziranga, both in the park and in the surrounding buffer area.

**Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea cinerea*) – again first seen in Kolkata on our first day and then again seen in Kaziranga daily.

**Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea purpurea*) – first seen in Kaziranga in the Eastern range on 4th and then again on 5th, the scarcest of the herons.

**Great Egret** (*Ardea alba alba*) – seen in Bhutan with a single at Punakha on 21st, but then - seen daily at Kaziranga where common.

**Intermediate Egret** (*Ardea intermedia intermedia*) – this species seen relatively scarcelly in Kaziranga, the only location we saw it. Some of this was due the challenge of identification and the lack of effort no doubt. Still, seen daily but with maximum count of 4.

**Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta garzetta*) - only seen in Kaziranga and even there relatively scarce. The maximum count was 10 on 5th.

**Spot-billed Pelican** (*Pelecanus philippensis*) – another endangered species that obviously has a stronghold in Kaziranga. Seen daily there with a peak count of 60 on 4th.

**Little Cormorant** (*Microcarbo niger*) – first seen in Kolkata on 18th and then again in Kaziranga where widespread in each range.

**Indian Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) – only definitely seen in Kolkata, where in the mixed species on the lake opposite the Hyatt Regency, c.100 were seen in 18th.

**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) – a familiar species on the rivers around Punakha but otherwise not seen in Bhutan. Then again common in Kaziranga and seen on all days in the park.
Oriental Darter (*Anhinger melonagaster*) – again only seen in Kaziranga, where common. Seen daily with a peak of c.50 on 4th.

**Western Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*) - 2 were seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga on 4th.

**Bearded Vulture** (*Gypaetus barbatus barbatus*) – one was seen in the same thermal as Himalayan vultures being mobbed by Large-billed Crows on 24th.

**Crested Honey-buzzard** (*Pernis ptilorhyncus ruficollis*) – only a single seen in the Western range of Kaziranga on 3rd.

**Slender-billed Vulture** (*Gyps tenuirostris*) – up to eight were seen around a carcass in the Central range of Kaziranga on 3rd and 4th. On the 5th a flight of a dozen birds was seen in the Western range.

**Himalayan Vulture** (*Gyps himalayensis*) – the first were seen over Pele La pass on 24th and the activity continued through the day over Phobjika valley with in total about 20 birds seen.

**Red-headed Vulture** (*Sarcogyps calvus*) – only seen at Kaziranga with singles on 3rd & 4th.

**Crested Serpent Eagle** (*Spilornis cheela cheela*) – seen on all three days in the Punakha area in Bhutan, but more common around Kaziranga, with a maximum count of four on 3rd.

**Short-toed Eagle** (*Circaetus gallicus*) – the only record was one from the road on the long transfer from Phuentsholing to Darjeeling on 27th.

**Changeable Hawk-Eagle** (*Nisaetus cirrhatus limnaeetus*) – only seen in Kaziranga with singles on the 3rd and 4th.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle** (*Nisaetus nipalensis nipalensis*) – after a number of false alarms a perched bird was spotted on 23rd and a second was seen on 25th.

**Black Eagle** (*Ictinaetus malaiensis perniger*) – the first was seen on the road to Punakha on 21st. Three were seen near Chukka on the drive from Thimphu to Phuentsholing on 26th.

**Greater Spotted Eagle** (*Clanga clanga*) – a single bird was seen when we were waiting for Tiger to show in the Eastern range at Kaziranga on 4th.

**Crested Goshawk** (*Accipiter trivirgatus indicus*) – a single was seen at the viewpoint in Darjeeling on the 27th.

**Besra** (*Accipiter virgatus affinis*) – a single bird was seen, at Jigme Dorji on 22nd.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter nisus melaschistos*) – by far the commonest Accipiter in Bhutan and seen daily in the lower elevations. The first seen had caught a pigeon in the dzong in Paro.

**Northern Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis schvedowi*) – one, an apparent male, was seen above Pele la pass on 24th.

**Western Marsh-Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*) – a single male was seen on the Elephant ride in the Central range at Kaziranga on 4th.

**Hen Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*) – a male and female were seen in the Phobjika valley on 23rd and the male again was spotted the next day.
Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) – only sighting was a female in the Central range of Kaziranga on 5th.

Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*) – two males were seen in the Central range of Kaziranga on 5th.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans lineatus/govinda*) - The first was in the hills around Gedu and was probably of the subspecies *lineatus* or Black-eared Kite. They were common in Phuentsholing and whenever we hit lowland urban areas in India including Kolkata. These were the typical *govinda* of the sub-continent.

Pallas’s Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) – first seen were a pair on the Mo Chu near Punakha on 20th. Thereafter seen at Kaziranga where up to 10 seen daily, including a nest with 3 nearly fledged young.

Grey-headed Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*) – only seen in Kaziranga where seen on the 3rd and 5th with a maximum of three on the latter date.

Himalayan Buzzard (*Buteo burmanicus*) – only seen in Bhutan where generally the commonest raptor and seen almost daily except when at low elevations. Peak count was 3 on 25th.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra atra*) – only seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga where c100 were seen in 4th.

Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) – the main target of Phobjika valley where up to 400 birds winter after heading down from the Tibetan Plateau. They generally leave the valley in early March, so we were early enough in the year to catch them. The birds were easy to see on all our days there, either in their roosting area in the valley floor, or in the farmlands where they gather to feed.

Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*) – First seen on the river outside of Paro with two there on the 19th. Even better were the five opposite the Dzong at Punakha 22nd.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) – only seen at Kaziranga where small numbers seen daily with a peak of 6 on 4th.

River Lapwing (*Vanellus duvaucelii*) – found in similar habitat to the Ibisbill and White-bellied Heron and was therefore found during the careful scanning whilst in Bhutan. Also seen in Kaziranga, where found in the muddy river margins.

Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*) – another species only found in Kaziranga, where up to 6 were seen daily.
Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus indicus/atronuchalis*) – seen near Punakha in Bhutan where up to three were in the same area as the White-bellied Heron’s wintering site. These would have been ssp *indicus* birds. More plentiful at Kaziranga, where up to 10 seen daily and these were ssp *atronuchalis*.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius jerdoni*) – one was seen on both the 4th and 5th in Kaziranga.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) – only seen in the Eastern range of Kaziranga where both Jacana were present in equal numbers.

Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) – Again on seen at the Eastern range on 4th, with 10 seen.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago gallinago*) – four seen at Kaziranga Central range on 5th.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) – seen only in Kaziranga, with maximum count of 6 on 4th.

Common Redshank (*Tringa tetanus eurhina*) – seen only in Kaziranga where scarce, with a peak count of 2 on 4th.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – seen only in Kaziranga, with maximum count of 2 on 4th.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) – seen only in Kaziranga, where it was the commonest Tringa with maximum count of 6 on 4th.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – again seen only in Kaziranga, peak count of 2 on 5th.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – seen in Bhutan in the rivers around Punakha and then in Kaziranga, but no more than singles seen each day.

Temminck’s Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) – only seen at Kaziranga, where a few were found on each day we were there, in all three ranges.

Steppe Gull (*Larus fuscus barbarensis*) – the only Gull of the trip seen between Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang on the morning of the 27th. Superficially this was similar to a Caspian Gull and seemed to fit the expected features of Steppe Gull I had seen before in the Arabian Gulf. This species/subspecies is currently considered part of the Lesser Black-backed Gull complex – although has been considered a subspecies of Caspian and a species in its own right. Norbu had seen a similar gull last year that had also caused difficulties in identification.

Rock Dove (*Columba livia neglecta*) – seen daily but the question is if any of the Bhutanese birds were of wild stock or if all were domesticated. There was little plumage variation but all were probably feral birds.

Snow Pigeon (*Columba leuconota gradaria*) – a flock was around Pele La pass on 24th. There is a research project ongoing on these birds and the researchers were mist-netting and ringing them when we arrived at the pass.
Oriental Turtle Dove \textit{(Streptopelia orientalis orientalis)} – seen daily in Bhutan and Darjeeling in large numbers and typically one of the commonest birds. Not seen in Kaziranga where perhaps overlooked.

Eurasian Collared Dove \textit{(Streptopelia decaocto decaocto)} – only seen in Bhutan in Phuentsholing with 6 there on the 27th. Also seen in Kaziranga, but probably overlooked amongst the Spotted Doves

Red Turtle Dove \textit{(Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis)} – only seen at Kaziranga, with individuals on the 3rd & 4th.

Laughing Dove \textit{(Spilopelia senegalensis cambayensis)} - one was seen at Dubai airport on 8th.

Spotted Dove \textit{(Spilopelia chinensis suratensis/tigrina)} – first seen in Bhutan as we approached Phuentsholing on 26th and also on seen on the approach to Darjeeling on 28th. These represent birds from \textit{ssp suratensis}. Found to be common around Kaziranga where seen daily, with \textit{ssp tigrina} being present here.

Barred Cuckoo Dove \textit{(Macropygia unchall tusalia)} – the only birds seen in Bhutan were three birds were seen in Jigme Dorji on 22nd. In Darjeeling up to three were seen daily.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon \textit{(Treron phoenicopterus phoenicopterus)} – only seen in Kaziranga where up to 20 birds seen daily.

Green Imperial Pigeon \textit{(Ducula aenea sylvatica)} – seen in the Central range at Kaziranga with four seen on the 5th.

Lesser Coucal \textit{(Centropus bengalensis bengalensis)} – one was seen in Kaziranga on 3rd.

Green-billed Malkoha \textit{(Phaenicophaeus tristis tristis)} – this skulking species was only seen in Kaziranga with a pair on 4th and a single the following day.

Brown Fish Owl \textit{(Ketupa zeylonensis leschenaultia)} – two were sitting in a disused eagle’s nest in the Central range in Kaziranga on 3rd. One was seen in the same location on the evening of 5th.
Collared Owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*) – one was chanced upon at our lunch stop at Choe Longtrulsumjelsai Choten on the road below the Botanical gardens on 21st. It had been spotted by the cook apparently and performed for all.

Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides rufescens*) – only seen in Kaziranga with one on 4th and another on 5th.

[Brown Hawk Owl (*Ninox scutulata lugubris*) – although heard by Dhanya in Darjeeling by the church we could get no response. One was calling loudly at Infinity lodge on 5th shortly after dusk. We could get no response later.]

Himalayan Swiftlet (*Aerodramus brevirostris brevirostris*) – only seen in Bhutan and first seen at Punakha on 21st with 3 birds, but the following evening a flock of over 100 birds was seen over the river. An even larger flock of c.400 birds was seen on 25th.

Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis balasiensis*) - only seen in the Indian lowlands, from Kolkata, Bengal and around Kaziranga.

Blyth’s Swift (*Apus leuconyx*) – a mixed flock of swifts and martins was seen north of Phuentsholing near Gadu on 26th included this species.

Little Swift (*Apus affinis affinis*) – only seen at Kolkata where birds were at the airport terminal as we left on 8th.

House Swift (*Apus nipalensis nipalensis*) – another species that suddenly appeared when we headed for low levels and found in Phuentsholing on 26th. The only other record was of two joining the Striated Swallows at the Western range entrance to Kaziranga park on 5th.

[Ward’s Trogon (*Harpactes wardi*) – perhaps a longshot at this time of year and this far west, but Norbu had a couple of sites along NH2 east of Wangdue Phodrang. Although one called distantly we never stood a chance to see this characteristic species.]

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis benghalensis*) - first seen on roadside wires on the road transfer to Darjeeling on 27th, but commoner when in Kaziranga when seen daily with a peak count of 6. Although there is an intergrade with *ssp affinis* in Assam, all birds appeared to be closer to *benghalensis* type.
Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis capensis*) – first seen on roadside wires on the road transfer to Darjeeling on 27th, but only seen regularly when in Kaziranga when seen daily in low numbers.

White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra*) – the only sightings in Bhutan were in the vicinity of Punakha. The odd sighting was had on roadside wires on the transfer drives, but it was in Kaziranga where it was common with up to six seen daily.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis bengalensis*) – one was at the White-bellied Heron site near Punakha on 22nd, however that was the only sighting in Bhutan. Seen daily in Kaziranga and also at Infinity resort.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis leucomelanurus*) – only seen at Kaziranga, where seen daily in reasonable numbers.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctyornis athertoni athertoni*) – 3 birds were seen in the Central range at Kaziranga on 4th and a single bird in the park the following day.

Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis orientalis/ferrugiceps*) – seen near Bagdogra on 2nd, where the ssp is *orientalis*. A party seen in Kaziranga on 5th is of the eastern form *ferrugiceps*, which looks superficially similar to the next species but the green chest and long tail feathers are distinctive.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti*) – first seen at Infinity resort on 3rd, but a party of 10 birds in Kaziranga on the 5th were showing signs of preparing to nest with obviously paired birds and males presenting food for the females.

Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops longirostris*) – in Bhutan only seen in the Phobjika valley and then one seen in Kaziranga.

Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) – a pair were nesting close to the track in the northern section of the Central range at Kaziranga and seen very well on 4th. The female could be seen in the nest hole and the male was collecting food to feed her.

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris albirostris*) – a pair were seen at Infinity Resort on 3rd, and then pair were seen in the park the following day.

Great Barbet (*Psilopogon virens magnificus*) – seen commonly in Bhutan especially in Jigme Dorji and the road sides where flowering Silk-cotton trees attracted them. Also found to be very common around Darjeeling.
Blue-throated Barbet (Psilopogon asiaticus asiaticus) – as with the previous species found to be attracted to the flowering silk cotton trees in Bhutan. Only one was recorded in India, one at the Infinity resort on 3rd.

Coppersmith Barbet (Psilopogon haemacephalus indicus) – two were seen in the hotel grounds at Phuentsholing in the morning of 27th. Only then seen in Kaziranga, with two on both the 4th and 5th.

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (Indicator xanthonotus) – two were seen, both at roadside wild bee hive sites that Norbu had staked out. One west of Punakha on 21st and one east of Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (Yungipicus canicapillus semicoronatus) – the only sighting was two in a roadside tree as we descended into Phuentsholing on 26th.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker (Dryobates cathpharius cathpharius) – only seen in the roadside forest east of Wangdue Phodrang. One was seen there on 23rd and a pair were found in a similar area on the return on 25th.

Lesser Yellownape (Picus chlorolophus chlorolophus) – only seen at Darjeeling where a pair were normally around the viewpoint on each visit.

Streak-throated Woodpecker (Picus xanthopygaeus) – a single female seen in Kaziranga on 5th.

Black-rumped Flameback (Dinopium benghalense benghalense) – one was in the garden of the Hyatt Regency on 18th and another was seen at the Gibbon site on 5th.

Bay Woodpecker (Blythipicus pyrrhotis pyrrhotis) – three noisy birds were finally seen at Jigme Dorji on 22nd.

Common Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus interstinctus) – only seen in Bhutan and seen on an almost daily basis.

Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus peregrinator/calidus) – single birds were seen on four occasions, two in Bhutan, one in Darjeeling and one in Kaziranga. Only one showed the normal rufous characteristics of ssp peregrinator or Shaheen. It is not clear where these greyer birds are from, although they are likely to be ssp calidus.

Blossom-headed Parakeet (Psittacula roseate juneae) – only seen in Kaziranga, where the scarcest of the Parakeets, however 10 were seen on the 5th.

Red-breasted Parakeet (Psittacula alexandri fasciata) – formed noisy parties in Kaziranga and seen daily in the park and around Infinity resort.

Alexandrine Parakeet (Psittacula eupatria nipalensis) – A pair nesting in the hotel grounds in Phuentsholing were the first record and only sighting in Bhutan. Although heard in Darjeeling, it was only in Kaziranga where they were common and seen daily.

Rose-ring Parakeet (Psittacula krameri borealis) – Again seen in Phuentsholing and therefore seen in Bhutan. Again, common in Kaziranga with up to 20 seen daily.
Blue-naped Pitta (*Pitta nipalensis nipalensis*) – one gave the group the run around in a small woodland on the edge of the tea plantation near the Infinity resort on 6th. Despite Polash saying he knew the bird and its habits, it didn’t do as he thought. I managed to see the bird as we tried to encourage it to move closer to the group.

Ashy Woodswallow (*Artamus fuscus*) – seen in Bhutan on the road into Phuentsholing on 26th and then in the buffer zone to Kaziranga on the 3rd and 6th.

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia tiphia*) – only seen around Infinity resort near Kaziranga, with a single on 3rd and two on the 6th.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melaschistos melaschistos*) – one was seen east of Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd and another in Kaziranga on 4th.

Grey-chinned Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris solaris*) – only seen in Jigme Dorji on 22nd, where a party of c.40 entertained us.

Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus speciosus speciosus/fraterculus*) – first seen in Bengal on the way to Bagdogra where the *ssp speciosus* is present. Also seen in Kaziranga in the mixed minivet flock on 4th.

Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*) – a couple joined the mixed Minivet flock in Kaziranga on 4th.

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach tricolor*) – all seen appeared to be of the black-capped form. In Bhutan there appeared to be altitude separation with this being the low altitude species. Therefore, this was seen around Punakha only but was found to be common around Kaziranga.

Grey-backed Shrike (*Lanius tephonotus tephonotus*) – in Bhutan regarded as the high-altitude congener of the previous species and seen daily at the right altitudes. Not seen at all in Darjeeling, but also seen at Kaziranga which is lower that we were in Bhutan.

Green Shrike-Babbler (*Pteruthius xanthochlorus xanthochlorus*) – first seen in the woodland at the start of the climb to Tiger’s Nest on 20th. Another two were seen in the roadside trees to the east of Wangdue Phodrang on 25th. Also seen at the Takin reserve in Thimphu the same day.

Black-eared Shrike-babblers (*Pteruthius melanotis melanotis*) – the first joined the Nuthatches in the roadside trees to the east of Wangdue Phodrang on 25th. Another was seen at Darjeeling along the viewpoint early morning on the 2nd.

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus xanthornus*) – seen around Infinity resort, Kaziranga Central range and near the tea plantation on each day from the 3rd. Also seen at Darjeeling.

Black Drongo (*Dicurus macrocerus albirictus*) – Although seen in Bhutan, it was really common in the lowlands and was common bird on roadsides during the transfers and around Kaziranga.

Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicurus hottentottus hottentottus*) – only seen in Kaziranga, where not uncommon in the wooded areas.

White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis stanleyi*) – only seen in the ground of Darjeeling zoo/Himalayan Mountain Institute with two there on 28th.
Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius interstinctus*) – a flock of 8 were seen outside of Punakha on 20th and another was seen on 25th east of Wangdue Phodrang.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa flavirostris flavirostris*) – relatively common in the higher areas of Bhutan and seen daily except when we dropped to lower levels around Punakha.

Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda vagabunda*) – only seen around Kaziranga, where relatively scarce.

Grey Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae himalayana*) – first seen in Jigme Dorji on the 22nd, when 4 were found. The only other record was 2 on 25th as we headed back to Thimphu.

Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica bottanensis*) – a pair were seen in Phobjika valley on 24th.

Spotted Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes macella*) – initially seen at Chele La pass on 20th with 3 birds present and then seen the following day east of Thimphu.

Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax himalayanus*) – a common bird in the mountains of Bhutan and seen daily until we left the country. The design of the farmhouses seems to make them particularly attractive to nesting birds, we saw many birds roosting in the spaces below the roofs.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens splendens*) – common in India, but scarce in Bhutan where seen only in Thimphu and Phuentsholing.

Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macorhynchos tibetosinensis*) – common across Bhutan and through Darjeeling where it was especially plentiful.

Eastern Jungle Crow (*Corvus levaillantii*) – as the names suggests, the eastern replacement for the previous species and only found around Kaziranga, where seen daily.

Yellow-bellied Fantail (*Cheliidorhynx hypoxanthus*) – two were seen in mixed feeding flocks in Jigme Dorji on 22nd.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonsensis calochrysea*) – only seen in India and first seen in Darjeeling, where seen daily with peak count of 6 on 1st. Also seen at Kaziranga.

Yellow-browed Tit (*Sylviparus modestus modestus*) – the only record was one at the Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st.

Rufous-vented Tit (*Periparus rubidiventris beavani*) – another species of the high elevations and first seen on the Chele La pass on the 20th. Also seen on the upper levels of the Phobjika valley and the trip to the Pele La pass.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater aemodius*) – regularly seen in the high elevation pine forests in Bhutan.

Grey Crested Tit (*Lophophanes dichrous dichrous*) – this species was tricky and only two birds were seen at the higher elevations of Phobjika valley on 25th. They appeared to be drawn in to the background calls on Norbu’s Spotted Laughing-thrush tape.
Cinereous Tit (*Parus cinereus planorum*) – First seen at Phuentsholing with two on the morning of 27th. Later seen in the tea plantations as we drove to Bagdogra on 2nd and then seen daily in Kaziranga.

Green-back Tit (*Parus monticolus yunnanensis*) – another higher altitude species seen daily throughout Bhutan and also in Darjeeling with a maximum daily count of 10.

Bengal Bush Lark (*Mirafra assamica*) – seen in Kaziranga on 5th

Oriental Skylark (*Alauda guilgula vernayi*) – only seen in the Phobjika valley in Bhutan with 4 seen on 24th.

Striated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus striatus striatus*) – one was seen at Observatory Hill, Darjeeling on 1st.

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus emeria*) – first seen in the tea plantation en-route to Bagdogra on 2nd and then seen at Kaziranga with 10 birds on the 3rd.

Bengal Bush Lark (*Mirafra assamica*) – seen in Kaziranga on 5th

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer bengalensis*) – a common species and seen in the lower areas of Bhutan and daily across India.

Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus psaroides*) – only seen in Bhutan and they seemed to be particularly attracted to the flowering Silk-cotton trees. Up to 60 birds seen especially around Thimphu and Punakha.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia taczanowskii*) – only seen in Kaziranga where up to 20 were seen on the 3rd.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica gutturalis*) – first seen in the mixed flock of swifts and hirundines north of Phuentsholing near Gadu on 26th, but not seen again until Kaziranga. There three figure counts were had on each day.

Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) – only seen in the mixed flock of swifts and hirundines north of Phuentsholing near Gadu on 26th.

Nepal House Martin (*Delichon nipalense nipalense*) – Two large flocks were seen on the road journey to Phuentsholing on the 26th. The first was a party that were obviously nesting in a roadside landslip. The second was a mixed party with swifts and hirundines near Gadu.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica nipalensis*) – only seen in Phuentsholing where a few were on the morning of 27th.

Striated Swallow (*Cecropis striolata mayri*) – only seen at the Western range entrance to Kaziranga park on 5th, where a number of birds were nesting in the eaves of the park buildings.
Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler (*Pnoepyga albiventer albiventer*) – one performed at close range after being spotted by Tenzing, our driver, at the first stop for the Honeyguide on 23rd.

Black-throated Bushtit (*Aegithalos concinnus iredalei*) – although first seen east of Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd, it was at Darjeeling where it was found to be common and c10 were seen daily.

Rufous-fronted Bushtit (*Aegithalos iouschistos*) - seen at Tigers nest on 20th and at the Botanical gardens, Lamperi on 21st and then at the Takin park in Thimphu on 25th.

Tickell’s Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis affinis*) – only seen at Kaziranga were up to two were seen around the watch tower in the Central range on each visit.

Buff-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher*) – seen daily around Darjeeling, where it was the commonest warbler with 20 seen on 1st.

Ashy-throated Warbler (*Phylloscopus maculipennis maculipennis*) – first seen at the Botanical Gardens, Lamperi on 21st and thereafter in Bhutan appeared to the majority of any warbler flock. Also seen in Darjeeling on 1st.

Lemon-rumped Warbler (*Phylloscopus chloronotus chloronotus*) – seen at Jigme Dorji on 22nd, where 10 or so birds had joined the mixed feeding flock. Only seen one again, with a single a Darjeeling Observatory hill on 2nd.

Hume’s Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei mandellii*) – seen daily around the lookout at Darjeeling. Another was seen at Kaziranga on 4th.

Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides trochiloides*) – the only record was a calling bird at Phuentholing on the morning of 27th just before we left Bhutan.

Grey-hooded Warbler (*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos jerdoni*) - first seen in Jigme Dorji on 22nd and a typical warbler of middle elevations in Bhutan. Also seen daily in Darjeeling.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler (*Seicercus castaniceps castaniceps*) – only seen at Jigme Dorji, where four were seen on 22nd.

Gray-cheeked Warbler (*Seicercus poliogenys*) – one was heard at Jigme Dorji on 22nd]

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius patia/luteus*) - for me this seemed to be strangely scarce. A single bird was seen in Phuentholing on the morning of 27th was likely to the Himalayan ssp *patia*. Only two others were seen on the 2nd around Infinity resort which should be of the ssp *luteus* of NE India.

Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis nitidus*) – just one was seen, in Kaziranga on 5th.
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys haringtoni*) – one was heard at breakfast on 20th but could not be enticed from its bamboo clump.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ruficollis godwini*) – two birds showed well in the Royal Botanical garden Lamperi on 21st and another was seen in 23rd east of Wangdue Phodrang.

Rufous-capped Babbler (*Stachyridopsis Ruficeps Ruficeps*) – a single bird was seen at the viewpoint in Darjeeling on 2nd.

Chestnut-capped Babber (*Timalia pileata bengalensis*) – one was seen in the Central range of Kaziranga on 5th.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta (*Alcippe castaneiceps castaneiceps*) – seen in Bhutan in the forest to the east of Wangdue Phodrang at the Honeyguide stop. In Darjeeling, it was seen daily around observatory hill.

Abbott’s Babbler (*Malacocincla abbotti krishnarajui*) – only seen in Kaziranga, where Polash found a responsive bird on 4th.

Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum Ruficeps mandelli*) – again found by Polash, two were seen on 3rd in Kaziranga Central range.

Striated Babber (*Turdoides earlei earlei*) – a flock were seen in the Central range of Kaziranga on 5th.

Jungle Babber (*Turdoides striata striata*) – only seen in Kolkata, where one was in the garden of the Hyatt Regency on 18th.

Spotted Laughingthrush (*Garrulax ocellatus ocellatus*) – at first this seemed likely to be a species to elude us entirely. Norbu tried hard to find this and even when we had found calling birds he struggled to enable the group to actually see it. We finally connected with a pair of skulking birds in the higher reaches of Phobjika valley on 25th. Immediately after we left them another bird was found on the side of the road in full view. Also seen at Tiger Hill, Darjeeling on 28th where a group of four were found.

White-throated Laughingthrush (*Garrulax albogularis albogularis*) – a noisy and sociable laughingthrush that was typified by large gangs of birds. First seen at Tiger’s Nest and then c. 40 birds were at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Lamperi. Seen again on the roadside to Phuentsholing. Also seen at Tiger Hill, Darjeeling on 28th where a group of six were found.

Striated Laughingthrush (*Garrulax striatus sikkimensis*) – Seen in Jigme Dorji on 22nd and also seen on the roadside east of Wangdue Phodrang on 25th.

Bhutan Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron imbricatum*) – the species was a recent split from Streaked Laughingthrush and the only species to hold the country name. A small group was seen at the honeyguide stop on 23rd.

Black-faced Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron affine bethelae*) – first seen at Chele La pass on 20th and then in Thimphu on 26th.
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (Trochalopteron erythrocephalum nigrimentum) – a skulking laughingthrush that was the default species in Bhutan and seen on most days. Also found regularly in Darjeeling, where singing birds were found on the last day of our stay.

Bar-throated Minla (Minla strigula strigula) – two were seen on the hike to Tiger’s Nest on 20th.

Red-tailed Minla (Minla ignotincta ignotincta) – one was seen at Lloyd’s Botanical Gardens at Darjeeling on 1st.

Rusty-fronted Barwing (Actinodura egertonii egertonii) – although heard at Jigme Dorji on 22nd, 4 were seen on a roadside stop near Chhukha on 26th.

Hoary-throated Barwing (Actinodura nipalensis) – one was seen at Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st.

Red-billed Leiothrix (Leiothrix lutea calipyga) – only seen at Darjeeling where parties were seen daily particularly around the viewpoint with a maximum of 16 seen on the 28th.

Rufous Sibia (Heterophasia capistrata bayleyi) – one of the commonest species in the high-altitude forests and also one of the most vocal. Seen daily across Bhutan, but then found to be very common around Darjeeling.

Fire-tailed Myzornis (Myzornis pyrrhoura) – two of these near mythical birds were found following the Yuhina flock at Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st.

White-browed Fulvetta (Fulvetta viniceps chumbiensis) – another typical component of high altitude mixed flocks first seen at Royal Botanical gardens, Lamperi and then whenever we were at high altitude. Also found at Tiger Hill in Darjeeling.

Brown Parrotbill (Chlorornis unicolor) – a party of three were seen in bamboo at Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st.

White-breasted Parrotbill (Psittiparus ruficeps) – a party of 10 were seen when we stopped for the Rusty-fronted Barwings near Chhukha on 26th.

Whiskered Yuhina (Yuhina flavicollis flavicollis) – first seen at Jigme Dorji on 22nd and another party was seen when we stopped for the Barwings near Chhukha on 26th.

Stripe-throated Yuhina (Yuhina gularis gularis) – only seen in Darjeeling, especially around the viewpoint where up to 12 were seen daily.

Rufous-vented Yuhina (Yuhina occipitalis occipitalis) – first seen at Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st where 6 birds were found and then again seen at Darjeeling on 28th.

Black-chinned Yuhina (Yuhina nigimenta) – only seen at Jigme Dorji where two birds were found amongst the Whiskered Yuhinas on 22nd.

Oriental White-eye (Zosterops palpebrosus palpebrosus) – this species seemed to prefer lower levels and therefore was relatively scarce in Bhutan, found only around Punakha and Phuentsholing, and in India around Kaziranga where the highest count was 10 on 3rd.

[Spotted Elachura (Elachura formosa) – one was heard at Jigme Dorji on 22nd, however it would not show itself.]
Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus sikkimensis*) – two were seen on the trip back from Chele La on 20th.

Eurasian Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes nipalensis*) – only one was seen, at Pele La pass on 24th.

White-tailed Nuthatch (*Sitta himalayensis*) – four were seen whilst looking for Trogons east of Wangdue Phodrang on 25th. Then found to be particularly common around Darjeeling, including the nest site found at the viewpoint, with a maximum of 8 seen on 1st.

Wallcreeper (*Tichodroma muraria nipalensis*) – a single bird was found searching through the riverside boulders near Punakha on 22nd.

Hodgson’s Treecreeper (*Certhia hodgsoni mandellii*) – the first was seen at Chele La on 20th and also a single was found in Lloyd’s Botanical gardens in Darjeeling on 1st.

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper (*Certhia nipalensis*) – one bird seen on 23rd on the roadside stop to the east of Wangdue Phodrang when looking for Trogons.

Spot-winged Starling (*Saroglossa spilopterus*) – seen daily in Kaziranga and on the first two days seemed to be relatively scarce. However, on the evening of the 5th we found the flocks forming to go to roost. These were true murmurations and at least 1000 birds were present and at least three trees were ‘dripping’ with birds.

Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa intermedia*) – only one was seen, as we headed into Phuentsholing on our last day in Bhutan on 26th.

Great Myna (*Acridotheres grandis*) – another species that has shown changes in taxonomy, being listed in most older guidebooks as White-vented Myna. Seen daily in low numbers in Kaziranga with the highest count being 6 on 3rd.

Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus fuscus*) – first seen in Phuentsholing in Bhutan on 26th. Probably overlooked in India until Kaziranga where common.

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) – only seen in the Central range at Kaziranga with 2 on 3rd.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis tristis*) – common and seen almost daily in both Bhutan and India.

Pied Myna (*Gracupica contra contra*) – again only seen in Phuentsholing when in Bhutan but found to be common in Kaziranga where up to 50 were seen each day.

Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnia malabarica malabarica*) – the first sightings in Bhutan were 5 in a silk cotton tree near Punakha on 22nd, but it was not seen again until Phuentsholing where a dozen was seen prior to crossing the border. Again, they were found to be common in Kaziranga where up to 50 were seen each day.
Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) - a single record of one bird in the same tree as the leafbird and Chestnut-tailed Starlings near Punakha on 22nd. They are scarce in Bhutan and it is unclear which population the wintering birds are from.

Alpine Thrush (*Zoothera mollissima*) – although one was seen by others at the Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st, it was the following day that three were seen near Nobding.

Long-tailed Thrush (*Zoothera dixoni*) – one was seen at the Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st.

White-collared Blackbird (*Turdus albocinctus*) – one male was seen in the grounds of Gangtey Palace hotel at Paro on 19th. A pair was present at Dewachen Hotel in the Phobjika valley during our stay. Also seen along the viewpoint at Darjeeling throughout with up to 4 birds present.

Grey-winged Blackbird (*Turdus boulboul*) – only seen in Darjeeling, where the first were seen in the zoo during our visit on 28th and another on Observatory hill the next day.

Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis saularis*) – a lowland species and therefore only seen in Bhutan in Punakha and Phuentsholing. It was then common again once we got to Kaziranga.

White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus macrourus*) – only one seen during our first drive at Kaziranga on 3rd.

Bluethroat (*Luscina svecica abbotti*) – a single record of one as dusk approached in the Central range at Kaziranga on 5th.

Siberian Rubythroat (*Calliope calliope calliope*) – a bright male was seen on the edge of the tea plantation on the walk to the Pitta site behind Infinity Resort on the morning of the 6th.

Himalayan Bluetail (*Tarsiger rufilatus rufilatus*) – a male was seen on the roadside east of Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd and then a male and female were seen at the viewpoint at Darjeeling on 2nd.

Little Forktail (*Enicurus scouleri*) – only seen in Jigme Dorji, with a pair there on 22nd.
Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*) – again only seen a Jigme Dorji, with a pair sharing our breakfast site with us on 22nd.

Spotted Forktail (*Enicurus maculatus guttatus*) – one was at the Honeyguide stop east of Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd. A further two seen on the road to Phuentsholing on 26th were likely to be this species.

Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus temminckii*) – reputed to be one of the commonest birds in Bhutan and certainly seen daily across the country and was the default species seen along the roads. Also common around Darjeeling.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Ficedula strophiata strophiata*) – one was found whilst we struggled to chase up a Spotted Elechura in Jigme Dorji on 22nd, at least this species chose to sit out in the open.

Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) – first seen at low elevation in a tea plantation on the way to Bagdogra airport on 2nd. A further 3 were seen in Kaziranga on the 5th.

Hodgson’s Redstart (*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*) – first seen in the garden of the Gangtey Palace on the 19th and thereafter found to be relatively common and seen daily in Bhutan.

White-throated Redstart (*Phoenicurus schisticeps*) – a species of the higher passes and first found at Chele La on 20th. Then also seen at Pele La and the high reaches of Phobjika valley.

Blue-fronted Redstart (*Phoenicurus frontalis*) – another familiar bird of Bhutan seen daily with a peak count of 4. Once we had left Bhutan, on one was seen – at Lloyd’s Botanical Garden at Darjeeling on 1st.

Plumbeous Water Redstart (*Phoenicurus fuliginosus fuliginosus*) – Another species that was common in the bolder strewn rivers in Bhutan and seen around Paro and Punakha.

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White-capped Redstart (*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*) – although found in similar locations to the above species this species will also inhabit smaller mountain streams and waterfalls and therefore seen more widely, but again only in Bhutan.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius pandoo*) – a single male was seen, just outside of Punakha on 21st.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*) – First seen around Punakha on 22nd and there the following day. Found to be uncommon in the higher elevations in Bhutan and also one was at Lloyd’s Botanical Gardens, Darjeeling on 1st.

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus indicus*) – only seen in Kaziranga where common and up to 10 seen daily.

Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasii dorjei*) – this species was seen regularly in the large rivers at both Paro and Punakha, and a pair was watched nest building in the bridge to Paro Dzong.

Orange-bellied Leafbird (*Chloropsis hardwickii hardwickii*) – only one was seen on the road side near Punakha on 22nd in the silk cotton tree with a mixed flock of starlings.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum chrysochlore*) – a single was seen outside Infinity resort at Kaziranga on 3rd.
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus ignipectus*) – a single female was seen on the roadside east of Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd.

Green-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga nipalensis nipalensis/koezli*) – the commonest sunbird in Bhutan where it is represented by ssp koezli and seen daily after we had left the Paro area. It was also common in Darjeeling, especially around the viewpoint where nipalensis is the ssp.

Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja seheriae*) – only seen around the Infinity resort near Kaziranga, with at least two males and uncounted females being present.

Fire-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga ignicauda ignicauda*) – only seen at Darjeeling with moulting males and females seen around the viewpoint. Peak count was three on 2nd.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus indicus*) – not seen in Bhutan at all, but common across India (even a few metres from Bhutan) and seen daily when on that side of the border

Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans cinnamomeus*) – common and seen daily in Bhutan, but not seen in India.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus malaccensis*) – seen at the lower levels in Bhutan and therefore first seen at Punakha and thereafter at Phuentsholing. In India present in Darjeeling and around Infinity resort, but in low numbers.

Black-breasted Weaver (*Ploceus benghalensis*) – a flock of c20 were seen in the elephant grass in the Central range at Kaziranga on 3rd.

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata subundulata*) – only seen at the Heron site near Punakha with 6 there on 22nd although recorded by others near Infinity resort.

Rufous-breasted Accentor (*Prunella stophiata strophiata*) – relatively common at the higher elevations in Bhutan being seen around Paro, the Royal Botanical gardens, Lamperi and Phobjika valley.

Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris nipalensis*) - three birds were seen at Pele La pass 24th.

Citrine Wagtail (*Montacilla citreola calcarata*) – only seen in Kaziranga, but common there and c30 birds seen daily.

Grey Wagtail (*Montacilla cinerea cinerea*) - first seen in Punakha on 22nd and the only other record was near the entrance to Lloyd’s Botanical Gardens in Darjeeling on 1st.

White Wagtail (*Montacilla alba alboides/leucopsis*) - Most birds seen were black backed birds. In Bhutan they were mostly ssp alboides or Himalayan/Hodgson’s White Wagtails. However, in Kolkata they were leucopsis.

White-browed Wagtail (*Montacilla maderaspatensis*) – one was seen in Kolkata on 18th and another was at the Heron site near Punakha on 22nd.

Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus rufulus*) – two birds in the Central range at Kaziranga on the 5th were the only sightings.
Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni*) – seen almost daily in Bhutan and again in Darjeeling but not recorded in Kaziranga. The highest count was 10 along the riverbanks outside Paro on 19th.

Rosy Pipit (*Anthus roseatus*) – only seen at Kaziranga with 3 seen on the 4th and 6 on the 5th.

Collared Grosbeak (*Mycerobas affinis*) – a flock of about 20 birds was found on the way down from Chele La on 20th.

White-winged Grosbeak (*Mycerobas camipes camipes*) – First seen in the scrub above the tree line at Chele La on 20th and then again on the way to Pele La on 24th.

Brown Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula nipalensis nipalensis*) – a party of c8 birds was seen at Lloyd’s Botanical Gardens, Darjeeling on 1st.

Red-headed Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula erythrocephalus*) – three females were found at Royal Botanical Park, Lamperi on 21st.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch (*Procarduelis nipalensis nipalensis*) – Five birds were seen from our breakfast stop near Wangdue Phodrang on 23rd. Another male was seen at Tiger Hill near Darjeeling on 28th.

Plain Mountain Finch (*Leucosticta nemoricola nemoricola*) – a flock of c100 birds were at the Chele La pass on 20th. Also, a flock was in the farmland in the Phobjika valley on 23/24th with up to sixty birds present.

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus*) – only seen in Darjeeling along the view point with 2 females on 1st and a male and female on 2nd.

Dark-rumped Rosefinch (*Carpodacus edwardsii rubicundus*) – a male was at Pele La pass on 24th and a female was seen whilst trying to find the Spotted Laughingthrush on the road out of Phobjika valley the following day.

Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch (*Carpodacus thura thura*) – only seen at Chele La pass on the 20th where c10 birds were present.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch (*Chloris spinoides spinoides*) – only found in the Phobjika valley, where 12 were seen on the evening of the 24th.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra himalayensis*) – a flock of 30 or so were found in the pine woods below Chele La pass on 20th.

Tibetan Serin (*Spinus thibetanus*) – a party of six birds were seen perched in the tree tops at Royal Botanical gardens, Lamperi on 21st.

Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*) – three birds were seen in hotel grounds at Punakha on 22nd. The following day a flock of 20 were seen in the Phobjika valley.

Mammals list

Bhutan is not a mammal rich country notwithstanding some real specialities away from where we were going, but we kept an eye out rather than had specific locations or targets. In India, it is fair to say that Assam and especially Kaziranga is more about the mammals than anything else. We made specific efforts with the iconic species.

**Indian Flying Fox** (*Pteropus giganteus*) – the first colony was seen shortly after we had crossed into Jaigaon, West Bengal on 27th. Another group was seen later that day before we started climbing into Darjeeling. Also seen at dusk when returning late from drives at Kaziranga. We often saw the ghostly forms of this species flying over the road as we returned to Infinity resort.

**Indian Pipistrelle** (*Pipistrellus coromandra*) – the small bats in the hotel garden in Kolkata had the slow wingbeat said to be typical of this species. Probably also seen in the melee of bats outside Kaziranga at dusk, although there were also some larger bats which remain unidentified.

**Western Hoolock Gibbon** (*Hoolock hoolock*) – four were seen by the main road just west of the Western range entrance to Kaziranga on the morning of 5th. One of the highlights of the trip as they appeared unconcerned with us and the nearby road traffic. The group appeared to comprise a male, immature male and a female with baby.

**Assam Macaque** (*Macaca assamensis*) – mainly seen in Bhutan and usually along the roads. First seen in Jigme Dorji on 23rd.

**Rhesus Macaque** (*Macaca mulatta*) – I have to admit that I struggled with telling Rhesus and Assam macaques apart – especially as (nearly) all the macaques seen in Assam were Rhesus! The commoner species in India both in the highlands around Darjeeling and around Kaziranga.

**Grey Langur** (*Semnopithecus entellus*) – seen only in Bhutan and even here only seen in roadside familiar parties.

**Smooth-coated Otter** (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) – seen on two days in Kaziranga and both times in characteristic family parties. Both sightings were in the Central range, and on the 3rd only about 4 were there. On the 5th about a dozen were seen, both in the water and on an island. They even started chasing a Greater Adjutant through the shallows.

**Indian Tiger** (*Panthera tigris*) – there is no doubting that Tiger is an iconic species and is high on most lists for most visitors. Perhaps as we had seen them previously in India, we were not so stressed to see them. The behaviour of the guides and drivers shows how seriously they take the finding of Tigers and the mayhem than followed the first sighting had to be seen to be believed. One was seen – although it was substantially hidden on the 3rd. The following day, Polash was convinced that a Tiger was about an after an hour or so, he was proven correct when one walked into the clearing to be forced back by a Buffalo. It returned and suddenly was joined by a second.
Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) – seen on two days in Kaziranga, although confusion in the Central range is possible with the working elephants. Individuals and small groups could be seen especially around the edges of the lakes and rivers.

Greater One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) – Kaziranga is the site to find Rhino and apparently there are nearly 2500 animals in the park. We could not verify that, however they proved to be as charismatic and easy to find as we had hoped. Seeing them take their rightful place in the ecosystem was a wonderful sight and in one view we could count 29 animals. The elephant ride gave the opportunity to get close and we were pleasantly surprised how many young were present.

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) – another species only seen at Kaziranga, small numbers were seen daily.

Red (Indian) Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak vaginalis*) – two seen, the first in the mountain forest in Bhutan on 23rd when we were searching for Wards Trogon. The second was at the Pitta site near Infinity resort at Kaziranga on 6th.

Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*) – this small deer was a common in Kaziranga and formed the major part of the herds on the lake sides and flood plains. When were on the Elephant ride we came across many young fawns. They would spook the elephants when the exploded from the grasses literally under their feet.

Barasingha (Swamp Deer) (*Rucervus duvauceli*) – common in Kaziranga but certainly less common than the Hog Deer, but more common than Sambar. It is another notable species for the park and difficult to see anywhere else. Most of the males we saw were in velvet and so would look more impressive a bit later in the year.

Sambar (*Rusa unicolor unicolor*) – first seen with a single doe in the Royal Botanical Park at Lamperi on 22nd. Also seen in Kaziranga where it was the scarcest of the deer.

Asian Wild Buffalo (*Bubalis bubalis fulvus*) – only seen at Kaziranga, where family parties could be seen. We saw one bull that had obviously been part of a dispute and had a nasty hole in its hindquarters probably caused by the horns of another bull. It was also interesting watching the standoff between a Buffalo and a Tiger.
Orange-bellied Squirrel (*Dremomys lokriah*) - only seen at Tiger Hill, nr Darjeeling on 28th.

Himalayan Striped Squirrel (*Tamiops mcclellandii*) – only seen in Bhutan, where seen in the wooden hillsides and middle elevations especially at our stops for Honeyguides and Trogons.

Five striped Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus pennenti*) – one was in the garden on the Hyatt Regency in Kolkata on 18th.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel (*Callosciurus pygerythrus*) – first seen in Darjeeling on 1st and also seen there the following day, and also seen at Kaziranga on 5th.

Malayan Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*) – two were seen at the Gibbon site, west of the Western range at Kaziranga on 5th.

Yellow-throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*) – seen in Jigme Dorji on 22nd. This was one of the highlights of the trip as a pair were seen running along the river back. We were able to follow them along the opposite bank for about a km as they searched for food and scent marked. The following day we briefly saw one climbing a silk cotton tree but it spooked and quickly disappeared.

Large-eared Pika (*Ochotona macrotis*) – there was plenty of discussion on the identification of the Pikas seen in Bhutan, both at Chele La and later at Pele La. Historically they have been reported as Moupin’s, but Norbu was adamant that they were all Large-eared, as “they were the only ones in Bhutan”. Even with photos it is far from straightforward, but I follow the advice here.

Reptiles

Bengal Monitor Lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*) – one was seen in Kaziranga on 5th.

Assam Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura sylhetensis*) – two seen in Kaziranga on 5th.

Gecko sp – seen briefly in Infinity Resort and an apparent fat-tailed type was seen at Phuentsholing, but I can’t put names to them.
Butterflies and Dragonflies

In Bhutan, despite the low temperatures, we did see a few Butterflies but that was it until we got to Kaziranga. The sun only really appeared on the 4th, however it was our last full day, the 5th of March, that really showed us what could have been as the warmth brought out a wide mix of butterflies and dragonflies.

In all, very little of what we saw has been identified and most of these retrospectively from photos using the Indian Biodiversity websites URL http://www.ifoundbutterflies.org/home and http://www.indianodonata.org/home.

**Himalayan Queen Fritillary** (*Issoria isaeaea*) – formally lumped with Queen of Spain Fritillary, seen in the higher reaches of Phobjika valley.

**Indian Red Admiral** (*Vanessa indica indica*) – one was on the climb to Tiger’s Nest.

**Painted Lady** (*Vanessa cardui*) – one around Lamperi.

**Himalayan (Indian) Tortoiseshell** (*Aglais cashmirensis aesis*) – another species that appears to been recently split from Small Tortoiseshell; one seen near Lamperi.

**Himalayan Dark Clouded Yellow** (*Colias fieldii fieldii*) – seen at Pele La and the higher reaches of Phobjika valley.

**Oriental Grey Pansy** (*Junonia atlites atlites*) – seen in the grounds of Infinity Resort on 4th & 5th.

**Oriental Blue Tiger** (*Tirumala limniace exoticus*) – seen near the Western range of Kaziranga on 5th.

**Oriental Striped Tiger** (*Danaus genutia genutia*) – seen in Kaziranga on 4th & 5th

**Plain Tiger** (*Danaus chrysippus chrysippus*) – seen in Kaziranga on 4th & 5th

**Assam Grey Baron** (*Euthalia anosia anosia*) – seen in the grounds of Infinity Resort on 4th & 5th.
Oriental Peacock Pansy (*Junonia almana almana*) - seen in the grounds of Infinity Resort on 4th & 5th.

Himalayan Purple Sapphire (*Heliophorus epicles latilimbata*) - seen in the grounds of Infinity Resort on 4th.

Vietnamese Red-spot Jezebel (*Delias descombesi descombesi*) - seen in the grounds of Infinity Resort on 4th & 5th.

Wavy Common Palmfly (*Elymnias hypermnestra undularis*) - seen in the grounds of Infinity Resort on 4th & 5th.

Oriental Common Sergeant (*Athyma perius perius*) - seen near the Western range of Kaziranga on 5th.

Himalayan Colour Sergeant (*Athyma inara inara*) - seen in the grounds of Infinity Resort on 5th.

Ditch Jewel (*Brachythemis contaminata*) - seen on the pond at Infinity Resort on 5th.

Rufous-Backed Marsh Hawk (*Brachydiplax chalybea*) - seen on the pond at Infinity Resort on 5th.

Martin Pitt March 2018

Thanks to the Naturetrek Team, Dhanya & Norbu and his crew.

All the local guides

Our fellow group members—Sue Braddock, John Collins, Andy & Janice Hawkins, Glen & Sheila Wilson and of course my wife Liz.